

1. The Centurion's Vision. vs. 30-33.
2. Peace by Jesus Christ. vs. 34-38.
3. The Appointed Witnesses. vs. 39-44.

We learn to-day about the first Gentile conversions to Christianity. There was a Roman garrison at Caesarea, and one of its centurions was named Cornelius. He worshipped the true God, and gave alms to the Jews. One day, while he was at evening prayer, an angel appeared and commanded him to send to Joppa for Peter. He at once sent three messengers. The next day Peter had a vision, which prepared him to receive these Gentile messengers. Directed by the Spirit, Peter went with them to Caesarea. They found Cornelius with a company of friends and relatives waiting for them. Cornelius then told his vision and invited Peter to speak God's word to them. Peter thereupon preached the gospel to them, and the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his friends.

#### LESSONS.

1. God reveals the way of life to all who seek it.
2. God uses human agents to make known his truth.
3. God's message to the world is peace by Jesus Christ.
4. Those who know the gospel should testify to it.
5. The gospel excludes none; whosoever believes is saved.

#### THE RESURRECTION. 18th April.

Les. 1 Cor. 15: 12-26. Gol. Text. 1 Cor. 15: 20. Mem. vs. 20, 23. Catechism Q. 97.

*Time and Place.*—Written from Ephesus in A.D. 57.

#### HOME READINGS.

M. Matt. 27: 33-66. Death and Burial.  
 T. Matt. 28: 1-15. Resurrection.  
 W. John 20: 19-31. Thomas Convinced.  
 Th. Luke 24: 36-48. "Behold I myself."  
 F. John 11: 14-44. "Resurrection and Life."  
 S. 1 Cor. 15: 1-26. Certainty of Resurrection.  
 S. 1 Cor. 15: 27-58. Victory over Death.

1. If Christ be not Risen. vs. 12-19.
2. Now is Christ Risen. vs. 20-26.

Thus far in the Acts we have seen the apostles testifying constantly to the great fact of Jesus' resurrection, in obedience to the command of the risen Lord. This is the foundation truth of Christianity. Christ himself promised to rise and said he would thus fulfill prophecy. Matt. 20: 17-19; Mark 14: 28; Luke 18: 31-33; 24: 25-27, 44-46; John 2: 19-22. Now, if there be no resurrection, and Christ did not rise, but is still under the power of death, our faith in him as our Saviour is groundless.

Certain members of the Corinthian Church questioned the truth of the resurrection. St. Paul defended the doctrine in a complete reply, of which our lesson is a part. The whole of 1 Cor. 15 should be carefully read; also the teachings in Job 19: 26; 49: 15; Isa. 26: 19; Dan. 12: 2; and Christ's words in Mark 12: 18-27; Luke 14: 14; John 5: 28, 29; 11: 24, 25.

#### LESSONS.

1. Our hope of heaven rests upon a risen Christ.
2. Christ's resurrection is a certainly attested fact.
3. Because Christ rose we also shall rise.
4. By nature we die; through Christ we live forever.
5. Christ's victory over death is complete.

#### PETER DELIVERED FROM PRISON.

25th April.

Les. Acts, 12: 5-17. Gol. Text. Ps., 34: 7. Mem. vs. 7-9. Catechism Q. 98, 99.

*Time.*—About A.D. 44.

*Place.*—Jerusalem.

#### HOME READINGS.

M. Acts 11: 1-18. Peter's Report.  
 T. Acts 11: 19-30. Gentiles at Antioch.  
 W. Luke 2: 21-35. Light to the Gentiles.  
 Th. Eph. 2: 1-22. No more Strangers.  
 F. Acts 12: 1-25. Peter Delivered.  
 S. Ps. 34: 1-22. The Lord Heareth.  
 S. Ps. 145: 1-21. The Lord Preserveth.

1. Aroused by the Angel. vs. 5-8.
2. Led from the Prison. vs. 9-12.
3. Received by Friends. vs. 13-17.

After Cornelius' conversion (Lesson I), Peter returned to Jerusalem. Reports were now received of Gentile conversions at Antioch, in Syria. Barnabas was sent to investigate these reports. He found them true and did what he could to encourage the converts. He then brought Saul from Tarsus, and together they labored in Antioch for a year. It was here that the disciples were first called Christians. About this time Herod Agrippa, I, king of Judea and Samaria, beheaded the apostle James and imprisoned Peter. The disciples prayed earnestly and constantly for Peter, and an angel delivered him.

#### LESSONS.

1. God hears and heeds the prayers of his people.
2. While we sleep, surrounded by dangers, God watches us.
3. God calls us to escape from sin's captivity.
4. When God calls to freedom he provides the way.
5. We should tell others how God has delivered us.

*Westminster Question Book.*