

LESSON I—April 4th, 1897.

Peter Working Miracles. ACTS 9: 32-43.

(Commit to memory verses 32-35).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole." Acts 9: 34.

PROVE THAT—We should assist the poor. Ps. 41: 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 95. *To whom is baptism to be administered?* A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 45, 81, 91, 59.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Peter working miracles. Acts 9: 32-43. *Tuesday.* Christ healing a palsied man. Mark 2: 1-12. *Wednesday.* Care for the poor. Deut. 15: 7-11. *Thursday.* A helper of the needy. Job 29: 1-13. *Friday.* Rich in good works. 1 Tim. 6: 12-19. *Saturday.* Life in Christ. 1 John 5: 9-15. *Sabbath.* The King's reward. Matt. 25: 31-40. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The preceding verse tells us that the church had rest from persecution, and increased in numbers and spiritual graces. History tells us the reason of this quiet. The Jews had other matters to engage their attention. The Emperor Caligula proposed to set up a statue of himself in the temple. The excitement which followed and the efforts to dissuade him from doing so turned aside their rage for a time from the disciples of Jesus. In our lesson we have a glimpse of the every-day christ-like labors of the apostles. Time, A. D. 40.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Helpless Healed. vs. 32-35. II. The Sorrowing Comforted. vs. 36-39. III. The Useful Restored. vs. 40-43.

32. Throughout all quarters—Peter was making a visit to all the churches throughout Judaea. Saints—Christians were so called because they were set apart for the service of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in them, and their lives should be holy. 33. Palsy—This was very often exceedingly painful and the sufferer was quite helpless. 34. Jesus Christ maketh thee whole—Peter gives Christ all the glory (3: 6). The word for "bed" shews that he was a poor man for it means a coarse mat. 35. Lyd'da—A town 9 miles from Jop'pa. It was the birth place of St. George the patron saint of England, and the hero of the mythical story of St. George and the Dragon. Sa'ron—Same as Sharon, the fertile plain along the sea-coast of Judaea (1 Chr. 27: 29; S. S. 2: 1; Isa. 33: 9; 35: 2; 65: 10). 36. Jop'pa—The seaport of Judaea about 35 miles from Jerusalem. Its modern name is Jaffa. Here the rafts of timber from Lebanon for Solomon's temple were landed. Tab'itha—Greek, *Dorcas*, (*gazelle*). Her good deeds were the outward expression of the kind and loving thoughts and plans that filled her heart. 37. She was sick and died—We never really know how much good some people do until they are taken away from us. The disciples would think that anybody in Joppa would have been less missed. But God is always wise and loving although we may not understand. 38. Desiring him—R. V. "entreating him, Delay not to come on to us." They believed that Peter could help them but scarcely knew how. 39. Which Dorcas made—They showed the coats and

garments which Dorcas had been used to make, what a number of them there was. The "coat" was the close fitting under garment and over it was worn the mantle. These with sandals and turban completed the clothing of a Jew. (Compare Mark 5: 38-43.) 40. Peter put them all forth—as Jesus had done at the raising of Jairus' daughter. He wanted to be free from interruption, and to concentrate his thoughts in earnest prayer. He did not know whether his prayer would be answered or not. The disciples had wrought many wonderful miracles, but to bring the dead to life again was something more than healing Æneas. Tab'itha, arise—Jesus always wrought miracles in his own name, Peter, like Elijah and Elisha, must pray for the power. 41. Presented her alive—With what joy they would embrace her. Yet was it not a sacrifice for Dorcas to come back from being with Jesus? 42. Many believed in the Lord—Miracles were an evidence that God approved of the person who wrought them (John 3: 2), or else he would not have given him superhuman powers. So when Peter raised Dorcas by the power of Jesus, the people at once said, Jesus must have been all he claimed to be or God would not permit his apostle to do these wonderful works. 43. Tarried many days—So many were willing to receive the gospel that Peter ceased from his journey of inspection to evangelize Joppa. Simon a tanner—The tanner's occupation was ceremonially "unclean," but Peter was beginning to be less careful regarding Jewish rules.

LESSONS. 1. Those who bear the name of Christ should be christ-like. 2. If we cannot heal the sick, we can be kind to them, and talk to them about the Great Healer. 3. We have no excuse for not "turning to the Lord." 4. The best monument is the kind deeds we have done. 5. There is no limit to what God will do in answer to prayer.