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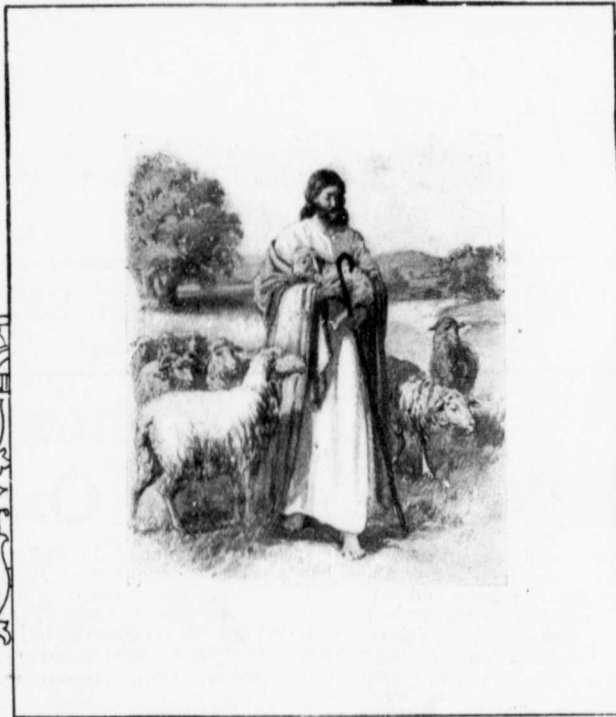
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PRIMARY QUARTERLY



The Home Study Series

For the Little Ones

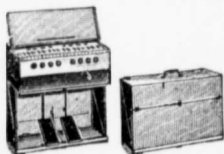
Sabbath School Publications
* Presbyterian Church in Canada *

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GOURLAY, WINTER & LEEMING
188 Yonge Street, Toronto

The Primary Quarterly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D., Associate Editor

Vol. VIII.

October, November, December, 1903

No. 4

The PRIMARY QUARTERLY considers itself very highly privileged in being allowed to be with the mothers and their little ones in those sweet hours, when the little ones come for their story. There are no stories quite so good as the Bible stories, and our highest ambition is to make these stories so attractive that parents will like to tell them, and the wee boys and girls will like to hear them.

What splendid stories we have had during the year now closing? Next to our Lord Himself no one in the Bible is better known or better worth knowing than Paul, and none have greater charms than Samuel and David. Next year it is to be that loveliest of all stories, that of our blessed Lord and Saviour, for the first six months, and then such as Solomon, the magnificent king, and Elijah and Elisha, God's prophets. It will be a great year.

HYMN FOR A CHILD

God gave me a little light
To carry as I go ;
Bade me keep it clear and bright,
Shining high and low.
Bear it steadfast, without fear,
Shed its radiance far and near,
Make the path before me clear
With its friendly glow.

God gave me a little song
To sing upon my way :
Rough may be the road, and long,
Dark may be the day ;

Yet a little bird can wing,
Yet a little flower can spring,
Yet a little child can sing,
Make the whole world gay.

God gave me a little heart
To love whate'er He made ;
Gave me strength to bear my part,
Glad and unafraid.
Through Thy word so fair, so bright,
Father, guide my steps aright !
Thou my song and thou my light,
So my trust is stayed.

MOTHERS AND STORIES

By Nannie Lee Frayser

We have come to a new day of story telling as a power in the lives of children. It has been a power all along the ages, but we have scarcely realized what a large place it holds in shaping the imagination and the thought, and subsequently the action of children. Day school teachers have realized this, and are using the story very effectively in the nature work that forms the basis of language, and determines the early vocabulary of the pupil.

Sabbath School teachers everywhere are using the

STORY FORMS,

to familiarize their scholars with the beautiful things in the Word of God, and teach them a reverence for His handiwork and a love for His name.

How wonderful the power of a simple story! A child will sit entranced while a good story teller is teaching him profound

truth, while he little suspects that he is being *taught* anything. He thinks he is being entertained and amused, but ask him, long afterward, about that story, and you will find that the germinal thought has stayed with him.

Sabbath School teachers have the children only a short while on the Sabbath day and not all of that time can be taken up with the Bible Story—how they almost envy the mother her great and gracious privilege!

Of course a child will

LISTEN TO MOTHER

often, when he will not listen to any one else. It is true, if mother says so—it is a good story if mother likes it—and most of all, in telling it over again to a friend he glories in saying, "My mother told me that story."

His mother knows him through and through in all his moods and can fit her story to his needs. She sympathizes with his little struggles, his self-will, his thoughtlessness, his disappointments, and so she knows just *how* to tell the story that it may do him the most good.

She has her

MATERIAL

at hand in the greatest Story Book that was ever written, full of adventure, prowess, romance, travel, scholarship, miracle, history, duty and love.

Because of the very atmosphere she creates around her children she knows how to introduce her subject in such a way as to attract and hold her audience. She does not have to learn the rules, "Collect material, select material, arrange material, and work out a climax." She knows where to find her

POINT OF CONTACT,

what point needs to be amplified, what subject contracted, where the climax belongs. In short, she knows her child, and her knowledge of the Bible and its fitness to the needs of every child, does the rest.

It might be suggested that to be full of a subject is an earnest that you will have need of that subject some day.

Little children would rather be introduced to Moses, David, Samuel, Jonathan, Joseph, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Elijah, the

prophets, priests and kings, by mother than by any one else.

Children like to be mystified, as their love for fairy stories so well proves. In telling some of the older and more familiar stories it is sometimes helpful to begin them in some

UNEXPECTED WAY

and lead the child to wonder what will come next.

The animals in the Bible are full of interest to children, the sheep and lambs and goats, the camels and donkeys, the cattle and horses, the wolf, lion and bear.

The deeds of valor are particularly charming to them, the battles between the Israelites and Philistines, David and Goliath, Gideon and the Three Hundred, Saul and his enemies, etc. etc. etc.

The acts of brotherly kindness such as Joseph showed, and David too; of loving kindness of children like the captive maid in Naaman's house, of rewards for kindness shown, like Elijah raising the son of the widow who had given him her last cake, etc., etc., etc.

Above all they love the miracles and the parables in the life of Christ. There is food for a life time and promise of eternal life in this wonderful Book, that is to become part of the life of the children, through the loving administrations of the mothers, who are telling them to-day the greatest truths in story form, in the evening rest hour, in the drowsy summer afternoons, in the morning rambles and at bedtime, the

SWEET, AUSPICIOUS TIMES

when only mother can come close to the little heart and leave there the indelible impression of her loving touch!

Louisville, Kentucky

PROMISES

Nellie had a habit of saying, "Promise me." One day she had asked mamma if she might have a birthday party. When mamma said yes, Nellie said, "Please promise me, mamma."

"Why, Nellie," said mamma, "yes is a promise."

"I know it," said Nellie, "but when you say, 'I promise,' it makes me feel so sure."

When Jesus made a special promise to his disciples, he began by saying "Verily."

Never forget that a promise is a very solemn thing, and when you make one be sure that you keep it.

THE BURDEN OF PLAY

By Margaret Sherwood

Not long ago, I had a conversation with a little girl of to-day that set me to thinking of many things. She came into the library, breathless and red of cheek from running, and flung herself down upon a rug, stretching out her sturdy legs to rest.

"O dear! I'm so tired of playing!" she said, "I've played Puss-in-the-Corner, and Blind Man's Buff, and I've taken the dog for a walk, and now Lucy" (Lucy was the nurse) "says I must come out and play something else, 'cause it's such a lovely day."

"Do you ever get tired of playing?" I asked, surprised, for I could not remember anything similar in my own experience as a child.

"Heaps of times," said the little girl, mournfully, "I scarcely ever have any time to myself, you know. I like to think: don't you?"

"That depends," I said, "on what it is about."

"I like to think 'most always," said the child, "and just when I begin to have a nice time reading, or something, I remember that I ought to play with the doll that Aunt Alice gave me, for fear she will think I don't like it, or with the playhouse that Uncle Norton gave me. And I do get tired of entertaining the dog!"

Just here a voice called, "Edith! Edith!" and my visitor climbed to her feet and ran away. Outside the library windows Lucy was waiting to tell Miss Edith to run down to the gate with Robert, because, Lucy explained, when her charge demanded why, running was good for her, and developed her legs.

I know a flock of little girls who have

long, delicious hours when they are allowed to run wild in the fields, and who are developing in a thousand ways that the most careful educator could not have suggested. Walking through the fields one day last summer, I saw the whole flock sitting on a high board gate with arms outspread. With one swoop they lighted at my feet and explained what they were doing.

"We are learning to fly!" said the oldest one, breathlessly. "We can do it ever and ever so much better than when we began."

"We're going to keep on doing it, and then we'll teach our little children to do it, and they will teach their children, and by and by everybody can fly just as well as not" said the third little girl.

"If I had only kept on flying ever since I was a baby," said the second, mournfully, "I could do it ever so much better. I don't know why I stopped."

How I wished that all small children could be given what these little girls had, a chance to find their own wings and fly.

Nothing, to a thoughtful child, can ever take the place of those hours when the sun shines, and the shadows of the lattice or of leafy branches fall somewhere on the grass, and ideas and fancies come from far away to wander up and down with him. "The thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts," and thrice blessed are the children who are allowed to think them.—The Interior.

SHOES

Did you ever think how many kinds of shoes are worn in this world?

There are the sandals of the Arab, the thick-soled shoes of the Chinese men, and the tiny handmade cloth ones of the poor bound-footed woman. There are the straw sandals of the Japanese, the soft buckskin moccasins of the Indian, all beaded over, or embroidered with colored porcupine quills by the squaws, and many other sorts besides the pretty walking boots and comfortable slippers worn by girls and boys in this country.

When you put on your shoes in the morning, are you careful to put the right one on the right foot and the left on the left foot?

If not, you have to change them. Do you know that shoes were not made in this comfortable way at first? It is one hundred and one years since a fashionable boot-maker in Philadelphia invented "rights and lefts." And a very good invention it was.

It is well to stop and think now and then how many good things we have in this day which were not known long ago.

TALENTS

"I remember," said Grannie, "when I was a little girl of seven years old, my father kept a butler—a very solemn, but very kind old man.

"Every night when, exactly as the clock struck eight, my aunt sent me out of the dining room to go upstairs to bed by myself—for little girls were brought up very strictly in those days—old Thomas was always waiting in the hall to hand me my little brass candlestick to light me up the five long flights of stairs which I had to climb to the little attic room where I slept. I always said, 'Good night, Thomas,' and he would reply in a very slow, solemn way, 'Good night, Miss Nannie; don't forget to take account of your servants!'

"What he meant was this: My Uncle William, who had come home from India when I was about six years old, had been very kind to me while he stayed with my father, because he saw that I was a very lonely little child in a very big, empty house; for I had neither mother, brother nor sister. So he would often take me on his knee and tell me Bible stories.

"One day, when we were sitting together in an old summer house in the very small back garden which town houses generally have, he told me the parable of the 'Talents.'

"'Nannie,' he said, 'I am going away very soon, and I want you to promise me that every night before you get into bed you will 'take account of your servants.'"

"'See here,' he said, taking my little hands in his, 'here are ten little fingers, and down there inside your shoes are ten little toes; and inside that mouth is a little tongue; and at each side of this neat brown head is an ear; and looking straight up at

me are two brown eyes. Now, these are all your servants, or "talents," given to you by God to use—while many little children are lame or dumb or deaf or blind,—and you are his little servant, and I want you every night to "take account of your servants," and find out if they have been pleasing God or only pleasing yourself all through the day.

"'For all these servants of yours are "talents," or gifts from God, and He is watching every day now what you give them to do, and one day He will make you give an account of their doings.'

"And then, after I had promised to do as he told me, he kissed me and set me down, and away I ran to my kind old friend Thomas, to tell him in my own way all about what Uncle William had said.

"And from that time until my aunt took me away to live in the country, old Thomas never forgot every night to say, 'Don't forget to take account of your servants, Miss Nannie.'"—Christian Observer.

GOD LOVING HIS PEOPLE

We shall be glad to learn more of David, the shepherd lad who became the king of God's people. In the Lessons of the new Quarter we shall follow his life right on to the time of his old age. Then we shall have some Lessons about his son, the wise Solomon. Sometimes our path will lead us into the shadows of sin and sorrow, and sometimes we shall walk in the sunshine of joy and prosperity. But whether in darkness or in light, the love of God to His people never changes. That love appears in every Lesson. We see GOD LOVING HIS PEOPLE

1. By requiring reverence.
2. By promising a permanent home.
3. By leading to repentance.
4. By granting forgiveness.
5. By teaching parental respect.
6. By telling of a father's love.
7. By making known His tender care.
8. By pointing out danger.
9. In a father's solemn charge.
10. By directing to a proper choice.
11. By dwelling in His temple.
12. By raising His servant to honor.

*Miss S. A. Readman
13 Borden St.
Jorn*

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

FOR PRIMARY CLASSES OR A HOME LESSON

Fourth Quarter, 1903

I. A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING. (Tune 212, Book of Praise.)

Oh Father for Thy tender love, We thank Thee, we praise Thee, We lift our happy songs above, To praise and bless Thy name, For parents, teachers, friends we meet, We thank Thee, we praise Thee.	For Sabbath days and lessons sweet, We praise and bless Thy name, For Jesus, who all blessings gives, We thank Thee, we praise Thee ; For us He died, for us He lives, We praise and bless Thy name.
--	---

II. ALL RECITE. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, Ps. 92 : 1.

III. SING.

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful—
The Lord God made them all.

The cold wind in the winter, The pleasant summer sun, The ripe fruits in the garden— He made them every one.	He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well. --Hymn 512, Book of Praise
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IV. PRAYER. Children repeating after teacher.

V. OFFERINGS.

VI. TEACHER. What kind of a giver does God love?

CLASS. The Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

TEACHER. What has God given us?

CLASS. God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS. On alternate Sabbaths, repeat the 23rd Psalm and take up the Life of Christ, questioning the class upon it.

VIII. HYMN. Alternate Hymns 585 and 519, Book of Praise.

For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew, He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew ; And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.	And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love, For that Child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above ; And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone. —Hymn 519, Book of Praise
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IX. PRAYER. Asking blessing on the Lesson.

X. LESSON FOR THE DAY.

XI. HYMN. Suitable for Lesson from Book of Praise.

XII. RECITE IN CONCERT. For this God is our God for ever and ever : he will be our Guide even unto death, Psalm 48 : 14.

XIII. DISMISSAL HYMN. "Now the day is over,"—Book of Praise, Hymn 571.

Lesson I.

DAVID BRINGS UP THE ARK

October 4, 1903

2 Sam. 6 : 1-12. Study 2 Sam. 6 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.—Ps. 84 : 4.

1 Again, Da'vid gathered together all the chosen men of Is'rael, thirty thousand.

2 And Da'vid arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Ba'ale of Ju'dah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the Lord of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abi'nadab that was in Gib'eah ; and Uzz'ah and Ahi'o, the sons of Abi'nadab, drave the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abi'nadab which was at Gib'eah, accompanying the ark of God : and Ahi'o went before the ark.

5 And Da'vid and all the house of Is'rael played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

6 And when they came to Na'chon's threshing-floor, Uzz'ah put forth his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it ; for the oxen

kindled against Uzz'ah ; and God smote him there for his error ; and there he died by the ark of God.

8 And Da'vid was displeased, because the Lord had made a breach upon Uzz'ah ; and he called the name of the place Pe'rez-uzz'ah to this day.

9 And Da'vid was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, How shall the ark of the Lord come to me ?

10 So Da'vid would not remove the ark of the Lord unto him into the city of Da'vid : but Da'vid carried it aside into the house of O'bed-e'dom the Gitt'ite.

11 And the ark of the Lord continued in the house of O'bed-e'dom the Gitt'ite three months ; and the Lord blessed O'bed-e'dom, and all his household.

12 And it was told king Da'vid, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of O'bed-e'dom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So Da'vid went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-edom into the city of Da'vid with gladness.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The most precious thing belonging to the Israelites was the holy ark of the covenant. Inside its golden box was kept the book of the law, and upon the lid, or mercy seat, the presence of God rested in blessing continually.

During the war with the Philistines the ark had been taken by the enemy. But as it brought only trouble and sickness to them, it was soon returned to the Israelites, who now had no place to keep it, for the tabernacle had been broken down in the war. So it was placed for safe-keeping in the house of Abinadab for twenty years.

When David became king, his first wish

was to bring the ark of God to Zion, his own city. And to show his respect for it, and for the worship of the God of Israel, King David took with him a guard of thirty thousand fighting men, and came to the door of Abinadab's house in the wood.

Now there was an old law forbidding that the ark should be even touched by any others than the priests or Levites. But David, overlooking this, had arranged that it should be placed upon a new ox-cart and driven to the city by Uzzah and Ahio, the young sons of Abinadab.

When all was ready, the procession started amidst great rejoicing, and for a time all

Miss Robinson

went well. They had almost reached the city when one of the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah, seeing that the ark was about to fall, carelessly tried to steady it with his hand, as if it had been a common thing.

Suddenly the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah because of his disobedience, and he fell from his place dead.

A great terror came upon David and his men, and, fearing he might make some other mistake, the king ordered the procession to halt. And they carried the ark into a neighboring house, where there lived a man called Obed-edom, who gave it shelter for three months.

Now God so blessed Obed-edom and his family because of the ark, that the men of Zion begged that it might be brought into their city.

Then David and his men went forth again, and, with shouting and dancing and singing, the ark was carried on the shoulders of the Levites into Zion, the city of David, where it was set up with rejoicing, and all the people offered thank-offerings and worship before the Lord.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What was the ark? 2. Why was it precious? 3. Why was it in the house of Abinadab? 4. Where did David wish to place it? 5. What was the law about moving it? 6. How did David arrange to bring it to his city? 7. What happened to one of the oxen by the way? 8. What mistake did Uzzah make? 9. How was he punished for his disobedience? 10. How was the ark at last brought to Zion? 11. How did the king and people honor it? 12. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

Effie was on the steps ready for school.

"Come across the street," called Marion, "I'll wait for you."

"Not until the horses go by," said Effie.

"Mother told me never to cross when there were any in sight."

"Where's the danger?" said Marion.

But as she spoke the horses became suddenly frightened, and dashed headlong over the very crossing that Effie would have

taken. Seeing the runaway, mother flew to the door, and clasping Effie in her arms, she said, "Oh, my darling, what danger you have been in!"

"Why, mother, you told me not to cross when I saw horses," said Effie, "and of course I wouldn't. How could they hurt me?"

Lesson Hymn

O happy souls that pray
Where God appoints to hear!
O happy men that pay
Their constant service there! Amen.
—Hymn 387, Book of Praise

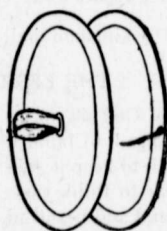
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—48. How long did Jesus remain on earth after He rose from the dead? Jesus remained forty days on earth after His resurrection. **49.** What was Jesus doing for His disciples during the forty days after His resurrection? He came to His disciples at different times to comfort and teach them.

SHORTER CATECHISM—96. What is the Lord's supper? A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, His death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood, with all His benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Our lesson tells about a joyful procession. These people were glad because they had the ark with them. This was the sign of



God's presence. They showed their joy by playing on cymbals and other musical instruments. The cymbals are shown in the drawing. We, too, should rejoice because God is with us.

I Have Learned Today
THAT I SHOULD BE REVERENT

Lesson
me
mill

Lesson II.

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

October 11, 1903

2 Sam. 7 : 4-16. Study 2 Sam. 7 : 1-29—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—Thy throne shall be established for ever.—2 Sam. 7 : 16.

4 And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Na'than, saying,
5 Go and tell my servant Da'vid, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in ?

6 Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Is'rael out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Is'rael spake I a word with any of the tribes of Is'rael, whom I commanded to feed my people Is'rael, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar ?

8 Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant Da'vid, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Is'rael :

9 And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

10 Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Is'rael, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more ; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.

11 And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Is'rael, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

13 He shall build up an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

14 I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men :

15 But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee : thy throne shall be established for ever.

THE LESSON RE'VOLD

No sooner was the ark of God set up on Mount Zion than David longed to build a magnificent temple in which to keep it safe forever. He could not bear to think that, while he was living in a grand and beautiful palace, the place of worship for the people was nothing but a poor tent. So he talked the matter over with the prophet Nathan, who was much pleased that the king should wish to honor the Lord in this way.

But that same night Nathan had a message from God in a dream, saying, "Go, tell my servant David that there is no reason why he should be in such haste to build Me a house. Did I not meet with My people in

a tent (the tabernacle) all the years they were in the wilderness? Neither then nor now do I require a costlier dwelling place."

But the Lord did not intend that David should be disappointed in his great wish to honor Him before the people. And though He refused to allow him to build the temple, He promised him a far greater blessing. It was, that he should be the first of a great family of kings who should prepare the way for the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

And the Lord reminded David how He had stood by him ever since He first called him, a poor shepherd boy, to be prince of Israel. He also made a new covenant or

agreement with him, saying, "As I have driven out your enemies from before you until you have become one of the greatest kings in the world, so will I through you bless and strengthen My people Israel. Your strong arm shall win them peace. They shall no longer wander from place to place, neither shall their enemies oppress them any more."

Not only did the Lord promise David that the kingdom should never pass away from his family as it had from Saul's, but He said, "When you are gone, your son Solomon shall be king, and he shall build a temple to My name. I will bless and prosper him as I have blessed you, and will train and help him to govern wisely. So shall thy house and kingdom be made strong forever!"

Questions on the Lesson

1. What was David's plan for keeping the ark safe? 2. What other reason had he for wishing to build a beautiful temple? 3. What place of worship had the people? 4. What message did God send to David through Nathan His prophet? 5. Did He allow David to carry out his plan? 6. What great promise did He make him instead? 7. What blessing did God say should come to the people through David? 8. Whom did the Lord say should build Him a temple? 9. What blessing did He promise Solomon? 10. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

A prosperous doctor, whose life has been a blessing to all who know him, tells this story of himself: "I was born a cripple in a poor family. One day, as I stood watching the sports of some college boys, a young man, reading my thoughts, said to me, 'You wish you were in the place of those boys? I reckon God gave them money and education and health to be of some account in the world. Did it ever strike you He gave you your lame leg for the same reason—to make a man of you?'

"The thought took hold of me. From that hour I set to work to make something of myself, and by God's grace I have succeeded."

It is not always what God gives, but what

He holds back, that proves our greatest blessing.

Lesson Hymn

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
There forever to abide;
All the heavenly host adore Thee,
Seated by Thy Father's side. Amen.
—Hymn 68, Book of Praise

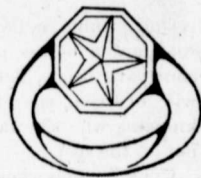
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—50. What happened at the end of forty days? After forty days Jesus went up to heaven. **51. What is Jesus now doing for us in heaven?** He intercedes for us, and He rules over all things for our good.

SHORTER CATECHISM—97. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's supper? A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

There was a time when signet-rings like this were often used by kings and other great men, to stamp a wax seal on their



letters. The signet-ring was of great value to its owner. Now God says in His Book, that His servants are to Him like a signet-ring. Is it not wonderful, to be of so much worth to Him?

I Have Learned Today
THAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE SURE

DAVID'S CONFESSION

Oct. 18, 1902

Psalm 51 : 1-17. Study Psalm 51 : 1-19—Memory Verses, 1-4.

Golden Text—Create in me a clean heart, O God.—Psalm 51 : 10.

1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness : according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions : and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight : that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity ; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts : and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean : wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness ; that the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice.

9 Hide thy face from sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God ; and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence ; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation ; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.

13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways ; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation : and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

15 O Lord, open thou my lips ; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

16 For thou desirest not sacrifice ; else would I give it : thou delightest not in burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit : a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One evening, as David was walking on the roof-garden of his palace, he saw in the courtyard below, Bath-sheba, the beautiful wife of Uriah, one of his soldiers, and not knowing who she was, he fell in love with her on the spot.

Upon hearing whose wife she was, David's next step was to give orders that in battle Bath-sheba's husband should be put in such a place that he would surely be killed. Then, as soon as Uriah was dead, David took Bath-sheba to be his wife.

Hearing what had been done, the prophet Nathan brought David a message from the Lord to show him how terribly he had sinned, and that he should be punished before all Israel.

Then David understood how great his sin

was, and prayed to God to forgive him, saying, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according unto Thy loving kindness, according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions."

And David wrote all the words of his prayer in his book of songs or psalms, that his people and all the world might know how bitterly he had repented of the evil he had done.

Making no excuse for himself, David confessed to the Lord, saying, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight. I acknowledge my transgressions : and my sin is ever before me."

But notwithstanding all he had done, David believed that God was able and willing to make his guilty heart as clean and

pure as the snow itself. And so he prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." He did not wish his life to be made better on the outside only, but longed most of all for the old happy feelings of love and peace toward God that he had lost through sin. "Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy spirit from me," he cried with his whole heart.

David knew that his sin was so much the greater because of the high position which he held before the people. And he promised the Lord, if only He would restore him again to the joy and gladness of His favor, he would spend his life in teaching others to love and obey Him. "O Lord," he said again, "open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

Questions on the Lesson

1. What message did Nathan bring King David after he had sinned?
2. What did David do?
3. How did he show that he was sorry for what he had done?
4. Whose laws had he broken?
5. What did David believe God could do for him?
6. For what did he long most of all?
7. Why was David's sin greater than that of others?
8. How did he promise to make up for the evil he had done?
9. What did he say was more pleasing to God than offerings?
10. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

"I'll give five cents to whichever one of you finds one of my balls that is lost," said one of the young men to Willie and Bobby at the tennis courts.

"I have to go on an errand," said Bobby to Willie, "but suppose we divide the field in half, and I'll come back and look in mine."

Before long Willie spied the ball. It was under the stick between Bobby's half and his own. "It is in my half," he cried, picking it up. But was it? After a struggle, for he wanted the money badly, he put

the ball back in the hole, and when Bobby came they both looked at it.

"See," said Bobby, "the stick isn't straight. We put it crooked. The ball is on your side."

How glad Willie felt now that he had shown Bobby the right place, and had taken no mean advantage of him.

Lesson Hymn

Let me at a throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition
Help my unbelief. Amen.
—Hymn 168, Book of Praise

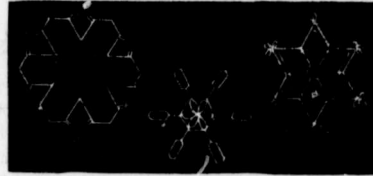
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—52. What promise did Jesus make to His disciples when He was going away? Jesus promised to send them another Comforter, or Helper, to remain with them forever.

SHORTER CATECHISM—98. What is prayer? A. Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Look at these beautiful, white snow-crystals. Did you ever see anything purer than



the newly-fallen snow. David prayed that God would make his heart as pure as this. God will make our hearts pure if we ask Him.

**I Have Learned To-day that
I SHOULD BE SORRY FOR MY SINS**

Psalm 32—Memory Verses, 5-7.

Golden Text—Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—
Ps. 32 : 1.



1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me : my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.

5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD ; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found : surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

7 Thou art my hiding place ; thou shalt preserve me from trouble ; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go : I will guide thee with mine eye.

9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding : whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked : but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous : and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When David had confessed his sin before the Lord and had received His forgiveness, he felt so full of joy and gladness, that he immediately wrote another Psalm, this time a song of thanksgiving and praise to God for all His loving-kindness and mercy.

"Blessed is the man," sang David, "whose transgression and rebellion are forgiven and whose sin is covered. Blessed is he whom the Lord hath pardoned, for his wrong-doing is blotted out ; it is gone, it shall stand no more against him forever."

At first, when David fell into sin, he had tried to forget the evil he had done and to hide it from his people and from God. But he soon found this was a great mistake. Every day he grew more and more miserable.

Speaking of this unhappy time, he said, "I felt like a man carrying a load too heavy for him, and which was slowly and surely

crushing him to death. I was like a tree whose roots and leaves were being dried up for want of water.

"When I could bear it no longer, I said, 'I will confess my sin unto the Lord. I acknowledged my fault before Him, keeping back nothing.'

"That very moment the Lord heard me and freely and quickly forgave me.

"What He has done for me He will do also for others," said David. "Not only will God forgive sin, but He will give special strength and help to His servants in time of trouble and temptation. I have now no anxious thoughts for the future," wrote David, "for whatever comes, God is my hiding-place. He shall preserve me from trouble and shall surround me with songs of deliverance."

Neither was David, after this, afraid, as he had been before, to have the Lord see all that he was doing. He was delighted when God

said, "I will instruct thee in the way thou shalt go. I will guide thee with mine eye."

"It seems to me," said David, looking over his past life, "that those who try to follow their own way instead of God's way, are no better than the foolish horses or mules, which, because they have so little sense, require to be held in with bit and bridle before their masters can drive them."

"Surely God is not a hard Master to those who love Him. It is true the wicked shall have many sorrows, but no real harm can come to those who put their whole trust in the Lord. They ought to be the happiest people in the world," said David, ending his song with these words: "Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did David show his thankfulness to God for forgiveness? 2. What had become of his sins? 3. How had he at first tried to get rid of them? 4. What two things did he say his life was like at this time? 5. How did he at last get rid of his burden? 6. How did God receive him? 7. What promise did the Lord give David? 8. What did he say about God as a Master? 9. Who did he say would have trouble in their lives? 10. Who are the happiest people? 11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

Donald and Dorothy had gone into the library after school to look at the beautiful books which had been presented to their father by his students. For a time everything went pleasantly, until they both happened to want the same book at the same time. "I got it first," said Dorothy.

"No, you didn't," said Donald.

Then a struggle began in which the book got pushed off the table and fell on the floor. Putting out his hand to catch it, Donald knocked over the inkstand, which fell dripping on top of it.

"Oh, what shall we do?" cried Dorothy.

"We'll just put the blotted book away under all the others," said Donald. Then father will think one of the maids did it in tidying up the room,"

But he had no peace, and that night he asked his father's forgiveness with sobs and tears. Then his father, pleased to find his little boy had told the truth, freely and fully forgave him.

Lesson Hymn

If I come to Jesus,
He will hear my prayer,
For He loves me dearly,
And my sins did bear. Amen.
—Hymn 553, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—53. Who is the Comforter or Helper whom Jesus promised to send to His disciples? The Holy Spirit is the Comforter whom Jesus promised to send.

SHORTER CATECHISM—99. What rule hath God given for our direction in prayer? A. The whole word of God is of use to direct us in prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, commonly called *The Lord's Prayer*.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Most boys and girls have seen tiny chickens running under the wings of the big



mother hen. How safe they are there! Jesus has said that He will protect us as carefully and tenderly as the hen guards her little ones.

**I Have Learned To-day
THAT GOD FORGIVES ME**

Lesson V.

DAVID AND ABSALOM

November 1, 1903

2 Sam. 15 : 1-12. Study 2 Sam. 15 : 1-23—Memory Verses, 4-6.

Golden Text—Honour thy father and thy mother : that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Ex. 20 : 12.



1 And it came to pass after this, that Ab'salom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 And Ab'salom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate : and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Ab'salom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Is'rael.

3 And Ab'salom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right ; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.

4 Ab'salom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!

5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

6 And on this manner did Ab'salom to all Is'rael that came to the king for judgment : so Ab'salom stole the hearts of the men of Is'rael.

7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Ab'salom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the Lord, in He'bron.

8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Ge'shur in Syr'ia, saying, If the Lord shall bring me again indeed to Jeru'salem, then I will serve the Lord.

9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to He'bron.

10 But Ab'salom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Is'rael, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Ab'salom reigneth in He'bron.

11 And with Ab'salom went two hundred men out of Jeru'salem, that were called ; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

12 And Ab'salom sent for Abi'thophel the Gi'lonite, Da'vid's counsellor, from his city, even from Gi'loh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong ; for the people increased continually with Ab'salom.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Among David's sons, Absalom was the favorite with the people. He was the handsomest man in Israel, had charming manners, and lived in greater state than even the king himself, having fifty men to run before his chariot wherever he went.

Now David had made Absalom his heir, but the young man was not content to wait until his father's death, but was all the time plotting how he might put David off the throne and be king in his place.

One of Absalom's plans for getting the good-will of the people was to rise up early in the morning and stand beside the road leading to the gate of the king's palace, where the people passed in to do business

with the king and his officers. At once, when any man came who had a dispute to be settled, Absalom would take his part, saying, " You are entirely in the right ; but you need not expect to get justice at the court, for the king is getting so old that he neglects his business, and has appointed no one to try such cases as yours. Oh," said Absalom, " that I were judge in the land, that every man who had a difficulty might come to me and I would give him justice." And the false prince would graciously put out his hand for the people to kiss, as they bowed before him. Thus, little by little, he stole the people's love away from his father.

One day Absalom said to David, " Let me

go with my servants to Hebron, the place where I was born, that I may worship and offer sacrifice before the Lord. For, when I was away in the wilderness, I made a promise to the Lord, saying that if He would bring me home safely, I would build an altar of thanksgiving to Him in Hebron."

Thinking he was speaking the truth, David said to his son, "Go in peace and do as you have said." Then Absalom sent messengers to his friends throughout the country, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of my men blowing on their trumpets, begin to shout, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'"

Now Absalom had invited two hundred of the chief men of Jerusalem, who knew nothing of his wicked plans, to go with him to the sacrifice. And while the feast was going on he sent also for Ahithophel, the wisest of David's counsellors, and had himself proclaimed king in Hebron, the people flocking to join him. So Absalom rebelled against his father.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Who was Absalom? 2. For what was he admired by the people? 3. What did he want to be? 4. What plan did he take to gain the good-will of the people? 5. What falsehood did he tell them? 6. What did he promise to do if he were king? 7. Why did he say he wished to go to Hebron? 8. What was his real reason? 9. What secret message did he send to his friends? 10. Whom did he at last win to his side? 11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

In the time when birds and animals were supposed to talk, a quail got caught in a trapper's snare. He struggled to free himself, but could not. Then he said, "Mr. Trapper, if you will let me out, I will lead at least a dozen other birds into your trap." Now the trapper had really set the snare for some larger game, and had not intended to keep the quail at all, indeed he had come to let him out. But hearing the false bird's cowardly proposal, he at once changed his mind, saying, "A treacherous bird who would seek to save his own head at the expense of his friends, is not fit to live," So he killed him on the spot.

Lesson Hymn

Little deeds of love may shine,
Little lives may be divine,
Little ones be wholly Thine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.

Be Thou with us every day,
In our work and in our play,
When we learn and when we pray:
Hear us, holy Jesus. Amen.
—Hymn 580, Book of Praise

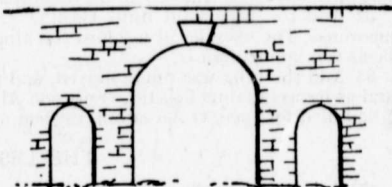
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—54. What did Jesus tell His disciples the Holy Spirit would do for them? Jesus said the Holy Spirit would help them to remember and to understand what He had taught them.

SHORTER CATECHISM—100. What doth the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us? A. The preface of the Lord's prayer (which is, *Our Father which art in heaven*) teacheth us to draw near to God with all holy reverence and confidence, as children to a father, able and ready to help us; and that we should pray with and for others.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Do you see this city gate? This is the place where kings used to sit and hear the



petitions of their people. It was easy then to get near to the king. Far easier is it for us to come to God with our prayers for what we need.

I Have Learned To-day

THAT I SHOULD HONOR MY PARENTS

2 Sam. 18: 24-33—Memory Verses, 31-33.

Golden Text—A foolish son is a grief to his father.—Proverbs 17: 25.



Ab'salom safe? And Ahima'az answered, When Jo'ab sent the king's servant, and *me* thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what *it was*.

30 And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cush'i came; and Cush'i said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

32 And the king said *unto Cush'i*, Is the young man Ab'salom safe? And Cush'i answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that young man is*.

33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Ab'salom, my son, my son Ab'salom! would God I had died for thee, O Ab'salom, my son, my son!

THE LESSON RETOLD

When David heard that Absalom had been crowned king and was now on his way to seize Jerusalem and the palace, he decided to fly at once. He would not stay and fight against his own son. So David hurriedly left the city, and there went with him a little band of faithful soldiers, who brought him in safety to a city across the Jordan.

Here David's soldiers gathered and prepared themselves to meet Absalom's army in battle. As they went forth to fight, David's last word to his men was, "Deal gently with Absalom for my sake." And the old king sat himself down at the gate of the city in the wilderness, to wait and watch for news of his son and of the battle.

24 And Da'vid sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

25 And the watchman cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near.

26 And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings.

27 And the watchman said, Me thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahima'az the son of Za'dok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.

28 And Ahima'az called, and said unto the king, All is well. And he fell down to the earth upon his face before the king, and said, Blessed *be* the LORD thy God, which hath delivered up the men that lifted up their hand against my lord the king.

29 And the king said, Is the young man

30 And the king said *unto him*, Turn aside, and stand here. And he turned aside, and stood still.

31 And, behold, Cush'i came; and Cush'i said, Tidings, my lord the king: for the LORD hath avenged thee this day of all them that rose up against thee.

32 And the king said *unto Cush'i*, Is the young man Ab'salom safe? And Cush'i answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do *thee* hurt, be as *that young man is*.

33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Ab'salom, my son, my son Ab'salom! would God I had died for thee, O Ab'salom, my son, my son!

Soon the two armies met in a great battle in the woods of Ephraim, and Absalom, when he knew that his side was losing, fled in haste through the wood. But as his mule carried him under the spreading boughs of a tree, his long hair became tangled in the branches, and he was left hanging in mid-air, where he was soon thrust through with a spear by one of the king's men.

But David still sat anxiously watching and waiting by the gate of the city.

Presently, on the watch-tower above him, the watchman saw a man running towards them, and sent and told the king. "He is bringing news," cried David; and while he was speaking the watchman cried, "I see

another man running behind him." As they came nearer, they could make out that the first runner was David's friend, Ahimaaz, who soon came and fell down on his face before David, saying, "Blessed be the Lord, I bring good news, the battle is yours." But the king said, "Tell me, is the young man Absalom safe?"

Now Ahimaaz kept back the news that Absalom was dead, until Cushai, the second runner, came up crying, "My lord the king, the Lord has avenged you this day of all that rose up against you." But the king begged only for news of Absalom, saying, "Is my son safe?"

Then Cushai answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against you to do you hurt, be as that young man is." So David knew that his son had perished. And he went up to the room beside the watch-tower weeping, and as he went he cried out, saying, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Questions on the Lesson

1. What did Absalom plan to do after he should be crowned king? 2. Why would not David stay in Jerusalem? 3. Where did he flee? 4. Who went with him? 5. Where did David's and Absalom's armies meet? 6. What warning did David give his soldiers before the battle? 7. Which side won? 8. What happened to Absalom? 9. In what way was the news of the battle carried to David? 10. What message did the first runner bring? 11. Who told the king that his son was dead? 12. How did David grieve for Absalom? 13. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

There was a man who had two boys. One day the younger one said, "Father, I want some money. So the father gave him half of all he had. Then the young man packed his things, went far away, and spent his money so foolishly that soon he had nothing to eat. Then he said, "I'll go home and ask my father to let me be one of his servants."

But his father saw him coming, and running to meet him fell on his neck and kissed him. Then calling to his servants he said,

"Get supper quickly, and bring the best clothes and shoes you can find for this boy, and a ring for his finger. For this my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found."

Lesson Hymn

Make me, Lord, obedient, mild,
As becomes a little child;
All day long, in every way,
Teach me what to do and say. Amen.

—Hymn 578, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—55. **How may we get the Holy Spirit?** Jesus says that God will give His Holy Spirit to us if we ask Him.

SHORTER CATECHISM—101. *What do we pray for in the first petition?* A. In the first petition (which is, *Hallowed be thy name*) we pray, That God would enable us and others to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; and that he would dispose all things to his own glory.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

How sad it is to see a garden full of thistles like that in the drawing, and of other weeds, instead of having in it beautiful flowers!



Unless we watch carefully, our hearts will become full of bad thoughts, like the evil weeds in a neglected garden.

I Have Learned To-day that
I SHOULD BE TRUE TO MY FRIENDS

Psalm 23—Memory Verses, 1-6.

Golden Text—The Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want.—Psalm 23 : 1.

1 The LORD is my shepherd ; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures : he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul : he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil : for thou art with me ; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies : thou anointest my head with oil ; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life : and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As a boy and young man, David spent most of his time looking after his father's sheep. In his country the shepherd lived with his flock, leading them about in the day-time wherever they could best find food,

and at night bringing them safely into the fold.

In the fold were low-roofed sheds, where the flock were sheltered in wet weather, and a large open yard, where they usually lay at night. Around the fold ran a wide stone wall edged with thorns to keep out wild beasts, which after dark roamed about in search of prey. At the door sat the shepherd himself, to see that no stranger ventured in to trouble or steal away the flock.

In early spring-time the shepherd's work was to lead the sheep through the narrow river-valleys, where beside the edges of the streams grew the sweet and tender grass they so much loved. But as the sun grew hotter, and the rivers and meadow grass dried up, he would be obliged to take them far away up the hill-sides in search of food.

Here, up and down the rough and rocky mountain-paths, the shepherd would go before the flock, picking out for them what green patches of grass and leaves he could find, and at dusk, if they were far from the fold, hiding them in some cave, or building a rough enclosure of thorn bushes, where they might be safe for the night.

Often in such wild regions the sheep would have strayed away and got lost, if it were not that their master had so trained and tamed them by kindness that they knew their own names, and would follow his voice. If danger were near, he had only to give one of his shepherd calls and the whole flock would come bounding to him at once. But if a stranger should call them, they would not follow, because they knew not his voice.

Now it sometimes happened that a young or foolish sheep would run away or fall into a dangerous place in the rocks, from which it could not get out, and at night, when the shepherd counted his sheep, it would be missing. At once he would leave the whole flock in care of the dogs, and taking with him his shepherd's staff, the bent end of which would be useful in pulling up an animal that had fallen in a deep place, he would go in search of his lost lamb, and when he had found it, bring it home upon his shoulder rejoicing.

The more David knew and thought about the ways of shepherds with their sheep, the more he thought it all a picture of God's love and care for His people, and he determined to write a song or Psalm about it, in which God should be spoken of as the Shepherd and

himself as one of the sheep under His care.

"The Lord is my Shepherd," sang King David, remembering how his own sheep trusted him. "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. As a good shepherd takes care for his sheep when they have strayed away, so God in His loving-kindness forgives my sin and leads me into the right paths, when I have forgotten and disobeyed Him.

"Though God should call me to walk in the midst of great danger, even though it be through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for He is beside me. With His rod and staff He shall save me.

"Not only has He provided me, His sheep, with food, but He has invited me to feast at His own table, where He serves me as His honored guest. Surely," sang David, "because the Lord is my Shepherd, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will rest in His fold forever and ever."

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did David know so much about sheep? 2. How is the flock protected at night? 3. What is the shepherd's work by day? 4. How do sheep know their own shepherd? 5. How does he point out their way? 6. What happens if a sheep gets lost? 7. Of what use is the shepherd's crook? 8. Of what is the shepherd's life a picture? 9. Who did David say was his shepherd? 10. How does the Good Shepherd treat those who have disobeyed Him? 11. Why was David not afraid of trouble and danger? 12. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

"Run and hand father the book, Charlie, and we will have worship," said his mother, when tea was finished.

"Let us find the place," said the little boy, opening the Bible where the red marker lay at the third chapter of the Revelation.

Charlie listened very attentively all the time of the reading. But when his father repeated that beautiful verse, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with

Me," he could not wait until his father had finished, but ran up to him with the anxious inquiry, "Father, did he get in?" Let me ask the same question of every child. Has the Saviour got into your heart? He has knocked again and again—is knocking now. Open your heart and bid Him welcome, and this will be the happiest day of your life.

Lesson Hymn

Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide;
His boundless mercy will provide;
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love. Amen.

—Hymn 251, Book of Praise

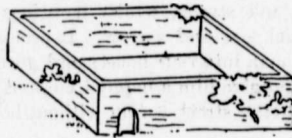
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—56. What will the Holy Spirit do for us? The Holy Spirit will dwell in our hearts, cleansing them from sin and helping us to be good.

SHORTER CATECHISM—102. What do we pray for in the second petition? A. In the second petition (which is, *Thy kingdom come*) we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Here is an eastern sheepfold. In this the sheep lie in safety during the night, while the watchman guards them. In the morning



the shepherd will come to lead them out to the pasture. Jesus has called Himself the Good Shepherd, and those who trust in Him need not fear any foe. He will provide for them all they need.

**I Have Learned To-day that
THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD**

A TEMPERANCE LESSON

Prov. 20 : 1 ; 23 : 20, 21, 29-35—Memory Verses, ch. 23 : 29-32.

Golden Text—Wine is a mocker.—Proverbs 20 : 1.



and I was not sick ; they have beaten me, and I felt it not : when shall I awake ? I will seek it yet again.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In the Bible, wine or strong drink is called a mocker, because it deceives the people who drink it. It pretends that it will make them happy and strong, whilst it brings them only sickness and sorrow. It promises to take a man into rich houses and good company and give him a happy time, but leaves him on the street corner without home or food.

There was once a boy who grew up in a good home. When he was older, he said to himself, "I do not see the harm in wine. If it is pure, it does one good just to look at it. See what a beautiful red color it is, and how pleasant it tastes ! It makes one feel better at once."

Foolish fellow ! he had not yet found out that what looks so pleasant and harmless on the outside, in the end will bite and sting like a poisonous snake.

From tasting and admiring the beautiful poison, the young man grew so fond of it, that often he and his friends would spend whole nights in feasting and drinking, so

Ch. 20 : 1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging ; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Ch. 23 : 20 Be not among winebibbers ; among riotous eaters of flesh :

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty : and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

29 Who hath woe ? who hath sorrow ? who hath contentions ? who hath babbling ? who hath wounds without cause ? who hath redness of eyes ?

30. They that tarry long at the wine ; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I felt it not : when shall I awake ? I will seek it yet again.

that in the morning, instead of being fresh and ready for work, he would be so drowsy that he would have to take a day in bed.

Then he would realize how foolish he had been, and say to himself, "I really must stop this ; it is unfitting me for business ; I will give it up." But he could not : the habit had grown too strong to break, and the evening would find him drinking with his friends again.

At last his employer found him out and the young man lost his position. Then his troubles began in earnest. His rich friends finding that he had no more money to spend, cast him off, and he was left no better than a beggar. Worse than this, he lost his health and good judgment. When he was drunk he was so quarrelsome and noisy, and while he was sober he was so stupid and foolish, that no one wanted to have anything to do with him.

One day, as he was lying in the ditch, all bruised and bleeding after a drunken quarrel, some of his home acquaintances saw him,

"Who is this poor fellow?" they asked. "Is he not a pitiable object, with his red eyes and ragged clothes?" They tried to set him on his feet, but he shook them off angrily. "Leave me alone," he cried, "there is nothing wrong with me! Let me only have another drink and I shall be all right again," and he staggered off.

Surely the downfall of this poor fellow began with the first drink. "Have nothing at all to do," says the wise man, "with such dangerous stuff. For if you do, you are no safer than the crazy man who should try to make his bed on the deep waves of the sea, or on the top of some ship's mast."

Questions on the Lesson

1. What name does the Bible give to strong drink? 2. Why is wine a mocker? 3. What false promises does it make? 4. What did one young man think about it? 5. Into what sin was he led through tasting it? 6. How did drinking interfere with his work? 7. What happened when his bad habits were known? 8. How did his old friends treat him? 9. Why did he not stop? 10. What did he lose besides his money? 11. How did he treat those who tried to help him? 12. What is the only way to behave towards strong drink? 13. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

"Mama, what is a habit?" said little Frank.

"It is something you keep on doing because you have often done it," said mama. "I heard of an old horse once which had been trained to go round and round, pulling one end of a pole that lifted a bucket of earth out of the ground. After twenty years he was too old to work any more, so they turned him into a pasture lot where he might eat grass all day long. But every morning he began to go round and round, just as he used to when he was at work, and people stopped to look at him. You see he had the habit of going round and could not stop. I know a little boy who sometimes says a naughty word. If that little boy learns to keep his mouth clean from all bad words when he is little, he will never say them when he is older."

Lesson Hymn

Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding,—
"Trust in God, and do the right."
Amen.

—Hymn 275, Book of Praise

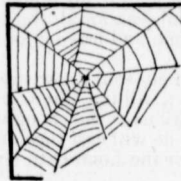
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—57. **Where do all our good thoughts and desires come from?** The Holy Spirit puts good thoughts and desires into our hearts. 58. **In what other ways is the Holy Spirit our Helper?** The Holy Spirit helps us in our study of the Bible and in prayer.

SHORTER CATECHISM—103. *What do we pray for in the third petition?* A. In the third petition (which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*) we pray, That God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, as the angels do in heaven.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

A spider's web is a very pretty thing to look at. But it is a very dangerous trap for the poor flies. When they get their feet entangled in it, they find it hard to escape.



Bad habits are like the spider's web. Once they are formed, they hold us fast. The wisest way is not to do evil things. Then there is no fear of forming evil habits.

**I Have Learned To-day that
STRONG DRINK IS DANGEROUS**

Lesson IX.

DAVID'S CHARGE TO SOLOMON

November 29, 1903

1 Chron. 28 : 1-10—Memory Verses, 9, 10.

Golden Text—Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.—Prov. 3 : 5.

1 And Da'vid assembled all the princes of Is'rael, the princes of the tribes, and the captains of the companies that ministered to the king by course, and the captains over the thousands, and captains over the hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king, and of his sons, with the officers, and with the mighty men, and with all the valiant men, unto Jeru'salem.

2 Then Da'vid the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people : *As for me*, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God. and had made ready for the building :

3 But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou *hast been* a man of war, and hast shed blood.

4 Howbeit the LORD God of Is'rael chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Is'rael for ever : for he hath chosen Ju'dah to be the ruler ; and of the house of Ju'dah, the house of my father ;

and among the sons of my father he liked me to make *me* king over all Is'rael :

5 And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Sol'omon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Is'rael.

6 And he said unto me, Sol'omon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts : for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom for ever, if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgments, as at this day.

8 Now therefore in the sight of all Is'rael the congregation of the LORD, and in the audience of our God, keep and seek for all the commandments of the LORD your God : that ye may possess this good land, and leave it for an inheritance for your children after you for ever.

9 And thou, Sol'omon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind : for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts : if thou seek him, he will be found of thee ; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

10 Take heed now ; for the LORD hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary : be strong, and do it.

THE LESSON RETOLD

When his mourning for Absalom was ended, David returned again as king to Jerusalem. He was now getting to be an old man, so he spent the last part of his life in putting everything in his kingdom in good order, and in gathering material for the new temple, that his son Solomon, whom God had chosen to succeed him, might find everything ready to begin the work as soon as he became king.

At last David grew so infirm that he could no longer look after the affairs of the nation, and it was decided that Solomon should be

crowned king at once. So David called a great meeting at Jerusalem, to which he invited all the princes and officers of Israel, the colonels and captains of the army, together with all the chief men of the nation, that they might hear his last words and proclaim Solomon king without delay.

When the people were assembled, with Solomon, the old king arose from his throne and began to make his address, saying, "My brethren and my people, listen to me. You know that one of the chief desires of my life has been to build a great and holy temple

for the worship and honor of our God. You know also how that, when I had made every preparation to begin the work, the Lord said, 'You shall not build a house unto My name, because you have been a man of war, and My temple must be the house of peace.'

"However, God did not forget me, for, as you know, He chose me from among all the sons of my father, to make me king over His people Israel.

"More that this, He hath chosen Solomon from among the many sons with whom He has blessed me, to be His ruler over you when I am gone. Concerning him He made me this promise, 'Solomon, thy son, shall build My house and My courts, and if only he is careful to obey my commandments as at this day, I will establish his kingdom for ever, and will be his father, and he shall be My son.'"

Now David knew that the new king, however good he might be, could not make the kingdom prosper unless the people helped him. So he now solemnly urged and warned his people to do their part, and to earnestly study and obey the commandments of God, that they might keep the good land which He had given them, and be able to leave it for an inheritance to their children for ever.

And turning to the young Solomon, David charged him in the hearing of all the people, saying, "Solomon, my son, remember the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind. For the Lord knoweth all hearts; it is impossible to deceive Him; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off for ever. He has shown you great honor in choosing you to undertake the building of His holy house. Now then, be strong and do it."

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did King David spend his last years? 2. Who was chosen to be king after him? 3. Where did David make his farewell address? 4. Whom did he invite to the meeting? 5. Why did God not allow him to build the temple? 6. What promises had God made him about Solomon? 7. How did David say the people could help the new king? 8. What blessing would the keeping of God's laws bring upon them? 9. What

was David's charge to Solomon? 10. What work had God given him? 11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

Brightly doth His Spirit shine

Into this poor heart of mine;

While He leads I cannot fall:

Trusting Jesus—that is all. Amen.

—Hymn 293, Book of Praise

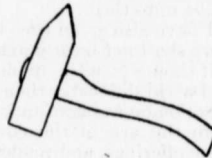
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—59. What warning is given us in the Bible about the Holy Spirit? The Bible tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. **60. How may we grieve the Holy Spirit?** All sinful thoughts, words, or actions grieve the Holy Spirit?

SHORTER CATECHISM—104. What do we pray for in the fourth petition? A. In the fourth petition (which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*), we pray, That of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Have you ever seen workmen putting up a stone building? They use a tool something like this to trim the stone blocks, so



that each will fit into its place. Every one of us is a builder. Our words and actions, like the stones, go into the building we call character. Shall we not take care that none but good stones go into our building?

I Have Learned To-day that
I SHOULD TRUST MY FATHER'S GOD

Lesson X.

SOLOMON'S WISE CHOICE

December 6, 1903

1 Kings 3 : 4-15. Study 1 Kings 3 : 1-15 ; 4 : 29-34—Memory Verses, 12, 13.

Golden Text—The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.—Prov. 9 : 10.

4 And the king went to Gib'eon to sacrifice there ; for that *was* the great high place : a thousand burnt offerings did Sol'omon offer upon that altar.

5 In Gib'eon the LORD appeared to Sol'omon in a dream by night : and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

6 And Sol'omon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant Da'vid my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee ; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day.

7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of Da'vid my father : and I *am but* a little child : I know not *how* to go out or come in.

8 And thy servant *is* in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I

may discern between good and bad : for who is able to judge this thy so great a people ?

10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Sol'omon had asked this thing.

11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life ; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies ; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment :

12 Behold, I have done according to thy words : lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart ; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour : so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

14 And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father Da'vid did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

15 And Sol'omon awoke ; and, behold, *it was* a dream. And he came to Jeru'salem, and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings, and offered peace offerings, and made a feast to all his servants.

THE LESSON RETOLD

As soon as his coronation was over the young king Solomon invited the captains, the judges, the governors, and all the chief men of the kingdom to go with him a few miles out of Jerusalem to the hill Gibeon, that he might offer sacrifice and worship to the Lord, before beginning his new work as king.

Here, in front of the tabernacle, Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings to the honor of the God of Israel, and the whole nation kept holiday from morning until evening. When at last the solemn services with the feasting and rejoicing were over, Solomon lay down to rest. As he slept, the

Lord, in answer to his prayers and sacrifices, appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Solomon, ask what I shall give you. What gift would you like best to have?"

And Solomon answered, "O Lord, I thank Thee for all Thy mercy and loving kindness to my father David and to me his son. And now, O Lord, my God, Thou hast made me king instead of David my father, but I am like a little child who does not know how to go out or come in, and the people are so many that they cannot be numbered or counted. Give me, therefore, an understanding heart and wisdom to judge my people

and to discern between good and bad."

Now the request that Solomon had made pleased the Lord, and God said, "Because you have chosen this thing and have not asked long life, nor riches, nor victory in battle, behold, I have given you a wise heart such as no man has had before, nor shall have after you. Also I have given you that for which you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that while you live, there shall be no king so great as you. And if you shall continue to keep my laws and commandments, as did David your father, I will bless you further with long life."

So Solomon awoke out of his dream and returned to Jerusalem, where beside the ark of the covenant he again offered sacrifice before the Lord and made a feast to all his servants.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Why did Solomon go to Gibeon? 2. Whom did he invite to the sacrifice? 3. How many offerings did he make before the tabernacle? 4. How did the people show honor to God and to Solomon? 5. What did the young king do when the feast was over? 6. Who spoke to him in a dream? 7. What question did the Lord ask him? 8. What gift did Solomon choose? 9. What did he tell the Lord about himself? 10. Was God pleased with his choice? 11. What blessings did He promise him besides wisdom? 12. What did Solomon do when he awoke? 13. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

The story is told of a stranger in olden times appearing to a rich king and offering to give him anything he wished. "I wish," said the king, "that everything I touch should turn to gold."

The next morning he was delighted to find his wish come true. But when he sat down to breakfast he groaned aloud. The food he tried to eat turned to a solid mass in his mouth. His little daughter ran to kiss him. In a moment she too was turned to gold. The king was now in despair. Suddenly the stranger again appeared, and finding that the king had learned a good lesson, told him that if he wished to undo the mischief he

had done, to go and bathe himself in, and sprinkle whatever he had touched with, the water of a certain river. The king did so, and seeing his child restored to him, lost all his greed for gold.

Lesson Hymn

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak, or do.
The task Thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
In all my works Thy presence find
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
Amen.

—Hymn 233, Book of Praise

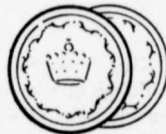
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—61. **How may we please the Holy Spirit?** We may please the Holy Spirit by doing what He puts into our hearts.

SHORTER CATECHISM—105. *What do we pray for in the fifth petition?* A. In the fifth petition (which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*) we pray, That God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins; which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

The smallest child knows that money is a very useful thing. We can do a great deal of good with it. Think, boys and girls!



Your pennies can send Bibles and missionaries to the boys and girls of heathen lands. Is not that a good way to spend our money?

I Have Learned To-day that
I SHOULD CHOOSE GOD'S SERVICE

Lesson XI. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE December 13, 1903

1 Kings 8 : 1-11, 62, 63. Study 1 Kings 1-30, 62, 63—Memory Verses, 9-11.

Golden Text—I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.—Ps. 122 : 1.



1 Then Sol'omon assembled the elders of Is'rael, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Is'rael, unto king Sol'omon in Jeru'salem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of Da'vid, which is Zi'on.

2 And all the men of Is'rael assembled themselves unto king Sol'omon at the feast in the month Etha'nim, which is the seventh month.

3 And all the elders of Is'rael came, and the priests took up the ark.

4 And they brought up the ark of the LORD, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle, even those did the priests and the Le'vites bring up.

5 And king Sol'omon, and all the congregation of Is'rael, that were assembled unto him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen, that could not be told nor numbered for multitude.

6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place,

into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims.

7 For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.

8 And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without : and there they are unto this day.

9 There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Mo'ses put there at Ho'reb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Is'rael, when they came out of the land of E'gypt.

10 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD.

11 So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud : for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

62 And the king, and all Is'rael with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

63 And Sol'omon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Is'rael dedicated the house of the LORD.

THE LESSON RETOLD

King Solomon's greatest work was the building of the temple in Jerusalem, the outside walls of which were of solid stone, and the roof of cedar wood. Inside, the walls were also of cedar carved in patterns of fruit and flowers overlaid with pure gold.

At one end was an inner room called the holy of holies, in which stood two great golden cherubim with outspread wings, before which hung a splendid curtain of blue and purple wrought in a pattern of gold. Outside the temple were two court-yards,

one for the people and the other containing the altars and vessels for the sacrifices.

When the building was at last finished, Solomon made a great thanksgiving feast to the people, that the whole nation might join together in setting it apart for the worship of God.

Now the first thing to be done, was to bring the ark of the covenant containing the tables of the law from Mount Zion, and the holy vessels of the tabernacle from Gibeon, and give them their new places in God's

house. So the priests and Levites and the elders came to Gibeon, and taking down what remained of the old tabernacle, carried it in procession with the ark through the streets of Jerusalem up towards the temple hill. Behind them, dressed in white linen, marched a chorus of four thousand musicians and singers and a hundred and twenty trumpeters chanting and singing as they walked, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: His mercy endureth forever."

When the ark reached the court of the temple, Solomon and all the congregation offered before it sacrifices of oxen and sheep without number. Then the priests carried the ark into the holy of holies and set it in its place beneath the wings of the golden cherubim and closed the curtain before it.

Suddenly a bright cloud filled the temple, so that for a time the priests could not see to minister, and the house was full of the glory of the Lord. And King Solomon and the people continued in prayer and sacrifice seven days, offering before the Lord twenty-two thousand oxen and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep.

Questions on the Lesson

1. What was Solomon's great work? 2. Of what was the temple built? 3. What was the holy of holies; 4. How was it separated from the larger room? 5. When did Solomon proclaim a feast to the people? 6. What must be done before worship could be begun in the new temple? 7. How were the ark and the vessels of the tabernacle brought to Jerusalem? 8. How did Solomon receive the ark? 9. Where was it placed? 10. What happened as the priests came out of the holy place? 11. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

An Englishman, hearing an African chief giving orders that a slave was to be slain, threw himself in front of the poor fellow and received an arrow wound in his own flesh. "Here is blood," he said to the chief. "I give my blood for this man and claim his life." The chief was speechless, and the slave fell at his deliverer's feet crying, "O white man, you have bought me with your blood, I will be yours forever." After this,

wherever he went, the rescued slave followed him. Much more, shall not we who are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, of which the old sacrifices and offerings were only a picture, give up our whole lives to His service?

Lesson Hymn

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim;
Gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness
Bring, and adore Him: the Lord is His name. Amen.

—Hymn 390, Book of Praise

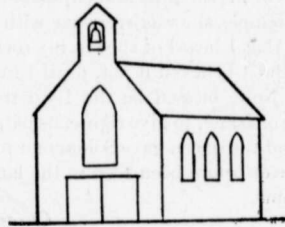
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—62. What is a Christian? A Christian is one who loves and follows Jesus Christ. **63. What does following Jesus Christ mean?** To follow Jesus Christ is to trust and obey Him.

SHORTER CATECHISM—106. What do we pray for in the sixth petition? A. In the sixth petition (which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*), we pray, That God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, or support and deliver us when we are tempted.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

Every church is a beautiful place. It may be a very plain building, like the one in the



picture. But God is there, to speak to us and listen to us speaking to Him. That is enough to make any place beautiful?

**I Have Learned To-day that
I SHOULD LOVE GOD'S HOUSE**

Lesson XII. **THE QUEEN OF SHEBA VISITS SOLOMON** December 20, 1903

1 Kings 10 : 1-10. Study vs. 1-13—Memory Verses, 6-9.

Golden Text—When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Prov. 29 : 2.**THE LESSON RETOLD**

Soon the glory and worship of the temple at Jerusalem, the wisdom and learning of King Solomon, the riches of his court and palaces, and the splendor of his armies, was talked of far and wide.

Among those who heard the wonderful story of God's favor to Israel was the Queen of Sheba, a rich and powerful ruler in a heathen kingdom of the south.

The more this queen heard of the wisdom of Solomon and of the power and strength of the God whom he worshipped, the more anxious was she to see and prove for herself whether what she had heard of him was true. So she came to Jerusalem, fifteen hundred miles, on camel's back, to visit King Solomon and his court, bringing with her many servants and courtiers, and a caravan carrying spices, gold and precious stones.

And the Queen of Sheba set herself to find out whether the King of Israel were really so wise as he was said to be, and she asked him riddles and hard questions upon every subject she could think of, to prove his wisdom. But Solomon answered her all she asked.

When she had heard his wisdom, and had seen the splendor of his house and table, the dresses of his servants and cup-bearers, and the arched bridge he had built from the palace to the temple, she was overcome with astonishment. And she said to the king, "It was a true report that I heard of thee in my own land. Only, the half of thy greatness was not told me. But I believed it not, until I came and saw thy wisdom and prosperity with my own eyes. Now, blessed be the Lord thy God which hath loved thee, and set thee on this throne of Israel, to give righteous judgment and to be the leader of a free and happy people."

And the queen gave Solomon a royal gift of gold and precious stones and spices, such as had never before been seen in the land of Israel, and returned in wonder and rejoicing to her home.

Questions on the Lesson

1. For what was Israel famous in the time of Solomon?
2. For what was the king himself noted?
3. Who heard of his wisdom?
4. What did the Queen of Sheba determine to do?
5. How did she travel to Jerusalem?
6. How did she try Solomon's wisdom?
7. Could the king answer her questions?
8. What things did she see in Jerusalem that surprised her?
9. What did she say of Solomon's greatness?
10. To whom did she give the honor of it all?
11. What gifts did she give Solomon?
12. What is the Golden Text?

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Matt. 2 : 1-12 ; Golden Text, Matt. 1 : 21.

The time had at last come when God's promise to David should be fulfilled, that from his family and town should one day be born the Prince, the Saviour.

Many hundreds of years after David's

death, in a far away land a company of wise men, having made sure from the study of God's word that the time for Christ's birth was drawing near, left their homes in the east and came to Jerusalem to seek for Jesus.

Knowing that Herod was king in Judæa, they came first to him asking their way. "Tell us," they said, "where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When Herod and his friends heard about the new king they were afraid, thinking it all a plot to take away his throne. But as he was unable to answer the questions of his guests, Herod called the priests and scribes and asked if they knew where Christ should be born. "In Bethlehem of Judæa," was the reply, "for so it is written by the prophet Micah."

Herod now pretended to be much interested in the search of the wise men, and inquired particularly about the star which they had seen. And intending to find out exactly where the babe was, that he might kill him, he said to the wise men, "Go and seek carefully for the young child and bring me word where he is, that I may come and worship him also."

So the wise men left Jerusalem, the star of the east going before them until it stopped over Joseph's house in Bethlehem. The strangers entered the house with great joy, and finding the young child with Mary his mother, fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their bags, they presented Him with gifts; gold and precious perfumes and spices, which were the first Christmas presents. Then, being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, the wise men departed into their own country by another way.

Lesson Story

Suppose, children, you should say to Father Time, "Please send me on December twenty-fifth a merry Christmas," and he should answer, "What kind do you want?" some of you, I know, would ask for plenty of candy and oranges, not forgetting a sled and picture books. But after all, though the old man might send you all these things, he would probably shake his head, saying, "These children are not getting the merry Christmas they wanted, after all."

"How may you be sure of getting what you want?" "Father Time," you should

say, "put into my Christmas plenty of kindness and love and merry songs, and unselfishness, and the spirit of sharing with others." Then you will be sure to get a true merry Christmas.

Lesson Hymn

Lord, while for all mankind we pray,
Of every clime and coast,
O hear us for our native land,
The land we love the most. Amen.

—Hymn 503, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—64. **Can a little child be a Christian?** Yes. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

SHORTER CATECHISM—107. *What doth the conclusion of the Lord's prayer teach us?* A. The conclusion of the Lord's prayer (which is, *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen*) teacheth us to take our encouragement in prayer from God only, and in our prayers to praise him, ascribing kingdom, power, and glory to him. And, in testimony of our desire, and assurance to be heard, we say, *Amen*.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

We all know and love the Union Jack. It waves over the dominions of our wise and peace-loving king. To him we are sincerely



loyal. At the same time we have another and greater King, even Jesus. We should love Him with all our hearts, and show our love by obeying His laws.

I Have Learned To-day that
GOD HONORS THOSE WHO HONOR HIM

Lesson XIII.

REVIEW

December 27, 1903

GOLDEN TEXT—The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.—Ps. 103 : 17.

PRIMARY CATECHISM—Review Questions 48-64.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Review Questions 96-107.

Lesson Hymn

Let us, with a gladsome mind,
Praise the Lord, for He is kind :
For His mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure.

He hath with a piteous eye
Looked upon our misery :
For His mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure. Amen.

—Hymn 17, Book of Praise



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God's Mercy Never Ends



	Lesson Title	Golden Text
LESSON I.	David Brings Up the Ark.	Blessed are they that dwell in thy house.— Ps. 84 : 4.
LESSON II.	God's Covenant with David.	Thy throne shall be established for ever.— 2 Sam. 7 : 16.
LESSON III.	David's Confession.	Create in me a clean heart, O God.—Ps. 51 : 10.
LESSON IV.	David's Joy Over Forgiveness.	Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—Ps. 32 : 1.
LESSON V.	David and Absalom.	Honour thy father and thy mother : that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Ex. 20 : 12.
LESSON VI.	David's Grief Over Absalom.	A foolish son is a grief to his father.—Prov. 17:25.
LESSON VII.	David's Trust in God.	The Lord is my shepherd ; I shall not want.— Ps. 23 : 1.
LESSON VIII.	The Curse of Strong Drink.	Wine is a mocker.—Prov. 20 : 1.
LESSON IX.	David's Charge to Solomon.	Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.— Prov. 3 : 5.
LESSON X.	Solomon's Wise Choice.	The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wis- dom.—Prov. 9 : 10.
LESSON XI.	The Dedication of the Temple.	I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Ps. 122 : 1.
LESSON XII.	The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon. Or, The Birth of Christ.	When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Prov. 29 : 2. Thou shalt call his name JESUS : for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1:21.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

Write in the spaces below (or get some one to do so for you) some one thing that you have learned from each lesson.

<p>LESSON I. David Brings Up the Ark.</p>	<p>LESSON VII. David's Trust in God.</p>
<p>LESSON II. God's Covenant with David.</p>	<p>LESSON VIII. The Curse of Strong Drink.</p>
<p>LESSON III. David's Confession.</p>	<p>LESSON IX. David's Charge to Solomon.</p>
<p>LESSON IV. David's Joy over Forgiveness.</p>	<p>LESSON X. Solomon's Wise Choice.</p>
<p>LESSON V. David and Absalom.</p>	<p>LESSON XI. The Dedication of the Temple.</p>
<p>LESSON VI. David's Grief Over Absalom.</p>	<p>LESSON XII. The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon.</p>

SABBATH SCHOOL AND CHURCH RECORD

[Many of the little ones will be pleased to mark down their attendance at Church and Sabbath School with the number of verses learned, etc., and so here is a place to do it in. The record will be very interesting by the end of the Quarter. Mothers will help the tinier tots who cannot read or manage a pencil very well.]

Name Address

Name of Sabbath School Teacher's Name

DATE 1903	OCTOBER				NOVEMBER					DECEMBER				TOTAL FOR QUARTER
	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	
Present at S. School..														
No. of Verses learned														
No. Cat'm. Ques. l'rn'd														
Amt. of Contribution.														
Present at Church, Sab. morning or pre- vious Sab. evening ..														

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
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