

Thought for Teachers. Remember the aim in teaching this dramatic lesson. It is to impress the thought that God is with us, to help us and fight our battles—battles against wrong and sin. Make a study of childish temptations before teaching.

LESSON II—July 9

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER. Isa. 38. 1-8

GOLDEN TEXT: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psal. 46. 1.

Primary Notes



Approach. This lesson aims intensifies that of last Sunday. God is present to help; we must ask help; God gives it. So teach that when Hezekiah's prayer is mentioned the answer will be instantly associated with it.

Lead up to this, after the review, by a little talk of getting into trouble more than once, and getting out again the same way. Tell of a boy who was lost and found after much trouble. He said: "I knew father would come and get me. I kept calling and calling, and by and by he heard. Then he came, and I was safe." This boy got into trouble again. He fell down and hurt himself. He could not get up, but he knew his father was not far off. He called and called, and father came and carried his boy home. Did this father say, "I helped my boy once, and that was enough"? Did the boy say to himself, "I called father once and he helped me, and I must not ask him again"? No, indeed. As often as the boy got into trouble he called for his father. As often as the father heard his child calling he answered and helped him. Our Father in heaven is like that father, and like our own dear fathers. How often do you think your fathers would come to help you if you were in trouble and called for help?

We find in the story to-day that King Hezekiah had another time of trouble; what it was, what he did, and how God helped. God was still this king's keeper. Is he ours just as truly and as much?

The Great Trouble. This time it was not some one coming to fight him, some one coming from far away. It was an enemy that crept into the palace, and no one heard. It was sickness. Could a king be sick? Yes, for even palace doors cannot keep out sickness. Listen to what the good prophet Isaiah writes about it, as God told him to put it down in the Bible: "In those days like Hezekiah sick unto death." Why, he was like the nobleman's son we learned about once who was "at the point of death" and Jesus healed him. It was "the second miracle in Cana." But

Hezekiah lived long, long before Jesus came. Was there power to heal him then? Yes, Jesus was the same while in heaven as when he lived below.

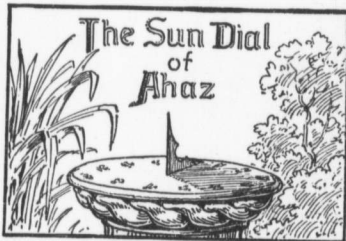
There came a message to the king. Isaiah came to tell him to get ready to die. Whatever he had to do must be done quickly, for the time was short.

The Prayer and the Answer. How wonderfully like the last lesson this one is! We can divide up the story in exactly the same way. This is a comfort, for if two things happened so alike, long ago, they can again. In one trouble and in another we will find God our keeper, and may come and talk to him about everything as this king did. Hezekiah did not talk to anyone else about the message. He did not even say, "Send for a new doctor, and see what he says." He had a message from God, and to God only he would speak. Listen. "Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall and prayed unto the Lord." He turned away from even the dearest face on earth. Looking away from everything else, he prayed to God. No one else could help. "And Hezekiah wept sore." He was very much troubled and very much in earnest. Don't you think so? He did not just "say his prayers," as we do sometimes, not thinking of the words. Now hear the answer. "Thus saith the Lord, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will add unto thy days fifteen years."

If time allows tell of the sign given, but do not make too much of this.

Lesson Truth: The Lord Our Keeper Hears prayer. Enlarge upon and illustrate fully. God will always answer, but sometimes may have to say "No."

Thought for Teachers. To strengthen child-faith in prayer is not only the object of this lesson, but one constantly before us. Lead to such loving thoughts of God, that whatever he gives will be trustfully taken.



Ask children to repeat this verse after you:

"Now we guard our hearts in prayer,
Closely guard the heart,
Lest with holy, earnest thoughts
Bad ones have their part;
When we to our Father pray,
Let us mean the things we say."