

LESSON V—January 31st, 1897.

The Boldness of Peter and John. ACTS 4: 1-14.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12.

PROVE THAT—Jesus sustains in difficulties. Acts 4: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 80, 42, 101, 134.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 13-22. *Wednesday.* Resort to prayer. Acts 4: 23-31. *Thursday.* Fear not. Matt. 10: 24-33. *Friday.* The only name. John 3: 9-19. *Saturday.* The Corner Stone. 1 Pet. 2: 1-10. *Sabbath.* No other foundation. 1 Cor. 3: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson properly embraces the whole fourth chapter. The address of Peter was interrupted by officers sent to arrest them for creating a disturbance, but really because they proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus. This is the first attempt of the authorities to suppress the infant church by persecution.

LESSON PLAN. I. Suffering for Christ. vs. 1-4. II. Witnessing for Christ. vs. 5-12. III. Being like Christ. vs. 13-14.

1. The captain of the temple—The commander of the temple guard, composed of levites, whose duty it was to preserve order. He was a priest (Luke 22: 4; Acts 5: 24). The sadducees—These denied that there was any future life, or angel, or spirit (ch. 23: 8). 2. Being grieved—R. V. "sore troubled" (ch. 16: 18). Proclaimed in Jesus (R. V.)—That Jesus himself had risen and that therefore in "Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15: 22). 3. Put them in hold—R. V. "in ward," or in prison. It was too late to assemble the sanhedrin which could meet, lawfully, only in daylight. 4. Came to be five thousand (R. V.)—They were not frightened by the arrest of the apostles but believed in Christ and united with the church whose membership had increased by 2,000 since the day of Pentecost. 5. This was a meeting of the *sanhedrin*, or supreme court of the Jews. It consisted of 71 members, the most distinguished men of the nation, and met daily. Scribes—These not only copied the law but were its chief teachers (Matt. 13: 52; 7: 29). 6. Annas—was not really high priest having been deposed by the Romans, but he seems to have retained the title and to have been a man of great influence. He was a sadducee. Caiaphas—was his son-in-law and actual high priest at this time (Luke 3: 2). We know nothing about the others mentioned. 7. In the midst—The council sat in a semicircle around them. The lame man still clung to them (verse 14). In what name (R. V.)—They wished to convict them of sorcery under the law of Deut. 13: (Ex. 22: 18; Lev. 19: 26). They acknowledged the reality of the miracle, but they ask

"By whose power and authority was it wrought?" 8. Filled with the Holy Ghost—Now the promise was fulfilled (Luke 12: 11, 12; Matt. 10: 19, 20). 9. A good deed—Peter suggests that this is not the real charge. Men are not usually arrested for making lame people well. 10. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (R. V.)—Peter boldly declares the truth, charges the rulers with the death of Jesus, and proclaims his resurrection by the power of God. This miracle was a proof that he lived and was able to save. 11. He is the stone (R. V.)—This would recall to their minds our Saviour's words in the temple (Matt. 21: 42; Ps. 118: 22; Isa. 28: 16). 12. In none other is there salvation—i. e. the salvation which all Jews expected through the Messiah. He is the only Saviour of all men. No other need be looked for. You must be saved by him or eternally lost (Heb. 2: 3). 13. The boldness—lit. "the outspokenness." Their courage, and the clear and forcible way in which they spoke (Phil. 1: 20). Unlearned—They were not learned rabbis, but they knew their Bibles well. Ignorant—They called everyone who was not a graduate of some school an ignorant person. But Peter and John were wiser than the rabbis this time (2 Tim. 1: 12). They took knowledge of them—They noted the spirit of the Master in the disciples (Phil. 2: 5; Rom. 8: 29; 2 Cor. 3: 18). 14. They could say nothing—They could not argue against a fact. It seems too that some of them suspected that they might be found fighting against God (ch. 5: 39; Luke 21: 15; Acts 6: 10).

LESSONS. 1. Earnest workers must expect opposition. 2. No good work is wholly fruitless. 3. Do what is right even if you suffer for it. 4. There is no Saviour but Jesus. 5. Try to be like Jesus.