

1 Sam. 23 : 14-18, and with that greatest of all giving for others, God's great gift of his Son. Ask which should rule the world, the spirit of Herod, who wanted to lord it over others and get all he could, or that of Jesus, who came to serve and give. Make clear how the conflict between these two spirits is going on in every heart. Are we to live for self or for others?

Some such introduction as that indicated above will prepare for effective Christmas instruction, which may be developed by asking such questions as the following : Should it be our greatest aim to give or to get presents for Christmas? Suppose we have no money to buy Christmas gifts, is there anything left we can give? Do parents and friends, do the poor themselves, value real kindness, sympathy and love more than five cents or a

dollar? Should our giving be confined to Christmas, or should we take Christmas into the whole year? Do church and Sunday School collections give an opportunity all through the year of giving to God? What gift does God value from us far more than our money?

Refer to the preciousness of the gifts which the Wise Men brought to Jesus, v. 11. They gave the very best that they had. Speak of how those who, on the battle front, are defending us from terrible enemies to-day are giving their best, their very lives. Jesus gave his best—his own life—for us. Such examples teach us not to stint our giving for what is right and good. And the way we may give both Jesus and all the world the most precious of all gifts is by making Jesus the lord of our lives.

### ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

#### Something to Look Up

1. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Isaiah wrote this about the birth of Jesus. Find the words.

2. Where does Jesus call himself the "light of the world?"

ANSWER, Lesson XI.—(1) Mark 2 : 27.  
(2) Num. 15 : 32-36.

#### Prove from Scripture

That we should be ready for Christ's coming.

### FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

*A Look Forward*—We hear God teaching his people that Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

*Lesson Thought*—Aim to make the children understand that Jesus is their Saviour.

*Approach to the Lesson*—Let your room or "corner" suggest the Christmas season as much as possible. How strange it would seem to live in a land where there is no "Christmas!" No Christmas story, no Santa Claus, no Christmas tree, no Christmas presents! Our lesson story takes us away back to the land of God's people long before the Christmas story was ever told, before there was a "Christmas Day."

*Messages*—Every once in a while God sent messages to his people telling them that sometime he was going to send a Saviour to them. (Look up these messages and read to the class.)

*Lesson*—At last the prophet Malachi went through the land of Israel telling the people

that the Lord was surely coming. And he also told them that they were not ready to receive him because they were doing many things that were not right, vs. 5-9.

*God's Promise*—Repeat the Lord's promise that if they would return to serving him he would return to them and bless them, vs. 10-12. God was thinking of the time when his people would have the happy Christmas days, when the boys and girls would be hearing the Christmas story. He was going to send them his great gift, Jesus Christ, who would be for all nations.

*Golden Text*—"Repent ye : for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (all repeat). This is another message God sent by his messenger John, when Jesus was ready to begin his work in the world.

*Angel Messengers*—Tell how God's angel messengers brought the glad news to the world, for God did keep his promises that he made to his people long ago, and at last the