

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 5.

APRIL 29th, 1894.

2nd QUARTER.

Joseph Forgiving his Brethren. Gen. 45 : 1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT: "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him." Luke 17 : 3.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 3-5. **CHILDREN'S HYMNAL**, 7, 59, 46, 89.

PROVE THAT We should return good for evil. Matt. 5 : 44.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 100. What doth the preface of the Lord's Prayer teach us?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association)

| MONDAY. | TUESDAY. | WEDNESDAY. | THURSDAY. | FRIDAY. | SATURDAY. | SABBATH. |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Gen. 45 : 1-13 | Gen. 43 : 1-14 | Gen. 43 : 15-25 | Gen. 43 : 26-34 | Gen. 45 : 16-28 | Gen. 47 : 1-12 | Rom. 12 : 14-21 |

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

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

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Nine years have elapsed since our last lesson. The seven years of plenty have come and gone, and Joseph has had an abundant supply of corn laid up all through the land of Egypt. Two years of the famine are drawing to a close, and it is beginning to be felt in other countries as the scarcity was not confined to Egypt. The famine has reached the home of Jacob in Canaan. He hears that there is abundance in Egypt, and he sends his sons thither to procure a supply of food. Joseph recognizes his ten brothers, but of course they do not know him. He deals with them as a stranger, and accuses them of being spies. They protest that they are true men and no spies. He confines them in prison for three days, after which he brings them out, sends them back with provisions to Canaan, putting each man's money in the mouth of his sack. He retains Simeon as a hostage, and tells them to bring Benjamin with them on their return to Egypt. They go home to Canaan and tell their father all that had happened to them. When the supply of corn is exhausted Jacob asks them to go to Egypt once more, and after much persuasion Benjamin is permitted to go with them. The brothers are received by Joseph, who entertains them in his own house, gives them a supply of corn, causes double money to be put in each man's sack, and his own cup in the mouth of Benjamin's sack. After they are gone a little way he sends the steward after them, who accuses them of stealing his master's cup. The cup is found with Benjamin, and they all return with sorrow to Joseph. After explanations, Joseph can no longer restrain himself, and makes himself known to them. He invites his father and all the family to come to him in Egypt. The whole story is a most affecting one and should be read in private over and over again. Time 1706 B. C. Places Egypt and Canaan.

LESSON PLAN. I. Making Himself Known. vs. 1-4. II. Comforting his Brothers: vs. 5-8. III. Sending for his Father. vs. 9-15.

I. MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN. 1. Joseph sees that his brethren are changed men and he now has an opportunity to make himself known to them. He has been about nine years ruler in Egypt, and has not made his father aware of his being alive and prosperous. To have done so would have been to reveal his brother's guilt. Notice Joseph's delicacy in having all unnecessary witnesses of his emotion removed. The distress of our friends should excite our sympathy. 2. This is in accordance with the manners of eastern people from that day to this. The house of Pharaoh heard, therefore, Joseph's official residence was close to the royal palace. There is relief in tears. 3. Joseph had been using an interpreter, but now he speaks to them in their own tongue. The "old man, your father," has now

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become "my father." When under emotion nature asserts itself. Who can tell what the feelings of the brothers were when he announced himself. Their fears must have been greatly intensified, and with lightning speed their thoughts would revert to the past. 4. The brothers in their astonishment had removed to a distance. He asks them to come near so that he may talk with them and re-assure them. His manner would show that in saying, "I am your brother whom ye sold" he did not wish to upbraid them, but rather assure them of his identity. Num. 32 : 23.

II. COMFORTING HIS BROTHERS. 5. He asks them to forgive themselves for what they had done to him, and shows them that they were the instruments of carrying out God's plans to preserve life and save the chosen family. That Joseph forgave them may be inferred from his treatment of them, a thing that they would understand very readily. Joseph could extenuate their sin when they could not do so. 6. **Earing**—"plowing," seedtime. "Arable" was formerly written "earable." See also 1 Sam. 8 : 12 ; Gen. 45 : 6 ; Exod. 34 : 21 ; Deut. 21 : 4 ; Isa. 30 : 24. Through the want of rain in other countries the Nile would not rise above twelve cubits. 7. The salvation of Jacob's family is all important in Joseph's estimation, and he has been sent by God to ensure it. We are the creatures of God's providence.

III. SENDING FOR HIS FATHER. 8. Among the Phoenicians, Persians, Arabians, and Romans the title of father was given to certain state officers. Joseph was the father or preserver of Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and Jacob with his family. God is not the author of evil but of good. 9. Joseph invites his father to come to Egypt in the first place without consulting Pharaoh, but Pharaoh afterwards approves of the invitation and repeats it. This shows Joseph's power. Notice that Joseph acknowledges God in the whole matter. 10. Goshen lay to the northeast of Lower Egypt, having the Mediterranean on the North, the desert on the East, the Tanitic branch of the Nile on the West, and the head of the Red Sea on the South. 11. Joseph's care for his father is well worthy of study by the young, when as in this age, there is so much danger of forgetting duty to parents. What is the fifth commandment? We should be helpful. 12. Benjamin will especially be a witness to his father for the accuracy of the report and the genuineness of the invitation. 13. This is not said in a spirit of boasting, but to encourage his father to accept of the invitation. Undue pride is a sin. 14. Benjamin is his full brother and younger than Joseph, hence his greater display of affection for him. He kisses all his brothers, even the formerly cruel Simeon, thus showing his complete forgiveness of the past. After the reconciliation, the brothers are able to converse with him.

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

- 1.—What so deeply affected Joseph? (4)
- 2.—How did his brothers feel when Joseph made himself known? (3)
- 3.—How did Joseph comfort them? (6)
- 4.—What message did he send to his father? (4)
- 5.—Why was Benjamin so dear to him? (5)
- 6.—How did he manifest his complete forgiveness? (3)

Name.....

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