

STRAYING LAMBS.

How many lambs are straying,
Lost from the Saviour's fold!
Upon the lonely mountains
They shiver with the cold.
Within the tangled thickets,
Where poison vines do creep,
And over rocky ledges,
Wander the poor lost sheep.

O who will go and find them?
Who, for the Saviour's sake,
Will search, with tireless patience,
Through brier and through brake?
Unheeding thirst and hunger,
Who still, from day to day,
Will seek, as for a treasure,
The lambs that go astray.

How sweet 'twould be at evening,
If you and I could say,
"Good Shepherd, we've been seeking
The lambs that went astray;
Heart-sore, and faint with hunger,
We heard them making moan,
And lo! we come at night-fall
Bearing them safely home."

MRS. E. H. GATES.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A.D. 29.] LESSON VIII. [Feb. 19.]

A LESSON ON FORGIVENESS.

Matt. 18. 21-35. Commit to mem. vs. 21, 22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Matt. 6. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. Forgiving.
2. Unforgiving.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Peter ask Jesus? "How oft shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?"

What was Jesus's answer? "Seventy times seven."

What did Jesus want to teach Peter? That Christians could never refuse to forgive those who wrong them.

Why? Because God has forgiven them so much.

How did Jesus explain this to the disciples? By the story of the unjust servant.

What can you tell about it?

Why was the king so angry with the unjust servant? Because he was unmerciful and unforgiving toward his brother.

Who had shown him great mercy and forgiveness? His master, the king.

What did he expect him to do? To forgive as he had been forgiven.

What did the king think he deserved? Severe and awful punishment.

What did Jesus tell his disciples? That God would severely punish them if they refused to forgive their brother.

How did he command them to forgive? With the heart, as well as with words?

How does God forgive us? Fully and freely.

How does he teach us to pray? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

When should we be afraid to say this? When we are angry with any one and want to "pay back" their unkindness.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Jesus does not command you to do anything you CANNOT do.

When he says to you, "Pray for them that persecute you," he will give you the strength to obey.

When he says, "Forgive, even as God in Christ forgave you," you can do so with his help.

When he says, "Love your enemies," he will give you all the love that you need.

"Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Forgiveness.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is your duty to God? My duty to God is to worship him, to love him, and to keep his commandments.

A.D. 30] LESSON IX. [Feb. 26.]

THE RICH YOUNG RULER.

Matt. 19. 16-26. Commit to mem. vs. 23-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Matt. 6. 24.

OUTLINE.

1. The Service of God.
2. The Service of Mammon.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came to Jesus? A rich young ruler.

What question did he ask him? "What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

How did Jesus answer? "If thou wouldest enter into life keep the commandments."

What did the ruler tell Jesus? That he had kept the commandments from his youth up.

What did Jesus tell him to do to be-

come perfect? "Sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and follow me"

What did Jesus promise him if he would do this? Eternal life, and great riches in heaven.

Was he willing to give his earthly riches for heavenly riches and eternal life? No, he left Jesus and went away sorrowful.

What one thing did he lack? True love to God.

What did he love more than God and eternal life? His money and great possessions.

What did Jesus tell his disciples? That it was very hard for a rich man to enter heaven.

Why? Because men love riches too well and forget to love and serve God.

What must those who serve God be willing to do, if he asks them? To give up all their possessions.

What did Jesus say about it? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Who will give us strength to do this? God, our heavenly Father.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

The kingdom of Christ is—

- The kingdom of love.
- The kingdom of truth.
- The kingdom of holiness.
- The kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of Satan is—

- The kingdom of riches.
- The kingdom of pleasure.
- The kingdom of sin and punishment.
- The kingdom of hell.

Which have you chosen?

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Self-righteousness.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is your duty to man? My duty to man is to honour and obey my parents, to show respect to those above me, to speak the truth always, and to be just and loving to all.

"IT IS MY MOTHER."

As the children belonging to a class in a Sabbath-school were reading one afternoon, the teacher had occasion to speak to them of the depravity of human nature, and afterward asked them if they could remember the name of one person that lived on earth who was always good. A little girl about eight years of age immediately said, in the full simplicity of her heart: "I know whom you mean; it is my mother." The teacher told her that Jesus Christ was the person meant, but she was happy to hear that the dear child had so good a mother and that she thought so much of her.