

2. *Ready Hands.*

How many classes of the people were brought to take part in these gifts?
How many different sorts of gifts were brought?
What traces of the mechanic arts are to be found in these preparations?
What evidences of domestic skill are shown?
What light is thrown on the condition of these people before they left Egypt?

3. *Rich Gifts.*

Why were these varied gifts needed?
What characteristic of these people is shown by their possessing such rich materials as they gave?
What has always characterized them since?
What noble element of character is shown in their giving?
Do you know of any evidence to corroborate this testimony to the wealth of the times?
What does the great discovery of mummies in 1881 show of the state of art in Egypt?
What is the one gift, richer than gold or silver, which God desires us to bring him?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

The first Church of God in the world consisted of people with willing hearts and ready hands.

The first church building was the costliest one that nation then possessed. There was no other tent in Israel like it. It had no mortgage on it, and no other debt.

They gave willingly. Do we?
They worked wisely. Do we?
Men and women and rulers gave, yes, "every one;" and they never expected to get anything back.

Let us learn the lesson of Christian giving.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Have you read all the Questions, Explanations, and Practical Teachings? If not, do it now.

2. Are they not as good as you could have made had you been making them? Well, write eighteen questions on this lesson all different from those written, and better ones.

3. Make a list of the different sorts of gifts which the lesson says were made.

4. Now tell what each thing was to be used for.

5. Find some characteristics of true giving, and measure your own practice by them.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What were the children of Israel asked to bring gifts for. To make a tabernacle for God. 2. Who brought the gifts for which Moses asked? Every one who was willing. 3. What did each person bring? The best gift he had. 4. How does God regard those who thus give? "God loveth a cheerful giver." 5. How ought we nowadays to give? "According as the Lord hath prospered us."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian giving.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

4. How was man the chief creature on earth? Because the Creator made man in his own image.

Genesis i. 27. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.

B.C. 1490] LESSON V. [JULY 29

THE TABERNACLE.

Exod. 40. 1-16. Memory verses, 1-3

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them. Rev. 21. 3.

OUTLINE.

1. The Tabernacle.
2. The Priests.

TIME.—1490 B.C.
PLACE.—At Sinai.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The donations recorded in the last lesson were received by Moses and put into the hands of skilled artisans, who, in the months that followed, wrought out all the implements pertaining to the tabernacle as they had been by God described to Moses. Then when all was placed in great beauty, God ordered the completed structure to be reared, and the various articles of its furniture to be put in place. For the full detail see the lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*First day of the first month*—The first of Nisan, one year lacking fourteen days since the departure from Egypt. It was the beginning of their national year. *The things to be set in order*—That is, the cakes of unleavened bread as ordered in Lev. 24. 5-9. *The hanging of the door*—That is, the curtain at the entrance of the tabernacle. *The altar of gold*—That is, the small altar of incense before the holy of holies. *The altar of the burnt-offering*—The great altar which was at the entrance of the tabernacle. *Set up the court*—That is, put into position the stakes or posts for the inclosure. *Hang up the hanging*—Hang up the curtains around the entrance. *The vessels thereof*—The utensils belonging to the tabernacle. *Laver and his foot*—The great laver which contained the water for purification and the base or foundation on which it stood. *Holy garments*—That is, garments pertaining specially to the priestly and high-priestly office.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Tabernacle.*

How was the work provided for in the last lesson accomplished? chap. 39. 43.
What was the next thing to be done?
What peculiarity marked the arrangement of the tabernacle?
What was the great purpose of this institution?
How was it perpetuated in after Jewish history?
What relation or connection is there between the institution called the church and the tabernacle?
How long did the tabernacle exist?
What special mark of God's presence for thirty-eight years attended the tabernacle?

2. *The Priests.*

What was to be the duty of the priests?
Who were to be the priests?
How long was the order of priests to continue?
Can you find in ver. 15 an argument for or against the Roman Catholic custom of forbidding priests to marry?
How were the priests to be recognized among the people?
How were they to be specially prepared for their work?
Who is the high-priest of the Christian Church? Heb. 4. 14.
What preparation was required of Aaron and his two sons before their anointing? ver. 12.
What preparation of heart is thereby symbolized for us?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

The tabernacle was God's first great school for his Church. It taught that God was invisible; that man ought to consecrate himself wholly to God; that man must be wholly cleansed from sin; that man could not come to God except through a mediator; that man must give himself and his substance for the Church of God; that man must daily offer his life a service and sacrifice to God. How much better way hath God provided for us through Christ!

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Find how long time had elapsed since the departure from Egypt to the completion and erection of the tabernacle.
2. Enumerate their journeys, telling all the places to which they had been.
3. Recall all the various gifts which had been made for this tabernacle.
4. Study out the after history of this first church edifice and learn what became of it.
5. If you can, get the little Chautauqua Text-book on *The Tabernacle*, and read it.
6. Read what the book of Hebrews says about the tabernacle.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the tabernacle? The first church of history. 2. What was it designed to teach? How men could worship God. 3. What great truth did it teach about God? That God is a spirit and invisible. 4. What did it teach concerning man's approach to God? There is one way, and one only. 5. The old tabernacle perished: does the idea still remain? "Behold the tabernacle," etc. 6. How does God still dwell among men? By the blessed Comforter, the Holy Ghost.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Church of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

5. In what part of man is the image of God? In his spirit or soul, which was breathed unto him by the Creator. Genesis ii. 7.

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