

THE BOY THAT LAUGHS.

I know a funny little boy,
The happiest ever born;
His face is like a beam of joy,
Although his clothes are torn.

I saw him tumble on his nose,
And waited for a groan;
But how he laughed! Do you suppose
He struck his funny bone?

There's sunshine in each word he speaks;
His laugh is something grand;
Its ripples overrun his cheeks
Like waves on snowy sand.

He laughs the moment he awakes,
And till the day is done;
The schoolroom for a joke he takes;
His lessons are but fun.

No matter how the day may go,
You cannot make him cry;
He's worth a dozen boys I know
Who pout and mope and sigh.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORDS OF JESUS AS RECORDED
IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON VII.—AUGUST 12.

THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS.

Luke 15. 11-32. Memory verses, 17, 18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Return unto me, and I will return unto
you, saith the Lord.—Mal. 3. 7.

LESSON STORY.

This is the noted parable of the prodigal son. It is one of the most beautiful Jesus ever uttered, as showing the love of his Father. An old man had two sons. One stayed with his father and served him, but the other asked him to give him what was his portion, and he went away to a far country. There he lived a wicked life and spent all he had. Soon a famine arose and he began to be in want. He got so poor and hungry that he had to eat food no better than what the pigs got. At last he saw how he had sinned, so he made up his mind to do better and returned to his father.

While yet a great way off his father saw him and ran to meet him. He was full of love for his erring child, whom he kissed and forgave. Then he made a great feast and rejoiced over the return of his lost son. So our Father in heaven loves us and is anxious to give a welcome home to all sinners who will return unto him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. What is this parable called? The Prodigal Son.
2. What did he do? He asked his father for money and left home.
3. What did he do in the far land? He lived foolishly and wickedly and spent all he had.
4. What happened then? A famine arose and he began to be in want.
5. What came to him? A sense of his sin.
6. What followed? He repented and returned home.
7. Did his father welcome him? Yes.
8. Will our heavenly Father welcome every sinner? Yes, indeed.

LESSON VIII.—AUGUST 19.

THE JUDGE, THE PHARISEE AND THE PUBLICAN.

Luke 18. 1-14. Memory verse: 13, 14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

God be merciful to me a sinner.—Luke 18. 13.

LESSON STORY.

The stories of these three people are well worth remembering. The first was an unjust judge who did not care for mercy. To him came again and again a poor woman praying for justice. The judge paid no attention to her, but still she kept on pleading. At last to get rid of her the judge gave her what she asked.

This parable is to teach us that we should pray and faint not. God is not an unjust judge, but he does not always answer our prayers at once. He wants us to trust him and not grow discouraged.

The next parable tells of a Pharisee and a publican who went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee was very proud and only pretended to be good. He despised the publican and thanked the Lord that he was not as other men were. The publican's prayer was a humble confession and cry for mercy. "God be merciful to me a sinner," which we may be sure was much more pleasing to God.

"He that confesseth and forsaketh his sin shall find mercy."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. What is the parable of the judge about? An unjust judge and a poor woman pleading.
2. What did she do? Kept pleading until he helped her.
3. What is the lesson for us? To pray and faint not.
4. Who is the other parable about? A Pharisee and a publican.
5. What were they doing? Praying.
6. What did the Pharisee say? He thanked God he was not as other men.
7. What did the publican pray? "God be merciful to me a sinner."

THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES.

"Go away from me, Stanley! Don't you see that I'm playing, and can't be bothered with you?" little Robbie said crossly to his baby brother.

Stanley looked for a moment at Robbie; then a pitiful quiver took possession of his pretty lips. He was not used to having cross words spoken to him.

"See, Robbie," said his mother, "Stanley is hurt. Speak kindly to him; he doesn't like you to use such a cross voice."

And what a wonderful difference it made in the baby brother's face when Robbie said softly: "I'm sorry, Stanley. Kiss me, and I won't speak to you like that again."

Stanley did not understand the meaning of the words; but he did understand that it was a kind, and not a cross, voice speaking to him.

THE LITTLE NEWSBOY.

A ragged coat pillowing a tired head,
A boy asleep by a sheltering wall,
With only the pavement for his bed—
A poor little street urchin, that is all.
All his morning papers are sold and gone;
His evening edition has not yet come.
A morsel of food and a sleep in the sun
Give him all he knows of comfort or home.

The soft baby dimples are scarcely gone
From the arm that shows through his
tattered sleeve—
The childish arm that must battle alone
For such place and wage as it can
achieve.

The brow of the sleeper is smooth and
fair
As those that with kisses fond mothers
bless;

But only the soft wind touches his hair,
And only in dreams can he know caress.

O brave young heart! The life's journey
looks hard,

And our eyes grow moist as we see him
there;

But who shall tell what heavenly guard
Protects that rude couch with tenderest
care?

Still, as of old, on the ladder of dreams
May the white-winged angels come and
go;

And the light of the home, afar, still
streams

From the Father's house to his child
below.

No man is fit for God's service who is not willing to do little things. The people who are always waiting for an opportunity to do some great things never accomplish anything.