

THE LESSON PLAN

- I. A Secret Purpose, 1-3.
 II. A Daring Plan, 4-10.
 III. A Brilliant Success, 11-13.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Enemies of Israel, 1 Sam. 13:1-7. T.—Jonathan and his armorbearer, 1 Sam. 14:1-13. W.—Israel delivered, 1 Sam. 14:15-23. T.—Saul victorious, 1 Sam. 14:47-52. F.—God our defense, Psalm 62. S.—Rejoicing in trials, 1 Peter 4:1-14. S.—Overcoming, 1 John 2:13-20.

Primary Catechism—*Ques.* 94. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is telling God our wants, confessing our sins, and thanking Him for His goodness. *Ques.* 95. To whom should we pray? A. We should pray to God only.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 88-93.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: 250, (543), Ps. Sel. 96 (108), 255 (554), 246 (546), 530 (770), 251 (544). (The numbers of the Praise Selections in brackets are those of the new Book of Praise.)

Special Scripture Reading—Eph. 6:10-20. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Lantern Slide—For Lesson, B. 528, Jonathan and his armorbearer smite the Philistines. (Slides are obtained from PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, Church and Gerrard Sts., Toronto.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Shortly after B.C. 1020; Geba about 6 miles northeast of Jerusalem, and Michmash, 2 miles north of Geba.

Connecting Links—Chapter 12 contains Samuel's farewell address to Israel. The Lesson is an episode in a war which Saul had undertaken to drive the Philistines out of Israel's territory which they had invaded.

I. A Secret Purpose, 1-3.

V. 1. *Jonathan*; the eldest son of *Saul*, now perhaps about 20 years old and already distinguished as a brave and successful warrior. *Young man*; like the squire of a knight in the middle ages. Amongst other duties, he slew those whom his chief struck down, carried the great shield in front of a champion to protect him from treacherous arrows and collected the arrows aimed at his chief for the chief to use again. *Go over*; across the ravine between Geba and Michmash. *Told not his father*; doubtless for fear that Saul would forbid the risk which Jonathan meant to take.

V. 2. *Saul tarried*; was stationed with his army. *Uttermost part of Gibeah*. We should probably read "Geba," and the meaning is the part of Geba farthest from the ravine. *Under the pomegranate tree* (Rev. Ver.); some well known tree. The pomegranate grew from 10 to 15 feet high, and bore an apple-shaped fruit with numerous seeds and a juicy pulp. There were two kinds of fruit, one sweet and the other acid. *In Migron*. Some translate this word "threshing floor," others "precipice," "cliff," etc. *About six hundred men*. To this small number Saul's army of 3,000 (see ch. 13:2) has melted away.

V. 3. *Ahiah* (Rev. Ver.); whose descent is traced back to Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh.

Wearing an ephod; the garment covering the shoulders and secured round the waist with a girdle, which the priests wore when they were engaged in their religious duties. *Ahiah* always accompanied Saul, so that through him, the king might receive divine guidance, without which he would take no important step. *The people knew not*; and were surprised at the commotion in the opposite camp.

II. A Daring Plan, 4-10.

Vs. 4, 5. *Between the passes* (Rev. Ver.); the side valleys running into the main ravine or wady. These, of course, would leave projecting points. Two of these are now described. *A sharp rock*; literally, "a tooth of a rock." *On the one side*; to the north where the Philistines were camped. *The other side*; to the south, where was the camp of the Israelites. *Bozez*; "the shining," the northern cliff, so named because, facing south, it was in the full sunlight nearly all day. *Seneh*; "the thorny," the cliff facing the north. The "passes" lay round these two cliffs respectively.

Vs. 6, 7. *Let us go over*; down the side valley round Seneh into the main ravine. *Uncircumcised*. Circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Israel. God had made no such covenant with the Philistines, and therefore Jonathan hoped to prevail against them. *No restraint to the Lord*, etc.; a noble declaration of confidence in God. *According to thy heart*; Hebrew, "as thy heart so is my heart," a vivid expression for agreement of feeling.

Vs. 8-11. *Discover ourselves*; by coming into the open at the bottom of the main ravine, where the Philistine sentinels would