

were prayed, and everybody rejoiced that the new building was begun?

*Lesson*—To-day we are going to watch the building of a new church. It is the house of the Lord at Jerusalem that is being begun. When the captives got home the first thing they did was to build an altar, around which all gathered to worship God as they had been long ago ordered by Moses to worship, vs. 3-6. Here we see them on this mountain-top at Jerusalem. They have brought money to pay masons and carpenters, and set men at work to bring cedar wood to build the house of God.

*Beginning to Build*—Here we see a great gathering, priests with trumpets and priests with cymbals, and we hear songs of praise and thanksgiving to God, "because He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever". It is like the laying of the corner-stone, all this joy and thanksgiving because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But amid the shouts of joy weeping is heard. Why? (V. 12.)

*Golden Text*—Is God pleased with all this joy and praise? Yes. God loves to have His people praise and thank Him. Where do we go to meet with others to praise and thank God? Yes, to church (Outline).

That is what our Golden Text means,—  
"Enter into His church with thanksgiving, and into His church with praise." Can we thank God any place else?

*Thanksgiving*—What have we to be thankful about? Let us see. We'll make a list. Among them we'll put,

OUR { CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
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and in between these we think of ever so many things,—friends, home, health, money, books, teachers, food, clothing, etc. This is about the time of the general Thanksgiving Day (Explain).

*Our Bell*—Now let us listen to our bell—THANKSGIVING. It says "Thank you! Thank you!" Let us hear the church bells calling this to us, and it will make us remember that we should go to church and thank God for all His goodness to us. Be thankful for kindness of friends also.

*Hymn*—"Can a little child like me  
Thank the Father fittingly?  
Yes, oh yes! be good and true,  
Patient, kind in all you do."

—Hymn 518, Book of Praise

*Something to Think About*—I should be thankful.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

1. Builders
2. Singers
3. Hinderers

Get the scholars to tell you the event which is narrated in the Lesson,—the laying of the foundation of the second temple. Then say to them, that there are three groups of persons described in the Lesson (Write 1, 2, 3). With a little help they will name the first group,—Builders (Write). A few questions will bring out the names of the two leaders, Zerubbabel and Jeshua, and a description of those who were put in charge of the rebuilding operations. The second group is, Singers (Write). A little well directed questioning will elicit an account of the vivid scene in vs. 11-13, the people praising God under the leadership of the temple musicians, and the mingled weeping and shouting of the multitude. The Hinderers (Write) were the third group. Question about who these were and why and how they opposed the Jews. Direct attention that the two first groups were helpers, and urge the scholars to seek opportunities of being helpful in the church.