

GOLDEN TEXT

Ex. 20:12. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

DAILY READINGS

M. — 2 Sam. 14: 25-33.	The king's son.
T. — 2 Sam. 15: 1-12.	David and Absalom.
W. — 2 Sam. 15: 13-23.	A sad flight.
Th. — 2 Sam. 15: 24-37.	David's trust.
F. — 2 Sam. 17: 1-14.	Absalom's wicked intent.
S. — Prov. 19: 1-26.	The undutiful son.
S. — Mark 7: 5-13.	Honor to parents.

CATECHISM

Q. 100. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*) teaches us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as chil-

dren to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

TIME AND PLACE

About 1023 B.C., eleven or twelve years after David's sin and repentance. The rebellion of Absalom probably took place in the thirty-second year of David's reign. The places are Jerusalem, where David's palace was situated, and Hebron, David's first capital, and the city in which Absalom began his open rebellion. Hebron was twenty miles south of Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

- I. Absalom the Flatterer, 1-6.
- Winning the hearts of the people from their king.
- II. Absalom the Hypocrite, 7-9.
- Covering his crime with religious pretence.
- III. Absalom the Rebel, 10-12.
- Causing himself to be proclaimed as king.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 255; 260; 7 (Ps. Sel.); 245; 250; 550.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Whose son was Absalom? What was his mother's name? (ch. 3:3.) For what was he noted? (ch. 14:25.) Why had he to leave Jerusalem? (ch. 13:28, 29.) How long was he absent? (ch. 13:38.) How long after his return before he saw David? (ch. 14:28.) During how many years was he plotting rebellion?

1-4 What show did Absalom make? Where did he take his stand? For what was this place used? How did he treat those who came to the king with their troubles? What did he wish them to think about his father?

5, 6 How did the people greet Absalom? What was his manner of greeting them? What does "stole the hearts" mean?

7-9 What request did Absalom make of the king? What is meant by "vowing a vow"? What by paying a vow? Why did Absalom name Hebron? What does our Lord say about hypocrites? (Matt. 23:13.)

10-11 Who were sent out? What was the signal for revolt? What great leader joined Absalom? What strength had the conspiracy? Which of the commandments did Absalom break? What does Paul say about the duty of children? (Eph. 6:1.)

Seniors and the Home Department—For what crime had Absalom been forgiven? (ch. 13:28, 29; 14:33.) How should this forgiveness have influenced him?

1-6 What was Absalom's aim? How did he seek to accomplish it? What spirit did he show? Where is such a spirit condemned? (Gen. 11:7; Matt. 23:25-29.)

7-9 What vow did Absalom pretend to have made? When? What kind of service does God require? (Mic. 6:8.) Who are accepted before him? (Ps. 15.) What sins does the request of Absalom involve? Where is Hebron? How long had David reigned there? (ch. 2:11.)

10-12 Describe Absalom's arrangements for his proclamation? What noted follower did he gain? What does David say of this man? (Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14.) What was his fate? (ch. 17:23.) What New Testament character did he resemble? How is rebellion against God described? (Isa. 1:2, 3.) What is its penalty? (Matt. 21:42-44.)

Prove from Scripture—That flattery is powerful.

Practical Points.—1. The hardships of David's youth were better training than the ease and luxury of Absalom's.

2. Fine looks, fine clothes, and fine manners are no guarantee of a true man.

3. The diligence of the wicked often shames the slothfulness of God's servants.

4. The true patriot is not he who flatters the people, but he who serves them.

5. Says Professor Starkie. "We are reminded by Absalom's conduct of Charles II. taking the covenant to please the Scots, and get their help towards obtaining the crown."

6. Worship is a mockery when the heart is full of deceit.

7. Every step in the path of evil makes it harder to turn back.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. How did Absalom sin against David?

2. Against the people?

3. Against God?