

ners put him to death. Tell how Pilate tried to find out what wrong Jesus had done. Ask for Golden Text, and then tell that he let the Jews choose which should be set free, Jesus or Barabbas, a robber and a murderer! Ask what some of the good things Jesus had done—were the turning water into wine, making bread to feed the hungry, curing sick folks, raising the dead, etc. Were these bad deeds? No, all were good works. But Barabbas was a bad man, who had been condemned to die because his works were bad. Yet, the Jews chose this man. If Johnny should choose this poor little apple instead of the large, good one, you would think he was a very silly boy. But think how wicked as well as silly it was to choose a bad man instead of the good, merciful Jesus. Use lesson symbol.



If you cannot have the pictures, you can at least cut paper forms. Speak of the difference between the serpent and the dove, and try to impress the children with the thought that it is a serious thing to choose.

Print on the board, "Choose ye this day." Tell that each child has to choose each day between Jesus and Satan. Every time we turn away from evil, and say, "I must not do that because it is wrong," we choose Jesus. Every time we yield to temptation and do a naughty act we choose Satan. To-day we may choose Jesus to be our Master all the time, if we will. Who will choose Jesus? He has already chosen you, but you cannot have him for your own dear Saviour until you choose him. Sing, "Come to Jesus."

Lesson Word-Pictures.

What means this commotion somewhere between midnight and sunrise in the judgment-hall? The light from the antique lamps falls upon the Roman ruler on his judgment-seat, and Roman soldiers with pointed spear and glittering sword, and upon that Man of Sorrows, desecrated, defenseless, the maker of sea and land, but manacled now like a malefactor! But hark!

What is that noise without, whose echoes sharp, threatening, force their way into the hall? Look out of yonder window. You see a black, raging mob down there before the door-way, half-revealed by the moonlight still accompanying this "early" hour. With what insane shouts they rush about, stop to make threatening gestures at the pretorium, and then clamor anew for the blood of that defenseless prisoner before Pilate. It is the hound checked in its pursuit, still vindictive still and hoarsely baying for the life of the prey that close at hand may yet be beyond its reach. Never a foot does the hound thrust over the threshold of that Gentile hall. This would unfit the hound for the festivities of the holy pasover. But hush, hush, every frenzied, shouting rioter! Pontius Pilate himself, the haughty Roman ruler, is at the door and beckons. Listen! He wishes to know their accusation, and does he suggest that they try him? Ah, no, these hounds are lambs; they can't put a man to death. Pontius Pilate, proud Roman, must be their butcher. He retreats to his judgment-seat. He summons Jesus before him. They confront one another. Ho, Pilate, do you know whom you are trying? He will try you, sometime, in a more searching judgment-hour. To-day, it is only a Jew before a Roman, but how calmly, majestically the Roman is confronted by the Jew! Pilate is soon hurrying out of the hall again. Perhaps he is saying to himself, "It is only a fanatic, some poor fool who has lost his head, and thinks he is king of the Jews." Pilate is at the door. He looks out and beckons. There still is the mob, its tumult like that of the waves. It quickly rushes its clamor, crowds up to the door, and, standing there in the moonlight, listens to the Roman ruler. What does he say? He finds no fault in the accused (what a murmur swells down in the mob!), and as he is wont to let some prisoner go free at this time, shall he release this—king of the Jews? Did the moon see a sneer about the mouth of Pontius Pilate? He is waiting for an answer. Shall he release innocence, purity, righteousness? It is only a moment's waiting, and then the mob shrieks and shouts and roars for Barabbas, the ROBBER!!

A. D. 30.]

John 19. 1-16.

[Commit to memory verses 14-16.]



- 1 Then Pilate took Je'sus, and scourged him.
- 2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,
- 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.
- 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.
- 5 Then came Je'sus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!
- 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, Crucify him.
- 7 Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him; for I find no fault in him.
- 7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.
- 8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;
- 9 And went again into the judgment-hall, and saith unto Je'sus, Whence art thou? But Je'sus gave him no answer.

LESSON III. JESUS DELIVERED TO BE CRUCIFIED.

[Oct. 17.]

10 And saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Je'sus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Cæsar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Cæsar.

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Je'sus forth, and sat down in the judgment-seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gab'ba-tha.

14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Cæsar.

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Je'sus, and led him away.