



LESSON IV.—JULY 28.

God Calls Abraham.

Genesis xii., 1-9. Memory verses, 1-3.

Golden Text.

'I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.'—Gen. xii., 2.

Lesson Text.

(1) Now the Lord had said unto Abram, get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: (2) And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: (3) And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. (4) So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. (5) And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. (6) And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. (7) And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. (8) And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east; and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. (9) And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

Suggestions.

After the flood the earth was re-peopled by the sons of Noah, who had been saved with their wives in the ark—Shem, from whom are descended the Jews and other semitic races; Ham, the father of the colored race, and Japheth, whose descendants peopled Europe.

When wickedness again increased in the world, God would not destroy mankind because he had promised not to, but again he called one man to walk with him and to obey him sincerely. And the promise to this man was that he should become the father of a people who should be devoted to God and specially watched over by him, and who should in their loyalty to God be a blessing to the whole world. Terah, the father of Abraham, took his family from their native land Chaldean, and started for Canaan. But when they had journeyed perhaps half way there, they stopped at the city of Haran and lived there for a long time.

When God called Abraham into fellowship with himself he called him to leave all that he would naturally hold most dear, home and kindred and country. It was necessary that Abram should get away from this place for the people were all idolators and unbelievers, and God could best reveal himself to Abram when he was alone and unhampered by evil associates. Abram's obedience to God in this case is a picture of our coming to Christ, we must turn our back on the sins in which we have lived, and forsaking all evil associations, follow Christ till he brings us into the blessed land of promise, the home of the soul. Abram willingly left all and set out to walk with God all through life. So we must turn our back upon all worldly pleasures if we would know the true joy of walking with God in this world. To Abram were given seven great promises, the promise of a new home; the promise of a great nation of which Abram should be the founder; the promise of great blessing from God; the promise of a great name and fame among men; the pro-

mise that Abram himself should be made a blessing to many; the promise that God would make Abram's interests his own; and the crowning promise that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed (Gal. iii., 7-9, 16), which was another loving promise of the Messiah who came, humanly speaking, from the descendants of Abraham.

So Abram departed from his home—had he chosen to disobey God, he might have remained there and enjoyed the pleasures of sin for a few years longer, but he could never have claimed the fulfilment of God's promises, he could never have been a blessing to the world, he could have had no part in the glorious plan of redemption; but he would have had through all eternity to regret his disobedience and unfaithfulness. By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went, (Heb. xi., 8). So Abram took his household and journeyed on toward Canaan, and when he arrived there the Lord God revealed to him that this was the land which was to belong to him and to his descendants. Abraham built an altar and worshipped God there. He set up the family altar wherever he pitched his tent and the Lord God blessed him in his worship. Likewise God expects every Christian head of a household to set up the family altar and to hold daily worship, thus acknowledging to his household his constant dependence on God, and giving to all of them the opportunity to draw nigh to God in a brief season of quietness and prayer. The whole day is sanctified by setting apart in the morning a time for waiting on God. Every Christian should have his own quiet time in the morning alone with God as a preparation for the long day's walk with God in the world, but there should be also a united gathering of the family to praise God for all his mercies. God blesses the homes where he is honored, he blesses the family altars whereon are daily laid the sacrifices of prayer, penitence and praise. He loves to answer the prayers of the parents who pray with—as well as for—their children. The holy influences of such homes cling to the children and shield them from much of this world's allurements. The busier a family is, the more need there is in that home for family prayers.

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, July 28.—Topic—Missions: true philanthropy.—Gal. vi., 1-10.

Junior C. E. Topic.

HOW HOME MISSIONS HELP.

Mon., July 22.—Our gospel needed.—I. Cor. i., 21-24.

Tues., July 23.—What home missions do.—Isa. lv., 13.

Wed., July 24.—They save men.—Rom. i., 15, 16.

Thu., July 25.—They bring joy to cities.—Acts viii., 8.

Fri., July 25.—The advancing kingdom.—Mark iv., 26, 27.

Sat., July 27.—Begin at Jerusalem.—Luke xxiv., 46-48.

Sunday, July 28.—Topic—Missions: what home missions are doing for our country.—Joshua xiii., 1; I. John iii., 16, 17.

Co-Education in the Sunday-School.

Our Sunday-schools evidently believe in the co-education of the sexes to a certain extent, as the plan is maintained in primary departments, and also in adult Bible classes. The question is asked, 'Why is it dropped in the junior grades?' A class of unmanageable boys, whose reputation has preceded it, is promoted into the main room from a lower department, exiled to a corner, and 'taken' by a perhaps unwilling teacher. Upon the same day a company of girls of a similar grade is graduated, and formed into a separate class. On this point a New Jersey worker writes: 'In the secular school these boys and girls are interested in the same studies, the mind of the one acting as an incentive to the mind of the other. This is their first mental separation. Is it a wise one, and would not a mingling of the sexes throughout help to remove the ban "unmanageable" from the "corner class," and add new interest to Bible study?'—'Sunday-School Times.'

**Was He A Coward.**

('The Presbyterian Banner.')

Carl Prentice, president of the Bronson School Anti-Cigarette League, did not find his task free from unpleasantness, but he bravely endured the sneers of his companions.

'Catch me labelling myself,' said Henry Peters, pointing to Carl's A. C. L. pin.

'But you wear a McKinley button,' protested Carl.

'Oh, that's different; he's a popular man; but lots of people smoke and just make fun of your League.'

'Let them laugh,' replied Carl, 'I know what's right.'

'I expect we'll see you on the platform some day and hear you tell what a wreck you were from cigarette smoking and how the A. C. L. saved you from ruin and death,' sneered Joe Downing.

'We'll put up the posters for you, Carl,' chimed in Ben Smithers; 'they'll be right up-to-date—Monster Mass Meeting addressed by Anti-Cigarette Carl.'

'Yes, and with a picture of you before and after taking the pledge, you know,' continued Joe.

Carl's face flushed but he replied calmly: 'You boys know very well that I used to smoke cigarettes, and I tell you frankly that I tried to stop and found it hard work, and that is just why I signed the pledge.'

'You'll do for a horrible example, all right,' returned Joe, mockingly.

A general laugh followed this remark. 'I'm telling you for your good,' replied Carl earnestly, 'I was getting nervous; I couldn't remember my lessons, and when I ought to put my mind on my studies I longed for a smoke and was restless until I got it. And, Joe Downing, you know you would have been promoted to seventh grade this year but for cigarette smoking.'

'Well, that's none of your business,' retorted Joe.

'Perhaps not but the best thing you can do is to sign the A. C. L. pledge.'

'That's a jolly good joke! Sign a pledge! When I want to stop smoking I will. Only a coward signs a pledge,' was Joe's response.

'I'd like to catch a fellow calling me a coward,' cried Ben insinuatingly.

'I mean just what I say,' answered Joe angrily; 'any boy who can't stop without a pledge is a coward. There now, Carl Prentice, you have it right to your teeth.'

'A fight, a fight,' cried the boys.

'No, I won't fight,' responded Carl.

'Didn't I tell you,' said Joe triumphantly to the boys as Carl turned abruptly away.

'I wish I hadn't promised mother not to fight,' muttered Carl as he walked on with clenched fist; 'I'd like to pummel him well, but the president of an A. L. C. must be careful of his example.'

Saturday found the boys at Green Lake.

'Let's try the ice,' suggested one.

'It's thin in places,' said Carl.

'Have you signed a pledge against skating on thin ice?' inquired Joe. 'Come on, boys, let fraid cat stay on shore.'

It seemed scarcely a moment when piercing screams rent the air. Joe had broken through, and the boys saw him sink beneath the ice; they screamed wildly and ran for the banks.

In an instant Carl comprehended the situation. Slipping off his coat he ran quickly to the fence, seized a rail and ran it out on the ice where Joe could grasp it.

At the risk of his own life he saved Joe.

Carl was now a hero.

'And to think that every other boy ran to save himself and left me,' said Joe to his mother as Carl and he stood beside her; 'and I've called him a coward and all sorts of names, when he was the only brave one in the crowd.'

'I wish my dear boy would be as brave in some things as Carl is,' said Mrs. Downing, touching Carl's A. C. L. pin.

'I will, mother; I won't be mean. I'll do the square thing all my life.'