

mentioned in Ex. 1:11. **Nourished his father**; supplied with needed food. **According to their families**; according to the number of their little ones.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON



GOSHEN, the dwelling place of the Israelites in Egypt, was a province on the frontier towards Palestine. It was a pasture land, admirably suited for a shepherd people. It was also somewhat isolated from the land of Egypt proper. This made it the easier for the Israelites to maintain their racial and religious identity. This was an all important consideration in the history

of the children of Israel.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1-4 Whom did Joseph tell of his family's arrival in Egypt? Into what land had they come? What kind of land was Goshen? How many of his brethren did Joseph present to Pharaoh? What question did Pharaoh ask of them? What did they ask to be allowed to do?

5, 6 What was Pharaoh's answer? What royal

position was he ready to give them? What qualifications did he require for this position?

7-10 What question did Pharaoh ask of Jacob? How old was Jacob? How old were Isaac and Abraham?

11, 12 What other name is given to the land of Goshen? What care did Joseph exercise for his father and brethren? How was the bread distributed?

A PRAYER

O thou who wast born on Christmas day, be born in us to-day. As we look at thee may we die to sin, and may we find new life and joy and peace in thee. As we gaze on thee, let our hearts be made tender. Give us the desire to make thee our companion and friend, to turn from the things that displease thee, and to make thee known to others that our gladness may be shared by them. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus obeyed his parents.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 36-38.

The Question on Missions—12. Do the homes of the Christian Indians improve? Sitting round a pot of food from which each one eats with a wooden spoon gives place to a table and chairs, with modern dishes and cutlery. Some of the Indian women learn to make clothes for the whole family. They also knit socks and other garments, sometimes even spinning the wool.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was Joseph's plan for his family?

2. How was this plan carried out?

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CHRISTMAS LESSON—Luke 2: 8-20.

AN ALTERNATIVE LESSON

GOLDEN TEXT—There is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.—Luke 2: 11 (Rev. Ver.).

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE SAVIOUR ANNOUNCED.—8-11. Shepherds; men of low degree. In the field; the open country round Bethlehem. Keeping watch; to guard from robber and wild beast. God always comes to busy men. The angel of the Lord; an angel of the Lord. Glory of the Lord; the brightness of a heavenly being. Sore afraid; greatly terrified. Fear not; God's constant message to men. To understand God is to love, not fear. Good tidings... all people. God's good news is never private. The city of David; Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. A Saviour. Christ's mission is to save. Christ; Christ's office—the Messiah or the Anointed. Lord; his divine personality.

12-14. A sign; by which to recognize the Saviour and confirm the angel's announcement: a strange sign, a Saviour—a babe. Swaddling clothes; wrapping bands for new born children. Manger; stranger

sign still. Who would think to seek there? Multitude... heavenly host; angels of God. It is a great occasion for heaven. Glory to God in the highest. Christ is the revelation of what is most glorious in God. On earth peace; the final result of Christ's coming. Good will toward men. The gospel brings God's spirit of good will among men.

II. THE SAVIOUR DISCOVERED.—15, 16. Let us... go; to confirm the angel's word. With haste; showing their eagerness. Lying in a manger; because there was no room in the inn.

III. THE SAVIOUR PROCLAIMED.—17-20. Made known abroad; told to every one what they had heard and seen. Mary kept... pondered; thought of them over and over again. She did not understand all that they meant. The shepherds returned, glorifying; back to old tasks but with a new song for life.