

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 3.

JULY 15th, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

Visit of the Wise Men. Matt. 2: 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT: "They saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him." Matt. 2: 11.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 9-11. Children's Hymnal 66, 233, 21, 22.

PROVE THAT—We should offer our best to God. 2 Sam. 24: 24.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Matt. 2: 1-12	Isa. 60: 1-7	Micah 5: 1-4	Ps. 72: 1-15	Phil. 2: 1-11	John. 5: 17-23	Rev. 5: 8-14

To the Teacher—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. Take, or send, the leaflet to absent scholars.

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Our lessons pass from one gospel to another so as to bring the events of our Saviour's life in their proper order. Incidents omitted by Luke are found in Matthew, and so with the others. Matthew tells us nothing about the birth of Jesus and his presentation in the temple, and Luke omits the visit of the wise men. This shows that they did not copy from each other but wrote independent narratives. If Christ was born on the 25th December, the Presentation in the Temple would have taken place on February 2nd., forty days after, and the visit of the wise men was probably shortly after that. Had they come before with their costly gifts, it is not likely that Mary would have made the offering of the poor when she presented him to the priest.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Child Sought. vs. 1-2 II. The Child Feared. vs. 3-8. III. The Child Worshipped vs. 9-12.

I. THE CHILD SOUGHT. 1. Bethlehem of Judea—By what other names was it called? (Judges 17: 7. Gen. 35: 19. Micah 5: 2. Luke 2: 11.) There was another Bethlehem about six miles west of Nazareth, in the tribe of Zebulun. (Josh. 19: 15.) Herod—Called Herod the Great. He rebuilt the temple in great magnificence, but was a cruel tyrant. He was not an independent monarch but was subject to the Roman emperor. Wise Men—R. V. marg. "Magi" see Esther 1: 13. Dan. 2: 12. They belonged to a priestly caste who devoted themselves to the study of science, particularly of astronomy. Daniel was at one time their chief, and from him they may have learned

to look for the new king at this time. They probably came from Persia, and naturally expected to find the young king at the royal palace in the capital city. 2. There was a general expectation throughout the East at this time that a powerful monarch was to be born. This was doubtless due to a dim knowledge of the Jewish prophecies, but his true character was not well known. There may have been some wonderful conjunction of the planets at this time, but the star which led the wise men was miraculous for it pointed out the very house in which the child was. Who called Jesus "a Star"? (Num 24: 17. Isa. 60: 3.) What does he call himself in Rev. 22: 16.

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