

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS. FIRST QUARTER.

LESSON VI. (February 6.)

OUR FATHER'S CARE. Matt. 6. 24-34.

GOLDEN TEXT. "He careth for you." 1 Peter 5. 7.

Primary Notes.

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Helen lived in a tenement house in a big city, and there was hardly one pretty thing to be seen in the poor little rooms which she called her home. She was happy, you may know, when her teacher gave her a plant and told her how to take care of it. When a pure white lily blossomed out Helen was almost wild with joy! She wanted everyone to see it, and it was a blessed little messenger of peace to the great, dreary tenement house. It told to each one who saw it its sweet story of God's love and care, and so it made gentle thoughts, and called out kind words and acts. Yes, it is true that the same God who made the lily so beautiful and perfect made us, and he knows how to make us pure and beautiful too! And, what is still better, he wants to do it for each one of us.

Jesus the Preacher. How many of you have been to church and heard a preacher talk about heavenly things? It would be good if every child here could say, "I go to church every Sunday." How many here have been to church today? Do you know that Jesus preached when he was on earth? Very often he sat on a hillside to preach, or stood in a green field or on the seashore. One of his sermons was called the "Sermon on the Mount," because he sat on the side of a mountain to preach it, while the people stood below and around him to listen. Do you wish you might have heard him? If you will go to his house now, and ask him to speak to you, and then listen to hear what he will say, you may learn sweet lessons from him.

About choosing. One thing Jesus preached about that day was choosing. You know what it is to choose. Here are two paths. You may walk in one, but you cannot walk in both at once. You have to choose in which one to go. It is so about being good and bad at the same time. If you are good, then Jesus is your Master. If you are bad, it is because you have chosen to take Satan for your master. Are you not glad that you have the Holy Spirit to help you choose the

right way? Even if you have sometimes chosen the wrong path, the Holy One is always whispering, "Come back into the path of peace and safety," and you may come back and find Jesus waiting to welcome you!

Jesus and the birds. [Show the bird on the board. If you cannot draw a bird, you can at least pin up a picture of one.] Did you ever see a very tired man or woman? You know some people have to work very hard, and they get tired trying to make money enough to buy food to eat and clothes to wear. Jesus knows all the tired people, and all the sorry ones, and he wants them all to be rested and happy. So he told them that day on the hillside to look at the birds (very likely they were flying about as he talked), and to remember that they were his birds, and that he gave them their food and their pretty dress, and all he wanted them to do was to be his birds, and praise him in their little lives. Does Jesus, then, want us to be like the birds? Yes, in doing what he made us to do. He made the bird to live one kind of life, and us to live another kind. The bird obeys the law God gave for birds, and is happy. If we obey the law God gave for girls and boys, we shall be happy too. [Show the lily and talk about it, bringing out forcibly the lesson of God's love and care for all things he has made. This is a favorable time to impress the lesson of love and kindness to all living things. The cruelty of robbing birds' nests, and the greater cruelty of taking away their innocent lives to adorn ourselves, may here be shown.]

Jesus and the children. [Draw or put up a picture of a child on the board.] Whose bird is this? Who feeds it and dresses it? Who makes it glad and happy? And whose lily is this? Where did it get its lovely form, and color, and perfume? Yes, the bird and the lily belong to God, and he thinks about them. Could they live



and grow and be well and happy without the sunshine? See, we will make some of the sun rays. They fall on the bird, and on the lily, and