

HOME READINGS.

- M. Paul before the council. Acts 23. 1-11.
 Th. Christ beaten. John 18. 19-27.
 W. The Sadducees' doctrine. Matt. 22. 23-33.
 Th. The Pharisees' belief. Mark 7. 1-13.
 F. The true doctrine. Matt. 23. 34-40.
 S. Pure religion. James 1. 13-27.
 S. Cheerfulness encouraged. Prov. 15. 1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And the night following the Lord stood by him,
 and said, Be of good cheer, Paul. Acts 23. 11.

LESSON HYMN. L. M. 61.

Peace, doubting heart! my God's I am;
 Who formed me man forbids my fear;
 The Lord hath called me by my name;
 The Lord protects, forever near;
 His blood for me did once atone,
 And still he loves and guards his own.
 Still nigh me, O my Saviour, stand,
 And guard in fierce temptation's hour;
 Hide in the hollow of thy hand;
 Show forth in me thy saving power;
 Still be thy arms my sure defense,
 Nor earth, nor hell, shall pluck me thence.

TIME.—In the spring of A. D. 58, on the day after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—The hall of the Sanhedrin, in Jerusalem.

RULERS.—See Lesson IV.

CONNECTING LINK.—Paul's mention of the Gentiles in his speech aroused so great an excitement, that Lysias, the Roman officer in command of Jerusalem, ordered him to be taken into the Tower of Antonia. There his rights as a Roman citizen saved him from being scourged. On the next day he was brought before the supreme council of the Jews.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The resurrection of the dead.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. A Brave Rebuke, v. 1-5.
 Before whom was Paul taken the next day?
 With what declaration did Paul begin his defense?
 What did the high-priest command to be done?
 What reply did Paul make?
 Of what did those around accuse Paul?
 What was Paul's answer?
2. A Great Dissension, v. 6-10.
 Into what two parties was the council divided?
 What did Paul declare himself?
 What is said of the belief of the Sadducees?
 What was the result of Paul's declaration? ver. 9.
 Of what was the chief captain fearful?
 What command did he give?
3. A Divine Friend, v. 11.
 Who appeared to the apostle that night?
 For what purpose did he come?
 Where did he say Paul would preach Jesus?

Practical Teachings.

How does this lesson teach—

1. That respect should be shown to rulers?
2. That zeal may be without love?
3. That God never forsakes his own?

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. A Brave Rebuke, v. 1-5.
 Before whom did Paul make this address?
 What were his opening words?
 What order was given by the high-priest?
 How did Paul rebuke him?
 What law did Annas break? Lev. 19. 33.
 What question did the by-standers ask?
 What apology did Paul offer?
2. A Great Dissension, v. 6-10.
 What two parties did Paul recognize in the mob?
 What did he declare himself to be?
 What doctrine did he announce?
 What effect had this declaration?
 How did the sects differ?
 What followed the dispute?
 Who took Paul's part?
 What was their argument?
 Who interfered in Paul's favor?
 What were his orders?

3. A Divine Friend, v. 11.

What visitant had Paul?
 What words of comfort did he bring?
 What service was Paul still to render?

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. Respect for rulers?
2. Boldness for the truth?
3. Safety in true service?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did the chief captain do the next day?
 Brought Paul before the council of the Jews?
 What did Paul tell them? That he had tried to do just right all his life until now.

What did the high-priest tell one of the attendants to do? "Strike him on the mouth."

What answer did Paul make? "God will smite you, you whited wall."

Had the judge any right to order this done? No; he should have listened until Paul was through speaking.

Was it right for Paul to speak so to God's high-priest? It was not right, but Paul did not know who he was.

What did Paul say when he found out? "If I had known, brethren, that he was the high-priest, I should not have spoken so."

What did he say God's word said about it? "Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people."

Did all the men of the council believe the same way? No; one party were called Sadducees, and believed God would not raise the dead.

What did the Pharisees' party believe? That the dead shall be raised.

What did Paul say which showed which he believed? "I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee."

What did this cause? A quarrel in the council.

What did the Pharisees want to do? Set Paul free.

When the chief captain saw that the Sadducees were ready to tear Paul in pieces, what did he do? Sent his soldiers again to take him to the castle.

In what way did God comfort Paul, and strengthen his faith? [Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.]

Words with Little People.

Paul's life shows us that it is not always an easy, pleasant thing to be a Christian; but it is always safe, for we can have His strong hand to hold us up, and His loving words to cheer us when we are in trouble.

If you are trying to serve Him, you may hear His voice some night when you are tired and think it is—"so hard to be good," saying, "Be of good cheer, my dear little child," and it will rest you, and make you strong again.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

[For the entire school.]

1. What were the Sadducees? A skeptical school of Judaism.
2. What were the Pharisees? The orthodox party in Judaism.
3. To which of these parties did Paul belong? To the Pharisees.
4. What did the Pharisees say concerning Paul? "We find no evil in this man."
5. What did the Lord say to Paul the night following? "Be of good cheer."

TEXTS AT CHURCH.

Morning Text.....
 Evening Text.....

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

An Apostle's Example in Trial.

I. AN EXAMPLE IN RECTITUDE.

In all good conscience, v. 1.

"Void of offense toward God....men." Acts 24. 15.

"The testimony of our conscience." 2 Cor. 1. 12.