

FOR JESUS.

BY M. J.

Did it ever occur to you, dear little one,
When you do your best to please us,
That every sunshiny hour you make
Is just so much for Jesus?

Try to remember, dear little one,
That a sweet and loving smile
May bring again to a weary heart
The song that was hushed awhile.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF THE ACTS.

LESSON V. [February 2.]

THE FIRST PERSECUTION.

Acts 4. 1-12. Memorize verses 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is none other name under heaven
given among men, whereby we must be
saved.—Acts 4. 12.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did Peter preach his first sermon? In Jerusalem, standing on the street. Where did he preach the second? In the temple. Who listened to it? The people, the priests, and the elders. What did they do to the apostles? They put them in prison. Before whom were they brought the next day? Before the Jewish council. What was it called? The Sanhedrin. Who belonged to it? Seventy of the chief priests and rulers. Who was high priest at this time? Caiaphas. Why is Annas also called the high priest? Because he had once held that office and still had great influence. How did Peter speak before the council? Boldly, for he was filled with the Holy Spirit. What did the apostles say about the only name? (Golden Text).

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon.* Read the lesson verses. Acts 4. 1-12.
Tues. Read the rest of the chapter.
Wed. Read what God says about meeting in his name. Mal. 3. 16-18.
Thur. Hide this wonderful Golden Text in your heart.
Fri. Find what strange power made Peter strong. Verse 8.
Sat. Learn what made the weak man strong. Acts 3. 16.
Sun. Read Hymn 822 in the Methodist Hymn. l.

LESSON VI. [February 9.]

THE SIN OF LYING.

Acts 5. 1-11. Memorize verses 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour.—Eph. 4. 25.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

How many believers were there now? About eight thousand. How did they live? In love and peace. How did they show their love? By sharing their goods. What did Barnabas do? Sold his land and brought the money to the apostles. What did Ananias and Sapphira pretend to do? As Barnabas had done. What did they really do? They kept a part of the price. Did they think it would be known? No. Who can never be deceived? The all-seeing God. What power was given to Peter? To read the heart of Ananias. What did he tell him? That he had lied to God. What then happened? Ananias and Sapphira both died. What did God want to teach the Church by this? To be true.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon.* Read about the family church. Acts 4. 32-37.
Tues. Read the sad story of a deceiver. Acts 5. 1-11.
Wed. Find what other disciple was tempted and fell. Luke 22. 3.
Thur. See why it is foolish to tell a lie. Psa. 139. 4.
Fri. Learn what is the root of evil. 1 Tim. 6. 10.
Sat. Learn the Golden Text, so you will never forget it!
Sun. Learn a verse about the truth. Psa. 51. 6.

LITTLE MARY'S PRAYER.

Little Mary's mother had occasion to correct her the other night. Mary was very angry, and when she said her prayers, instead of asking God to bless her papa and mamma, as she was wont to do, she said: "God bless papa, and don't bless mamma."

Her mother took no notice, and Mary jumped into her bed without her good-night kiss. By and by she began to breathe hard, and at length she whispered: "Mamma, are you going to live a great while?"

"I don't know," was the answer.

"Do you think that you shall?"

"I cannot tell."

"Do many mothers die and leave their children?"

"A great many do."

"Mamma," said Mary, with a trembling voice, "I am going to say another prayer." And clasping her little hands, she cried: "God bless papa, and the dearest, best mamma that any little girl ever had in the world."

That's the way, children. If you knew that your mothers were going to die very shortly, you could not be half kind enough to them; but do you know that, be they long or short lived, there lies before you, written so plainly that he who runs may read: "Honour thy father and thy mother"?

Remember that every wrong committed

against loving parents will, when they shall have passed from earth, bite like a serpent and sting like an adder.

AN ACORN.

Norna had been sick a long while, and she was so tired of lying in bed that all the family tried to amuse her. Papa brought her a little musical box, and mamma gave her picture books; Tom bought a new game for her, and Dotty a bunch of grapes. Even baby offered her an acorn which he picked up under the great oak tree. What a beautiful little thing it was, fitting neatly in its tiny saucer; and what a dainty saucer, too, with row after row of wee brown scales folded so prettily over each other! Mamma tied a string around the acorn, hung it over a glass of water, and told Norna that now she could see it grow.

"But how can it find its way to the water, mamma?" asked Norna.

"Watch and see," said mamma, smiling.

The next day Norna thought that the acorn looked a little larger; but soon after that, O dear! there was a dreadful crack all along its side.

"It is spoiled, mamma," sighed Norna, "it will never grow now."

"Watch and see," again said mamma.

Norna did watch. At last she saw something white and something green coming out of the crack. The white shoot grew down into the water and made a root, but the green shoot grew upward and made two leaves, and so the acorn turned into a baby oak; and Norna so enjoyed watching it all that she forgot she was sick, and was almost as happy as if she had been outdoors in the sunshine.

"Your little girl is much better," said the doctor to mamma. "She is well enough to play in the yard. This new medicine has helped her." And nobody knew that the little acorn had helped her as much as the medicine.—*Youth's Companion.*

Hold fast, boys; hold on to your tongue when you are just ready to swear or speak harshly, or use an improper word; hold on to your hand when you are about to punch, strike, scratch, or do an improper act; hold on to your foot when you are on the point of kicking, running off from study, or pursuing the path of error, shame or crime; hold on to your temper when you are angry, excited, or imposed upon, or others are angry with you; hold on to your heart when evil associates seek your company and invite you to join in their mirth, games, and revelry.

Shame on the boy or girl who abuses animals. Any one who will cause needless suffering in a world where so much pain is unavoidable is a coward of the weakest sort.