

picture of a home in which he is spoken to and spoken of, and contrast it with one in which he is not known or cared for.



Print "Trouble in the Home." Tell that trouble came to this happy home. Had Jesus then forgotten it? No, but he lets sickness and sorrow come to those whom he loves, so that it may be seen how strong and good and loving he is. Tell what the sisters did

when trouble came. *They sent word to Jesus.* They knew he loved them and would help them. What should we do when trouble comes? Jesus is the same to-day; we may tell him all about our sorrows, and he will come and comfort us. Tell story of a child who, when told that mamma was very sick, said, "I will go and tell Jesus." Was that the right thing to do? Yes, for Jesus wants us to bring all our troubles right to him. When we do that we need not feel troubled any more, he will do the very best thing for us. Sing "Jesus loves me."

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Why run the sisters of Lazarus often to the door of the Bethany home, and then anxiously glance down the road? Why did Martha stand there screening her eyes from the slanting rays of the setting sun of yesterday, and this morning, why is Mary at the door, so solicitously watching? On yonder couch Lazarus lies sick. He is sinking into death's fatal slumber and only Jesus can hold him back. Why tarries the Master? The messenger went away before yesterday, told Jesus, and has now returned. Ah, there is the Master coming at last, and the twelve are with him. Twelve steadfast companions, clustered around him, like a body-guard, for do not the Jews mean to stone him? Yes, the Master has come to awake Lazarus out of sleep. The brother of Martha and Mary sleepeth now. He hears not the happy song of the laborers returning through the fields from their work, nor the sobbing of the sisters at home. No care burdens him. No regret torments him. There is peace at last in the face of Lazarus, and his hands are folded in rest. It is the sleep of death, the quiet of the lonely tomb in the fields.

A. D. 30.]

LESSON IV. THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS.

[July 25.]

John 11. 17-44. [Commit to memory verses 23-26.]

[The above selection was made by the International Lesson Committee. Its extreme length has made it necessary for the leading publishing houses to unite in printing a portion of the text, as follows:]



20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus said unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

For two days after receiving word of the illness of Lazarus at Bethany, Jesus waited on the east of Jordan. He saw by his omniscience the sisters standing around the couch of their dying brother; he heard the last faint breath, and beheld the spirit leave the body. He watched afar the sad procession which bore the corpse to its tomb, and heard the whispered cry, "O, if Jesus had been here!" At the right moment, when his coming would lift the stricken hearts out of the deepest up to the highest, he turned his footsteps toward Bethany, followed by his wondering disciples, who can only hope to die by his side at the hands of his enemies. They cross the Jordan, where their ancestors crossed it fifteen centuries before, where Elijah's mantle swept its waters later. They climb the steep hills of Judea, and on the fourth day they enter the little town of Bethany. The word reaches the sorrowing sisters that Jesus has come at last. The impetuous

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

28 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

29 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?

30 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

31 And I knew that thou hearest me always; but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

32 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazareth, come forth.

33 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

General Statement.

and active Martha leaves the circle of mourners in the home, and goes out to meet Jesus with words in which tender reproach, sorrow over the past, and a faint hope for the future seem mingled. The Saviour comforts her, and gives a promise which awakens in her a new expectation. Soon the younger sister comes near, with her sorrow, more still, and as deep as Martha's. The heart of Jesus seems torn with a strange agony, the struggle before a glorious victory. He stands before the grave, at first weeping, then calmly communing with his Father, then confident of his power. Three words of might are uttered, and from his four-days' sleep in the arms of corruption Lazarus comes forth to life. In this miracle we read two lessons, one the quickening of the spiritual nature from the death of sin into the life of righteousness, the other the resurrection of God's sleeping saints the friends of Jesus at the last day.

Explanatory and Practical Notes.

Verse 20. Then Martha. Each sister is true to her own trait of character. The active Martha goes out to meet Jesus; the contemplative Mary remains at home, absorbed in her grief. **Jesus was coming.** He had come from Bethabara, or Bethany, beyond Jordan, the place of the last lesson. **Went and met him.** Jesus sent word of his coming, as he wished to see the sisters apart from the presence of others. The mourning customs of the Jews were oppressive, and the house was probably full of people, who were in only form sym-

thizing with the mourners. **Mary sat still.** According to Jewish custom she was seated on the ground, while all around her sat people lamenting with her.

21, 22. Lord, if thou hadst been here. These words expressed the great burden of the two sisters' thought during the four days. "O if Jesus had only been here!" Just so people in sorrow often say. "If we had only tried such a remedy, or called in such a physician!" **But I know, that even now.** There was