

"THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD."

The Lord is my Shepherd, and I am his lamb;

One of the smallest and weakest I am,
Yet by his bounty daily I'm fed,
In his green pastures tenderly led.
Kind is my Shepherd and large is the fold
To which he calleth the young and the old.
In daylight or darkness, awake or asleep,
Over us, evermore, guard he doth keep.

When I have wandered away from his side
Into the paths which the sinning have tried,

He, o'er each step of sin's rugged track,
Patiently, lovingly, guideth me back.
Sometimes the way where he leadeth his sheep

Grows for my tired feet dark and too steep;
Then doth he lift me up close to his breast,
Bearing me onward to places of rest.

He hath green pastures lying afar,
Needing no sunlight, needing no star;
There from his presence the lambs never stray,

Thither he guideth me nearer each day.
But nearer than meadows brightened by faith,

Lieth the valley of silence and death;
Seeing its shadows, yet fearless I am.
For the Lord is my Shepherd, and I am his lamb.

—Child's Book.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF THE PATRIARCHS.

LESSON IV. [July 28.]

GOD CALLS ABRAM.

Gen. 12. 1-9. Memory verses, 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.—Gen. 12. 2.

THE LESSON STORY.

A long time after the great flood a good man lived in the land of Ur. It was about two thousand years since the creation, and many people had gone away from God and learned to worship idols. The people of Ur were idol worshippers, but Abram worshipped the true God.

God spoke to Abram to leave his home in Ur and go to live in another land. He told Abram that he would make him the father of a great nation and a blessing to many people. Abram believed God, and with his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, he started to go to a land of which he knew nothing. Most people would not have dared to go to a strange land in this way, but Abram trusted God, and was not afraid. The journey was long and the country was wild and lonely, but God took

care of Abram and brought him to a beautiful country called Canaan. We call this "the Promised Land," because God promised to give it to Abram.

Abram came first to Shechem, a city, and he built there an altar to the Lord. By and by he went to a mountain east of Bethel, and he built an altar there and worshipped the true God.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Who was Abram? A good man of Ur.
What kind of people lived in Ur? Bad people.

What did God tell Abram to do? To go to another land.

Did Abram obey? Yes; quickly.
Who went with him? His wife and Lot.

Who was Lot? Abram's nephew.
What did Abram not know? Where he was going.

Who did know? God.
To what land did he come? Canaan.
What did he build when he stopped? An altar.

What did it mean? Worship.
Where will God lead us if we let him? To heaven.

LESSON V. [August 4.]

ABRAM AND LOT.

Gen. 13. 7-18. Memory verses, 7-9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.—Matt. 7. 12.

THE LESSON STORY.

After Abram had been in Canaan a little while there was a famine in the land, and he took his family and flocks and went to Egypt. While he was there he was treated so well by the king that he grew rich, and when he went back to Canaan he had an abundance of cattle, and of silver and gold.

If you will find Ur, Abram's old home, on the map, and then find Bethel, where he came from Egypt, you will now see that he had journeyed far at God's command.

Notice how wise and kind Abram was in the trouble that came up between his own and Lot's servants. He said nothing about his "rights," although the Lord had given the land to him in an especial manner. He was the older man, too, and Lot's uncle, and yet he gave Lot his choice of the land. It is easy to see that Lot was a selfish man, or he would not have taken the first choice. It is plain, too, that he did not put God first in his life, or he would not have been so ready to go and live among the wicked people of Sodom. Read carefully the Lord's rich promises to Abram, and see how wise it is to be faithful to him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Abram go from Canaan? To Egypt.

What sent him there? A famine.

When did he come back to Canaan? When the famine was over.

Where did he go then? To Bethel.
Who were very rich? Abram and Lot.
What did Abram say they would do? Separate.

What did he offer Lot? The first choice of the land.

What did this show? Abram's unselfishness.

To whom had the Lord given the land? To Abram.

What did Lot choose? The best for himself.

Where was he willing to live? With wicked people.

What was in Abram's heart? The spirit of peace.

HAD NOT LEARNED IT.

The boy or girl with pleasing habits is pretty sure to be chosen in preference to the one who is rude in address and manners, if both are seeking the same situation; and the same is true throughout life.

A gentleman stood in a shop the other day, when a boy came in and applied for a situation.

"Can you write a good hand?" he was asked.

"Ya-as."

"Good at figures?"

"Ya-as."

"That will do. I do not want you," said the merchant.

"But," said the gentleman when the boy had gone, "I know that lad to be an honest, industrious boy. Why don't you give him a chance?"

"Because he hasn't learned to say, 'Yes, sir,' and 'No, sir.' If he answers me as he did when applying for a situation, how will he answer customers after being here a month?"

The gentleman was silent. The boy had been weighed in the balance and because of his lack of politeness had been found wanting. It pays to be thoughtful and pleasant.—*Our Young Folks.*

MADGE MADCAP.

Little Madge Madcap got her second name because she was such a wild, harum-scarum little thing. Her hair always looked as if it had not been combed for a week, and she was a regular romp and tomboy, tearing her clothes and breaking her toys. Instead of sitting down on the swing, as any sensible child would, she used always to stand up, and one day she got a terrible fall. But nothing cured her, and I am afraid Madcap Madge will come to a terrible end some day if she doesn't take care.

A dear little boy, who was sick one night, asked his papa for a drink of water. When he brought it to him, he asked if he did not want to drink first. Are you always so thoughtful of your parents?