

are? Doesn't this show that we do not really feel sure of it in our hearts? It grieves our Father's heart when we do not trust his word and his power.

Once there was a distressing famine in the land where God's people lived and many died of hunger. God sent word to them by one of his prophets that the next day food should be plentiful and should be sold very cheaply indeed. One of the king's chief men said, "If the Lord should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be." He did not trust God's word and power. But the word came true. It always does.

Our Father sometimes shows his children some wonderful things to help them to understand and to believe. Our lesson is something of this sort. The Lord wished to teach the prophet Ezekiel and the captive people of Israel and Judah that nothing was too hard for him. To teach this lesson he gave Ezekiel a wonderful vision. Sometimes the sight of the eye is called a vision. We have clear vision when we can see well. Sometimes what we see is called a vision. We look away off at some beautiful river, with trees on either side, and we say, "What a lovely vision!" But, speaking in another way, we say we have a vision when we see some wonderful sight as if it were real, and yet it is not to be seen with our eyes. The mind sees it instead, and two people do not look at a vision of this kind at once. Now, God gave Ezekiel a strange vision, a great vision. He made him see a sight which no one else could see, and it was to help him to understand a great truth. The story has been written down for us that we, here and now, may learn the same lesson—that nothing is too hard for God and that we must listen to what he says. See on our shield, "Hear the word of the Lord." When he speaks let us listen, and believe.

*The vision.* In some strange way the Spirit of God carried away the prophet and set him down in the midst of a valley. As clearly as if he could see with his eyes there was the valley before him, and behold it was full of dry bones. It was as if a great battle had been fought there and the bones of those killed—a great multitude—lay upon the ground, and as the prophet looked, behold they were very dry.

Then God asked the question, "Can these dry bones live?" Ezekiel could not tell, himself. It was a hard question, but he answered wisely, "O Lord God, thou knowest." Then God told him to speak to these bones and to say to them, "Hear the word of the Lord." But can a lifeless body hear? Ezekiel might have said, "There is no use in speaking to these dry bones." He said no such thing. He listened to the voice of

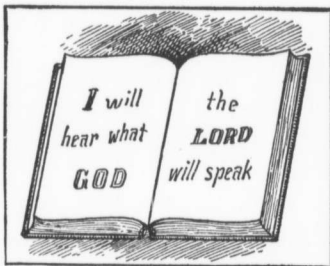
God and said over the message. God said these bones should live, that he would cause breath to enter into them, flesh to come upon them, skin to cover them. The prophet did as he was told, and he heard a great shaking and the right bones came together. God said again to call to the wind or breath, which in this place means the Spirit, and say, "Breathe upon these slain that they may live." It was done, and a living army filled the valley.

Then God explained the vision. His people were captives, away from home, and so sinful that their hearts were dry—no love, no true life in them, and they said, "Our hope is lost." But God, who could make dry bones live if he would, could bring the captives home and give them new life. "I will put my Spirit within you" was the promise. Everything would then be possible. Afterward this came true.

*Wonderful things.* God can raise the dead. He will at the resurrection. Hear his word, "The dead shall be raised."

God can bring back wandering ones and change their hearts. Hear his word, "A new heart also will I give unto you." He promises his Spirit, so gentle and loving, once coming down in the form of a dove.

God can help us to do what is hard. If he sends us with a message to anyone who does not love him, who seems unwilling to listen, let no one say, "It is no use." Hear God's word, "I will help thee." Listen to him.



#### Kintergarten Hints.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Seek ye me, and ye shall live."—Amos 5. 4.

"I will put my spirit within you."—Ezek. 36. 27.

"Because I live, ye shall live also."—John 14. 19.

#### HINTS ON METHOD.

The literary quality of the Book of Ezekiel and the glimpse we get of the lofty character of this prophet, as we study to make up our primary lessons, give us such inspiration that we dread los-