

## International S. S. Lessons.

Adapted from the Westminster Question Book.

### RUTH'S CHOICE.

20 October.

Les. Judges. 1 : 14-22. Gol. Text, Ruth, 1 : 16.  
Mem. vs Catechism, Q. 7.10.

### HOME READINGS.

M. Ruth. 1: 1-22..... *Ruth's Choice.*  
T. Ruth. 2: 1-23..... *Ruth Gleaning in the Fields.*  
W. Ruth. 3: 1-18..... *Ruth at the Threshing-Floor.*  
Th. Ruth 4: 1-22..... *Ruth and Boaz.*  
F. Isa. 11: 1-10..... *A Root of Jesse.*  
S. Matt. 2: 1-11..... *The King of the Jews.*  
S. Mark. 10: 17-30..... *Leaving all for Christ.*

*Time*—Probably about B. C. 1186, in the time of Gideon who was judge B. C. 1222-1182.

*Place*—Moab, east of the Dead Sea, about one hundred miles from Bethlehem, where our lesson ends.

### BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

During the rule of the Judges, probably in the time of Gideon, there was a famine in the land of Israel. On account of this famine, Elimelech, of the tribe of Judah, a native of Bethlehem, with his wife Naomi and his two sons, removed to the land of Moab. There he died, and his sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. After ten years the two sons died, and Naomi resolved to return to her native land. Her daughters-in-law offered to go with her. When she dissuaded them from doing so, Orpah turned back, but Ruth went with her mother-in-law to Bethlehem.

### LESSON PLAN.

- I. Orpah's Departure. v. 14.
- II. Ruth's Constancy. vs. 15-18.
- III. Naomi's Return. vs. 19-22.

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

4. "Kissed her mother-in-law"—yielded to her dissuasions and bade her adieu. 10. "Ruth clave unto her"—refused to leave her. 15. "Her gods"—the idol-gods of Moab. 16. "Intreat me not"—a simple, touching example of filial love. "Thy God my God"—Ruth not only loved Naomi, but chose to serve Israel's God. 17. "The Lord do so to me"—a solemn appeal to Jehovah in the common form of an oath. 19. "They came to Bethlehem"—The former home of Naomi, where she had a small estate. Ruth 4: 4. "The city was moved"—affected by her lonely and desolate condition. 20. "Naomi"—pleasant. "Mara"—bitter. 21. "Full"—with husband, sons, and property. "Empty"—a widow, childless, and in poverty. 22. "Barley harvest"—about the middle of April. Ruth went to glean in the field of Boaz, a rich kinsman of Elimelech (ch. 2: 3.) who afterwards married her, ch. 4: 13. Thus prosperity was soon restored to Naomi, and Ruth became the mother of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David, from whom Christ was descended.

### LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. "Crosses sometimes bring our greatest comforts."
2. "They choose wisely who choose God's service."
3. "God honors children's love for parents."
4. "He has more than a father's care for children."
5. "All things work together for good to them that love God."
6. "Wise is the one who chooses a God-fearing country for his home."

## THE CHILD SAMUEL.

27 October.

Les. 1 Sam. 3 : 2. Gol. Text, 1 Sam. 3 : 9.  
Mem. vs. 1-4. Catechism Q. 11-13.

### HOME READINGS.

M. 1 Sam. 1: 21-28. ... *A Praying Mother.*  
T. 1 Sam. 2: 1-10. ... *Hannah's Sons in Thanksgiving.*  
W. 1 Sam. 3: 1-13. ... *The Child Samuel.*  
Th. 2 Chron. 34: 1-7. ... *The Young Joshua.*  
F. Luke 2: 40-52. ... *The Child Jesus.*  
S. 2 Tim. 1: 1-18. ... *The Young Timothy.*  
S. Matt 18: 1-6. 19: 13-15. *Jesus and The Children.*

### BETWEEN THE LESSONS.

The first book of Samuel contains the history of the Israelites from the birth of Samuel, the last of the judges (B. C. 1149,) to the death of Saul, the first king (B. C. 1056.) At the beginning of this period Eli was high priest (ch. 1: 9) as well as judge. Hannah, Samuel's mother, had vowed that if the Lord would grant her a son, she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life. At his birth she called his name Samuel ("heard of God,") in grateful acknowledgment that God had heard her prayer. At the time of this lesson the child had been at the tabernacle at Shiloh, under the care of Eli, for several years. Read in preparation the two preceding chapters.

### LESSON PLAN.

- I. "The Child Ministering." vs 1-3.
- II. "The Child Called." vs. 4-8.
- III. "The Child Listening." vs. 9-13.

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

1. "Ministered"—performed duties suited to his age. "Before Eli"—under his direction. "Precious"—there were few revelations from God. "No open vision"—a public prophecy such as there had been through Moses and Joshua. 2. "In his place"—in a room near the tabernacle. 3. "Ere the lamp of God went out"—probably sometime after midnight. 4. "The Lord called Samuel"—probably from the holy place. 7. "Did not yet know the Lord"—he did not know God's voice, as he did afterward. 10. "The Lord came and stood"—this implies a visible appearance. 11. "Shall tingle"—with astonishment and fear, as when a loud sound is suddenly heard. 11. "Which I have spoken"—by a prophet. ch. 2: 27-36. "Will also make an end"—will not stop until the work is done. "He restrained them not"—by his weak indulgence he became a partaker of their sins.

### LIFE TEACHINGS.

1. "Even young children can minister unto the Lord."
2. "God calls them through parents and teachers, by conscience, by His Spirit and His Word."
3. "They should listen to God's calls and promptly obey them."
4. "They should heed and obey the admonitions of their parents."
5. "Parents who do not restrain their children will be punished."

We begin to doubt the inspiration of the Bible only when we get tired trying to live up to it.

The fact that you have no taste for life is no sign that you have too much religion. It may be liver trouble.

He is a sensible man who makes use of the sense of other people. Only the fool feels so full that he has no use for counsel.