

children to Jesus, the disciples spoke roughly and wanted to drive them away. But Jesus said, "Let them stay." He said also, that anybody who tried to lead a little child or one who was weak and helpless away from Him into doing wrong, would be severely punished. "It is better," said Jesus, "even to do without feet or hands or eyes, than to use them in doing wrong." Then Jesus told about the angel messengers, whose special work it is to take care of the little ones, and how in heaven they stand always near the heavenly Father and see His face.

Jesus Himself was always ready to help the weak and helpless. He said, "I am

come to save that which was lost."

He showed this by a story. There was once a shepherd who had an hundred sheep. But one naughty one ran away and was lost. Then the kind shepherd left the ninety-nine sheep that had not wandered and went to look for the lost one. When he found it, all torn and bleeding, he brought it home on his shoulder and ever afterward he loved and petted that poor silly sheep even more than the others, who had stayed in the fold.

"That shepherd," said Jesus, "is like My Father, who is not willing that a single one of His little ones should perish."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What did the disciples sometimes quarrel about? Ans. As to which of them should be the greatest. 2. How did Jesus teach them to be humble? Ans. He said they must all become as little children. 3. Did Jesus mean that little children are always good? Ans. No, but that they know how to be meek and trustful. 4. To what do all who trust Jesus belong? Ans. To the

kingdom of God. 5. How did Jesus show that He is willing to help the weak? Ans. By the story of the lost sheep. 6. How does Jesus treat those who have been naughty? Ans. Very kindly and gently. 7. What is the Golden Text? Ans. Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

Jesus wants the little ones



Primary Catechism—105. What name is given to the household or family of God?

God's family is called the Church?

106. What is the outward sign of membership in the Church?

The outward sign of membership in the church is baptism.

Shorter Catechism—33. What is justification?

A. Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.

Lesson Hymn

Jesus is our Shepherd,
Wiping every tear;
Folded in His bosom,
What have we to fear?

Jesus is our Shepherd:
For the sheep He bled;
Every lamb is sprinkled
With the blood He shed;

Then on each He setteth
His own secret sign:
'They that have My Spirit,
'These,' saith He, 'are Mine.'

Amen.

—Hymn 522, Book of Praise