

got his sight. When he told them they wanted to know more about the One who had cured him, but all he could say was, 'One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.' Jesus called himself 'the Light of the world,' and he surely was. He gave light to people who were blind by making them see; he gave light to people who did not know the right way to do by telling them; he gave light to sad people by making them glad."

"I wish I could be a light," said Jane.

"You can, my dear little girl," said her father. "Jesus is like the great sun which warms and brightens the whole world, and none of us can be a great light like that; but you can be like one little sunbeam every day if you will."

"I would, like the sunbeam, say,
'Darkness, darkness, flee away;
Into some sad heart to-day
Send a ray of gladness."

"I would be a merry sunbeam
Shining, shining all the day;
Clouds and darkness I would scatter
With my brightest ray."

GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER: "Be ye doers of the word." "Serve the Lord with gladness."

LESSON IX. (Aug. 26.)

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD. John 10. 1-16.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10. 11.

Primary Notes.



Introductory. How many have ever seen sheep? What are the little sheep called? What are sheep like? Are they gentle, and do they make good pets? Are they very brave and very fierce, like

wolves? No, they are timid, and must be well taken care of and led. What do we call a man who takes care of sheep? What does the shepherd do for the sheep? There was a young shepherd long ago who watched his flocks of sheep and lambs in the fields

near Bethlehem, and he was out all night with them, for fear some harm would come to them. And when one time there came a lion and then a bear to eat up some of the flock this shepherd never thought of his own life, which might be lost, but killed both these wild beasts. So he gave his nights and his days to the care of the sheep, and all his strength. Was he not a good shepherd, and did he not almost give his life for the sheep? Yes, this David who wrote the shepherd song, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," was himself a good shepherd. But he is gone, and can do no more for any flock on the earth. He gave a part of his life to taking care of sheep, but did not give up his life and die that the sheep might live.

The Good Shepherd. How are we like sheep? We need to be cared for and led, because we are not very wise, any more than sheep are. They are silly things, and are easily lost and frightened. We need a shepherd who will be with us all the time, showing us where to go and keeping us from the wrong paths. We need a shepherd who is very patient and kind, and who knows a great deal more than we do. We have such a Shepherd. Jesus tells us in the lesson to-day that he is the Good Shepherd, and he is ours. He says that he comes in by the right way, and not like a thief who comes climbing into the fold, or the safe place where sheep are covered and kept at night. The thief is afraid to come in by the door, but the shepherd comes that way. He says his sheep hear his voice and know him and follow him. Let us say over these three things: Hear, Know, Follow. Sheep that do these things show that they belong to the shepherd who calls them, and are not wild and wandering ones without a fold.

Something else the Good Shepherd tells us about himself. When he leads out his sheep he goes on before them, leading the way, and if there is any danger in front, he meets it first and keeps the sheep from harm.

But more than this, our Shepherd gives his life for the sheep. Jesus died for us, to take away our sins. Real sheep, such as are kept in the fields, do not know about right and wrong, but we who are the Saviour's sheep are different. We can do right, and we can do wrong, and O, how often we sin against our Lord! This is because our hearts are sinful, and not full of love, but full of self, wishing most of all to please self,