

"How the Lord thundered from Heaven!" Now, what book is this I have in my hand? What does it look like? Yes, the Bible, and I'm going to read you our lesson to-day. I will go very slowly, and you may raise your hands whenever there's any thing you don't understand, and I will explain it to you. You must listen closely, for when I've finished I'm going to ask you all about it, and I want to see who remembers best.

First, let me tell you that for twenty years after the great battle when Eli's sons were killed and Eli died from sorrow, God's people were in the power of the wicked Philistines. God let the Philistines conquer them because they were so wicked, and they endured it twenty years before they would repent. But Samuel talked and preached to the people, till finally they began to be sorry for their sins, and then comes the lesson.

(Let the teacher read the lesson, stopping often to invite questions, explain words, and bring the picture vividly before the mind. Limited space permits only a few hints here.) "And Samuel"—who was he? "Samuel said, Gather all Israel." There's Bessie's hand raised, what is it, Bessie? "Who was that?" Why, the Israelites—God's people that we have been studying about so long—"together at Mizpah"—the name of a town near the middle of the land, *here*—"and I will pray for you," they had been so wicked, you know—"pray for you to the Lord." Do people ask other folks to pray for them now, sometimes?

"Samuel judged the children of Israel"—settled all their old quarrels; perhaps somebody had an old "grudge" against somebody else, and wouldn't speak to him; you've known of such things nowadays, haven't you? All those things were settled when the people really repented. "Went up against Israel" to conquer them again. "Discomfited"—frightened by the thunder and lightning. (Josephus.)

Now we're through reading, who can tell me the whole story? There's Willie's hand, he may try. As soon as he makes a mistake some one else may try, so all watch. . . .

Now who'll tell me what we can learn from this story? You know almost every thing in the Bible is meant to teach us something. Have you thought of something, Frank? "When people are Christians they'll speak to every body." Yes, you mean they won't

have angry, wicked feelings toward any one. Mary? "We must pray when we're in trouble." Yes, and if we do pray—"The Lord will help us." Yes, he'll either take the trouble quite away, or he'll help us to bear it. I saw a little blind boy once—couldn't see even the sun—always black night to him. But he was smiling and happy all the while, because Jesus was with him and helped him.

Did you ever see any one sick? (Describe.) That is trouble, but Jesus helps even *little* children to bear it. (Illustrate.) "But we may die." Even that will be no trouble if Jesus is with us. Did you ever see a lady take a baby up in her arms and carry it from one room into another? Dying is like that to those who love God. Jesus takes them in his arms and carries them from earth to heaven. How much we ought to love the dear Saviour who is so kind to us!" (Prayer and Whisper-Song.)

WHISPER-SONG.

If thy foes surround thee,
Turn thy heart away
From the hosts around thee,
To thy God, and pray.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 1875.

LESSON XI.—A KING DESIRED. 1 Samuel 8. 4-9.

Berean Notes.

Leader. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

School. 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

L. 6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.

S. 7 And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

L. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.