

of dedication in the sight and hearing of all the people, and gave the house to God, praying him to dwell there and to hear whenever his people prayed toward that place, in whatever land, or in whatever need they might be. When his prayer was ended he blessed the people; then he offered sacrifices on the great altar, and in this way the first temple was dedicated to God.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who built the golden temple? King Solomon.

How long was he building it? Seven years.

Whom did he have to help him? Many thousand men.

Where did they get the cedar? From the forests of Lebanon.

Where did they get much gold? From Ophir.

Who came to the dedication? All Israel.

Who made a wonderful prayer? Solomon.

What did he say? He gave the house to God.

What came into the temple after the ark? A cloud.

Of what was it a sign? Of God's presence.

What did Solomon then do? Blessed the people.

What did the priests do? Offered sacrifices.

LESSON XII.—DECEMBER 20.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON.

1 Kings 10. 1-10. Memorize verse 6-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

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

THE LESSON STORY.

Solomon had sent his ships and his camels so far searching for treasure for the temple that many had heard about him, and his wise words had been told from one to another through many lands.

One of his visitors was the Queen of Sheba, of whom our Lord spoke as the queen of the south. We do not know whether she was from Arabia or Africa, but she must have been a great and rich queen, from the gifts she brought to Solomon. She did not come for presents or to win fame and admiration, but she came to learn wisdom from the wisest man and to learn about his God. She came to "buy wisdom," and was willing to pay much gold and precious stones and spices for it. She had many questions to ask, and he was able to answer them all. When she saw his beautiful palace and the beauty and glory of the golden temple she said she had heard much, and it was all true. She had not believed all that she had heard of his wisdom, but she said that she had

found that the half had not been told her. She went home with her great train of servants full of what she had seen and heard, and it would be very pleasant to know how she gave what she had learned to her people.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was the Queen of Sheba? An Arabian or African queen.

Why did she come to Solomon? To learn wisdom.

Of whom did she wish to learn more? Of God.

What did she bring as gifts? Gold, precious stones, and spices.

What did she ask? Many questions.

Did Solomon answer them? Yes, every one.

What did she see? The palace and the temple.

What did she hear? The king's wisdom.

What did she think? That the half had not been told her.

What did she carry home? Much to tell her people.

Who is the One greater than Solomon? Jesus Christ.

Are we eager to learn his wisdom?

LESSON XII.—DECEMBER 20.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (CHRISTMAS LESSON).

Matt. 2. 1-12. Memorize verses 10, 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1. 21.

THE LESSON STORY.

Let us turn away for a day from the stories of Solomon to something that occurred a thousand years later in the little town where David, the father of Solomon, was born. The Maker of all things chose to come down and live among us in order to save us from sin, and he chose this little town as his birthplace. Here the angels sang "Peace on earth, good will toward men;" and then a wonderful star, which had long been leading three wise men from the East, came and dropped its rays over the spot where the Holy Child was. At first the wise men came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Herod asked the priests, who said that it was written in the prophets that Bethlehem would be the place of his birth. So the wise men set out for Bethlehem, and as the evening fell they looked, and there was the star that had led them shining just above the little town. They found the Child and his mother, and worshipped him as their king. They also offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh,

and after another night they were ready to return to their homes. Herod had bidden them to come back and tell him if they found the Child, for he wished to destroy it; but the Lord told them in a dream to go home another way, and so they went away satisfied, for they had seen the King.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Why do we love Bethlehem? Because Jesus was born there.

Where is it? South of Jerusalem.

Who came there to find Jesus? Three wise men.

How did they know the way? A star led them.

Who also wanted to find him? Herod.

Why? That he might destroy him.

Did the wise men tell him? No.

Why? God told them in a dream not to do so.

What gifts did they bring to Jesus? Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

What did they do? They worshipped him.

Who taught them to seek Jesus? God's Holy Spirit.

Does he also teach us to seek him? Yes.

WILLIE'S LOSS.

Willie couldn't do his sums;
Never read a story through;
Failed in almost every task
Father set his boy to do.

Mother looked perplexed and sad;
"What's the cause?" I heard her sigh.
"Los' his application, dear!"
That was grandma's reason why.

If you've lost what Willie did,
You can find it (he did too)
By completing every task
That is set for you to do.

THE BOY AND THE DOG.

I thought when a boy was big enough to have a slate and book and go to school, he was big enough to take care of himself and go the way he wanted to. So I did not go straight down the road, as my mother told me, but I climbed the fence to go across the field.

By and by something said, "Bow-wow-wow!" and there was a big dog running right at me. Didn't I run! That dog almost caught me before I got to the fence, and I tumbled over and scratched my arm and broke my slate and tore my clothes, so I had to go home to mother.

"Ah, Toramy boy," she said, "people never get too old to go in the right way instead of the wrong one. The straight path is the safe path. Remember that!" That is all the lesson I learned in my first day at school, 'cause I didn't go.—*The Gem*.