

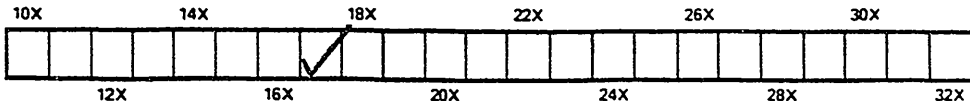
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AFTER THE SNOW-STORM.—(See third page.)

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSONS, FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSON 12.] GOD'S LOVE IN THE GIFT OF HIS SON. [DEC. 19.

1 John 4. 9-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.—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 VERSES, 9-11.—(Read Luke 2. 1-20.) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

To the folks at home : Please help the little folks to learn this lesson.

LESSON STORY.

It is very pleasant to receive a gift, is it not? God, our loving Father, has shown his love to us by giving us the most precious gift the world has ever known.

It was not because we loved him, but because he first loved us, that he sent his only Son into the world to save us, sinners.

This is our beautiful Christmas gift, Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, who lived and died for us, and who now lives in heaven for us. This is a beautiful love lesson, because God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

1. What does a gift show you?
That the giver loves you.
2. What is a sacrifice?
Giving up something.
3. Who gave up his only begotten Son?
God.
4. Why did he give such a precious gift?
As a ransom for our sins.
5. Why should we love one another?
Because God loves us.
6. How can we show that we have learned this lesson?
By putting it into practice.

AFTER THE SNOW-STORM.

All day long it has been snowing very hard. Great big flakes, of white snow have been coming down from the pure sky to cover the dirt and blackness of the earth. Very softly and gently have the flakes fallen, as though they were fluffy bits of feathers from the wings of the angels in heaven.

Of course we know they are not, but does it not seem sometimes, as we look out of our windows at the snow-storm, as though the good God had asked his angels to shake their wings a bit so that some of their soft feathers might descend to earth to beautify it and carry thoughts of purity and sweetness.

Like all the other blessings that fall from heaven, the snowflakes light on everything that will receive them, branches of trees, old fences, shabby houses, no matter how ugly and poor they may be, and covers everything with a pure robe of white. So may everyone, from the poorest little street-boy to the richest man, be clothed throughout eternity in the white garments of Heaven if they will receive its blessings here.

A MOTHER'S HAPPINESS.

"I feel very happy to-day," said a mother, "because my little boy has really tried to be good all day. Once when his sister teased him, and he spoke quickly and crossly to her, he turned around a moment after, of his own accord; and said that he was wrong, and asked her to forgive him. I believe that I should grow young, and never look tired or unhappy again, if every day my little boy and girl were as thoughtful, unselfish, and loving as they have been to-day."

A little girl who was a fretter had been visiting me. She fretted when it rained, and she fretted when the sun shone; she fretted when little girls came to see her, and she fretted when they did not. It is dreadful to be a fretter. I have lately come across a short rule for fretters: Never fret about what you cannot help, because it will not do you any good; never fret about what you can help, because, if you can help it, do so.



THE HOME-GUARD.

The feeling of Christmas is in the air. The children are looking eagerly forward to the happy time when they shall get the dolls and toys and sweets that Santa Claus brings at that happy season.

Dolly and Tommy Tomkins in our picture are showing how they will play at soldiering with some toys they got on their birthday. They have learned from their father, who is a captain of the volunteers, how to give the military salute. The father fondly calls them his little home-guard.

Isn't it a dreadful thing that in most countries in Europe all the boys are sent into the army, and many of them are killed in battle, or die of disease, or, worse still, become corrupt in their lives through the wicked war spirit. The Bible tells us that the day shall come when the nations shall learn war no more, but shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. May God hasten the day.