

the branches and twigs comes through the stalk. The life in the stalk comes from the root. (Teach Golden Text.)

Jesus is like the vine or stalk. Christians are like the branches. Little Christians are like the little twigs. Jesus gives life (spiritual) to the branches and twigs. True Christians are always joined to Him.

Show the broken-off, withered branch. Speak of the gardener trimming his trees, the vine-dresser pruning his vines and making a bonfire of the withered branches. Can the broken-off branch bear any leaves, or flowers or fruit, or have any life? Our Saviour says, "Without me ye can do nothing." It is Jesus who gives us strength and power to do right. Without Him we can do nothing good. Without Him we would all be like withered branches, worthless, useless, lifeless. It is only the boys and girls who go to Him and ask for His help, and work for Him, who lead useful, happy lives. Even in little boys' and girls' lives there are some little

sorrows, and Jesus gives strength and love and comfort to bear these little trials.

How do branches and twigs get broken off from the vine? Sometimes the wind blows hard (the environment of the children). Sometimes idle hands, out of mischief, break them off (evil companions). Little insects destroy them (sins) and they wither away.

Practical Thoughts.—A little blue insect comes on the grape vines in the spring, just when the bud is ready to open, and eats into the heart of the bud, and the bud withers and falls off. (Beware of little sins in the heart—temper, pride, disobedience, untruthfulness, selfishness, dishonesty, etc.) The only safe way is to keep close to Jesus, not let bad companions break us away. "If sinners entice thee, consent thou not." Ask Jesus' help. "WITHOUT JESUS I CAN DO NOTHING GOOD." *Abide in Jesus.* Let Him keep you in His army. *Confide* in Him, just as you do in mother.

LESSON VII.—May 14, 1899

CHRIST BETRAYED AND ARRESTED. John 18 : 1-14

PREVIEW THOUGHT: Christ Jesus saves by His Life and Death

Golden Text.—"He is despised and rejected of men."—Isa. 53 : 3.

To-day's Lesson Thought.—I should be true to Jesus.

Connection.—What do you remember about "The Vine Lesson"? Jesus told us how

useless our lives will be if we are not joined to Him. In our lesson to-day we are to hear about a man who was thought to be a true disciple, but who turned out to be a traitor, and became like a broken-off branch.

The Lesson.—(The teacher should study Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, for further details of this lesson.)

Introduce the lesson by speaking of British soldiers. Have the children ever seen the "red coats"? If not, a picture might be shown. Why do we have a soldier? (To defend us—to keep our enemies away.) The British flag, the Union Jack, is always carried with the soldiers when they go to fight, and they would die to keep it from falling into the hands of the enemy. (They are loyal to their flag, and to their captain. A soldier who betrays the flag or his comrades to

