

International Bible Lessons.

FIRST QUARTER.

LESSON V. (February 1.)

PAUL AT ATHENS. Acts 17. 22-34.

GOLDEN TEXT: "He preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection." Acts 17. 18.

Primary Notes.

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Approach. Make life the point of contact. Show a stone and a seed. Explain the difference. Stones are dead; they grow bigger by having little particles of matter added on the outside. Seed has life inside, and when planted

grows. Which does a boy like better to play with, a wooden toy, or a live dog or horse or rabbit? Is a doll able to do as much as a bird or some fluffy little chickens?

Two children had each a treasure, which means something precious. The boy had a jewel, a bright stone, such as is worn in a ring or in a king's crown. It was worth much money, but the boy could not play with it or use it. Some one kept it safely for him for a long time, and then in sending it from one safe place to another it was lost in some way, and that was the end of it. A little girl had a baby brother. He made her life glad every day as she watched and played with him, and he grew and grew. He is living yet, a joy to her heart, and his spirit will never die. The difference between a jewel and a baby is that one has life which can never go out, and a precious stone has none and may be lost. Life is the most precious thing—life that never dies, that is always glad and always doing good. It is Jesus who makes us live in the first place, and keeps us alive, bringing our bodies back to life after they sleep a while in what we call death, and making our souls live always to be happy in him, and with him, if we are his. Paul kept talking about the life Jesus gives. He went about a great deal, as a messenger for Jesus. Last Sunday we found him at Athens writing a letter to those people in Thessalonica whom he visited before. Now we still find

Paul at Athens. Take a moment only to show map and tell what a great, beautiful city

Athens was, with its pictures and marbles, and temples and books, and people who studied much and thought they knew a great deal.

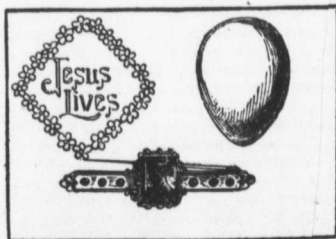
But many, many of them knew nothing about the true God. They worshiped idols, some of them very beautiful, perhaps, but dead—no life in them. They thought strange beings lived in the air and woods, gods of fruits and flowers and harvests, but these were all make-believe. They set up praying places, or altars, in the streets and worshiped, and for fear of leaving out some god they set up an altar and marked it "To the Unknown God." It grieved Paul when he saw, in passing by, this strange altar, and thought how little they knew of the true God. Some who wished to hear this new man preach took him up to a place sixteen steps up a hill, where were stone benches around to sit on, and in this court, called Mars' Hill (Mars was god of war), Paul talked, and we have

Paul Preaching. It was a strange church, but no matter. About whom did Paul talk? Jesus. What did he talk about? Life. He said he had seen that praying place to the unknown god and he would tell them about the true God whom they did not know. "He preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection." (Teach Golden Text.)

Emphasize these things which Paul did: He made them acquainted with Jesus, who was unknown before. He talked of life, which Jesus gives, and how to pray, and worship, not with hands, but hearts.

When Paul told of Christ's rising from the grave they were astonished. Some would not listen, some even laughed at it all, some said they would hear him again, and others believed and went with Paul. If you had been there what would you have done? What will you do now?

Forget-me-not Thought: Jesus Lives. An-



ticipating Easter, make this the dominant thought: Jesus is alive to save and help