

so few weep over it. Unless you have wept and rejoiced, you have not really "understood the words." But there was one thing more:

7. *They obeyed it.* Finding the command of God concerning the Feast of Tabernacles, they at once set to work to carry it out. And the result was "very great gladness." Ver. 17. Such is always the ultimate result of obeying the dictates of Scripture.

### Berean Methods.

#### Hints for the Teachers' Meeting and the Class.

Describe the walls of Jerusalem, as rebuilt by Nehemiah.... Draw a map of Jerusalem, and show the "water-gate," where the events of the lesson took place.... The lesson may be presented as in the Analytical and Biblical Outline. "An Old Testament Sunday-school." Note 1.) That it was held on Sunday, "the first day of the seventh month;" 2.) That all the people were included in it, either as teachers or scholars; 3.) Its text-book was the Bible; 4.) Its superintendent was Ezra, an earnest worshiper, a godly man, and a thorough Bible student. Notice his peculiar fitness for the place; 5.) Its teachers were godly men and Bible scholars; 6.) Its exercises, taken from the story; 7.) Its aim, to give clear understanding of God's word; 8.) Its results, conviction of sin, and the joy of acceptance with God.... See in the explanatory notes some good illustrations of incidents connected with the Bible.

**References.** FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Verse 9: The Tirshatha, 383. Ver. 10: Sending portions, 384.

### CATECHISM QUESTION.

12. What blessing does he pronounce on believers?

To Peter he gave it thus:

[Read Matthew xvi. 17.]

And to Thomas he gave it thus:

[Read John xx. 29.]

### Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

#### LESSON THOUGHT. *God in His Word.*

**Introduction.** Recall last lesson: Nehemiah's love for his country, his desire to work for the Lord, and his faith that God would make a way for him to work. Tell that the king's hear: was opened to Nehemiah's request, and that when he went to Jerusalem, the hearts of the people were opened, so that they were willing to work with him. Explain why a wall was needed around the city, and tell how wicked people tried to hinder the Jews from building it; show that God always helps those who are working for him. Tell how the faithful Jews worked, so that in fifty-two days the wall was finished, and the wicked men saw that it was God's work, and that they could not hinder it.

#### THE GREAT MEETING.

Tell that Nehemiah called a great meeting before he went back to Persia, to hear the law of God read. Ask what the law of God is, and hold up Bible to show where we may find it. Show picture of a roll, such as was used in that day, or, still better, have imitation of such a roll for children to see. Speak of the advantage we have, in each being permitted to have a Bible of our own. Tell why there were so few copies of the law in those days, and read God's command to the people to

hear it read, from Deut. 31. 10-13. Notice that God mentions the children, and gives the reason why they should hear the law. Make the scene in the street vivid, by bringing out details. These will be suggested by reading and thought.

#### SORROW AND JOY.

Tell that the people wept when they listened to the law, because they could look back and see how often they had broken it. Show that it is a serious thing to disobey God. Nehemiah and Ezra comforted them because they saw that they were truly sorry for their sin, and real sorrow for wrong-doing leads us to break it off, right away. Impress the reality of the fact that God speaks to us in his law.

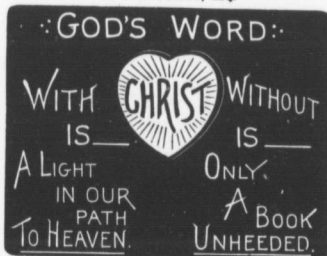


**Lessons for us.** The Bible is God's living word to us. Show that the words are just as true now as when first spoken. Read some sweet promises, and teach that these are the sweet which we may drink. Show that we must reach out for it, and tell ways in which

children may do this by careful attention in church and Sunday-school, etc. Impress the thought that we can only take "the sweet" by turning away from sin.

#### Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



**EXPLANATION.**—This design is intended as an application of the lesson after its review, or study. Ask a few leading questions, such as these: "Of what value is God's law to me?" "Why does not every body value it alike?" "Why is it that some care for it not at all?" An answer to these questions is made by writing the name of *Christ* in the heart. With Christ in the heart, God's word is a lamp that lights our path to heaven. Without Christ in the heart, the Bible is only a book unheeded. It will be of no avail, when we appear before the judgment-seat of God, to make excuse that we knew not the law. It is our duty to study it, and understand it.

#### GOD'S WORD IS OUR

LAW.  
INSTRUCTOR,  
GUIDE,  
HELPER,  
TEACHER.

#### Lesson Word-Pictures.

What did you say? A great conference in Jerusalem? Yes, notice the people thronging the street before the water-gate. What a vast concourse of men, women, fathers, mothers, children, all pouring into the space