



LESSON V.—FEBRUARY 4.

The First Disciples of Jesus.

John I. 35-46. Memory verses 35-37. Read John I. 19-51.

Daily Readings.

M. Testimony. Jn. 1: 19-28.
T. Recognition. Jn. 1: 29-34.
W. Appreciation. Mt. 5: 1-11.
T. Father's House. Jn. 14.
F. The Holy City. Re. 21: 16-27.
S. Refuse not Him. He. 2: 1-18.

Golden Text.

'They followed Jesus.'—John I., 37.

Lesson Text.

Again, the next day after, John stood, and two of his disciples; (36.) And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! (37.) And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. (38.) Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou? (39.) He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour. (40.) One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew Simon Peter's brother. (41.) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. (42.) And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he saith, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is, by interpretation, A stone. (43.) The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. (44.) Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. (45.) Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him of whom Moses in the Law, and the Prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. (46.) And Nathanael said unto him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Suggestions.

When the Son of man returned victorious from that awful fight with sin in the wilderness, John the Baptist saw him amongst the crowds who flocked to the Jordan to hear John's preaching. To two of his own disciples, Andrew and probably John (the writer of this Gospel), the prophet pointed out the Messiah as the Lamb of God.

The two men who heard him speak thus of the kingly stranger immediately went in pursuit of the Lord. As they came up to him he turned, and in tones of wondrous love and graciousness asked what they sought. To open their hearts to the Saviour was then a most easy and natural thing to do, so asking permission to visit him and obtaining a gracious invitation, they followed him to his place of abode. There they stayed for the rest of the day communing with the Lord and drinking in the words of wisdom and grace which fell from his lips. What they heard and saw of him there convinced them of his being the long promised Messiah, the Son of God.

The tenth hour according to the Jewish reckoning was four o'clock in the afternoon. But it is probable that this is according to the Roman reckoning, which counted from midnight and midday, making the tenth hour ten o'clock in the morning. As soon as they left the abode of Jesus, Andrew set out to look for his brother that he might bring him to the Saviour. It has been pointed out that as John (the writer of this Gospel) so seldom mentions himself that it is most probable that he was that other disciple whose name he does not mention, and that he also set out to look for his own brother (James) and brought him to Jesus. But Andrew first found Simon and took him to the Messiah, who reading his character at a glance and seeing beyond the outward expression down into the deep possibilities of that character said,

thou shalt yet be called Peter, a rock. This prophecy was certainly fulfilled though it took several years of training and trial and finally the baptism of the Holy Ghost to bring out the strength of Peter's character. No character can be what God means it to be until it is endued with, and controlled by the Holy Ghost.

The next day Jesus went with his disciples into Galilee—where he had been brought up (Luke iv., 14-16). There Jesus found Philip, and having won his heart bade him follow and be with him. Philip who was from the same city as Andrew and Peter, went in search of his friend Nathanael saying he had found him whose coming was foretold by Moses (Deut. xviii., 15, 18; Gen. xlix., 10), and the prophets (Isa. ix., 6-8; xi., 1-10; lli., 1-12; lxi., 1-3; lxiii., 1-6; Hag. II., 7; Mal. iii., 1; iv., 2.) But when Nathanael heard that the Messiah had come from Nazareth, he asked if it were possible that any good thing should come from that proverbially poor town. Philip spent no time in arguing; one can not describe the beauty of a flower to a blind man, nor can one describe love to him who has never felt that passion. Come and see, urged Philip. And here lies the solution of the problem of unbelief, the age is full of doubt mainly because men will not come and see the Saviour for themselves. They invent difficulties and borrow other men's doubts, they hide behind shadows and profess to believe that there is no light, they will not come and see.

Nathanael was as'onished that Jesus knew him and as soon as he saw him, told him the secrets of his inmost heart. But Jesus promised that some day he should see greater things than that. Jesus is, as it were, the ladder between heaven and earth, the only connecting link, for no man can come to God except through him (John xiv., 6) and there is no other name by which we can secure entrance into heaven. (Acts iv., 12).

Lesson Hymn.

Hark! the voice of Jesus calling,
Follow Me, follow Me!
Softly through the silence falling,
Follow, follow Me!
As of old He called the fishers,
When He walked by Galilee,
Still His patient voice is pleading
Follow, follow Me.

Hearken, lest He plead no longer,
Follow Me, follow Me!
Once again, O hear Him calling,
Follow, follow Me!
Turning swift at Thy sweet summons,
Evermore, O Christ, would we,
For Thy love all else forsaking,
Follow, follow Thee.
—From 'Best Hymns.'

C. E. Topic.

Feb. 4.—Things that endure. Matt. 7: 21-27. (Christian Endeavor Day.)

Junior C. E. Topic.

Mon., Jan. 29. Be truthful. Prov. 23: 23.
Tues., Jan. 30. Be courageous. Josh. 1: 7.
Wed., Jan. 31. Be thoughtful. Phil. 2: 4.
Thur., Feb. 1. Be attentive. Heb. 2: 1.
Fri., Feb. 2. Be thorough. Eccl. 9: 10.
Sat., Feb. 3. Be a Christian. I Tim. 4: 3.
Sun., Feb. 4. Topic—What will make us successful? Matt. 7: 21-27. (A Christian Endeavor Day.)

First impressions are always the most lasting. Children are easily moulded when they are children for good or for evil. There are undeveloped powers in every child, which can be influenced for good by the Sunday-school, and expanded and devoted to God's glory. Children are often diamonds in the rough, and by careful instruction in vital godliness they can be polished into the similitude of God. This is an age of education. But the need of our age is Christian education. This is sadly lacking in the secular schools, in many homes and in some Sunday-schools. The possibilities of the child run in two directions, viz., possibilities of good and the possibilities of evil. A pure angel fell and became a devil, a fallen being can become God-like. It takes a sinner saved by grace to become Christ-like, and it took a pure angel after the fall to become a devil. The lamented Garfield said: 'I never look upon a boy, however shabbily dressed, but I think beneath the rough exte-

rior may lie buried talents, if developed, may make him President of the United States.'

Then, Sunday-school workers, take the task the Master gives you, take it gladly; go toil in any part of His vineyard and help to train souls for eternity. No work will bring a richer reward, no toil will meet the Master's approval more heartily, and no greater service can be rendered to humanity than to start childhood in the God-purposed channel of usefulness. Therefore be up and a-doing and use the grand opportunities of your life. —'Evangelical Sunday School Teacher.'



Alcohol Catechism.

(Dr. R. H. Macdonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER II.—ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.—HOW MADE.

1. Q.—What is alcohol?
A.—It is a strong liquor found in all intoxicating drinks.
2. Q.—Name the most common intoxicating drinks.
A.—Whiskey, rum, gin, wine, cider, ale, beer and porter. Any drink containing alcohol will intoxicate.
3. Q.—From what are alcoholic drinks made?
A.—From fruits, grain, roots, and sometimes from the sweet juices of the stem and leaves of certain trees and plants.
4. Q.—What properties in these things produce alcohol?
A.—Sugar and starch.
5. Q.—How do they produce alcohol?
A.—Sugar turns mostly to alcohol when it ferments. Starch turns first to a kind of sugar and then to alcohol.
6. Q.—What grains are used?
A.—Corn, rye, barley, wheat; in fact all grains have been used, even rice.
7. Q.—How are alcoholic drinks made?
A.—By malting, fermentation, and finally, for strong liquors, by distillation.
8. Q.—What is malting?
A.—In malting the grain is first soaked in warm water until it is almost ready to sprout. This causes the starch to turn to sugar.
9. Q.—What is it then called?
A.—It is then called malt, and it is often dried and may be kept a long time.
10. Q.—What is done next?
A.—The malt is mixed with hops in great tubs full of hot water, and they are kept in a warm place.
11. Q.—What then takes place?
A.—The sweet juices of the malt which are full of sugar, and the hops, ferment together.
12. Q.—What is the use of the hops?
A.—To start the fermentation and make it work faster.
13. Q.—What does this do to the juice?
A.—It changes the juice into a liquor containing alcohol.
14. Q.—What is the result?
A.—That the sugar, starch, and juices which were good as food before they were fermented, are now full of the poison called alcohol.
15. Q.—What is produced?
A.—It produces a thin fluid containing alcohol. The various kinds of ale, beer, porter, lager beer and the like, are produced in this way by changing the process a little.
16. Q.—What are these liquors called?
A.—Malt liquors.
17. Q.—Are all liquors malted?
A.—No, fruit juices, which are made into wines, are simply fermented.
18. Q.—Name the fruits used to make fermented liquors.
A.—Grapes are most used for wine, though other fruits and berries are often employed; apple juice makes cider, pear juice perry, etc.
19. Q.—Describe fermentation.
A.—When any liquor that contains sugar, like malt dissolved in water, grape juice, apple juice, or sugar cane juice, is exposed to the air in a warm place, it soon changes. It gives out a good deal of gas and we find it full of alcohol instead of sugar.