

* LITTLE RAIN-DROPS.

Oh, where do you come from,
You little drops of rain,
Pitter-patter, pitter-patter,
Down the window-pane?
They say I'm very naughty,
But I've nothing else to do
But sit here at the window:
I should like to play with you.

Tell me, little rain-drops,
Is that the way you play,
Pitter-patter pitter-patter,
All the rainy day!
The little rain-drops cannot speak,
But "pitter-patter, pat,"
Means, "We can play on this side
Why can't you on that?"

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, FROM
ELIJAH TO ISAIAH.

LESSON V.—OCTOBER 30.

ELISHA AT DOTHAN.

2 Kings 6. 8-23. Memorize verses 15-17.
GOLDEN TEXT.

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psa. 34. 7.

THE LESSON STORY.

Syria was always making war upon Israel, but the king of Israel and his armies were always avoiding him. The Syrian king at last made up his mind that some of his own people were traitors, and he asked them to tell him who was showing the enemy the place of the Syrian camp. They said it was the prophet Elisha, who told the king of Israel what was spoken in secret in the Syrian king's bed-chamber. "Go, spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him," said the king, and when he found that he was in Dothan, he sent by night horses and chariots, and a great host. When Elisha's servant found them in the morning all around the city walls, he said, "Alas, my master, how shall we do?" And Elisha answered, "Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Was not that a strange thing to say? But soon the servant knew what he meant, for Elisha prayed, and the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. They were bright with the glory of heaven. At Elisha's prayer the Syrians were smitten with blindness, and Elisha offered to lead them to the man whom they sought (for they had long been seeking the king of Israel); and he led them into Samaria, the king's city, and there,

at Elisha's prayer, their eyes were opened. The king of Israel wished to smite them, but Elisha would not let him, for they were captives. He told the king to give them bread and water and let them go, and so the king made a great feast for them, and then sent them home. They did not try, after that, to make war on Israel.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who made war on Israel? The king of Syria.

What did he complain of? That the king of Israel avoided him.

What did he fear? Traitors in his own army.

What was he told? That it was Elisha. How could Elisha know? God showed him where the Syrians were.

Where did the king send his army? To Dothan, to find Elisha.

What did Elisha's servant see in the morning? A great army.

What did Elisha show him? The armies of heaven around them.

How could the servant see them? The Lord opened his eyes.

What came upon the Syrians? Blindness.

Where did Elisha lead them? To the king, at Samaria.

How were they treated? Kindly.

LESSON VI.—NOVEMBER 6.

JOASH, THE LOY KING.

2 Kings 11. 1-16. Memorize verses 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Prov. 29. 2.

THE LESSON STORY.

In the most troubled times of the history of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel, the Lord sent a little boy named Joash, seven years old, to be king over Judah. His grandmother, a wicked woman, had destroyed all his brothers after the king's death, and would have destroyed this child, who was then a baby, if his aunt had not hidden him and his nurse in a bedroom. Then for six years she kept him hidden in the house of the Lord, while the wicked queen reigned. At the end of that time, the good high-priest Jehoiada sent for the officers of the kingdom, and after he had asked them "to make a solemn promise, he showed them the king's son. Then he made a plan with them to guard the temple and the king's house, and he brought forth the little prince to his anointing and coronation, so that he became king. Then the people could keep still no longer; they clapped their hands and said, "God save the king." When Athaliah, the wicked queen, heard the noise, she came to the temple, and there

she saw the little king standing by a pillar, and the people rejoicing and blowing trumpets. She cried, "Treason, treason!" and rent her clothes. The high priest told the guards to take her out, and she was taken out and slain. That was a good day for Jerusalem and Judah, for the little king believed in the one true God, and he reigned for forty years.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What little boy was once king of Judah? Joash.

How old was he when he was crowned? Seven.

Who had killed all his brothers? His grandmother, Athaliah.

How was the baby Joash saved? By his aunt.

Where was he hidden until he was seven? In the temple.

Who taught him? Jehoiada, the high priest.

Who reigned over Judah? Athaliah.

What did Jehoiada do at last? Proclaimed Joash king.

What followed? The anointing and coronation.

Who came into the temple? Athaliah.

What did the officers do? Took her out and put her to death.

What had she done? She had destroyed many.

A HAPPY FAMILY.

The "happy family" which used to be seen on the Surrey side of Waterloo Bridge in London was a strange household indeed. Usually there were a monkey, an owl, some guinea-pigs, squirrels, small birds, starlings, a magpie, rats, mice, and a cat or two.

A cross-looking man once came up and said to the man who owned the show:

"Ah! I don't see much in that! It is true the cat does not touch the small birds"—one of which was sitting on the cat's head at the time—"nor the other things; but you could not keep rats or mice in there as well."

"Do you think not?" said the showman.

"I think I could very easily."

"No, you couldn't," said the cross-looking man. "I will give you a month to do it in, if you like, and a shilling into the bargain if you succeed. I shall be this way again soon."

"Thank you, sir," said the man.

"Don't go yet."

Then, putting a stick through the bars of the cage, he lifted up the cat, when from beneath her ran out a white rat and three white mice.

"Won—der—ful!" said the cross-looking man, taken by surprise. "Won—der—ful!" And he paid the money at once.