

FEBRUARY.

FEBRUARY—fortnights two
Briefest of the months are you,
Of the winter's children last.
Why do you go by so fast?
Is it not a little strange
Once in four years you should change.
That the sun should shine and give
You another day to live?
May be this is only done
Since you are the smallest one.
So I make the shortest rhyme
For you, as befits your time:
You're the baby of the year,
And to me you're very dear,
Just because you bring the line,
"Will you be my valentine?"

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES

LESSON VII. [Feb. 14.]

THE PRISON OPENED.

Acts 5. 17-32. Memory verses, 29-32.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We ought to obey God rather than men.
—Acts 5. 29.

OUTLINE.

1. Prisoners, v. 17, 18.
2. Preachers, v. 19-28.
3. Witnesses, v. 29-32.

THE LESSON STORY.

The apostles worked many miracles in the name of Jesus, and these things all showed that what they said about Jesus was really true. The high priest and his friends became more and more angry, and one day they sent men to take them and lock them up in prison. But they did not stay there all night, for an angel came in the darkness and brought them out so quickly that not even the soldiers who were watching knew it. As the angel was going away he told the apostles to go and preach Jesus in the temple. So, early in the morning they began to preach again in the temple.

Early in the morning, too, the Sanhedrin met to try the prisoners, but the men who were sent to bring them out of prison said they were not there, and while the judges were talking and wondering a man came in who said the apostles were teaching in the temple. The soldiers went after them, but they dared not treat them roughly, for the people loved and honoured the apostles. When the high priest asked why they went on preaching Jesus, Peter answered that they must obey God rather than men, and again he declared that the Jesus whom they had crucified was the Son of God and the Saviour of all who believe in him.

Peter was not afraid to stand up boldly for Jesus. Are we willing to be faithful witnesses?

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon.* Find how the people honoured the apostles. Acts 5. 12-16
Tues. Read the lesson verses carefully. Acts 5. 17-32.
Wed. Find what are "the words of this life." John 6. 63 65.
Thur. Learn why the apostles were "blessed." Matt. 5. 11.
Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
Sat. Find why it is wise to obey God. Jer. 38. 20.
Sun. Tell the Lesson Story to some one.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

What power was given the apostles? In whose name did they work miracles? What did this show? What did the high priest order one day? Why did not the apostles stay all night in prison? What did the angel tell them to go on doing? Where did they go in the morning? Where did the Sanhedrin meet to try them? In the Hall of Judgment? What surprised them? Where did they send men to find the apostles? What did the high priest ask? What did Peter answer? Was this right? Who were the witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus? The apostles. When are we his witnesses? When he has risen in our hearts.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER.

God knows when we suffer for his sake.
He will send his angel to deliver us.
It is noble to "stand up for Jesus."

LESSON VIII. [Feb. 21.]

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.

Acts 6. 8-15; 7. 54-60. Memory verses, 57-60.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. 2. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. Faithful, v. 8-15.
2. Crowned, v. 54-60.

THE LESSON STORY.

The Christian Church was so large now that the apostles had to have helpers. Seven deacons were chosen, and the chief of the seven was Stephen. He was a good man and worked great miracles among the people, so that the enemies of Jesus both hated and feared him. At last they brought him before the Sanhedrin and hired false witnesses to tell evil things about him. Stephen listened, but was not afraid. The judges looked at him, and saw that his face was like the face of an angel. But this did not turn them from their wicked purpose.

When the high priest asked Stephen if these things were true Stephen answered in a long speech, in which he said that his judges had murdered the Son of God.

This made them so angry that they gnashed their teeth at him, while he looked up and said that he saw Jesus

standing at the right hand of God. Then they stopped their ears and ran upon him and cast him out of the city and stoned him until he died. He kept praying all the time, and died asking God to forgive his murderers.

Among those who looked on, well pleased to see Stephen die, was a young man named Saul. We shall learn more about him by-and-bye.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon.* Read why deacons were chosen? Acts 6. 1-7.
Tues. Read about Stephen's trial. Acts 6. 8-15.
Wed. Read about Stephen's death. Acts 7. 54-60
Thur. Learn why Stephen was so brave and true. Acts 6. 5.
Fri. Learn why he could claim a crown. Golden Text.
Sat. Find who else prayed for his enemies. Luke 23. 34.
Sun. Read Stephen's speech before the council.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

Why did the apostles need helpers? How many were chosen? Who was the chief one? Why did wicked Jews hate him? What did they finally do? How did Stephen look as he listened to the false accusations. Who was falsely accused before this? The Lord Jesus Christ. What did the high priests ask Stephen? How did he answer? Why did his words displease the judges? What did Stephen say he saw? What did they do then? How did they kill him? For whom did he pray? What young man stood by to see him killed?

AM I—

Brave and faithful, like Stephen?
Do I look to God in time of trouble?
Can I pray for those who do me harm?

BIRDS IN WINTER.

MANY birds die every winter from cold and hunger, when they might easily be saved by a little care. Birds suffer much from thirst in winter time. Snow, when eaten, does not quench thirst; and so a little water put outdoors in a saucer will relieve the thirst of any of the little sufferers that happen to find it.

A bone with a little meat on it pleases the blackbirds and robins, and sparrows are fond of potatoes. A little birdseed or bread crumbs scattered on the window-sill will almost always bring a chorus of chirpers about the house and yard.

The birds soon find out their friends, and it is a beautiful sight to see them come each day about the same hour and chirp to each other while waiting for their meal.

Last winter one boy kept a tin basin full of wheat on the back porch, and every morning the birds used to come in flocks for their wheat breakfast.