

Per. Sep. 2003. 670
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HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON VI — February 10th.

Christ and the Children. MATT. 18: 1-14.

(Commit to memory verses 2-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish." Matt. 18:14.

PROVE THAT

The children of God's people are the objects of God's special favor. Isa. 44: 3-5.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest. 8. *How does God execute his decrees?* A. God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, Nos. 34, 214, 32, 215.

DAILY PORTIONS.

Monday. Christ and the Children; Matt. 18: 1-14. *Tuesday.* In His Arms; Mark 9: 33-37. *Wednesday.* Blessing the Children; Mark 10: 13-16. *Thursday.* Taught of the Lord; Isa. 54: 11-17. *Friday.* How to be Great; Matt. 20: 20-28. *Saturday.* The Humble Spirit; 1 Peter 5: 1-7. *Sabbath.* Christ's Humility; Phil. 2: 1-11. (The I. B. R. A. Selections.)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The day after the Transfiguration our Lord healed a demoniac boy whom the disciples could not cure (Mark 9: 14-29). He then returned to Capernaum where the temple tribute-money was demanded and miraculously provided for (Matt. 17: 24-27). Our lesson immediately follows the narrative of this incident. Parallel passages, Mark 9: 33-50; Luke 9: 46-50.

LESSON PLAN. I. Be Humble. vs. 1-5. II. Hate Sin. vs. 6-10. III. God Loves you. vs. 11-14.

I. BE HUMBLE. 1. In that hour—when Jesus was speaking to Peter about the tribute-money. **Who then is the greatest** (R. V.)—This question arose out of a discussion among themselves (Mark 9: 33, 34), which may have been occasioned by his announcement that "the kingdom of heaven" was about to be set up. This unseemly rivalry broke out again at the Last Supper (Luke 22: 24-26). **The kingdom of heaven**—They wanted to know what prominent positions they were to get when Jesus became king. **2. Set him in the midst**—Mark adds that he took him in his arms. Notice how often Mark mentions the hand-grasp of Jesus (1: 41; 5: 41; 8: 23; 9: 27; 10: 16). **3. Be converted**—This does not mean here "regenerated," but, as in R. V., "except ye turn"—i. e. turn away from this spirit of pride and selfish ambition. **As little children**—gentle, teachable, humble, loving, etc., the qualities characteristic of childhood. Without these there can be no question of greater or less for you; you cannot enter the kingdom at all. (1 Cor. 14: 20; 1 Peter 2: 2.) **4. Humble himself**—think of himself last, of others first, and of pleasing God always (Matt. 20: 27; 23: 11; Mark 9: 35). Read John 13: 1-17. **5. In my name**—for my sake; because I wish him to do so. **Receivev me**—Every kindness done to chil-

—dren, or childlike persons, will be accepted by Jesus as if done to himself.

II. HATE SIN. 6. Offend—R. V. "cause one of [them] to stumble," or tempt them to sin. A terrible curse rests upon anyone who is the cause of the very lowliest disciple going astray. **7. Offences**—R. V. "occasions of stumbling." We cannot live in a sinful world without meeting tempters, but God will punish those who lead others into sin (Matt. 26: 24). **8, 9**—If anything, no matter how dear, or how useful, is the cause of our doing wrong, or stands between us and perfect obedience, we must part with it, no matter how much pain it may cost us. **The eternal fire** (R. V.)—(Matt. 25: 41). **The gehenna of fire** (R. V. marg.)—This expression always means the abode of the lost. Gehenna was a valley south of Jerusalem, a former scene of Molech worship, where perpetual fires were kept burning to consume the refuse of the city. It was a spot unclean, disgusting and abhorred. **10. These little ones**—children and childlike believers. **Their angels**—There is no Scripture proof for guardian angels, one assigned to each person, but angels, who stand in God's presence, are the servant's of God's people. (Heb. 1: 14; Ps. 34: 7; Luke 1: 19.)

III. GOD LOVES YOU. 11—Luke 9: 56; 13—(Luke 15: 7-10). Those in heaven know 19: 10; John 3: 17; 12: 47; 1 Tim. 1: 15. This verse is omitted in the R. V., but it is from what unutterable misery the sinner has been saved. 14—God sincerely desires the true, and we may well consider it here. 12—salvation of all men. Those who are lost, are See Luke 15: 3-7. Jesus left the millions of lost because they refuse to be saved. (2 Pet. 3: 9; Ezek. 33: 11; 2 Sam. 14: 14; Lam. 3: 33; wilderness of this sinful world to find lost man. Hosea 11: 8.)

LESSONS.

1. Our ambition should be to do good to others. 2. True piety shews itself in a childlike spirit. 3. We serve Christ himself when we shew kindness for his sake. 4. We should be careful not to lead another astray by word or example. 5. Make any sacrifice rather than do wrong. 6. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up all the references. Then close your Bible and answer in writing the questions below, without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. If you cannot come to Sabbath School, fill out the "Excuse for Absence" and send the Leaflet, with your written answers, to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—About what were the disciples disputing? (3)
- 2.—Who did Jesus say, was greatest in His kingdom? (3)
- 3.—What is meant by "offending" one of these? (5)
- 4.—What is meant by parting with hands, or eyes, if they "offend" us? (6)
- 5.—Why should we not despise one of Christ's little ones? (5)
- 6.—For what purpose did Christ come into the world? (3)

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....