

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 1.

JULY 1st, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

The Birth of Jesus. Luke 2: 1-16.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Unto us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 11.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 10-14. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 17, 18, 1211, 20.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is the promised Messiah. Acts 17: 3.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH
Luke 2: 1-10.	Isa. 9: 1-6.	Isa. 40: 1-11.	Jno. 1: 1-14	1 Tim. 1: 12-17	2 Tim. 1: 1-10.	1 Jno. 4: 9-14.

To the Teacher.—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—We begin to-day a study of the whole life of Christ. It will occupy a year and a half, and should fill every one of us with increased admiration of the wonderful Saviour. It should help us to understand him better and love him more. Before you begin, ask him to help you to study every lesson well, and to make you more like himself. Be sure and read the whole story from the beginning, including John 1: 1-18; Luke 1: 1-80; and Matt. 1: 1-25.

The Roman Empire then embraced the whole known world. Rome itself was a city of about 6,000,000 inhabitants, and more wealthy and magnificent than London. Jerusalem had a population of more than 2,500,000.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Infant Saviour. vs. 1-7. II. The Angels' Song. vs. 8-14. III. The Shepherds' Visit. vs. 15, 16.

I. THE INFANT SAVIOUR. 1. In those days—Jesus was born four years before the date commonly given. The person whose calculations have been universally accepted was a monk named Dionysius Exiguus, who published them in A. D. 526. It is now quite certain that he made a mistake of four years, but since it would cause great inconvenience if we tried to change all the dates in all the books that have been, or shall be written, it is better to keep the incorrect date for use, but to remember that Christ was born at the end of A. D. 5, perhaps on December 25th. Caesar Augustus—The emperor of Rome. Our month of August is named from him. All the world—i. e. all the habitable world, for the Romans thought that what they had not conquered was not fit for human beings to live in. Taxed—R. V. "enrolled." It was a census-taking, partly with a view to taxation no doubt. 2. Cyrenius—his full Roman name was Publius Sulpicius Quirinus. He was again governor in A. D. 6, ten years after this, when the insurrection mentioned in Acts 5:37 occurred. Syria—The Roman province to which Palestine was attached. 3. His own city—Because there the family records were kept and he must be present at "roll-call." 4. Point out on the map the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Through what section of the country would they travel? City of David—1 Sam. 17: 12. Mention some other events for which Bethlehem was famous. Gen. 35: 16; Ruth 1: 2; Matt. 2: 16. The name Bethlehem means "House of Bread," it was also called Ephrath or "fruitful." 6. They may have had to wait there some time. Swaddling clothes—Strips of cloth about four inches wide and several feet long, which were bound around the child. He needed all the care bestowed

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upon any other babe. He was as helpless as any other infant although the Lord of glory Manger—Many others had come to Bethlehem on the same errand, and the inn was full of strangers. It often happens still in the east, where the inn is only an enclosed space with small apartments around its sides, that travellers have to put up with the room usually allotted to the domestic animals. The manger was a trough of wood or stone out of which the cattle, or other beasts, ate their food. Now was fulfilled Micah 5: 2; 2 Sam. 7: 16.

II. THE ANGELS' SONG. 8. **Shepherds abiding in the fields**—In December, in Palestine, the weather is warm and the fields are covered with fresh green grass. Farmers are then plowing and sowing. 9. **An angel of the Lord stood by them**—(R. V.) came suddenly upon them. **The glory of the Lord**—The bright symbol of the divine presence. Ex. 24: 16; Acts 7: 55. **Sore afraid**—lit. "feared a great fear," a fear that caused agony. **Fear not**—conscious guilt makes men afraid, but Christ came to take away such fear. 1 John 4: 18. **I bring you good tidings**—This is one word in the Greek and from it comes "to evangelize" or "preach the gospel." The angel was the first evangelist. **To all the people**—(R. V.)—Not for the rich, or the learned only, but for all. 11. **A Saviour**—Matt. 1: 21. **Christ**—Same as Messiah, and means "the anointed One." Matt. 16: 16; Acts 2: 36. **The Lord**—The angel gives Him the title by which God was known to these shepherds, thereby asserting His divinity. 12. **A sign**—This was "a newborn babe cradled in a manger." The only infant in all Bethlehem so feeble and so humbly provided for. 14. **In the highest**—This may mean (1) in the highest heaven, or, (2) in the loftiest strains, or, (3) in the highest degree. **Peace**—between man and God, between man and man, within the heart of man. John 14: 27. **Goodwill towards men**—This was the angelic prelude to John 3: 16. God's "goodwill" led him to send his Son. The Revised Version here reads "Peace on earth to men of goodwill," or "among men in whom he is well pleased." But this interpretation of the words is not generally accepted as correct.

III. THE SHEPHERDS' VISIT. 15. They did not say "let us go and see whether the news is true or not." They believed at once and went to seek the Saviour. Is Jesus waiting still for you to come? 16. **With haste**—In their eagerness they lost no time. **Found**—"Discovered" after searching. Read Matt. 7: 7; Isa. 55: 6; Luke 18: 1.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without accepting aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

1.—Where was the home of Joseph and Mary? (3)

2.—Why did they go to Bethlehem? (6)

3.—In what kind of a place was Jesus born, and what was his cradle? (3)

4.—What happened on the plains outside of Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth? (5)

5.—What was the angels' song? (4)

6.—What did the shepherds do? (4)

Name

Dear Teacher.—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church
I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.