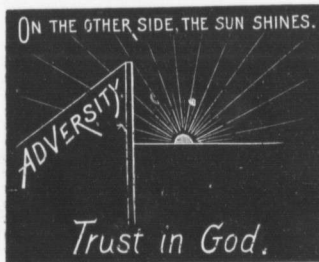


7-18; 19. 1-50. Note the contrast between Lot, the ancestor, and Ruth his descendant.... Draw a map showing the land of Moab, the Dead Sea, and the tribe of Judah.... Tell the story of Naomi's emigration to Moab, her life in Moab, and her return to Bethlehem.... Indicate on the map the probable line of her journey.... A picture of the three women setting out on the journey. What spirit was shown by Naomi? by Orpah? by Ruth?.... The choice of Ruth; its motives; what it involved; its characteristics; its rewards.... (See the analytical and Biblical Outline).... Notice that all this resulted from Ruth's acquaintance with an Israelite woman, whose love drew her to Israel.... See noble instances of choice in the Bible: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Caleb, Elisha, Daniel, the disciples of Christ, Lydia, etc., etc.... Story in *Arabian Nights* of a prince who loved a princess from seeing her picture, and forsook all to find her. How many have loved Christ from love of those who bear the image of Christ!

The Lord's my shepherd.
O little town of Bethlehem.
Just as I am, O Lord.
Who'll be the next?
To Jesus I will go.
I am trusting, Lord, in thee.
I've found a joy in sorrow.
O happy day, that fixed my choice.
Take my life, and let it be.
O holy Saviour, Friend unseen,
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Child of a King.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



The blackboard illustrates one of the practical thoughts of the lesson, and it should be used at the close of the brief lesson-review. Affliction and adversity come into our life. We do not see beyond them, and life is all bitterness; but, trusting in God, it is a comfort to know that just beyond, on the other side, the sun shines, and though we may with Naomi say, "The Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me," yet perfect trust carries us beyond adversity to where God has prepared for us some rich compensating blessing. Though the clouds be temporarily overhead, let us have the faith of the child who said, "There is blue sky somewhere." Ruth, through love, chose poverty. Let each one of us through a higher love choose Christ and the riches of his grace.

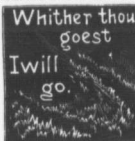
Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. Choosing God.

Divide the board into two parts. Name one Canaan, the other Moab. Make large square, to stand for Bethlehem, in Canaan. Within large square make small

one. Tell that this was the home of a good man named Elimelech and his wife Naomi. Tell about the family and the simple home-life. Tell how trouble came. God sent a famine upon this happy land, and people could not find enough food to eat.

Now, over here in Moab there was enough to eat. Explain that idolaters lived there. They had food for the body, but none for the soul. Do you think it was right to go and live among them? Teach that it is not right to go and live among evil people for the body's sake. God will take care of our lives if we are just busy about his work. Perhaps Elimelech was afraid his wife and boys would starve. He ought to have trusted God to take care of them all.



Now we will make a square here in Moab to stand for their new home. How many were in the family? Four; yes, father and mother and two sons. After a while there were two daughters also, for both the sons were married. They married women who worshiped idols. It was still a happy home, for there was love in the home. Now tell how trouble came. First one son died, then the other, and then the father. Who were left now? Only three women; one who was far from her own land, and who had lost all her dearest friends. What do you think she would want to do? Tell that sick, tired, troubled people like to go home. Illustrate by some story of child-life. Imagine her getting ready to leave Moab. Where is she going? Yes; to Canaan, where she can meet with those who love and worship God. Will she go alone? Draw the picture as vividly as you can: the daughters-in-law who love and pity her, ready to go, and the mother begging them to stay in their own land. In their own land are pleasure, home, friends, and idol-worship. Over here in Canaan, the home of God's people, are love, peace, self-sacrifice, and the knowledge of the true God. Which will they choose?

Make a cross on the Canaan side of the board. Tell that in choosing love Ruth chose God. Love means a cross—parting with one's own wishes. Tell what honor came to Ruth afterward, and show how all who choose love and duty before self will receive honor from God.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

This is the parting of the roads; one going over to the land of Moab, the other striking off toward the country of the children of Israel. Here at this corner stands Naomi, the widowed pilgrim, on her way back to Canaan. Her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, the Moabitesses, have followed her to this point. Will they go farther? Naomi is poor. She is humble. She has no resources in Canaan with which to tempt thither her daughters-in-law. She has no sons there with which to furnish them husbands. Orpah has left her. There were tears in her eyes, and she energetically kissed her old mother-in-law. She made a great ado about leaving, crying aloud as if at a big funeral. She will survive it, though she has headed for Moab wringing her hands and declaring she can never smile again. What will Ruth do, still halting at the corner; graceful, shapely, beautiful Ruth? She looks away toward Moab. She would be welcomed there. She has kindred and friends there. She would have bread, position, a home—all these with the gods of Moab. She turns toward Israel. She must take poverty there, obscurity also. She will be known as the stranger, the Moabitess, among Israel's proud daughters. But she