

Christmas! Happy Christmas!" and your gifts will be opened and admired, and the long, happy day has begun. Perhaps you will go to church service, if your church has one, or you will listen to the Christmas story told or read by some one at home,—the same dear Christmas story which father and mother and grandfather and grandmother heard when they were little boys and girls, the story of the coming to earth of the Christ Child, 1916 years ago.

*The Promise of the King*—Many, many years ago, one of God's holy prophets, a wise man, named Isaiah, had told God's people that they who had lived in the darkness and shadow of death (from enemies) should see a great light, which would come to the world in the form of a wonderful child, who would come into one of the families of the tribe of Judah. He would be their king, and would break the power of their enemies. The people of Judah had been in very great trouble. The Assyrians (map) had come with great armies and fought and conquered them, and were treating them very cruelly. Just when they needed something to encourage them, God sent this beautiful promise.

*Golden Text*—Repeat (and print the names, Isa. 9 : 6). This wonderful child shall be the king of the Jews. His kingdom shall spread all over the world, and at last this Prince of Peace shall bring peace to all the world.

Isaiah tells them that their promise is sure because of God's great love for them.

*The Coming of the King*—For years and years, God's people, the Jews, watched for the coming of this promised one. Did God keep his word? We shall see that he did, but, sad to say, many of his people, the Jews, did not believe that the child Jesus was the one who was really sent to be their king, and the Jews to this day are still looking for the promised king.

*The First Christmas Eve*—Picture the scene on the Bethlehem hillside. (Sketch, use pictures, objects, sand tray, anything to make the story vivid.)

*The First Christmas Day*—Tell the Christmas story. (It is a day of gifts. Remember it is more blessed to give than to receive.) Sing Hymn 520, Book of Praise.

*Second Part of the Lesson*—In the second part of the lesson we hear how very gentle King Jesus was towards those who were not really his followers, Luke 9 : 49-62. (Repeat Golden Text, Luke 9 : 50.) In v. 56 we hear Jesus telling his followers why he came to the world,—to save us.

Tell Jesus' reply, vs. 57, 58. Vs. 56-62 teach us that King Jesus wants his followers to make their king's business their first thought (explain).

*What the Lesson Teaches Me*—I SHOULD FOLLOW JESUS.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

FOLLOW ME THOUGHTFULLY  
O-DAY  
THOROUGHLY

What was the invitation which Jesus gave to his first disciples? FOLLOW ME (Print as above). What is the invitation which Jesus gives to-day? He asks us to follow him. How are we to follow him? Well, to-day's lesson makes three suggestions. It tells us of three possible disciples, vs. 57-62. What was the trouble with the first man? He was offering to follow Jesus without taking into account the difficulties. But Jesus never wants any person to follow him under false impressions. We are to think of what we are doing. We are to follow THOUGHTFULLY (Print, with large T). What was the trouble with the second man? He wanted to put things off. But Jesus demands that we follow him now,