

LESSON I—January 5th, 1896.

The Forerunner of Christ. LUKE 1: 5-17.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

Was Luke a Jew? (Col. 4: 11, 14). What was his profession? What other book of the New Testament did he write? To whom did he write them? Of which apostle was he a companion? For what people was this gospel written? What do you know about Herod? Who was Zacharias? What is meant by "the course" of Abia? Who was Aaron? Who also bore the name of Elisabeth? (Ex. 6: 23). What is meant by "the order of his course"? What is meant by "his lot"? What was the law regarding incense? (Ex. 30: 34-38). Where was it offered? With what fire was it kindled? Who offered "strange fire before the Lord"? Give another instance of the appearance of this angel? (Dan. 8: 15-18; 9: 21-23; Luke 1: 26-29). What other angel is named in the Bible? (Dan. 10: 13, 21; 12: 1. Jude 9; Zech. 3: 2; Rev. 12: 7). Where did the altar of incense stand? What stood on the north side, and what on the south? Why was Z. troubled and afraid? For what had he been praying? Why would he have joy and gladness? Why would many rejoice at his birth? What was the law of the Nazarite? (Num. 6: 1-5). What other instances of abstinence from wine in O. T.? (Lev. 10: 9; Jer. 35). What proof of the divinity of Christ is found in our lesson? Explain the meaning of the last verse.

LESSON II—January 12th, 1896.

The Boy Jesus. LUKE 2: 40-52.

BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

What sign was given to Zacharias that the angel's words would come true? Why was it necessary that Jesus should be born at Bethlehem? How did God bring it about that he should be born there? What persons paid homage to the infant Saviour? Who sought to put him to death, and why? How was he delivered from him? Why did his parents decide to take up their home in Nazareth and not at Bethlehem? (Matt. 2: 22). How did this decision affect the religious training of Jesus? What effect would his natural and social surroundings have upon his mental development? What effect did his upbringing at Nazareth have upon his reception by the Jews? At what feasts were the Jews required to repair to Jerusalem? (Ex. 23: 14, 17). To what Christian feast does the passover correspond in meaning? (1 Cor. 5: 7). At what were the rabbis astonished? At what were Joseph and Mary amazed? Explain Jesus' reply to his mother. Why could she not understand it? In what respects did Jesus develop? What was the secret of his beautiful character?