

THE TRANSITION CLASS may write a list of the names of fowls of the air, and write a little story of the habits of some one bird which may be a favorite.

SCIENCE AT HOME WITH THE MOTHER. The thought of the dependence of the family on the father may be understood, and may lead to the greater thought that all care, and blessing, and life itself depend upon One who said, "Your heavenly Father knoweth." Let the mother ask her little ones, "Will you try to live so truly and nobly that you will be glad to remember that he sees you, and that you are pleasing him?"

### LESSON VII. (February 13.)

#### THE CALL OF MATTHEW. Matt. 9. 9-17.

GOLDEN TEXT. "Follow Me." Matt. 9. 9.

#### Primary Notes.



One snowy morning a gentleman was walking about in his yard. Close behind him followed his little boy. By and by the gentleman saw that the little boy was carefully putting his small foot into his own large footprints, and

he said, "Why do you do that, my boy?" "O," said the little fellow, "I want to be just like my papa, and so I am trying to walk just like he does." He was trying to follow exactly in his papa's steps. Do you know this is just what Jesus wants us to do—to "follow his steps." 1 Peter 2. 21. How can we know what his steps were? He has given us his word to teach us, and we come here to learn that word. How many always learn the Golden Text?

*Jesus calling.* We have a lesson to-day about Jesus calling, and some one following. Had Jesus called anyone before to follow him? [Make word picture of Jesus walking on the seashore and seeing two fishermen casting their nets. See if the children can recall what he said to them, who they were, and what they did.] How many did Jesus call that day by Galilee to follow him? Let us see if we can tell all their names. Now, he wanted more disciples, and he saw a man whom he knew would be a true disciple. Do you wonder how he knew? Just as he knows now, Jesus can look into your heart and mine, just as he looked into Matthew's heart that day. [Explain who Matthew was, and why he did the kind of work he did.] We will write the words on the board which Jesus said to Matthew. They are the words of our Golden Text. Jesus often says these very words now. Do you ever hear him

say them? There is never one day in which Jesus does not call us to follow him! If we would be still and say to him in our hearts, "Jesus, speak to me," we should hear him.

*Following.* Matthew heard Jesus, and he did not wait at all, but rose at once and followed him. Then he made a feast at his house and Jesus and the other disciples (what were their names?) were there. Many of Matthew's old friends were there. He was not ashamed to let them know that he was going to follow Jesus. Do you think Matthew was a brave man? Some are ashamed to follow Jesus who have never been ashamed to follow Satan!

*Fault-finding.* There are always some who find fault with anything that is good. Matthew had a large house. He was rich, but the Pharisees scorned him because he was a publican or tax-gatherer. When he made the feast for Jesus he invited his friends, publicans like himself, to come and see his new Master. Some of the Pharisees came, too, to watch and to find fault. They said if Jesus was a good man, he would not eat with publicans and sinners. Jesus told them that, just as it is the sick man and not the well one who needs a physician, so it is the sinner, and not the one who is good enough already, who needs a Saviour. Jesus said that he came to "call sinners to repentance." Jesus loves everybody, and wants to save every naughty child of his.

*Children following.* How can a child follow Jesus? Is it not too hard? The child has to do just what Matthew and the other disciples did—look to Jesus and learn of him. He said, "I am the way," and anyone who believes and follows cannot get lost. What is our blackboard symbol for the heavenly Father? Yes, it is the kind, beautiful sun. See how the rays fall on the child whose face is turned toward the sun! If he should turn his back to it, he would walk in a dark way, and soon he would be a lost child. Let us think of some ways in which a child may follow Jesus. Suppose we call these rays of light some of the paths that lead up to God.

*Obedience.* This is one of our paths. Children must learn to obey their parents, for God says so in his word. The child who does not obey father and mother is disobeying God. Think of that if you are ever tempted to disobey.

*Gentleness.* The child that tries to follow Jesus will not speak hard words or show naughty temper. Jesus did not! If you keep your face toward Jesus, you will feel kind and gentle, and it will be easy to speak and act that way.

[In a similar manner develop Truthfulness, Helpfulness, etc. Do not fail to teach that it is