



The Home Study Quarterly

—OR SENIOR SCHOLARS AND THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Vol. III.

January, February and March.

No. 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM FOR THE QUARTER.

Text-Book. "An Exposition of the Shorter Catechism" by Professor Salmond, D. D., price 45 cents. The portion gone over in 1897 may be obtained separately for 20 cents.

Q. 82. Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?

A. No mere man since the fall is able, in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God,^s but doth daily break them in thought,^t word,^u and deed.^w

^s Eccl. vii, 20. For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

^t Gen. viii, 21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

^u James iii, 8. The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

^w James iii, 2. In many things we offend all.

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.^z

^z John xix, 11. He that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.^y

^y Gal. iii, 10. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Matt. xxv, 41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, I part from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Q. 85. What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life,^z with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.^a

^z Acts xx, 21. Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

^a Prov. ii, 1. My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; V. 2. So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; V. 3. Yea, if thou orient after knowledge, and listest up thy voice for understanding; V. 4. If thou seekest her as for silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; V. 5. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,^b whereby we receive^c and rest upon him alone for salvation,^d as he is offered to us in the gospel.^e

^b Heb. x, 39. We are not of them who draw back unto perdition: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

^c John i, 12. As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

^d Phil. iii, 9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

^e Isa. xxxiii, 22. The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our law-giver, the Lord is our king; he will save us.

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace,^f whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,^g and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,^h doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,ⁱ with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.^k

^f Acts xi, 18. Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

^g Acts ii, 37. When they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter, and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

^h Joel ii, 18. Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

ⁱ Jer. xxxi, 18. Turn thou me, and I shall be turned: for thou art the Lord my God. V. 18. Surely after that I was turned, I repented: and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

^k Ps. cxix, 59. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Q. 88. What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer;^l all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

^l Acts ii, 41. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized. V. 42. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Q. 89. How is the word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners,^m and of building them up in holiness and comfort,ⁿ through faith unto salvation.^o

^m Ps. xix, 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

^a 1 Thes. 1, 6. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.
^b Rom. 1, 16. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth.

Q. 90. How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence,¹ preparation,² and prayer;³ receive it with faith⁴ and love,⁵ lay it up in our hearts,⁶ and practice it in our lives.⁷

^p Prov. viii, 34. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

^q 1 Pet. ii, 1. Wherefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and all hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings. V. 2. As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the world, that ye may grow thereby.

^r Ps. cxix, 18. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

^s Heb. iv, 2. The word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

^t 2 Thess. ii, 10. They received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

^u Ps. cxix, 11. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

^v James i, 26. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Q. 91. How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?

A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them, or in him that doth administer them;^x but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.^y

^z 1 Cor. iii, 7. So then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase.

¹ 1 Pet. iii, 21. The like figure whereunto even

baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Q. 92. What is a sacrament?

A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented,^z sealed, and applied to believers.^a

^z Gen. xvii, 10. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you, and thy seed after thee; Every man-child among you shall be circumcised.

^a Rom. iv, 11. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised.

Q. 93. Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism,^b and the Lord's supper.^c

^b Mark xvi, 16. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved.

^c 1 Cor. xi, 23. For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you. That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread, etc.

Q. 94. What is baptism?

A. Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,^d doth signify and seal our engraving into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace,^e and our engagement to be the Lord's.^f

^d Mat. xxviii, 19. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

^e Rom. vi, 3. Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death.

^f Rom. vi, 4. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

LESSONS AND GOLDEN TEXTS.

FIRST QUARTER.

1. Jan. 3.—CHRIST'S ASCENSION. Acts 1: 1-14. Commit vs. 7-9. (Read the remainder of the chapter.) *Golden Text*—While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. Luke 24: 51.

2. Jan. 10.—THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN. Acts 2: 1-13. Commit vs. 1-4. (Study also vs. 14-31.) *Golden Text*—They were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 2: 4.

3. Jan. 17.—A MULTITUDE CONVERTED. Acts 2: 32-47. Commit vs. 38, 39. *Golden Text*—The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off. Acts 2: 39.

4. Jan. 24.—THE LAME MAN HEALED. — Acts 3: 1-16. Commit vs. 13-16. *Golden Text*—His name through faith in his name hath made this man strong. Acts 3: 16.

5. Jan. 31.—THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN. Acts 4: 1-14. Commit vs. 10-12. (Read also vs. 15-31.) *Golden Text*—There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4: 12.

6. Feb. 7.—TRUE AND FALSE GIVING. Acts 4: 32 to 5: 11. Commit vs. 32, 33.

Golden Text—Man Looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. I Sam. 16: 7.

7. Feb. 14.—THE PRISON OPENED. Acts 5: 17-32. Commit vs. 29-32. (Read vs. 12-32.) *Golden Text*—We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5: 29.

8. Feb. 21.—THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR.—Acts 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60.) Commit vs. 57-60. (Read chaps. 6 and 7.) *Golden Text*—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2: 10.

9. Feb. 28.—THE DISCIPLES DISPERSED. Acts 8: 1-17. Commit vs. 5-8. (Read also vs. 18-25.) *Golden Text*—They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8: 4.

10. March 7.—THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERT. Acts 8: 26-40. Commit vs. 29-31. *Golden Text*—Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. Acts 8: 35.

11. March 14.—SAUL, THE PERSECUTOR, CONVERTED. Acts 9: 1-12, 17-20. Commit vs. 17-20. (Read vs. 1-31.) *Golden Text*—This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all ac-

ception, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I Tim. 1: 15.

12. March 21—CHRISTIAN SELF-RE-
STRAINT.—I Cor. 9: 19-27. Commit vs. 25-
27. (May be used as a temperance Lesson.)

Golden Text—Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. I Cor. 9: 25.

13. March 28.—REVIEW. Golden Text—
The word of God grew and multiplied. Acts
12: 24.

WHAT THE BOOK OF THE ACTS WAS MEANT TO TELL.

The book of Acts describes the fulfilment of the promise of the Father to baptize the followers of Jesus with the Holy Spirit, and the results of this baptism. It begins with Pentecost, and ends with the first visit of Paul to Rome. It dwells at great length on the outpouring of the Spirit, and on all the events which led to a wider range in the preaching of the gospel. It has two marked characteristics; it dwells on the continual presence of Jesus with his disciples, and on the preparations for, and the beginnings of each new spread of the gospel.

(1) *The main purpose of this book is to trace all through the interval, the continued action of the risen Lord.* The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was the first fulfilment of the promise, "Lo, I am with you always unto the end of the world," and in the Acts of the Apostles this first fulfilment is repeated over and over again in the acknowledgement of the continual presence of the living risen Saviour. The word "Lord" meaning not God, but the Lord Jesus, the Saviour, occurs nearly one hundred times (18: 9, 10; 23: 11).

(2) This presence of the risen Lord was the presence of the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father, and if the Gospels record the mission of the Son, the book of Acts describes the mission of the Spirit. *The book is the Gospel of the Holy Ghost.*

Jesus had promised that there should be a double witness-bearing for Him: the witness of faithful loyal men who had been with Him from the beginning, and the witness of the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, whom He was to send to His disciples (John 15: 26, 27), and this promised presence and witness-bearing of the Holy Spirit is everywhere made manifest in the Acts of the Apostles (1: 2, 5, 8, 16).

(a) *All service in the Church is dependent on the gift of the Spirit.* The Seven, the first office-bearers in the Christian community, "were full of the Holy Ghost" (5: 3). When Stephen's work is mentioned, it is recorded that he was "full of the Holy Ghost" (6: 5), and because he had this gift of the Spirit he was able not only to preach and bear witness but to see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God (7: 55). Compare also ch. 9: 17; 11: 24; 13: 2-4; 8: 29; 20: 28.

(b) *All living fellowship in the gospel of Jesus Christ is recognized to be the result of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.* The disciples of the Church of Jerusalem received a second baptism after prayer for increased zeal and power of work (4: 31); Peter and John were sent down to Samaria that the converts there might receive the Holy Ghost (8: 14, 15); the churches of Judea and Galilee and Samaria are described as "walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Ghost" (9: 31); and the twelve disciples of Ephesus who had heard only of the baptism of John received the Holy Ghost when Paul had made them know Jesus Christ and Him crucified (19: 6).

(c) *Every advance made by the Church towards catholicity was guided and witnessed to by the Holy Spirit.* It was the Holy Ghost Who inspired the freer teaching of Stephen, and Who prompted the mission journeys of Philip. The gift of the Holy Ghost fell upon Cornelius and his friends while Peter was addressing them (10: 44-47), and Peter was at pains to vindicate his conduct by appealing to the witness of the Spirit (11: 15-17; 15: 8). The Holy Spirit justified the men of Cyprus and Cyrene when they preached the Lord Jesus to the Gentiles (11: 21); sent Paul and Barnabas to be Apostles to the Gentiles, and guided the decision of the brethren assembled in council at Jerusalem.

(d) *The sins of false brethren were against the Holy Ghost, and were rebuked by Him.* Ananias "lied unto the Holy Ghost" (5: 3), and he and his wife conspired "to tempt the Spirit of the Lord" (5: 9); while the sins of Simon the sorcerer (8: 18-20), and of Elymas (13: 9), were rebuked in the authority of the Holy Spirit.

Everywhere the Spirit is seen working, guiding, and upholding the infant Church of Christ, and the book of Acts is a record of the beginnings of the dispensation of the Holy Ghost.

(3) *The Acts, like Genesis, is a book of beginnings or origins.* The analysis makes us see at a glance that Luke dwells upon the spread of the Church. He describes his Gospel as an account of what Jesus began to do and teach, and his book of the Acts may be similarly spoken of as a description of what Christ's Apostles began to do and to teach. He is at pains to note each beginning, and what leads to the beginning, and having done so he is content to be silent about the growth which must follow the beginnings. The book fills up the gap between the Gospels and the Epistles, not in a detailed history of the churches of Jerusalem, Corinth, Galatia, Rome, etc., but by describing the beginnings in each place, and in such a fashion that the reader must insensibly be led to feel more the rapid spread of the kingdom of Christ, than the special shape it took in any one place. —Thos. M. Lindsay, D. D.

LESSON I—January 3rd, 1897.

Christ's Ascension. ACTS I: 1-14.

(Commit to memory verses 7-9.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "While he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven." Luke 24: 51.

PROVE THAT—Christ Jesus will come again. Acts I: 11.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 82. *Is any man able perfectly to keep the commandments of God?* A. No mere man since the fall is able, in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word and deed.

LESSON HYMNS, *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 54, 55, 56, 57.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Ascension. Acts I: 1-14. *Tuesday.* The parting blessing. Luke 24: 44-53. *Wednesday.* To the Father. John 16: 1-11. *Thursday.* For us. Heb. 9: 23-28. *Friday.* On the Throne. Heb. 10: 1-13. *Saturday.* Head over all. Eph. 1: 15-23. *Sabbath.* Alive for evermore. Rev. 1: 9-18 (*The 1. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lessons for this year cover the history of the founding of the Christian church together with the inspired writings which contain its doctrinal belief. The Gospels record the ministry of Jesus, the Acts and Epistles, that of the Holy Spirit in organizing and instructing the church. The Book of the Acts was written about A. D. 63 and its history covers a period of 30 years, or one generation. Its writer was Luke, probably a gentile (Col. 4: 11, 14), born at Antioch and a physician by profession. Tradition says that he was also a painter.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Father's Promise. vs. 1-8. II. The Son's Departure. vs. 9-11. III. The Spirit's Coming. vs. 12-14.

1. The former treatise—The Gospel by Luke (Luke 1: 3). **Began to do and teach**—The gospel gives merely the beginning of the work of salvation. Jesus is still working and teaching through his mystical body the church (Eph. 1: 23). **2. Until the day—**The fortieth after his resurrection (verse 3). **Through the Holy Ghost—**With which he was anointed (Luke 4: 18; Matt. 12: 28). **The Apostles—**The name is the same as "the missionaries," but clearly refers to the eleven only, who held a special place in the church in virtue of Christ's appointment. **3. After his passion—**"Passion" here means "sufferings," literally "after he had suffered." **Infallible proofs—**There was no room to doubt the reality of Christ's resurrection (1 John 1: 1-3; 2 Pet. 1: 16; Luke 24: 39). **The kingdom of God—**Not heaven, but the whole christian dispensation. His teaching bore upon the doctrine, discipline, organization and progress of his church. **4. The promise of the Father—**The Holy Spirit (Joel 2: 28, 29; Acts 2: 17, 18). Christ had also promised him (Luke 12: 11, 12; John 16: 7-15). **5. Not many days hence—**Just ten days after his ascension the promise was fulfilled (Acts 2: 4; 11: 15). **6. Restore again the kingdom—**They still expected an earthly and temporal kingdom like that of David and Solomon (Luke 19: 11; 24: 21). **7. Times or seasons (R. V.)—**The fixed dates of future events (Deut. 29: 29). **In his own power**

—R. V. "set within his own authority." God has not seen fit to reveal his future plans further than is necessary for our guidance in the path of duty. He does not satisfy idle curiosity. **8. Power—**Spiritual power, ability to preach the gospel, courage to endure trials &c. (Mark 16: 17, 18; Luke 21: 15; 24: 49; Eph. 3: 16). **Witnesses—**Witnesses testify to facts (John 15: 27; Luke 24: 48). Their commission was world-wide (Luke 24: 47; Matt. 28: 19, 20). **9. While they beheld—**R. V. "as they were looking." He raised his hands in blessing and they prostrated themselves in worship (Luke 24: 51, 52). There could have been no deception, they saw him ascending. **A cloud—**The sign of God's presence (Matt. 17: 5; Ex. 13: 21; 2 Chr. 5: 13, 14). The Father receives the Son back into his bosom. **10. Two men—**Two angels in the form of men (Matt. 28: 2-5; Luke 24: 4). **White apparel—**Emblematic of purity and sinlessness (Rev. 7: 9, 13, 14). **11. In like manner—**He would come in his real person, visibly (Rev. 1: 7; Ps. 104: 3). **12. Olivet—**The ascension took place near Bethany (Luke 24: 50). **A Sabbath day's journey—**2,000 cubits, or about three-quarters of a mile. The distance which the Scribes permitted a Jew to travel on the Sabbath. **14. With one accord—**It was hearty and united prayer. **Mary—**Mentioned here for the last time in the New Testament. **His brethren—**They now believed on Jesus (John 7: 5).

LESSONS. 1. Jesus is still present with his people. 2. We need the Holy Spirit to fit us for serving Christ. 3. Except we are baptized with the Spirit as well as with water we cannot see the kingdom of God. 4. The Christian's duty is to tell others about Christ. 5. United earnest prayer will be abundantly answered.

LESSON II—January 10th, 1897.

The Holy Spirit Given. ACTS. 2: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verses 1-4.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2: 4.

PROVE THAT—The Holy Spirit brings power for service. Acts 2: 38.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 83. *Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?* A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 73, 77, 81, 83.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Holy Spirit given. Acts 2: 1-13. *Tuesday.* Fulfilment of prophecy. Acts 2: 14-24. *Wednesday.* The Promise. John 14: 15-26. *Thursday.* Spirit of Truth. John 16: 12-16. *Friday.* The Revealer. 1 Cor. 2: 6-14. *Saturday.* Spiritual Gifts. 1 Cor. 12: 1-11. *Sabbath.* Fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5: 16-26. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. For ten days after the ascension the disciples, one hundred and twenty in number, assembled day by day in the upper room at Jerusalem, waiting for the fulfilment of the promise. Their time was chiefly spent in prayer, but on one occasion they chose a successor to Judas in the apostolate. This was Matthias. The incident shews that the apostles were already recognized as an official body under that title having special duties to perform.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Waiting Disciples. vs. 1-4. **II.** The Wondering People. vs. 5-13.

1. Pentecost—The name is derived from the Greek word for "the fiftieth." It came fifty days after the passover. It was the Jewish harvest festival (Ex. 23: 16; Lev. 23: 15, 16). **Was fully come**—This was God's appointed time and when the hour struck, so to speak, and not till then, the spirit came. Compare Gal. 4: 4. **They were all together** (R. V.)—Probably the whole 120 (ch. 1: 15). It was in the early morning (verse 15). **"Sunrise"** prayer-meetings are an apostolic institution and have been signally blessed. **2. A sound**—It was like the sound of a gale of wind, but came downwards and was heard by people outside (verse 6). The air was calm. The word "spirit" means "breath" or "wind." **3. Cloven tongues**—R. V. "tongues parting asunder," the flame-like tongues distributed themselves by dividing up. The words do not mean that each flame was forked. Like as of fire—They were not fire, but looked like it. A small flame appeared to rest on the brow of each one (Luke 3: 16; Acts 1: 5). Not the apostles only but all present received the outpouring. It was the baptism of the whole church of Christ (1 Pet. 2: 9). **4. Filled with the Holy Ghost**—All their affections and powers of mind and heart and body were under his inspiring influence. **Other tongues**—Foreign languages. **5. Devout men**—Like Simeon (Luke 2: 25; ch. 8: 2), pious Jews born (verse 8) in foreign countries. There were also many visitors

from distant parts of the world at the feast. Their character gave their testimony great weight. **6. When this sound was heard** (R. V.)—The noise as of a mighty rushing wind resounded also through the city, and appeared to come from the house where the disciples were assembled. A great crowd immediately gathered and was addressed by the disciples, who spoke under the Spirit's influence. One used one language and another another, so that every stranger in the audience heard their native tongue. **7. Galileans**—The northern accent was as noticeable in Jerusalem as the Scotch would be in London. Most of the disciples came from Galilee (Matt. 26: 69-73; ch. 1: 11). **8-II.** (Point out these countries on the map). "Strangers of Rome" were persons from that city temporarily sojourning in Jerusalem. Doubtless many of these carried home the glad tidings of the gospel and prepared the way for missionaries. **The wonderful works of God**—Their words were utterances of praise for the redemption of sinners. They told of the marvellous love shewn in the cross of Christ (Rom. 11: 33). **13. Mocking**—They only laughed at the earnestness of the disciples. It is very wicked to deride the religious peculiarities of others. They may be more truly filled with the Spirit than we are. **New wine**—Should be "sweet wine." This was artificially strengthened and was much more intoxicating than the ordinary sour wine.

LESSONS. 1. If we are not looking for the blessings we ask we may miss them when they come. 2. The Holy Spirit in our hearts will make our speech pure, and wise, and beautiful. 3. As the breath is the life so the Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual life. 4. As fire illuminates so He enlightens. 5. The glad tidings are for all nations.

LESSON III—January 17th, 1897.

A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 32-47.

(Commit to memory verses 33, 39).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off."
Acts 2: 39.

PROVE THAT—We all need repentance. Acts 2: 38.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 84. *What doth every sin deserve?* A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 27, 59, 128, 139.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* A Multitude Converted. Acts 2; 25-36. *Tuesday.* A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 37-47. *Wednesday.* Call to Repentance. Isa. 55: 1-7. *Thursday.* Confession and Salvation. Rom. 10: 4-13. *Friday.* Born Anew. 1 Pet. 1: 17-25. *Saturday.* Joy in Heaven. Luke 15: 1-10. *Sabbath.* The Prodigal Returning. Luke 15: 11-24. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Read carefully Peter's sermon and notice (1) how he answers the mockers; (2) points out the prophecy now fulfilled; (3) proves from Scripture that the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus was foretold, and (4) concludes that therefore he was the Christ. He does not spare his hearers but boldly charges them with the murder of the Messiah.

LESSON PLAN. I. Awakened Sinners. vs. 32-37. II. Baptized Believers. vs. 38-41. III. Loving Brethren. vs. 42-47.

32. Raised up—from the dead as foretold by David in Ps. 16: 8-11. We all are witnesses—would be true of nearly the whole 120 disciples. **33. Exalted**—i. e. to heaven, where Stephen soon after saw him (7: 56; 5: 31; Phil. 2: 9; Heb. 10: 12). The promise of the Father—The Holy Spirit (1: 4). The strange things wondered at were his work.

34. David ascended not (R. V.)—So he could not mean himself in the verse quoted from Ps. 110: 1. He must mean Jesus, the only one who ever ascended since David's time, and who is therefore the Messiah. **35. Thy footstool**—A conqueror set his foot upon the neck of his vanquished enemy to denote his complete and final subjugation (Josh. 10: 24; Ps. 18: 40; 1 Cor. 15: 25). **37. Pricked in their heart**—They were stung with remorse at their awful guilt, would not their glorified victim punish their atrocious crime? **Men and brethren**—"Sirs, brethren," or as in R. V. "brethren" only. **38. Repent and be baptized**—The first is incomplete without the second. How much more ought we, who have been baptized, to be sorry for our sins and seek to have the Holy Spirit ever abiding in our hearts (Ps. 56: 12; Gal. 3: 27; Rom. 6: 3, 11, 12). **For the remission of sins**—That is what baptism denotes. It is God's outward sign and seal of pardon and cleansing bestowed (Isa. 1: 18; Matt. 1: 21; 1 John 1: 9). **39. The promise**—of a Saviour, the Bleeding Lamb of Calvary (1 Pet. 1: 18, 19; John 1: 29, 36; Rev. 7: 14). **And to your**

children—Jesus still receives the children of his people into his arms at baptism, "lays his hands upon them and blesses them" (Mark 10: 16). Let us not receive such grace in vain (2 Cor. 6: 1). **All that are afar off**—The gentiles and heathen (Isa. 57: 19; Eph. 2: 13, 17, 19). **Shall call unto him** (R. V.)—The gospel invitation is meant for all who hear it. "Whosoever will, may come" (Rev. 22: 17). **40. Untoward generation**—Perversely obstinate people, who stubbornly refused to believe on Christ and accept salvation. **41. Three thousand**—It is incredible that so many could have been immersed on one day, especially as it was the rainless season when the brooks were dry and water was precious. They must have been baptized by sprinkling, or pouring water upon them (Isa. 52: 15; Ezek. 36: 25). **42. Breaking of bread**—Observing the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 10: 16). It was a time of daily study, daily social intercourse, daily communion and daily prayers together. **43. Fear**—The mockers were awed into silence. **Wonders and signs**—They wrought miracles (Mark 16: 17; 4: 33; 5: 12). **44. All things common**—They were like one family (4: 32, 34). **46. From house to house**—R. V. "at home," or in the usual place of meeting (ch. 12: 12). **Singleness of heart**—They had one aim, there was no deceit or hypocrisy amongst them. **47. Added to the church daily**—Every day saw accessions to their number, of those whom the Lord was saving.

LESSONS. 1. God overrules the wickedness of men for the furtherance of his cause. 2. The Holy Spirit alone can change our hearts and keep us from sin. 3. Those who are baptized are under special obligations to serve Christ. 4. Christians should cultivate brotherly love. 5. Religion should bring gladness.

LESSON IV—January 24th, 1897.

The Lame Man Healed. ACTS 3: 1-16.

(Commit to memory verses 13-16).

GOLDEN TEXT: "His name, through faith in his name, hath made this man strong." Acts 3: 16.

PROVE THAT—We should pray for others. Jas. 5: 16.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 85. *What doth God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?* A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of his redemption.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 155, 38, 62, 71.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The lame man healed. Acts 3: 1-11. *Tuesday.* The lame man healed. Acts 3: 12-21. *Wednesday.* Christ healing. John 5: 1-9. *Thursday.* The power of Christ. Luke 5: 18-26. *Friday.* In Christ's name. John 14: 1-14. *Saturday.* Signs following. Mark 16: 14-20. *Sabbath.* The power of faith. Matt. 7: 14-21. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson gives an example of the "wonders and signs" wrought by the apostles. The time was during the summer of A. D. 30, some weeks after Pentecost.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Wonderful Cure. vs. 1-11. II. The Wonderful Saviour. vs. 12-26. (Read to the end of the chapter).

1. **Peter and John**—These were old friends (Luke 5: 1-11). The hour of prayer—Three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of the evening sacrifice. 2. **A certain man**—He was now over forty years old (4: 22). The gate...called Beautiful—This is generally believed to have been the eastern entrance of the temple enclosure, the one by which most worshippers entered. To ask alms—As there was no public provision for the poor this was the only way in which they could obtain support (Mark 10: 46; John 9: 8). 4. **Fastening his eyes upon him**—He wished to arouse the man's attention. He looked very earnestly at him and saw that he had faith to be healed (14: 9). 6. **Silver and gold**—The apostles had forsaken all for Christ, and although they could not give money, they could give what money could not buy, healing to soul and body. In the name—By the authority and power of Jesus. It was Christ who healed the man, not Peter. 7. **By the right hand**—This shewed sympathy and inspired the man with confidence. 8. **Leaping up**—He did not hesitate. When he tried to obey he found that he could do it. It was another miracle that he was able to walk (Isa. 35: 6). **Into the temple**—The first use he makes of his limbs is to enter God's

house and give thanks (Ps. 100: 4). 10. **They were filled with wonder**—He was a well-known man and there could be no doubt of his cure (Acts 4: 16, 21). 11. **Held Peter and John**—Clung to them in gratitude and perhaps alarmed at the commotion of which he was the centre (Mark 5: 18). The porch that is called Solomon's—A cloister or covered walk along the east side of the temple area. It was built on the foundation of one of Solomon's (John 10: 23-28). 13. **The God of our fathers**—Peter preached no new religion but the fulfillment of the promises in the old. **Whom ye delivered up**—Before the people could repent they must realize their guilt and therefore Peter speaks plainly to them (Matt. 27: 2, 20; Luke 23: 18, 20, 21; John 19: 15; Acts 13: 28). 14. **The Holy and righteous One** (R. V.)—Whom even demons acknowledged (Mark 1: 24) and his judge acquitted (Matt. 27: 19, 24). **A murderer**—Barabbas (Mark 15: 7; Luke 23: 19). 15. **The Prince of Life**—The source of all life here and hereafter.—The Lord of Life. 16. **Through faith in his name**—The "name" stands for Christ himself and implies all that he is to the sinner. Both Peter and the lame man had faith, each in his measure.

LESSONS. 1. We ought not to absent ourselves from church without good reason. 2. When we pray we should watch for an answer. 3. We can often give what is better than money. 4. We should not pass any person in suffering or trouble if we can help them. 5. Give God the glory.

LESSON V—January 31st, 1897.

The Boldness of Peter and John. ACTS 4: 1-14.

(Commit to memory verses 10-12).

GOLDEN TEXT: "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 4: 12.

PROVE THAT—Jesus sustains in difficulties. Acts 4: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 86. *What is faith in Jesus Christ?* A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 80, 42, 101, 134.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 1-12. *Tuesday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 13-22. *Wednesday.* Resort to prayer. Acts 4: 23-31. *Thursday.* Fear not. Matt. 10: 24-33. *Friday.* The only name. John 3: 9-19. *Saturday.* The Corner Stone. 1 Pet. 2: 1-10. *Sabbath.* No other foundation. 1 Cor. 3: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson properly embraces the whole fourth chapter. The address of Peter was interrupted by officers sent to arrest them for creating a disturbance, but really because they proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus. This is the first attempt of the authorities to suppress the infant church by persecution.

LESSON PLAN. I. Suffering for Christ. vs. 1-4. II. Witnessing for Christ. vs. 5-12. III. Being like Christ. vs. 13, 14.

1. **The captain of the temple**—The commander of the temple guard, composed of levites, whose duty it was to preserve order. He was a priest (Luke 22: 4; Acts 5: 24). **The sadducees**—These denied that there was any future life, or angel, or spirit (ch. 23: 8). 2. **Being grieved**—R. V. "sore troubled" (ch. 16: 18). **Proclaimed in Jesus** (R. V.)—That Jesus himself had risen and that therefore in "Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15: 22). 3. **Put them in hold**—R. V. "in ward," or in prison. It was too late to assemble the sanhedrin which could meet, lawfully, only in daylight. 4. **Came to be five thousand** (R. V.)—They were not frightened by the arrest of the apostles but believed in Christ and united with the church whose membership had increased by 2,000 since the day of Pentecost. 5. This was a meeting of the *sanhedrin*, or supreme court of the Jews. It consisted of 71 members, the most distinguished men of the nation, and met daily. **Scribes**—These not only copied the law but were its chief teachers (Matt. 13: 52; 7: 29). 6. **Annas**—was not really high priest having been deposed by the Romans, but he seems to have retained the title and to have been a man of great influence. He was a sadducee. **Caiaphas**—was his son-in-law and actual high priest at this time (Luke 3: 2). We know nothing about the others mentioned. 7. **In the midst**—The council sat in a semicircle around them. The lame man still clung to them (verse 14). **In what name** (R. V.)—They wished to convict them of sorcery under the law of Deut. 13: (Ex. 22: 18; Lev. 19: 26). They acknowledged the reality of the miracle, but they ask

"By whose power and authority was it wrought?" 8. **Filled with the Holy Ghost**—Now the promise was fulfilled (Luke 12: 11, 12; Matt. 10: 19, 20). 9. **A good deed**—Peter suggests that this is not the real charge. Men are not usually arrested for making lame people well. 10. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth** (R. V.)—Peter boldly declares the truth, charges the rulers with the death of Jesus, and proclaims his resurrection by the power of God. This miracle was a proof that he lived and was able to save. 11. **He is the stone** (R. V.)—This would recall to their minds our Saviour's words in the temple (Matt. 21: 42; Ps. 118: 22; Isa. 28: 16). 12. **In none other is there salvation**—i. e. the salvation which all Jews expected through the Messiah. He is the only Saviour of all men. No other need be looked for. You must be saved by him or eternally lost (Heb. 2: 3). 13. **The boldness**—lit. "the outspokenness." Their courage, and the clear and forcible way in which they spoke (Phil. 1: 20). **Unlearned**—They were not learned rabbis, but they knew their Bibles well. **Ignorant**—They called everyone who was not a graduate of some school an ignorant person. But Peter and John were wiser than the rabbis this time (2 Tim. 1: 12). **They took knowledge of them**—They noted the spirit of the Master in the disciples (Phil. 2: 5; Rom. 8: 29; 2 Cor. 3: 18). 14. **They could say nothing**—They could not argue against a fact. It seems too that some of them suspected that they might be found fighting against God (ch. 5: 39; Luke 21: 15; Acts 6: 10).

LESSONS. 1. Earnest workers must expect opposition. 2. No good work is wholly fruitless. 3. Do what is right even if you suffer for it. 4. There is no Saviour but Jesus. 5. Try to be like Jesus.

LESSON VI—February 7th, 1897.

True and False Giving. ACTS 4: 32-5: 11.

(Commit to memory verses 33, 53).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16: 7.

PROVE THAT—God loves cheerful giving. 2 Cor. 9: 7.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 87. *What is repentance unto life?* A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 2, 8, 223, 85.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* True and false giving. Acts 4: 32-37. *Tuesday.* True and false giving. Acts 5: 1-11. *Wednesday.* Sacredness of vows. Eccl. 5: 1-6. *Thursday.* Warning against hypocrisy. Matt. 6: 1-8. *Friday.* Lying lips. Prov. 12: 13-22. *Saturday.* Insincere offerings. Mal. 1: 6-14. *Sabbath.* Blessing on true giving. Mal. 3: 8-12. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. A wonderful spirit of brotherliness seemed to possess the apostolic church. Their liberality was unbounded. They seemed to strive who should give most into the common fund. Hence arose a temptation to hypocrisy. Some wished to have a reputation for generosity without really possessing the grace itself. Ananias and Sapphira were not only liars, but hypocrites. Their sin was against the "Searcher of Hearts." They pretended to be what they were not.

LESSON PLAN. I. True Giving, vs. 32-37. II. False Giving, vs. 1-11.

32. Of one heart—Our Saviour's prayer was answered (John 17: 21). They fulfilled the "Royal Law" perfectly (Jas. 2: 8). **Neither said any one—**R. V. "and not one of them said." They felt that everything belonged to Christ and was to be used as he would wish. **33. With great power—**The Holy Spirit helped them in preaching and touched the hearts of those who heard them so that many believed. **Great grace—**God's blessing bestowed in spiritual gifts, peace, joy, love, holiness &c. (John 17: 17, 23; Luke 2: 40). **34. That lacked—**Everyone's wants were supplied out of the common store. **Sold them—**They did not sell all they owned, nor did everyone shew such self-sacrifice. Some went so far as to do this. **35. At the apostles' feet—**They were entrusted with the distribution of the common fund, and gave help to all who needed it. Doubtless many a one lost his situation by becoming a Christian. **36. Joses—**Same as "Joseph." He was the cousin of Mark (Col. 4: 10 R. V.) and afterwards Paul's companion in his first missionary journey (ch. 13: 2). **Son of exhortation** (R. V.)—He was an eloquent and earnest preacher. **37. Either his gift was an unusually large one, or it was the example which prompted Ananias and his wife to act as they did.** **1. Ananias—**"Grace of the Lord." **Sapphira—**"Beautiful." **A possession—**A field (verses 3, 8). **2. Kept back—**literally "stole" (Tit. 2: 10, "pur-

joining.") They pretended that this was all they got for it. It was a deliberate falsehood planned between them. **3. Peter said—**The Holy Spirit told him what had been done. **Satan filled thine heart—**Satan could not have entered his heart if he had not yielded to the temptation (Luke 20: 3). **To lie to the Holy Ghost—**They practised dishonesty in a transaction between them and God. **4. Was it not thine own—**Nobody compelled him to sell it, and he need not have given any part of the price unless he chose. There was no compulsion in the matter. It was a wilful, contemptible, hypocritical lie. **5. Gave up the ghost—**Dropped down dead. Such a terrible warning was needed to check the evil which might ruin the church at the outset (Jude 4). **6. The young men—**Being active and strong they would naturally be asked to do this. Coffins were not used, the body was wrapped in his long loose robe for a winding sheet. Burial usually followed immediately after death in that warm climate. **7. Three hours after—**Perhaps she waited so long for her husband's return and now came seeking him. No one had the courage to tell her what had happened. **8. This was an opportunity given for repentance.** **9-10. He did not curse her but sadly foretold the doom about to fall.** **11. All the church—**This is the first time that the word "church" is used to denote the Christian community.

LESSONS. 1. What a beautiful thing it is when Christians live in brotherly love. 2. All we have belongs to Christ, we are but his stewards. 3. Never try to make others think you to be better than you really are. 4. All falsehood is mean and wicked. 5. Be sure your sin will find you out.

LESSON VII—February 14th, 1897.

The Prison Opened. ACTS 5: 17-32.

(Commit to memory verses 29-32).

GOLDEN TEXT: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5: 29.

PROVE THAT—The Holy Spirit witnesses for Christ. Acts 5: 32.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 88. *What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?* A. The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption, are his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 161, 145, 132, 122.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The prison opened. Acts 5: 17-32. *Tuesday.* Rejoicing. Acts 5: 33-42. *Wednesday.* Jonah's prayer. Jonah 2: 1-9. *Thursday.* Fearless obedience. Jer. 26: 8-15. *Friday.* Suffering for Christ. 1 Pet. 3: 8-17. *Saturday.* Blessed in trial. Luke 6: 17-23. *Sabbath.* Boldness for truth. Dan. 3: 8-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Notwithstanding the censure of the venerable sanhedrim the apostles continued their work of preaching and working miracles of healing just as Jesus had done. This proved that his spirit was with them and crowds flocked to them as to their Master. Again the rulers tried persecution and the apostles were a second time arrested and imprisoned.

LESSON PLAN. I. The Apostles Imprisoned. vs. 17-20. II. The Apostles Preaching. vs. 21-28. III. The Apostles Witnessing. vs. 29-32.

17. The high priest—Annas is no doubt meant although his son-in-law Caiaphas actually filled the office at the time (4: 6; John 11: 49; 18: 13). **Rose up**—Proceeded to take measures against the apostles. **Indignation**—They were indignant at the contempt of their authority shewn in continuing to preach, and they were "jealous" (R. V.) of the success of the new teaching. 18. **The apostles**—All seem to have been arrested. **Common prison**—R. V. "public ward." 19. **The angel of the Lord**—One of an order of beings whose very existence was denied by the Sadducees (Heb. 1: 14). This encouraged the apostles to feel that their enemies could not do anything to them beyond what God permitted. 20. **Go, stand and speak in the temple**—They were not to hide like jail-breakers but to go on with their work and leave the rest to God. **The words of this life**—The spiritual life which believers have in Christ. It includes life in every sense (John 10: 10; 6: 68; 17: 3; 1 John 1: 1-3; 5: 11). 21. **About daybreak** (R. V.)—The morning sacrifice was offered at sunrise. **The senate**—These were probably associate, or honorary members of the sanhedrim who attended on special occasions (Acts 22: 5). 22-23. **The officers**—Some of the levite temple guard. **And the keepers standing**—The doors were bolted, and the guards unaware that their prisoners had escaped. The occurrence was clearly a miracle. 24. **The captain of the temple**—The commander of the Jewish temple guards. **The chief priests**—The heads of the 24 courses into which the priests were divided. **They were much perplexed concerning them**—They were puzzled to know how the apostles had escaped, and anxious about the effect on the excitable people. **Whereunto this would grow**—They began to fear that dealing harshly with them was a more serious matter than they had thought. 25. **Standing**—They were doing as they had been told, calmly and fearlessly preaching the gospel. 26. **They feared the people**—There was no resistance on the part of the apostles and any violence would have been unprovoked. The Jews were very apt to resort to mob violence (John 7: 45; Luke 20: 19). 28. **Straitly**—Strictly. The high priest seems afraid to inquire about their escape and avoids mentioning the name of Jesus. The only charge against them is disobedience to the command not to preach (ch. 4: 18). 29. Peter had made this answer before (ch. 4: 19). 30. **Raised up Jesus**—Christ came in accordance with God's promises to the fathers (Deut. 18: 15). **Hanged on a tree**—Crucified. "Tree" here means "beam of wood," as in "cross-tree," "axle-tree," &c. (Acts 10: 39; 13: 29; Gal. 3: 13; 1 Pet. 2: 24). 31. **His right hand**—By the exercise of his power (Exod. 15: 6; Ps. 98: 1). **A Prince and a Saviour**—Christ is exalted because he is a Saviour (Phil. 2: 9; Heb. 2: 10; 12: 2). 32. There were two witnesses—the apostles and the Holy Spirit. The former told what they saw and knew, the latter wrought miracles as a sign that God was with them.

LESSONS. 1. God's people are always in his safekeeping. 2. Our part is to do our duty, God will take care of us in danger. 3. The gospel is a message of life. 4. We ought not to obey commands that are opposed to God's word. 5. We too may have the Holy Spirit with us.

LESSON VIII—February 21st, 1897.

The First Christian Martyr. ACTS 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60.

(Commit to memory verses 57-60).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."
Rev. 2: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should forgive our enemies. Acts 7: 60.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 89. *How is the word made effectual to salvation?* A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 36, 69, 188, 192.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The first christian martyr. Acts 6: 8-15. *Tuesday.* The first christian martyr. Acts 7: 51-60. *Wednesday.* The roll of honor. Heb. 11: 32-40. *Thursday.* Our example. Heb. 12: 1-6. *Friday.* More than conquerors. Rom. 8: 31-39. *Saturday.* The eternal glory. 2 Cor. 4: 7-18. *Sabbath.* A crown of life. Rev. 2: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The distribution of the common fund to which Barnabas and Ananias had been contributors was a very delicate business. The apostles were unable to give it their personal supervision and it was not always judiciously managed. Accordingly at their suggestion seven men were chosen who should act as "Deacons" and attend to the department of church charity and finance, allowing the apostles to give themselves exclusively to their spiritual duties. Of these new officers Stephen seems to have been one of the ablest and he was soon singled out by the Jews as a special object of hatred. Our lesson contains the story of his martyrdom and the cause of it.

LESSON PLAN. I. Faithful unto death. vs. 8-15. II. The Crown of Life. vs. 54-50.

8. Full of grace and power (R. V.)—He was a very good man, and full of spiritual power both in speaking and working miracles. **9. The synagogue of the Libertines**—or "the freedmen." These were the children of Jews who had been carried captive to Rome, but who had been freed by their masters and now dwelt at Jerusalem. They had a "church" by themselves. The Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia and the province of Asia, also had each a separate congregation and place of worship. **10. The Spirit**—The Holy Spirit which gave power to his words. **11. Suborned men**—Bribed men to bear false witness against him. They knew that they were misrepresenting Stephen's words. This was a very serious charge (Deut. 13: 6, 10). **12. Stirred up the people**—There was nothing that would rouse the people like an insult to their temple and religion. The words imply that Stephen was treated with great roughness. **13. A half-truth is sometimes the blackest kind of a lie.** Stephen had perhaps repeated Christ's words to the woman of Samaria (John 4: 21; Acts 7: 48). **14. This Jesus of Nazareth**—Spoken with the utmost contempt. Change the customs—Do away with the whole ceremonial law. This most glorious truth was accounted blasphemy. **15. The face of an angel**—A supernatural radiance appeared

upon it. **Cut to the heart**—This was not the penitent grief of those who heard Peter on the day of Pentecost (2: 37), but a frenzy of rage, like a wild beast grinding its teeth at him (Job 16: 9; Ps. 35: 16; 37: 12). **55. Saw the glory of God**—Some visible sign of God's presence. The brightness which conceals the Deity from mortal eyes. **Jesus standing**—in the place of dignity and power. The glorified Jesus is generally represented as "sitting" to denote his victorious rest and permanent position (Matt. 26: 64; Eph. 1: 20; Mark 16: 19). Here he appears as if risen to welcome the first martyr of the church. **56. Son of man**—This name is nowhere else (except in Dan. 7: 13) applied to Christ by any person other than himself. **57. Stopped their ears**—His words appeared to them the height of blasphemy. **58. Stoned him**—The person to be stoned was thrown down, with his hands bound, from an elevation, then a large stone was rolled down upon him by the witnesses, after which all the people present cast stones at him until he was dead. **60. Calling upon the Lord (R. V.)**—He asks Jesus to receive back the spirit which he had created and redeemed (Ps. 31: 5; Luke 23: 46). **60. Lay not this sin**—Only Jesus could teach such a prayer (Luke 23: 34). Perhaps this prayer was answered in Paul's conversion.

LESSONS. 1. We must speak for Christ even if it excites opposition. 2. We may expect to be misrepresented by enemies. 3. God will give courage and peace in trials. 4. Christ is very near his suffering servants. 5. To die is to fall asleep in Christ.

LESSON IX—February 28th, 1897.

The Disciples Dispersed. Acts 8: 1-17.

(Commit to memory verses 5-8).

GOLDEN TEXT: "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8: 4.

PROVE THAT—The Gospel brings joy. Acts 8: 8.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 90. *How is the word to be read and heard, that it may become effectual to salvation?* A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence, preparation and prayer; receive it with faith and love, lay it up in our hearts and practice it in our lives.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 169, 168, 174, 73.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The disciples dispersed. Acts 8: 1-8. *Tuesday.* The disciples dispersed. Acts 8: 9-17. *Wednesday.* The gift of God. Acts 8: 18-25. *Thursday.* Persecution foretold. Matt. 10: 16-23. *Friday.* Partakers with Christ. 1 Pet. 4: 12-19. *Saturday.* Joy in the city. Neh. 8: 5-12. *Sabbath.* Samaritans believing. John 4: 27-30, 39-42. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. The stoning of Stephen was the signal for a general persecution of the Christians. But like those who would extinguish a fire by scattering the burning brands on every side, their enemies only compelled a wider diffusion of the gospel, for those who were "scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."

LESSON PLAN. I. The Seed Scattered. vs. 1-5. II. The White Harvest Fields. vs. 6-13. III. Showers of Blessing. vs. 14-17.

1. **At that time**—R. V. "on that day" probably the mob went directly to the places where Christians met, or even to their houses. **Except the apostles**—They stood bravely at the post of duty although they had already suffered. It was necessary for some one to "hold the fort" at Jerusalem (11: 19). 2. **Devout men**—Perhaps pious Jews who loved and honored the good man although they were not Christians. 3. **Made havoc**—"laid waste" like a wild beast in a vineyard (Ps. 80: 13). **Haling men and women**—Dragging them before the sanhedrim. It was a reign of terror to the Christians (1 Cor. 15: 9; Gal. 1: 13; Phil. 3: 6). 4. **Went everywhere**—Wherever they went they told why they were persecuted (Matt. 10: 23; ch. 11: 19; Rom. 16: 7). 5. **Philip**—One of the seven deacons (ch. 6: 5). **Samaria**—At Sychar, close by, Jesus had himself preached (John 4: 5). **Proclaimed unto them the Christ** (R. V.)—The Samaritans looked for the Messiah as well as did the Jews (John 4: 25). Philip told them that Jesus was he (John 4: 42). 6. **The people**—R. V. "the multitudes." Crowds of people believed the gospel, being convinced by the preaching and the miracles. There seems to have been no opposition. 7. **Unclean spirits**—Demons, evil spirits which took possession of men, such as Jesus cast out. **Crying out**—Either a scream of baffled rage and hate, or some testimony to the truth of the gospel (Mark 3: 11; Luke 4: 41). 8. **Great joy**—Such as the gospel always brings to true believers (Isa. 35: 2, 3; 42: 10, 11; Luke 2: 10; 1 Pet. 1: 8). 9.

Simon—Usually called Simon Magus, or Simon the Sorcerer. He pretended to have his skill and knowledge from demons and the spirit of the dead. They were really due to a knowledge of chemistry and science, or hypnotism and ventriloquism not possessed by his dupes. **Bewitched**—R. V. "amazed." The same word is translated "wondered" in verse 13. 10. **That power of God which is called Great** (R. V.)—The term "Power of God" means angel, or other being wielding divine power (Rom. 8: 38; 1 Pet. 3: 22). They believed him to be an incarnation of some spirit called "The Great One." 12. **They believed Philip**—They were fascinated by Simon but not satisfied. The story of God's love in Christ drew their hearts to him. **They were baptized**—They wished to confess Christ and receive the grace of the Holy Spirit (ch. 2: 38). The word implies that there was a succession of baptisms. 13. **Simon himself believed also**—But his heart was not really changed. From his name comes the word *Simony*, as the selling of ecclesiastical positions is named. **Wondered**—Same word as "bewitched" in verse 9. The miracles interested him more than the preaching. 14. **Peter and John**—These were delegates from the whole body of the apostles. No special rank belongs to Peter (Acts 1: 8). 15. **Prayed for them**—This was a special endowment of the Spirit and shewed itself in miracles. 17. **Laid their hands on them**—The outward sign of bestowing a divine gift (Mark 10: 16; Acts 13: 3; 1 Tim. 4: 14; 5: 22).

LESSONS. 1. Wherever we are let it be seen that we follow Jesus. 2. Pray for the enemies of religion that, like Saul, they may be converted. 3. We ought not to encourage pretenders to supernatural powers. 4. Deeds of kindness are the best proof of religion in the heart. 5. We need the Holy Spirit.

LESSON X—March 7th, 1897.

The Ethiopian Convert. Acts 8: 26-40.

(Commit to memory verses 29-31).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." Acts 8: 35.

PROVE THAT—We should search the Scriptures. John 5: 39.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 91. *How do the sacraments become effectual means of salvation?* A. The sacraments become effectual means of salvation, not from any virtue in them or in him that doth administer them; but only by the blessing of Christ, and the working of his Spirit in them that by faith receive them.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 32, 76, 79, 86.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Ethiopian convert. Acts 8: 26-33. *Tuesday.* The Ethiopian convert. Acts 8: 34-40. *Wednesday.* The Ethiopian's reading. Isa. 53. *Thursday.* The command. Matt. 23: 16-20. *Friday.* Preaching Jesus. 1 Cor. 1: 18-25. *Saturday.* Christ in the scriptures. Luke 24: 13-27. *Sabbath.* The new life. Rom. 6: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

INTRODUCTORY. While Peter and John were still at Samaria, Philip was sent on another mission. Our lesson gives the story of the conversion and baptism of the first negro christian.

LESSON PLAN. I. A Bible Reader. vs. 26-30. II. A Bible Teacher. vs. 31-35. III. A Baptized Believer. vs. 36-40.

26. Toward the South—R. V. margin "at noon." He was to be on the spot at the hour named. **Gaza**—One of the five cities of the Philistines in ancient days (Gen. 10: 19). He was to take the "desert road." **27. Ethiopia**—That part of Africa which includes Abyssinia, Nubia, and "the far Soudan," where British troops are now reconquering the country for civilization. **Eunuch**—The name given to an officer in charge of the harem, a sort of "Lord High Chamberlain." **Candace**—The title of the Ethiopian Queen, like "Pharaoh," or "Caesar." **To worship**—He had come 1300 miles. He was not a Jew, but was a believer in the true God. (Compare Acts 17: 4; Luke 7: 5). **28. Was reading**—Probably reading aloud as was customary with the Jews. He had heard about Jesus of Nazareth and his apostles, and was searching the Scriptures to see whether they testified of Him as the Messiah (John 5: 39). **Esaias**—The Greek form of *Isaiah*. **29. Join thyself**—No doubt this royal treasurer was accompanied by a large escort, and it would be quite proper for a single traveller to join them for protection. In this way Philip got near enough to hear what was read. **30. Understandest thou**—Philip's words were a pleasant greeting with an implied offer of help to understand. They sound like "Do you heed what you read." Perhaps the Eunuch took him for a scribe or rabbi. **31. How can I**—The passage was a very difficult one for the Jews to understand. They would not believe that the Christ should suffer and die. **Besought Philip** (R. V.)—It was a very earnest request. He was anxious to understand his Bible better. **32.** (Isa. 53: 7, 8). The Holy Spirit had guided the eunuch to read

this passage, and had prepared his heart to listen to Philip. You will always get most good from your class when you read over the lesson beforehand and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to your teacher's words (Acts 16: 14). **33. In his humiliation his judgment was taken away**—Justice was denied him. Even Pilate declared him innocent, and his executioner called him "a righteous man" (Matt. 27: 24; Luke 23: 47). **Who shall declare his generation**—Find words to describe the wickedness of the people of his time for his life is taken from the earth, *i. e.* they hurried him to a violent death. **34. Of himself**—So the Jews said, but Philip shewed him that they referred to Jesus of Nazareth who was the true Messiah of Israel. **35. Preached unto him Jesus**—This is the theme of all true preaching. He proved from the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy that Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel and of all mankind (Luke 24: 27; Acts 18: 28). **36.** Philip must have told him that baptism was the appointed "Seal of engrafting into Christ," as circumcision had been of old (Matt. 28: 19; Mark 16: 16). **37.** This verse is omitted in the Revised Version. It is probably quite true although not written by the author of the Book of the Acts. There must have been some such confession of faith on the part of the Eunuch. **38.** Both went to the water, but it is not implied the Eunuch was immersed. They may have waded in a short distance for convenience of dipping up the water in the hand. **39. Caught away**—Supernaturally removed him. **40. Azotus**—Ashdod 18 or 20 miles from Gaza. **Caesarea**—Here we find him 20 years later (Acts 21: 8).

LESSONS. 1. Christ seeks the *one* sheep. 2. The Bible is a good book to read while travelling. 3. Ask, if you do not understand it. 4. Everywhere it testifies of Jesus. 5. Love, trust and obey Him into whose name you have been baptized.

LESSON XI—March 14th, 1897.

Saul, the Persecutor, Converted. Acts 9: 1-12, 17-20.

(Commit to memory verses 17-20).

GOLDEN TEXT: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Tim. 1: 15.

PROVE THAT—Conviction of sin leads to repentance. Acts 9: 6.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 92. *What is a sacrament?* A. A sacrament is a holy ordinance instituted by Christ, wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed and applied to believers. Question 93. *Which are the sacraments of the New Testament?* A. The sacraments of the New Testament are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 87, 89, 99, 133.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Saul, the persecutor, converted. Acts 9: 1-12. *Tuesday.* Saul, the persecutor, converted. Acts 9: 13-22. *Wednesday.* Return to Jerusalem. Acts 9: 23-31. *Thursday.* Saul's own statement. Acts 22: 1-13. *Friday.* Taught of God. Gal. 1: 11-24. *Saturday.* Saved by grace. Eph. 2: 1-13. *Sabbath.* The faithful saying. 1 Tim. 1: 12-17. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. We return to the story of the suffering church at Jerusalem. The young pharisee who had kept the garments of the witnesses who stoned Stephen, became the leader of the persecutors. Not content with the cruel work at home he procured authority to pursue those who had taken refuge in distant places. Time—about midsummer A. D. 36.

LESSON PLAN. I. Saul persecuting vs. 1, 2. II. Saul Penitent vs. 3-12. III. Saul Preaching vs. 17-20.

1. Breathing.—His every breath loaded with threats of torture, prison and death to the Christians (Acts 8: 3; Gal. 1: 13; 1 Tim. 1: 13). **The High Priest**—The Romans gave the High Priest jurisdiction over the Jews, in matters of religion, no matter where they resided. **2. Damascus**—There were many Jews residing there. **This way**—R. V. "the way" *i. e.* of truth (2 Pet. 2: 2). The term means a peculiar doctrine or sect, (19: 9, 23; 22: 4; 24: 14, 22). Christ called himself "The way" (John 14: 6). **Unto Jerusalem**—To be tried before the Council. **3. As he journeyed**—It would require five or six days. **A light from heaven**—It was about noon (22: 6), and the light was brighter than that of the sun (26: 13). Paul himself tells us about it ch. 22: 9-11; 20: 12-20. In the midst of the glory he saw Jesus (1 Cor. 15: 8). **4. Fell**—Blinded and astonished. **Why persecutest thou me**—To harm one of Christ's brethren is to wound Christ himself. (Math. 23: 40; Heb. 4: 15; Zech. 2: 8; Isa. 63: 9) **5. Who art thou, Lord?**—Saul does not recognize Jesus. He may not have known him during his ministry, or his senses were confused and our Saviour's glory very greatly changed his appearance. **Against the goad** (R. V. Acts 26: 14)—The reference is to the sharp iron-pointed goad used instead of a whip in driving oxen. The animal only injured itself when it kicked against it. Saul was striving against God (5: 39) **6. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**—His surrender is complete. Saul's one desire had always been to do God's will with all his

might, but he had sadly mistaken what God wanted of him. (1 Tim. 1: 13; Luke 23: 34) **It shall be told thee**—He must wait patiently for further instructions. A hint is also given to him of the useful life in store for him, (Acts 26: 16-18). **7. Stood speechless**—They had been stricken down (26: 14), and when they rose up they heard speaking but could not distinguish the words or see the speaker (22: 9). **8. He saw nothing**—(R. V.) It was a miraculous blindness for the eyes of the others don't seem to have been hurt. It gave him undisturbed quiet for reflection. The whole course of his life must now change. **9. Three days**—They were days of intense mental suffering. How dreadful his past life must have appeared and how unspeakable the grace that saved "the chief of sinners." **10. Straight**—In Paul's time this was a magnificent avenue 100 feet wide and a mile long. It was divided by Corinthian columns into three roadways. **Behold he prayeth**—Not now as a formal, bigoted pharisee, but as a humble, penitent sinner (Rom. 10: 12, 13). Our lesson passes over the hesitation of Ananias and goes on to verse 17. **Putting his hand on him**—The outward means by which the miracle was wrought. **Be filled with the Holy Ghost**—He was to receive inward illumination as well. **18. As it had been scales**—Either something did drop off, or he seemed to feel that scales had fallen. **Was baptized**—Was received into the church of Christ. **20. He did not use the letters he brought from the Chief Priest.**

LESSONS. 1. Christ is able to save the worst of men. 2. True disciples are ready to do Christ's will. 3. Real prayer is always answered. 4. We should be willing to help anyone who is seeking Christ. 5. If you love Christ tell others about him.

LESSON XII—March 21st, 1897.

Christian Self-Restraint. I COR. 9: 19-27.

(Commit to memory verses 25-27.)

GOLDEN TEXT: "Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things."
I Cor. 9: 25.

PROVE THAT—We should set a good example. 2 Cor. 9: 22.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Question 94. *What is baptism?* A. Baptism is a sacrament wherein the washing with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, doth signify and seal our engrafting into Christ, and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, and our engagement to be the Lord's.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 130, 124, 120, 117.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Christian self-restraint. I Cor. 9: 19-27. *Tuesday.* Caution. 2 Pet. 3: 11-18. *Wednesday.* Denying ungodliness. Titus 2: 6-15. *Thursday.* Spiritual, not carnal. Rom. 8: 5-14. *Friday.* Putting off and putting on. Col. 3: 1-11. *Saturday.* Renewed in the Spirit. Eph. 4: 20-32. *Sabbath.* Walking wisely. Eph. 5: 6-21. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

INTRODUCTORY. Our lesson brings before us the broad principles that underlie all sound temperance teaching. We should refrain from even things lawful if thereby we can help others, or strengthen our control over the lower impulses of our nature.

LESSON PLAN. I. Self-denial. II. In Winning Souls. vs. 19-23. III. In Striving for the Crown. vs. 24, 25. IV. In Ruling the Body. vs. 26, 27.

19. Free from all men—Am quite independent as far as means of livelihood are concerned. **Servant unto all—**He lived for others, trying to help them in every way to a christian life, in order to lead them to Christ.

20. I became a Jew—Observed all Jewish customs. **Under the law—**He kept all its requirements as strictly as any pharisee although he stoutly maintained that as a christian, he was free from the law. He was willing to come under any condition no matter how disagreeable, if he might only win some souls for Jesus. He was inspired by a passionate love of souls.

21. Without law—i. e. "the gentiles," who were not under the Mosaic law. They had the moral law written in the heart, but not the ceremonial law given in the books of Moses. **Under the law to Christ—**This explains the sense in which Paul declares himself under the law. To him it is not the rule by which he will be judged, for Christ has fulfilled it for him, but just for that very reason he is all the more bound to keep its holy requirements out of grateful love for his redemption from its penalties (Rom. 13: 10).

22. The weak—Brethren with very narrow views and weak faith (ch. 8: 7-13). "Paul met all men on their own level, complying with their customs, even when he deems them unnecessary and trivial. He would not shock the Jews by living with Gentile freedom from Jewish restraints. He would not alarm the weak gentile brethren by partaking of the meat from idol temples, which they, when converted, had found it necessary to abjure. He had a right to all these things, but for the sake of others he refrained from

exercising his right. His aim in life was not to assert his rights, but to save souls, the very weakest souls. There are weak ones around us who by a taste of strong drink will be made drunkards, and to save them it is our manifest duty to abstain. And the application of the principle is not limited to any one sin or weakness." If our indulgence in anything might lead another into sin, directly or indirectly, we should refrain from it (ch. 10: 23). **All things to all men—**Not by surrendering principle to please other people, but by unselfishly giving up his rights and preferences (I Cor. 10: 33).

23. That I might be a joint partaker thereof—(R. V.) Paul's self-denial was for his own sake too. He didn't expect to see heaven unless he took others there with him. **24. But one receiveth the prize—**In the christian race all who run faithfully obtain the prize. The famous Isthmian games were held at Corinth.

25. Temperate—In ancient times, just as now, those who would win in any athletic contest must undergo severe training. **A corruptible crown—**A garland of leaves. Is not a crown of life "worth striving for?"

26. Uncertainly—Not an aimless running but straight for the goal (Phil. 3: 13, 14). **One that beateth the air—**All this self-discipline has a definite object,—training him to battle with sin and conquer it. **27. I buffet my body—**(R. V.) "Beat it black and blue," meaning that he practices self-denial very severely so as to be master of his bodily desires. **A castaway—**R. V. "I myself should be rejected." As not having complied with the rules I myself laid down (2 Tim. 2: 5).

LESSONS. 1. It is an honor to be Christ's servant to others—so are the angels (Heb. 1: 14). 2. We should be patient with the faults of others. To do others good we must suit ourselves to them. 4. The christian's crown must be striven for. 5. Self-denial is a good moral tonic. It braces our will, and helps us to rule ourselves.

LESSON XIII—March 28th, 1897.

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT: "The word of God grew and multiplied." Acts 12: 24.

PROVE THAT—Jesus is Omnipotent. Matt. 28: 18.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Review Questions 82-94.

LESSON HYMNS. *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 63, 70, 60, 170.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* The Ascension. Acts 1: 14. *Tuesday.* The lame man healed. Acts 3: 1-16. *Wednesday.* The boldness of Peter and John. Acts 4: 1-14. *Thursday.* The prison opened. Acts 5: 17-32. *Friday.* The first christian martyr. Acts 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60; *Saturday.* The Ethiopian convert. Acts 8: 26-40. *Sabbath.* Saul, the persecutor, converted. Acts 9: 1-12, 17-20. *Monday.* Peter working miracles. Acts 9: 32-43. *Tuesday.* Christ healing a palsied man. Mark 2: 1-12. *Wednesday.* Care for the poor. Deut. 15: 7-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

REVIEW CHART—FIRST QUARTER.

LESSON.	TITLE.	GOLDEN TEXT.	LESSON PLAN.	TEACHINGS.
I. Acts 1: 1-14	C. A.	While he blessed....	F. P.—S. D.—S. C.	Christ will come again.
II. Acts 2: 1-38	H. S. G.	They were all.....	W. D.—W. P.	The Holy Spirit brings power.
III. Acts 2: 32-47	M. C.	The promise is.....	A. S.—B. B.—L. B.	We all need repentance.
IV. Acts 3: 1-16	L. M. H.	His name, through..	W. C.—W. S.	We should pray for others.
V. Acts 4: 1-14	B. P. J.	There is none.....	S. C.—W. C.—B. C.	Jesus sustains in difficulties.
VI. Acts 4: 32-47; 5: 11	T. F. G.	Man looketh.....	T. G.—F. G.	God loves cheerful giving.
VII. Acts 5: 17-32	P. O.	We ought to.....	A. I.—A. P.—A. W.	The Holy Spirit witnesses for Christ.
VIII. Acts 6: 8-16; 7: 54-60.	F. C. M.	Be thou.....	F. D.—C. L.	We should forgive our enemies.
IX. Acts 8: 1-17	D. D.	They that.....	S. S.—W. H. F.—S. B.	The gospel brings joy.
X. Acts 8: 26-40	E. G.	Then Philip.....	B. B.—B. T.—B. C.	We should search the Scriptures.
XI. Acts 9: 1-12, 17-20.	S. P. O.	This is a.....	S. P.—S. P.—S. P.	Jesus is mighty to save.
XII. 1 Cor. 9: 19-27	C. S. R.	Every man.....	S. W. S.—S. C.—R. E.	We should set a good example.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

PERSONS. To whom is the Acts addressed? By whom was it written? Who saw Jesus ascend? Who spoke for the disciples on Pentecost? What was the first miracle recorded as wrought by the apostles? What was the second? Who was the first martyr? Who evangelized Samaria? Who was the first African convert? What noted sorcerer was apparently converted? What cruel persecutor became a Christian?

PLACES. From what spot did Jesus ascend? Where were the disciples when the Holy Spirit came? Where was the lame man healed? In what city was there a remarkable revival? To what distant country did a convert carry the gospel? Where was Saul converted?

EVENTS. How long did Jesus remain on earth after the resurrection? In what attitude did he ascend? Who told the disciples that he would come again? How did they spend the next ten days? How did the Holy Spirit manifest his presence when he came? How do you account for the large number of converts? How did the lame man show his joy and gratitude? By what means was he healed? Why did the rulers arrest Peter and John? What prohibition did they lay upon them? When again arrested, how were they set free? What reason did they give for disobedience? Describe the daily life of these first Christians. How did they show their unselfishness and charity? Who tried to get a reputation without deserving it? How were they punished? What aroused hatred against Stephen? What was he charged with? How did the Holy Spirit strengthen and encourage him? Compare his death with that of Christ. What blessing did the persecution bring to Samaria? and to Ethiopia? and to Saul?

TEACHINGS. Why were the disciples to remain at Jerusalem? Upon whom did the Holy Spirit come? Of what were the wind and fire and tongues symbols? How does Peter prove from prophecy that Jesus should ascend to heaven? What does he promise to all who will repent and be baptized? For whom does he say the promise fulfilled in Christ is intended? What example do these first Christians show of brotherliness? of prayerfulness? of respect for divine worship? What does Peter say of Christ as the rejected corner stone? How was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira a lie to the Holy Ghost? Why does Peter refuse to cease preaching? What was the real cause of the hatred against Stephen? Why were Peter and John sent down to Samaria? What did Philip prove to the satisfaction of the Ethiopian Eunuch? When did Paul receive his special commission as apostle of the Gentiles? Why should we practice self-denial and self-restraint?

LESSON I—January 3rd, 1897.

Christ's Ascension. ACTS 1: 1-14.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What other mention have we of Luke? (Col. 4: 14; 2 Tim. 4: 11). What reason to think that Theophilus was a man of rank? (Luke 1: 3; compare Acts 23: 26; 24: 3; 26: 25). Who spoke of Christ as "mighty in deed and word"? (Luke 24: 19).
2. Had Jesus prophesied of his ascension? (John 6: 62; 20: 17; and others, all in John's gospel). When is it referred to in the Old Testament? (Ps. 24: 7; 68: 18; see Eph. 4: 8).
3. How often did Christ appear to his disciples after his resurrection? (Mark 16: 14; Luke 24: 15, 34, 36; John 20: 19, 26; 21: 1, 14; 1 Cor. 15: 5, 6). Mention some other notable periods of 40 days duration? (Gen. 7: 12; 50: 3; Ex. 24: 18; Num. 13: 25; 1 Sam. 17: 16; 1 Kings 19: 8; Jonah 3: 4; Matt. 4: 2). What proof did our Saviour give of the real substantial character of his resurrection body? (Luke 24: 39, 42, 43). What evidence that it differed very much from ours? (John 21: 19; Luke 24: 31).
4. Why were the disciples commanded to wait at Jerusalem? When did Jesus speak of the Holy Spirit as a future gift to his disciples? (John 16: 5-10). What light does this verse throw upon the meaning of the word "baptize"?
5. Recall instances in which the expectation of an earthly kingdom had been a source of jealousy among the disciples? (Mark 9: 34; Matt. 20: 21, 24).
6. The "power" which wrought through Jesus would in future work through the apostles (Luke 4: 14; Acts 10: 38). What special power had Jesus promised to his disciple? (Mark 16: 17, 18; Luke 21: 15). Was testifying to the historical facts regarding Christ a special function of the apostles? (Acts 1: 21, 22; 10: 40-42; 1 Cor. 9: 1). Contrast this commission with the earlier one and give the reason for the difference (Matt. 10: 5, 6).
7. How many persons saw the ascension of our Lord? (Mark 16: 14; verse 13 R. V.)
8. How often are angels employed in connection with the ministry of Christ?
9. What prophecy of his second coming had Jesus himself uttered? (Matt. 24: 30, 31; 26: 64).

LESSON II—January 10th, 1897.

The Holy Spirit Given. ACTS 2: 1-13.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. Is there any evidence that the early church commemorated this day? (ch. 20: 16). By what name is it known to-day and why so called? (Whitsunday). What special promise to earnest united prayer? (Matt. 18: 19, 20; Acts 12: 5).
2. Where is the wind used as a symbol of divine influence? (John 3: 8; 2 Sam. 5: 24; Ezek. 37: 9; S. S. 4: 16).
3. Fire is an emblem of the divine presence (Ex. 3: 2; 13: 21; Lev. 10: 2; Ps. 97: 3; Heb. 12: 29). What bearing has this miracle upon argument concerning the mode of baptism? (verses 17, 33; ch. 10: 45; Ezek. 36: 27).
4. Why was the gift of tongues bestowed? (1 Cor. 14: 22). What promise was here fulfilled? (Mark 16: 17). Mention other cases in which this gift was bestowed (Acts 10: 46; 19: 6).
5. Give instances in which the Galilean accent is noticed (Mark 14: 70; Judges 12: 6). Was there a sneer at the presumed ignorance of rough Galileans? (John 1: 46; 7: 41, 52; Isa. 9: 1, 2).
6. How did Jews come to reside in Parthia &c.? In Babylon? What led them to scatter so widely over the world?
7. Mention some other mockers (Gen. 21: 9; Gal. 4: 29; 2 Kings 2: 23; Acts 26: 24). What is our consolation when reviled? (Matt. 5: 11, 12; 1 Pet. 4: 4, 14).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What other books did Luke write? (4)
- 2.—What proofs did Christ give of the reality of his resurrection body? (4)
- 3.—What did he teach the disciples about after his resurrection? (4)
- 4.—For what baptism were the apostles to wait, and when did it come. (5)
- 5.—Describe briefly the scene at the ascension of Christ. (8)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What was the feast of Pentecost? (5)
- 2.—What outward signs of his coming did the Holy Spirit manifest? (5)
- 3.—What effect did he produce upon the disciples? (5)
- 4.—What persons were astonished, and why? (5)
- 5.—What did the mockers say? (5)

Name.....

LESSON III—January 17th, 1897.

A Multitude Converted. Acts 2: 32-47.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

33. What does this verse prove in regard to the persons of the Trinity from whom the Holy Spirit proceeds? (John 14: 16, 26; 15: 26; 16: 7).
34. For what purpose did Christ quote Ps. 110: 1? (Matt. 22: 42-45).
35. When is this passage again quoted and what does it there prove? (Heb. 1: 13).
36. When does Peter repeat this argument? (ch. 5: 30-32).
37. What prophecies began here to be fulfilled? (John 16: 8, 9; Zech. 12: 10). What others have asked a similar question? (Luke 3: 10, 12, 14; Acts 9: 6; 16: 30).
38. Is the Holy Spirit promised in connection with baptism? (Mark 16: 16; John 3: 3-8; Acts 22: 16; 19: 1-6). In the sacrament man's faith and God's faithfulness clasp hands.
39. Where is this promise found? (Gen. 22: 18; Acts 3: 25, 26; Gal. 3: 29). What is meant by calling the children of a believing parent "holy"? (1 Co. 7: 14; Eph. 6: 1; and Col. 3: 20; compared with Eph. 1: 1 and Col. 1: 2. Children are included under the term "saints.")
40. Are believers to separate themselves from the world? (2 Cor. 6: 17; Rev. 18: 4).
41. Give other instances of large accessions to the church (ch. 8: 5-8; 19: 18-20).
49. Are Christians urged to be joyful? (Luke 2: 10; John 15: 11; Acts 13: 52; Phil. 4: 4; 1 Thess. 5: 16; 1 John 1: 4).

LESSON IV—January 24th, 1897.

The Lame Man Healed. Acts 3: 1-16.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. Note the close friendship of Peter and John (Luke 5: 1, 11; John 13: 23, 24; 18: 15, 16; 20: 2-4; 21: 7, 20, 21; Acts 3: 1, 3, 11; 4: 13, 19; 8: 14, 25). How many hours of prayer did the Jews have? (Ps. 55: 17; Dan. 6: 10).
2. What other apostle healed a cripple? (Acts 14: 8).
4. What other passages bid us look and be saved? (Num. 21: 9; John 3: 14, 15; Isa. 45: 22).
7. How did Jesus aid weak faith when healing? (Matt. 9: 29; Mark 7: 33; John 9: 6; and others).
8. Of what new spiritual relations is this miracle an emblem? (Isa. 35: 6; Lev. 21: 18). He could not serve God acceptably, (Deut. 15: 21, compared with Rom. 12: 1). Give an instance of the absence of gratitude in persons healed (Luke 17: 17. See also John 1: 11; Isa. 1: 2).
10. Why were miracles wrought by Christ and the apostles? (John 3: 2; 9: 16, 33; Acts 2: 22; 5: 12-14; 8: 6-8; 9: 33-35, 42; 1 Cor. 14: 22).
13. Where is Christ called the "Servant" of God? (Isa. 40: 1; Matt. 12: 18; Isa. 52: 13; 53: 11).
14. Where is Christ called the "Holy One"? (Ps. 16: 10; Mark 1: 24; Luke 1: 35; Acts 4: 27).
15. In what senses is Christ the Prince of Life? (John 1: 3, 4; 10: 10; 17: 1, 2; 1 Cor. 15: 20, 53-57; John 6: 51, 53-56. Compare Acts 5: 31).
16. Will the "name" of Jesus avail without faith in him as a Saviour? (Acts 19: 14-17). May even miracles be wrought through the name of Christ and yet the worker of them be unsaved? (Matt. 7: 22, 23; Luke 10: 20).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—By whom was the Holy Spirit sent? (4)
- 2.—Why were some “pricked in their hearts?” (5)
- 3.—What did Peter tell them to do? (4)
- 4.—For whom does he say that salvation was intended? (5)
- 5.—Describe the daily life of the early church? (7)

Name

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What is meant by the “ninth hour?” (3)
- 2.—Describe the man whom the apostles healed. (5)
- 3.—What did he do as soon as he found he could walk? (4)
- 4.—Of what great sin did Peter accuse the Jews? (5)
- 5.—Why is Christ called “The Prince of Life?” (8)

Name

LESSON V—January 31, 1897.

The Boldness of Peter and John. ACTS 4: 1-14.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. What is the captain of the temple called in the Old Testament? (1 Chr. 9: 11; 2 Chr. 31: 13; Neh. 11: 11). How did Jesus refute the infidelity of the Sadducees? (Matt. 22: 23-32).
4. What special promises are given to the persecuted? (Mark 13: 11; Luke 6: 22, 23; John 12: 25; 1 Pet. 4: 14; Rev. 2: 10; 20: 4).
- 5-6. Mention other trials before the Sanhedrim (Luke 22: 66; Acts 6: 12; 22: 30). Did any of its members become Christians? (Mar. 15: 43; John 3: 1; 7: 50, 51; 19: 39).
7. What other noted prisoner was brought before these high priests? (John 18: 13, 24).
8. What similar insinuation with regard to Christ's miracles? (Luke 11: 15). Was sorcery common at this time? (ch. 13: 6; 19: 19).
9. Did the good works of Jesus protect him from hatred? (John 10: 32, 33).
10. This passage was a favorite one with Peter (1 Pet. 2: 4-7; Eph. 2: 20-22).
12. The prophets pointed to one who would save from sin (Acts 10: 43; Rom. 10: 11; John 3: 14, 17; John 5: 39; Luke 24: 27, 44). His name meant this (Matt. 1: 21). Experience proves that he does save (1 Tim. 1: 15).
13. Ought we to imitate this kind of "boldness?" (Acts 4: 29; 4: 31; Eph. 3: 12; Phil. 1: 20; 1 Tim. 3: 13; Heb. 10: 19; 1 John 4: 17; "boldness of speech").
13. What place has the gospel for the common people? (Jas. 2: 5; Rev. 2: 9; Matt. 5: 3).

LESSON VI—February 7th, 1897.

True and False Giving. ACTS 4: 32-5: 11.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

32. Was "community of goods" the rule in the early church? (ch. 5: 4). What evidence that it was not universally practiced? (ch. 6: 1-7; 1 Cor. 11: 21; Jas. 2: 1-3, 6; 2: 15, 16).
33. Why did the apostles make the fact of the resurrection so important? (1 Cor. 15: 13-19).
35. Did the apostles afterwards find this duty burdensome? (ch. 6: 2).
36. What other mention of Barnabas in the Acts? (11: 25, 30; 13: 2-14, 28; 15: 2, 36-41). What special gifts did he possess? (ch. 13: 1). In what sense is he called an "apostle?" (ch. 14: 14. Compare 2 Cor. 8: 23, margin "apostles," Phil. 2: 25, margin "apostle.")
1. Who else are accused of stealing from God? (Josh. 7: 11; Mal. 1: 14; 3: 8, 9).
3. Give other instances of evil doers found out by direct revelation (2 Kings 5: 25, 26; 2 Sam. 12: 7). What was the Old Testament law concerning religious promises? (Num. 30: 2; Deut. 23: 21; Ecc. 5: 4). What bearing has this verse on the doctrine of the divinity of the Holy Spirit?
5. Give other severe warnings sent to check an evil at its first appearance (Lev. 10: 2; Num. 15: 35, 36; Acts. 8: 20; 13: 11; 1 Cor. 11: 17-21).
9. How may we tempt God? (Luke 4: 12; Deut. 6: 16; Ps. 139: 7-12). Does God tempt men? (Jas. 1: 13-15).
11. What temptations before the church to-day are like those that assailed Ananias and Sapphira? (Rev. 2: 4; 3: 2, 3, 16-19). How are they to be overcome? (1 Cor. 2: 2).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1.—Why were Peter and John arrested? (5)

2.—Before what court were they tried? (5)

3.—What did they declare Jesus to be? (5)

4.—What did the rulers notice about the apostles? (5)

5.—Why could they not condemn them? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1.—Why did the apostles speak so much about the resurrection of Jesus? (5)

2.—How did the first Christians shew their brotherly love? (5)

3.—What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? (5)

4.—Against whom had they acted falsely? (5)

5.—How were they punished? (5)

Name.....

LESSON VII—February 14th, 1897.

The Prison Opened. ACTS 5: 17-32.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

17. What sect were our Lord's most bitter enemies? Why do the Sadducees now come forward? What doctrine of the apostles united both parties against them? (Acts 6: 13, 14).
19. How often are angels employed in connection with the early church? (5: 19; 8: 26; 10: 3; 12: 7, 23; 27: 23).
20. What does Christ say of himself in John 14: 6? Where are these names applied to the gospel? (Acts 19: 9, 23; John 8: 32; Acts 5: 20).
21. Give other instances of prisoners supernaturally released? (Acts 12: 7-10; 16: 26).
26. What indications in the New Testament of the turbulent character of the Jews?
28. Why should the rulers object to being held responsible for Christ's death? (Matt. 23: 35; 27: 25).
31. Both repentance and faith are *gifts* of God (John 1: 16; 16: 7, 8; Acts 3: 16; Rom. 2: 4; Eph. 2: 8).

LESSON VIII—February 21st, 1897.

The First Christian Martyr. ACTS 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

10. What promise was fulfilled to him? (Luke 21: 15; Isa. 54: 17).
11. On what other occasion was a sentence obtained by suborned evidence? (Matt. 26: 59, 60; 1 Kings 21: 10, 13). Give other cases of tumults excited by similar false reports (Matt. 27: 20, 65; Acts 13: 50; 21: 27-31).
- 13-14. What was the true teaching of Christ and the apostles on these points? (Matt. 5: 17; Mark 13: 2; Heb. 8: 13; Col. 2: 16, 17). What had Daniel prophesied? (Dan. 9: 26).
15. Who told this to Luke? What other faces shone with a spiritual light? (Ex. 24: 29, 35; Matt. 17: 2).
54. Where does gnashing of teeth properly belong? (Matt. 8: 12; 13: 42).
55. Where do we read of God's glory on earth? (Ex. 16: 10; 24: 16, 17; 40: 34, 35; 1 Kings 8: 10, 11). Similar visions of the heavenly glory (Isa. 6: 1-3; Ezek. 1: 28; Rev. 21: 23).
56. What Old Testament prophet also beheld the Son of Man in glory? (Dan. 7: 13).
57. Did the murderers of Stephen really believe that he was guilty of blasphemy and deserved death? (1 Tim. 1: 13). By what law did they condemn him? (Deut. 13: 9, 10; Lev. 24: 16).
58. Why did they take him outside of the city before stoning him? (Lev. 24: 14; as also Heb. 13: 12, 13).
60. Contrast this with the Old Testament prayer (2 Chr. 24: 22).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—Why were the rulers indignant? (5)

- 2.—What did the angel tell them to do? (5).

- 3.—In what condition did the officers find the prison? (5)

- 4.—Why did they avoid roughness when they rearrested the apostles? (5)

- 5.—What witnesses testified to the truth of the gospel? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—What office did Stephen hold in the church? (4)

- 2.—What false charges were brought against him? (4)

- 3.—In what way did he shew that he was “filled with the Holy Ghost?” (5)

- 4.—How was he put to death? (5)

- 5.—In what respects did his death resemble that of Jesus? (7)

Name.....

LESSON IX—February 28th, 1897.

The Disciples Dispersed. ACTS 8: 1-17.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. Where does Paul refer again to this? (Acts 22: 20; 1 Tim. 1: 13). How could the apostles remain in safety at Jerusalem? (Acts 5: 13; Ps. 91: 11; 34: 7).
3. How does Paul himself describe this persecution? (ch. 22: 4; 26: 10, 11; 1 Tim. 1: 13).
5. Had Jesus spoken of Samaria as a hopeful field for missionary work? (John 4: 35, 42).
6. The chief opposition always came from Jewish bigots (Acts 13: 44, 45).
7. Note the following points regarding demoniacal possession. 1. Christ refers it to satan (Luke 10: 17-19; 11: 14-22). 2. It is distinguished from disease (Mark 1: 32; Matt. 4: 24). 3. It was usually accompanied by bodily infirmity (Matt. 9: 32; 12: 22; Mark 9: 17-27; 5: 1-5). 4. It differs from satan's influence on the soul through temptation.
9. Another sorcerer mentioned Acts 13: 6, 7.
10. How many angels are named in the Bible (Gabriel, Dan. 8: 15-18; 9: 21-23; Luke 1: 11-19; 1: 26-29. Michael, Dan. 10: 13, 21; 12: 1; Jude 9; Zech. 3: 2; Rev. 12: 7).
14. Who were the Samaritans and how did they come to be half Jews? (2 Kings 17: 24-29). Contrast John's errand now and his words long before (Luke 9: 54). Why had the apostles been forbidden at one time to go to Samaria? (Matt. 10: 5).
16. Where do we again find disciples who had not received the Holy Ghost? (Acts 19: 2).
17. Was the Holy Spirit, in this sense, *i. e.* endowing with visible gifts of a miraculous character, ever bestowed except through the laying on of the hands of the apostles? (ch. 9: 17; 10: 44).

LESSON X—March 7th, 1897.

The Ethiopian Convert. ACTS 8: 26-40.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

26. What other mention of Gaza in the Bible? (Judges 16: 1-3, 21-30).
27. Did Christ meet with any believing gentiles? (John 12: 20; Luke 7: 5). Mention another Eunuch who was kind to some of God's people. (Dan. 1: 9).
31. Who is the best Teacher of the meaning of Scripture? (John 16: 13). What early christians did the Eunuch resemble? (Acts 17: 10, 11).
32. Note our Lord's silence when on his trial. (Matt. 26: 62, 63; 27: 12, 14; Luke 22: 61; 23: 9; John 19: 9). In what other respects did Christ resemble a lamb? (John 1: 29; 1 Pet. 1: 10; Rev. 5: 6; 1 Cor. 5: 7).
33. Instances in which "generation" means "contemporaries," Ps. 14: 5; 112: 2; Prov. 30: 11-14.
35. A synopsis of such a sermon as Philip's is found in 1 Pet. 2: 21-24.
37. Profession of faith in Christ is required, before baptism, of all grown persons who were not baptised in infancy. (Acts 2: 41; 8: 12; 16: 31, &c.) Children were baptised on their parents' profession of faith. (Acts 16: 15, 32, 33; 18: 8; 1 Cor. 1: 16; Acts 11: 14; 1 Cor. 7: 14). Other confessions of Christ, Matt. 16: 16; John 6: 69; 9: 35, 38. He is the Son of God. (Acts 9: 20; Matt. 16: 16; John 11: 27; 1 John 4: 15; 5: 5, 13).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED WRITING.

- 1.—Why did the apostles remain at Jerusalem? (5)
- 2.—What effect had persecution upon the spread of the gospel? (5)
- 3.—What success did Philip meet with in Samaria? (5)
- 4.—What notable convert did he make? (5)
- 5.—Who were sent to Samaria, by whom, and why? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

- 1.—Where was Ethiopia? (5)
- 2.—What was the Eunuch reading? (5)
- 3.—What question did he ask about its meaning? (5)
- 4.—What answer did Philip give? (5)
- 5.—What was his confession of faith? (5)

Name.....

LESSON XI—March 14th, 1897.

Paul, the Persecutor, Converted. ACTS 9: 1-12, 17-20.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

1. Is there any evidence that others besides Stephen were put to death? (Acts 26: 10)
3. Compare the different accounts of Saul's Conversion and write out one full narrative from them all.
4. In what language did the Voice speak? (26: 14). What other apostle heard the voice of the glorified Jesus? (Rev. 1: 14-17).
7. See a similar occurrence in Dan. 10: 7.
8. Compare another case in which an infirmity was sent as a discipline? (Luke 1: 20).
10. All we know of Ananias is in ch. 22: 12. Saul expected him. Compare Cornelius and Peter.
18. What facts are brought forward to shew that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was weak eyes resulting from this blindness? (Acts 22: 11; Gal. 4: 15; 6: 11).
20. How did Saul escape from the enemies that rose against him in Damascus? (2 Cor. 11: 32, 33). How was he received when he returned to Jerusalem? (verse 26-29). To what country did he retire for a time? (2 Cor. 11: 32-33).

LESSON XII—March 21st, 1897.

Christian Self-Restraint I COR. 9: 19-27.

BIBLE SEARCH LIGHTS.

19. Mention some of Paul's services for others. (2 Cor. 11: 23-28).
 20. Examples of Paul's conformity to the Jewish law. (Acts 16: 3; 18: 18; 21: 23-26). His declarations of freedom from its restrictions. (Gal. 3: 28; 5: 1-4).
 21. How Paul adapted himself to the Gentiles. (Acts 17: 22-32).
 22. Examples of "weak brethren." (Rom. 14: 1; 15: 1; Acts 20: 35; 1 Thess. 5: 14; 2 Cor. 11: 29). Paul's yearning over sinners. (Acts 26: 29; Rom. 9: 3; Phil. 4: 1).
 24. Notice how often Paul draws his illustrations from games. (vs. 26, 27; 1 Cor. 15: 32; 2 Tim. 2: 5; 4: 8; Phil. 2: 16; 3: 14; Gal. 2: 2; 5: 7; Heb. 12: 1; Eph. 6: 12).
 25. The Christian's crown. (2 Tim. 4: 8; Jas. 1: 12; 1 Pet. 1: 4; 5: 4; Rev. 2: 10; 3: 11).
 27. Danger of yielding to the flesh. (Rom. 8: 13; Col. 3: 5; Rom. 6: 18, 19).
- TEMPERANCE REFERENCES.—What was the punishment of a drunken son under the law of Moses? (Deut. 21: 20, 21). The folly of yielding to strong drink. (Prov. 20: 1; Hos. 4: 11; Luke 21: 34). The sinfulness of drunkenness. (Heb. 2: 15; 1 Cor. 6: 10; Gal. 5: 21). It leads to poverty. (Prov. 21: 17; 23: 21). It is shameful. (Prov. 23: 29-32; Isa. 5: 11; 1 Cor. 5: 11). The use of strong drink unfits for serious duties. (Lev. 10: 9; Prov. 31: 4; Isa. 28: 7; Luke 21: 34; 1 Thess. 5: 8). The appetite will grow on one. (Prov. 20: 21; 23: 31). The Christian's duty. (Rom. 13: 14; 1 Cor. 6: 12; 8: 9-13; 9: 27; Gal. 5: 16, 24; 1 Pet. 2: 11).

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1.—Why did Paul go to Damascus? (5)

2.—What did he see and hear by the way? (5)

3.—How did his companions see and hear? (5)

4.—How did Saul spend the next three days? (5)

5.—By whom were his eyes opened and what did Saul then do? (5)

Name.....

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.

1.—Why did Paul make himself a servant to all? (4)

2.—In what sense was he “under the law to Christ?” (7)

3.—How is the crown won in a race? (4)

4.—Why does Paul “buffet his body?” (4)

5.—Why should earnest Christians refrain from the use of intoxicating liquor? (6)

Name.....

LESSON XIII—March 28th, 1897.

REVIEW.

(The maximum value of each correct answer is 4).

- 1.—How long did Jesus remain on earth after his resurrection?
- 2.—What did he promise to send to his disciples?
- 3.—What happened on the day of Pentecost?
- 4.—What did the people wonder at?
- 5.—How did Peter explain the strange things that they heard and saw?
- 6.—What did he urge the people to do?
- 7.—In what did the new converts “continue steadfastly?”
- 8.—Whom did Peter heal at the Beautiful gate of the temple?
- 9.—What did Peter say had cured him?
- 10.—Why were Peter and John arrested?
- 11.—What did he say to the council about the Saviour?
- 12.—How was the liberality of the first Christians shewn?

- 13.—What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira ?
- 14.—What did the angel tell Peter and John to do when he took them out of the prison ?
- 15.—What reason did they give to the council for not obeying it ?
- 16.—What false accusation was brought against Stephen ?
- 17.—What did Stephen see when the mob rushed upon him ?
- 18.—What effect had persecution upon the spread of the gospel ?
- 19.—Where did Philip preach and what notable convert did he win ?
- 20.—Why was Philip sent to the Gaza road ?
- 21.—What was the Eunuch reading and what question did he ask about it ?
- 22.—On what errand was Saul going to Damascus ?
- 23.—Describe what occurred as he neared Damascus.
- 24.—Why did Paul try to gain the good will of others ?
- 25.—How did he strengthen his own self-control ?

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 have recited them to I was at church I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.

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