

## Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The Remedy for Sin.*

**INTRODUCTORY.** Tell that Naaman, the Syrian general, was honored and beloved because he had brought deliverance to his country in time of danger. Illustrate by the regard in which Gen. Washington and Gen. Grant are held by the American people. Have the word "But" printed on the board in large letters. Uncover it, and tell that though Naaman was rich and brave and beloved, he was very unhappy. Why? He was a leper. Give some idea of the loathsome disease, which little by little ate the body up! Then tell of the little Jewish girl in Naaman's house, how she came to be there; why she pitied and loved Naaman, and wanted to help him. Teach that God's children always want to help others.



Draw or pin up picture of a little girl. Around the head print with colored crayons, "A little child shall lead them." Uncover this, and tell what the little maid did to help. It was not much, but God can do a great deal with a single word spoken from a loving heart. Tell the story that follows. Show a letter pinned to the board. The king was anxious to have

Naaman cured. He thought if he sent rich presents that would help. He did not know that God's love and power cannot be bought. Tell what the prophet told the rich leper to do, and why this made Naaman angry. He was not ready to pray the prayer in the Golden Text. Have picture of fountain on the board, and Golden Text printed in the form of a semicircle around it. Show it, and lead children to see that only God's power could make Naaman well again. Tell how his pride at last gave way, and he was made perfectly clean and well when he obeyed God.

Teach that this story means something for each child. There is a disease like leprosy now. It is called sin. Its ugly marks are on every one. Even little children show them; mention some, as ill-temper, etc. This disease always kills if it goes on, and only one Physician can cure it—that is Jesus. We have to go to him, just as Naaman had to go to Elisha, and then we must obey him, as Naaman obeyed Elisha. The sooner we do, the sooner we shall be cured. Teach that when we have found out the remedy we must tell others about it, as the little maid did.

## Lesson Word-Pictures.

Wanted, a bath, a bath for the spotted leper! Who will give it? Who will cleanse the great Naaman? None in all Damascus, save the king, rides in a handsome chariot. None of all the warriors in the land can count up such victories, and none stand as far ahead in rank. But O, the leper-spots on his body! If they could be washed away, he would go all his days on foot through the streets of Damascus, and he would fall from the chief captain's place back to the rear as a soldier. What does he hear some day, in a discouraged mood perhaps, sitting in his banquet-room? A little maid has rehearsed a story to Naaman's wife in her chamber, and such a little maid, brought a captive from Jeru-alem! What can she do? She only tells the wonderful story of cleansing that can be effected by a prophet in Israel. She only tells the good tidings. The story gets to Naaman and then travels to the king. Somebody in Israel can make a leper clean? Then Israel's king must see that the leper is healed. Syria will send to Israel, and at the palace-door of the latter there soon halts a chariot containing ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment! Delightful present, but—with them arrives a leper! What Israel's king expected to hear that leper? The king rends his clothes. It is a harsh exaction. Syria seeks an occasion for quarrel. Elisha has heard of it. He sends a message to the king. "Let him come!" he cries. Naaman shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. There is a waiting retinue at the prophet's door. Poor people go there, sick people, widows, orphans, and angels, but who ever before saw there talents of silver and pieces of gold in such quantity? Amidst them all, though, rises the form of the leper. "He will surely come down to me. He will fall before my chariot," Naaman may be saying. No, the wonder-worker deigns not to come. It is only the officious, covetous Gehazi that comes shuffling forward and

delivers an imperious message, bidding Naaman wash in Jordan seven times. Naaman is mad. What? Send him off to a river? Could he not wash in Damascus' clean streams rather than in Jordan's waters? Why did not the prophet himself come out and say something mysterious, solemn, and grand over the leper? No, it is, "Go, wash." The leper grumbles fiercely, and away in his rage clatters and jolts the great captain's chariot. His servants though would like to say a word. He would have done a great thing at the prophet's command; will he not try that little remedy? His rage abates. He consents to go to the Jordan. The chariots halt by the river's bank. The water is hurrying on, hastening away as if it could not stop for a leper's bath, but Naaman wades out into the river, his servants curiously looking on. "How absurd!" he may be saying. "I will dip and then go back." No, Naaman, dip again. Would it not seem childish if Syria's great captain pettishly waded out like a boy? Hold! Dip again, Naaman, and again and again, as many times as the prophet bade thee. Dip seven times, but—what is the matter, Naaman? There is a look of wonder on his face. Is—is his skin changing? The wonder becomes joyful certainty. His flesh has "come again like unto the flesh of a little child!" He wades back to the shore amid the exultant shouts of his servants, for Jordan has washed away his leprosy forever!

## THIRD QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Sept. 27.

## HOME READINGS.

- M.* Lessons I, II. 1 Kings 12, 6-17, 25-33.  
*Tu.* Lessons III, IV. 1 Kings 16, 33-34; 17, 1-16.  
*W.* Lessons V, VI, VII. 1 Kings 18, 1-46.  
*Th.* Lesson VIII. 1 Kings 19, 1-18.  
*F.* Lessons IX, X. 1 Kings 21, 4-19; 2 Kings 2, 1-15.  
*S.* Lesson XI. 2 Kings 4, 18-37.  
*S.* Lesson XII. 2 Kings 5, 1-16.

## REVIEW SCHEME FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

**LESSON I. Revolt of the Ten Tribes.**—What was the young men's counsel? What was the result of the king's decision? How did this fulfill prophecy?

**LESSON II. Idolatry Established.**—In what two cities did Jeroboam set up calves of gold, and why? How did he excuse the sin? What sort of priests did he ordain?

**LESSON III. Omri and Ahab.**—How was Omri's sin characterized? Who succeeded him? What was the character of his son?

**LESSON IV. Elijah and the Tishbite.**—Who suddenly appeared before Ahab, and why? Where did the prophet hide? How, in relieving a widow, was he himself relieved?

**LESSON V. Elijah Meeting Ahab.**—What good man was Ahab's officer? What did Elijah communicate through him to Ahab? How had Ahab troubled Israel?

**LESSON VI. The Prophets of Baal.**—Where was the assembly called? What was the test proposed? Did Baal's prophets succeed?

**LESSON VII. The Prophet of the Lord.**—What preparations were made? What was the answer to Elijah's prayer? What confession was made by the people?

**LESSON VIII. Elijah at Horeb.**—Why did the prophet flee? What error did he make? Who was appointed his successor?

**LESSON IX. The Story of Naboth.**—What did the king covet? What was Jezebel's plot? How was it avenged?

**LESSON X. Elijah Translated.**—Who accompanied Elijah beyond Jordan? What was Elisha's request? How was it answered?

**LESSON XI. The Shunammite's Son.**—What befell the child? To whom did the mother go, and why? What was the result of the prophet's faith?

**LESSON XII. Naaman the Syrian.**—What was Naaman's affliction? How did the child's word influence the king? How was the great man cured?