

ART WORK. Show and explain the lesson card, which is Overbeck's picture of the naming of John. Let the children talk about it.

HAND WORK. The kindergarten children may write the words, "His name is John," and they may make a temple or a church with the building blocks.

The **TRANSITION CLASS** may sew the words which are under the picture.

SCIENCE AT HOME WITH MOTHER. Talk of the human voice. The tongue and the lips give utterance to the thoughts of the mind. The gentle voice of the mother in the home is like the sweetest music to the household, and teaches all to speak kindly. Animals have voice, but they do not have speech. One poet speaks of the voice as a fountain: "Let the voice rise like a fountain" (Tennyson). A good prophet once spoke of the glory of God, and brightness coming from the East, and of a beautiful Voice which was like the noise of many waters (Ezek. 43. 2).

LESSON II. (January 12.)

THE BOY JESUS. Luke 2. 40-52.

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

Primary Notes.



[Show an apple seed.] Suppose this seed was planted, what would it do? Tell me how it would grow? What would happen first? [Describe the growth of a tree, telling how the roots go down into the ground, tak-

ing in nourishment from the earth, that the tree may grow up strong, bearing leaves and fruit. While telling, either make a tree on the board or show one already made.]

Suppose you should plant an apple seed, what would you expect and want the tree to be that would grow from it? I think you would be disappointed in it unless it grew strong. [Print "grew" on the trunk of the tree, and "strong" among the roots.] Unless it was strong it could not stand the winds and storms that would beat against it; unless it was strong it would not bear good fruit, so I am sure you would want your tree to be strong, and most of all to be "fruitful." [Print among the branches.]

Tell me what else grows beside the trees. [Draw from the children different things.] Everything that has "life" grows—trees and plants and animals and people. In some ways all these different things grow alike; everything that grows rightly will grow "strong," and almost everything that grows strong and well will be "fruitful." Let us

talk for a few minutes about a baby. Who ever saw a baby a week old? Tell me about it. [Describe how a baby at first is helpless; picture how a healthy baby will grow and the changes that come with the months; tell how a child should not only grow strong in body, but should increase or grow in knowledge and goodness; should daily grow more loving and kind. These things are to a child what the fruit is to the tree.]

Can you think of a baby you have heard of who grew in this true, best way? [Print "Jesus."] We learned about him first as a little baby, just such a dear baby as many of you have in your homes; but at his birth, you remember, some wonderful things happened, different from anything that ever happened when our little brothers or sisters were born. [Review briefly Luke 2. 1-39; Matt. 2. 1-15, 19-21.]

What do you suppose Jesus was doing while he was in Egypt? Just what your baby does in your home, growing. How? Strong in body and mind, taller and larger in every way, so that when Joseph and Mary left Egypt and came back to Palestine they brought with them a baby that was already growing into a big boy. Let us find on the map where Jesus went to live. [Point out Nazareth and tell a little about the place.] Here in the village of Nazareth the boy Jesus spent nearly all his life. [Print "The Boy."]

The Bible tells a little about those years. Listen while I read something very beautiful that it says about him. [Read verse 40, then tell of the journey to Jerusalem (41-50).] Jesus did not ask to stay in Jerusalem, where he could have gone often and talked with these wise men; no, he went back to Nazareth with his parents very willingly, and the Bible says, "He was subject to them." That means he obeyed them, doing everything he could to please and make them happy.

Does anyone know Joseph's business? He was a carpenter, and I can imagine how Jesus spent many days in the little shop learning to make the things that carpenters make, and in this way he grew helpful and increased in knowledge. Did he grow in any other ways? [Repeat the Golden Text.] He grew not only strong and large, but wise [print]. His mind was filled with heavenly wisdom, and besides he grew so loving and kind and beautiful in all his ways that the Bible says, "He pleased both God and man." That shows he was "fruitful."

I have made a little saw out of paper, and I want you to make one at home, as nearly like it as you can, to remind you of the time when Jesus was a boy and worked in a carpenter's shop. I want you to print on it some way in which you think Jesus grew while he was a boy in Nazareth.

Do you think we can grow as Jesus did? I know a child who is so faithful in her work, so generous kind, and loving in all her ways, that everyone