

LESSON II—January 12th, 1896.

The Boy Jesus. LUKE 2: 40-52.

(Commit to memory verses 51 and 52).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."
Luke 2: 52.

PROVE THAT—We should obey our parents. Eph. 6: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 40. *What did God at first reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?* A. The rule which God at first revealed to man for his obedience was the moral law.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 33, 232, 215, 207.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Boy Jesus. Luke 2: 40-52. *Tuesday.* The Passover feast. Deut. 16: 1-8. *Wednesday.* Youthful piety. 2 Chr. 34: 1-7. *Thursday.* Seeking after wisdom. Prov. 4: 1-13. *Friday.* The Father's business. John 5: 17-24. *Saturday.* The best knowledge. 2 Tim. 3: 10-17. *Sabbath.* Growing in grace. 2 Pet. 3: 11-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The incident of our lesson marks Christ's coming of legal age and his entrance upon Jewish citizenship. With his first passover he assumed the duties of a full member of the Jewish church. Of the preceding years since the return to Nazareth we know nothing. Nor have we any information of the next eighteen. This is the solitary notice of the life of our Lord between the return from Egypt and his baptism at the age of thirty. It was a memorable crisis in his religious life and the story should be full of instruction to those especially who have passed the age of twelve and have not yet taken their places at the Christian Passover, the Lord's Supper.

LESSON PLAN. I. Jesus at the Feast. vs. 40-45. II. Jesus in the Temple. vs. 46-50. III. Jesus at Nazareth. vs. 51-52.

I. Jesus was just like any other boy, only pure and sinless. He doubtless loved innocent sports and games, and tried to grow wiser as well as stronger every day. He loved God and the divine blessing rested upon him. At the age of twelve he went with Mary and Joseph to take part in his first passover.² This was to him very much the same as "joining the church" with us. It was his public profession of faith in the Covenant God and Redeemer of Israel. Christian children should follow his example and give their hearts to God when young, then come forward and confess Jesus as their Saviour, and unite with his people. When the time came to return home,³ Mary and Joseph were not anxious about Jesus, for they supposed that he was somewhere in the company, with his young companions, and would come to them bye and bye. But when night came on and he did not appear, nor could they find him anywhere, they were filled with alarm and returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

II. They searched for him all the next day and on the following one found him in one of the rooms of the temple, with a number of the Rabbis, or Bible teachers, eagerly asking them questions, shewing by his wise answers that he had studied his Bible thoughtfully.⁴ When his mother gently reproached him for having

given them so much anxiety, Jesus replied that they might have known that he was in his Father's house engaged in his Father's business. God was his Father and surely the Son's place was in his temple studying his law.⁵

III. Jesus returned with Mary and Joseph to their home at Nazareth. Our lesson says that he was "subject unto them." He was an obedient boy.⁶ He did not think it brave and manly to be rude or unkind. If Jesus, who was really so much superior to his parents shewed us this example, how foolish, and unlovely, and wicked for anyone to be unkind, or disobedient, or disrespectful to those who love them so much, sacrifice so much for them, and know so much better what is for their good. When he grew up he was not ashamed of honest work, like too many young people now. He has made toil honorable by being himself a laborer. Once he is called the "carpenter"⁷ and it is altogether likely that he learned Joseph's trade and helped to support the household until he laid aside all other employments for that for which he came into the world, the salvation of men. That must have been a happy home where Jesus dwelt all the time. He will dwell in our homes too if we try to be like him, loving him and loving one another.

¹ ch. 1: 30; ² 1 Sam. 2: 26. ³ Ex. 11. ⁴ Ex. 12: 15, 17. ⁵ Matt. 7: 28; Mark 1: 22; Luke 4: 22, 32; John 7: 13, 46. ⁶ John 2: 15; Luke 9: 45; 18: 34. ⁷ Ex. 20: 12; Prov. 1: 8; Col. 3: 20; Luke 2: 19. ⁸ Mark 6: 23.

LESSONS. 1. Jesus cared for the body. 2. Jesus studied his lessons. 3. Jesus read his Bible well. 4. Jesus went to church with his parents. 5. Jesus made public profession of his faith. 6. Jesus was obedient to his parents and obliging to everybody.