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John 3. 1-16.
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guide and companion. This brother never left his charge. Whatever happened the two were always close together. Sometimes they overtook a happy company of travelers. Then the older brother was glad to see the younger one's enjoyment, and helped it on. Sometimes there was a dark and lonely piece of road, but there were always two to travel it; the little pilgrim was never alone—the brother was there!

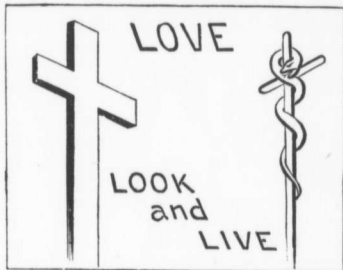
Now, isn't this like Jesus, our Lord? He is our Elder Brother, leading us home, and he is with us always and everywhere. Last Sunday we found him at a glad marriage feast, and in today's lesson we find him in the darkness and quiet of the night, with just one troubled man who wants to ask questions. With many or with few, it is always "that same Jesus," understanding us when we are glad, when we are sorry, when we are alone! How is this? Why does he keep so close? Why is he ready to help many to be happy, or one to find the truth? O, he loves us so. He came for love's sake. He was sent for love's sake. Our text says so. [Drill on Golden Text.] With such a text, "Love" is the word to go into our lesson link-to-day. Whose love comes first? Jesus's love. Whose should come next? Ours—yes, ours! How many links have we? Shine for Jesus, follow Jesus, believe on Jesus, love Jesus. "The lessons are all about Jesus, our Lord." [Sing verse given in Lesson I.]

[Let word-picture follow. Describe the quiet hour, the waiting, sympathizing, loving Saviour—the man of the Pharisees, the ruler of the Jews; the strange words, "Ye must be born again;" the man's perplexity, the illustration of the wind, the story of the serpent in the wilderness, lifted up that the bitten Israelites who looked might live, no matter how feeble the look, how sore the hurt, how far from the lifted serpent, nor how many had looked before. After giving details recall them by questions.]

The bite of those fiery serpents put poison in the veins of the people. Can life go on with poisoned blood? No, the poison must be taken out, and then it seems as if new life were in the body. We begin to live over again. Now, Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again. Just as a wee baby begins to live, with everything fresh and new, and with everything to learn and trusting some one to teach it always, so Jesus says we must be made over new, with the sin taken away and forgiven, and we must have a new heart altogether, like a little child's heart—loving and trusting and ready to learn. Jesus gives us this new life, but he wants us to look to him for it. Did those poor, bitten people in the wilderness make themselves well when they looked at the brazen serpent? O no; but

they did as they were told, and God did what he said he would. God wanted every one of them to be healed; so God wants every one to turn to Jesus with that loving look of trust that he asks for, and he will heal our hearts of sin and give us new life—a loving, trusting, obedient life.

Can we tell what the life of the body is? Yet we know when we are alive. The living body moves its hands and feet and lips, and shows in a hundred ways that it is alive. If Jesus's love lives in our hearts, we will show it by what we do. We know when the wind blows by what it does, though no one ever saw the wind. You never saw what we call love, but you know what love does. Jesus loves you; will you love him?



Study and Occupation for the Sub- primary Department.

CHRIST AND NICODEMUS. John 3. 1-16.

GOLDEN TEXT: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3. 16.

MEMORY GEM: "Ye must be born again." John 3. 7.

PREPARATORY: Call a table Jerusalem; build a wall of blocks about three sides, leaving the one facing the class open.

LESSON STORY: At Jerusalem are a lot of men who know much and spend their time telling others what to do. One of them is Nicodemus. Here he is [a sand-map man]. Nicodemus says to himself, "My books tell me much. Jesus can tell me more than my books. I will go and see him to-night." [Put stars on the wall.] These people [point to them] see him going, and say, "There goes the great Nicodemus! How good he is! How much he knows!"

Nicodemus has now reached the house where Jesus rests. [Place an Eastern house on the table.] He looks at Jesus—yes, he looks at God. Rabbi means master. Nicodemus calls Jesus rabbi, because he knows that Jesus knows more than he does. [Repeat verses 2 and 3.]