

Lesson—Our Lesson is about a song of joy. It is one of the Psalms. God's people were rejoicing and praising God because He had been so good to them (Read the beautiful Psalm of to-day's Lesson).

Golden Text—Repeat Golden Text (Print on the blackboard).

Great Things For Us—God's people of old sang these words. Now let us say them as if they were our own words (Print): "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

Sing—

Birds are singing, woods are ringing,
With Thy praises, blessed King;
Lake and mountain, field and fountain,
To Thy throne their tributes bring.

We, Thy children, join the chorus,

Merrily, cheerily, gladly praise Thee;

Glad hosannas, glad hosannas

Joyfully we lift to Thee.

—Hymn 515, Book of Praise

Peace—Let us think of a few of these great things. God's people of old had great walls around their cities. Why? Compare their condition with ours. Here is one great thing God has given us,—Peace. (Explain what is meant; see Exposition.)

Plenty—Do you remember the times of famine that came to God's people of old? And the famine times that come to many

places now? Here is another great thing that God has given us,—Plenty (Explain in some simple way).

Pleasure—What a lot of great things we may put under this head! How pleasant is the life of the children in our land! Think of our fine schools, of our beautiful books, of our means of travel, of our fine music, of the comfort of our sick ones in hospitals, of the care of poor neglected ones in the homes provided for them.

Purity—I am sure you all can tell me the very greatest and best thing that God has done for us? Yes, God has given us a Saviour, Jesus Christ, who takes away all our sin and makes our hearts pure, and who prepares us for a home in heaven. We may well sing with happy hearts, "Joy to the world! the Lord is come!" Hymn 26, Book of Praise.

Scattering Joy—How can we help to scatter joy and gladness around us? All repeat:

"Just being happy

Helps other souls along;

Their burdens may be heavy

And they not strong;

And your own sky will lighten

If other skies you brighten

By just being happy

With a heart full of song."

Something to Think About—I should be joyful.

FROM THE PLATFORM

A GREAT GOD
GLAD PEOPLE

Call for the Golden Text, and then print on the blackboard, A GREAT GOD. Question about the ways mentioned in the Lesson Psalm in which God had shown His greatness. The scholars will tell you about His deliverance of His people from captivity, involving the three wonders of the capture of Babylon by the Persians, Cyrus' permission to the Jews to return to their own land and the protection of the returning exiles from the perils of their journey. Have the Golden Text repeated again, and, after the scholars have told you what it says about the feelings of the captives now in their own land, print GLAD PEOPLE. Use the deliverance of the Jews from Babylon as a picture of our deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour. Dwell on the gladness which His salvation brings to all who accept it, and urge every scholar to seek a share in that gladness.