

believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, so they blessed them and prayed that the Holy Spirit might come to them—and the prayer was answered.

Saul tried to stop the Lord's work, but the very thing that he did to stop it made it spread and grow in places where it had never been before. Philip probably would not have gone to Samaria if Saul had not persecuted the Christians in Jerusalem, so without meaning or wishing to do so Saul helped instead of hindered the telling of the good news about Jesus.



Special Primary Suggestions.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8, 4.

Introductory. Begin review of last lesson by telling how the ax that cuts down a sandalwood tree is perfumed; so Stephen gave out love and forgiveness to those who hurt him. Lead on to thought that some things when cut down are scattered farther and do more good. Suppose the wheat was never cut, what would become of the seed we need to sow the fields again? It seemed as if this early Church was being cut down and being cut off when Stephen was stoned, but it was not so. It was just a scattering of good seed, because Jesus's friends now had to go everywhere instead of staying in one place.

Lesson story. Thoughts to impress: It was a good thing that disciples were scattered, though it seemed hard, just as it is a good thing to sow seed in a large field and in many fields. Disciples went everywhere, so that many who would never have heard in any other way now learned the story of Jesus. They told about Jesus, not about themselves. There was great joy in the place when this good word was told, and wonders were done by the power of Jesus. These four divisions, accompanied in each particular by the lesson that it was not by their

own goodness or power that they did anything, should serve for an ordinary class; but where thought wise the story of Simon may be told, showing that even where Jesus is preached there may be some who make mistakes about him and are selfish in wishing for a blessing.

Dwell much upon the joy that came through what was hard for the disciples, the scattering abroad everywhere. Of course they had to leave their homes and bear hardships.

Prayer thought: *Pray everywhere.* One does not have to be in one place always, in order to pray and be heard and answered. Disciples could pray as well in strange cities as at home. Good seed will grow in almost any soil, and so the word they carried could be told everywhere. God answers prayer in one place just as easily as in another. In every place, and for every place, we may pray and we ought to pray. God will answer. Then there will be joy in that place. This lesson may well take a missionary turn. Sometimes trouble in one place in a heathen land will send missionaries away into other places, and more good is done than before. Seize such a chance to cultivate the missionary spirit.

Thought for teachers. How often the scatterings come in our classes, through the changes and vicissitudes of ordinary life, though not from persecution, perhaps! What manner of teaching should be ours, that those who go from us continually and are lost sight of may take with them the word of life? Now is our opportunity, dear fellow-workers. Who knoweth what shall be on the morrow?

LESSON XI. (March 16.)

THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERTED. Acts 8. 29-39.

GOLDEN TEXT: "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Rom. 10, 10.

Primary Notes.

Truth. God calls people to work for him.

Impression. God has work for me to do.

Expression. Desire to know and readiness to do what God wishes.

Point of contact. A call to do a good deed on a child's plane of life.

