

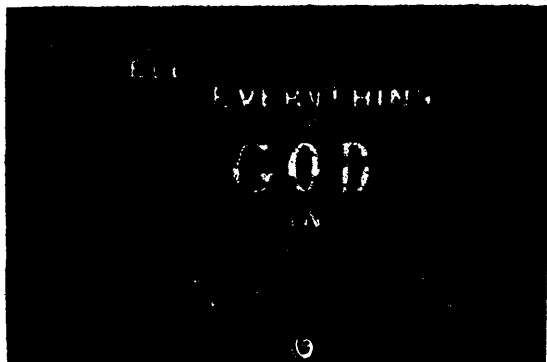
that the king would speak with the person to whom it was held out.

Before Esther went to the king she asked her friends to fast. (Explain.) This implies prayer, confession of sin and belief in God. They fasted for three days, and told God all their trouble, and asked Him to help them. Then the queen went bravely to the king to plead for her people. She put

When we really trust God, our prayers are answered and we have peace and joy and honor. Repeat Golden Text.

Queen Esther loved her country and her people, and was willing to do anything for them, even to suffering the king's anger and being cast off by him. She was unselfish and brave, and trusted in God for help.

Teach Golden Text.



Practical Thoughts — We should love our country and all the people in it, and be willing to help in anything that is for the good of our neighbors. (We can plead with our rulers to put away strong drink, which is killing many of our people. Little children can help by being "cold water" boys and girls.) All beauty and all talents should be used for God's glory and for the good of others. We should be brave and unselfish

on a beautiful dress, and her face was very beautiful, full of love for her people and a determination, by God's help, to save them.

Tell the story as given in the lesson. The children will be interested in all the details of Esther's reception by the king. Impress the thought in verses 7, 15, 16, 17. God always punishes the wicked in some way.

—ready to help others in need. We should tell everything to God in prayer. He will be with us in all danger and trouble. Tell a story of a child's faith in prayer and the answer received.

Another "benefit" block, "His presence in danger."

LESSON IV.—October 22, 1899

EZRA'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM, EZRA 8 : 21-32

PREVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER : God daily loadeth us with benefits

Golden Text—The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 8 : 22.

To-day's Lesson Thought—God is our guide.

Connection—Six of the little ones may stand before the class, each holding up one of the silver letters of the name "Esther." Ask different children to tell something they remember about Esther. Recall the story and the thoughts gained from it.

The Lesson—I wonder how many of you

went on a journey any place this summer? Did you go with father and mother on the boat or train? We are going to hear to-day about a man who went on a journey. But it was a very long journey, and he had no train or boat to go on. He had to go on the back of a horse or mule or walk all the way.

Have ready a roll representing the parchment roll or book of Bible times—(A long strip of brown paper, about half a yard wide, rolled on a round stick will answer the pur-