

Sabbath School Publications
Presbyterian Church in Canada



THE
PRIMARY QUARTERLY

The
Home
Study
Series



FOR
THE
LITTLE
ONES

PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REV. R. DOUGLAS FRASER, M.A.

Editor and Business Manager

Confederation Life Building

TORONTO



"The test of selfishness is not to forget
ourselves - it is to remember others."

Would it not be kind to tell
your friends about
Blue Ribbon Ceylon Tea?

"Then shall our names be as
familiar in their mouths as
household words."

says Shakespeare. Or,
as Blue Ribbon Ceylon Tea.

The Primary Quarterly

VOL. IV.

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No. 3



GREAT delight it has been to the editor that the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and PRIMARY LEAFLET have been in such brisk demand, for there is nothing that he and those who help him value more than the high privilege of teaching the very little ones. Instructing these is like sowing in the early springtime. The sun is warm, the air is moist, the soil is greedy for the seed. Of course, it grows. A later sowing is by no means so sure.

This very demand caused embarrassment last quarter. We had printed *a very large edition* both of the QUARTERLY and the LEAFLET, but the orders fairly showered upon us, and some have had actually to wait for this present issue. We are taking care to provide another time for the biggest shower that can fall. Fruitful showers they are.

"Do you really intend the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and LEAFLET for little ones who cannot read?" some have asked us in surprise. "Why not?" "Is there not too much in them," is the reply; "how can the little ones master it all?"

Well, let us see. Take the first lesson of the quarter. The child cannot read, but his eyes and ears are very sharp. He fastens at once on the picture of the strange looking heathen idol. Explain what it is and he will quickly make choice as between worship of such a creature and of the great God who made and loves us all.

Now tell him how God's own people had turned their backs on Him for just such idols and how faithful Hosea, who was loyal to his Lord, pleaded with them to come back. This prepares for the Golden Text. The words are easy and it is soon learned—here it is—"Come and let us return unto the Lord." This is the key to the lesson.

THE LESSON RETOLD may come next. Read it over to the child two or three times on as many different days, and you will scarcely need to repeat the ANSWERS when you ask the QUESTIONS. The child's nimble tongue will be too quick for you.

Perhaps he can just spell out the I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY, which is always in big letters to catch the eye—and the heart, as well. It is quite as readily memorized as is the Catechism, with its admirably simple language and clear thought.

The Scripture Text is given in full chiefly that those who teach the child may have it at hand to answer the questions that are sure to be asked. The Lesson Hymn, seeking, as it does, to give wings to the chief practical truth of the lesson, comes last and may be said or sung. It needs no explanation:

"If I come to Jesus,
He will hear my prayer,
For He loves me dearly
And my sins did bear."



A Talk with Parents by a Primary Teacher

M. S. C.
By Rae Furland Readman

Dear Christian parents, what do you covet most earnestly for your children? I think I hear you answer "that they may early be true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ"; and many a one will add, "I do pray for them, and try to teach them all I can." Some will go further and say, "But it seems as if my prayers were not answered and my long talks were all wasted. My elder children cause me more anxious thought than do my little ones."

Dear fathers and mothers, however many talks may have been wasted, not one earnest prayer is lost, though it may not be answered in the time or way you expect.

About the talks you have tried to give. Have they always been wise, or did you sometimes take the opportunity of giving them when your little one had been naughty, thus associating in his mind words of counsel with his own unhappy feeling? In such a case the child would hasten to forget them, because, as you know, we do not wish to remember unpleasant things. And more, if uttered in anger, though slight, they would be promptly resented.

Four-year-old Willie was being put to bed one evening by his father. He had been entertaining two little friends, and, being somewhat excited, was more trouble than usual. "Do be quiet, Willie," said his father, rather impatiently. Willie looked up and remarked pleasantly, "You should not speak to me like that, papa, my teacher says we must love one another." The father accepted the rebuke meekly, and, by talking quietly to his child about his Sabbath School, got him calmed down and to sleep.

Without a word, the father taught Willie two very important lessons, viz., that love can overcome, and how to receive a deserved rebuke.

How was the father able to do this? Because he had learned to control *himself*. Ah, here is a power, which we who have to do with children often either forget or fail to make use of. Because Willie's father used it on that occasion he obtained a new hold on his child, and can, with benefit to him, use his own remark when he (Willie) is not showing love by word or act.

One mother says, "I leave our evening dishes to put away after the children have gone to bed, and the half-hour after tea is the happiest in the day. In winter round the fire, in summer out of doors, we have our little Sunday School every day. We talk about the old or the new lesson, and they teach me the hymns they have learned. Because I am truly glad to learn of them, they are truly glad to learn of me."

Another mother hearing of this plan said: "I cannot give half an hour, but I think I can manage ten minutes." She did: and now with tears in her eyes, says, "If only I

had thought about it when my elder children were little. It has given me such an influence over my little ones, and they have such confidence in me; they come to me with everything in a way my other children never did."

Neither of these mothers has need to give long talks to her children about what they should or should not do. They know each other so well that a word or a look is sufficient.

Perhaps at first glance, it seems strange to speak of parents and children knowing each other, but, when we think about it, it is appalling how few really and truly do.

A father once said to a visiting teacher, "How do you manage to teach the children the golden text? I try to do so every week but they seem so stupid with me, they never know it until after Sunday School." "Oh," said the teacher, a light breaking over her face, "that accounts for something I have sometimes wondered at. Your children always remember it when they *have* learned it. I see now; it is because of the double teaching. As to how I teach it, I suppose it is because I illustrate it. Sometimes you know it answers a question in the lesson story, as, 'What did the three men say to King Nebuchadnezzar when he would put them in the fiery furnace?' (Lesson III.). Then I ask, 'When we are in trouble, to whom shall we go?' Thus in various ways I get the answer several times. Sometimes the golden text is a promise of God as 'I will put my spirit within you,' or again it is a command as 'Be ye strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work.' Whatever it is, it is nearly always the central thought of the lesson, and a few questions will cause its repetition again and again, not in a tedious way, but showing it in its connection and surroundings, and thus unconsciously fixing it in the minds of the children."

"I often think if more of the parents would teach their little ones something of the lesson, we could do so much more for them, for if they only hear it *once* it is so easy to forget it," replied the father.

And so do I, dear fathers and mother. If

you are thinking about the lesson yourselves you will be able to put in a judicious word or suggestion now and again, to fit right in with their Sabbath School teaching, and which will perchance be of more real benefit than all the long talks in the world.

Toronto

The Children's Sunday Evening

By Ellen M. Hurl

Mothers often find it difficult to entertain their children on Sunday. I would like to tell them of an evening that I once spent with some friends, thinking that it may contain a few helpful suggestions.

As the twilight hour approached, all who could not attend the evening church service assembled in the parlor for a social hour.

It was one of those chilly evenings which we sometimes have in late summer and a cheerful wood-fire blazed upon the hearth. Since the Sabbath School at noon, Auntie had entertained the children with readings in her own room.

Now the little ones were in bed, and the elder boys were eager for further entertainment, before they too left us for sleep-land.

"What shall we do?" they cried, as we gathered around the fire.

"Let us have a good sing," said Ernest, the eldest. We all agreed, and while one played the organ, the others joined in the old familiar hymns; and the boys must have a solo from each one, so Royal sang a lovely little song about the Star of Bethlehem, others followed with selections of their own. "Now we will sing my favorite," said Royal:

"Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose true!
Dare to make it known!"

"I like that hymn," he continued, "it sounds so noble and grand." So we all sang the favorite hymn, and the boys made it very inspiring with their emphatic "dares."

"Now," said Auntie, "you must be tired singing, so we will have Bible 'come's you come.'"

"What is that?" asked the uninitiated.

"You will see presently," said Auntie. "Ernest, you may begin—choose some character from the Bible, give us the initial letter of the name, and we will guess who it is."

The boys were familiar with Bible history, and it took only a moment for Ernest to select the letter S.

"Do we read about this person in the Old Testament?" asked Auntie.

"Yes."

"Is he mentioned after the Children of Israel came out of Egypt?"

"Yes."

"Was he a very strong man, and did he have long hair?"

"I do not think his hair was remarkably long, and I never heard that he was especially strong," said Ernest.

"Did his mother dedicate him to the Lord when he was a little boy, and did he go to live with a priest, and one night did the Lord call him by name three times?" asked Royal.

"No, it was not Samuel."

"Was he a great king?" inquired Auntie.

"Yes."

"Was he jealous of a young man who, he thought, wanted to take away his kingdom, and did he go to war against him?"

"No, it was not Saul."

"Was he a very rich king?"

"Yes."

"Was he noted for his wisdom?"

"Yes."

"Ah, now we are getting nearer the right answer. Did a certain queen come to visit him when she heard of his fame and glory, and did she declare the half was never told her?" asked one.

"Yes."

"Solomon," we all exclaimed.

"Right," said Ernest.

"Now let me give one," said Royal, "and it shall be the letter D."

"Was he also a great king?" we asked.

"No."

"Was he a very good man, and was he put in the lion's den at one time for praying to the Lord?"

"No, it is not a man at all."

"Oh, it is a woman then?"

"Yes."

"Was she a prophetess?"

"No."

"Do we read about her in the Old Testament?"

"No."

"In the New Testament, then?"

"Yes."

"Was she a very good and benevolent woman?"

"Yes."

"Did she make clothing and give to the poor, and was she raised from the dead by one of Christ's disciples?"

"Yes."

"Dorcas," was the general exclamation.

"That is right."

After several other characters had been named, Auntie suggested that we vary the programme, and let each in turn give a passage of Scripture, from memory, bearing upon a certain subject, if possible.

"We will take that of trust," said she, and each give some text that tells us of God."

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding," promptly began Royal.

"Very good, Royal, now the next."

"Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed."

"Now, May."

"What time I am afraid I will trust in thee."

"Good."

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass." And so on around the circle. "Now," said Auntie, "we will change the topic to love."

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"; that is easy," exclaimed Ernest.

"I am glad you find it so easy to keep that commandment, Ernest, I am afraid it is rather difficult for most of us."

"Now, Auntie, you know I did not mean that; I meant it was easy to find passages of Scripture with love in them."

"You are right, my boy; the Bible, especially the New Testament, is full of love."

"Because 'God is love,'" spoke up Royal.

"And if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another," continued May.

"If ye love me keep my commandments," said Auntie. And so we finished the circle. Rest was the next subject given us, then others followed, until it was long past the boys' bedtime. Royal wanted to sing one more hymn before leaving us, so we all joined in "Home Sweet Home," a fit ending to an enjoyable and profitable evening. As the happy children bade us good-night, I thought how good a thing it would be if the same simple custom were carried into many other households.—*The Observer*

What Makes It Go?

(See Lesson XII.)

Harry lived in the country. Last summer he went to the city to visit. How he did enjoy it! What he liked best was to ride with Uncle Edgar on the electric cars. It was such fun to climb up beside the window and see the houses and shops flying past.

"But, uncle, what makes it go? There are no horses."

"It's electricity, my boy."

"What's that," said Harry. "Where is it, uncle?"

"It's running along that wire up there."

"I don't see anything," said Harry. "I don't believe it is there at all."

Just then some people got out. The bell rang for the car to go on. But it didn't move.

"What's the matter, uncle?"

"Power's off," said he, looking up from his paper.

Harry saw the driver sit down on the step. "How long before we start?" asked a man.

"Don't know, sir."

After they had sat a long time a light flashed from the lamps, the bell rang, the wheels turned, and away the great car went bounding down the track. "That's queer stuff, that electricity," said Harry.

Strange too, is it not, how the Spirit of God works in our hearts? No eye has ever seen Him, no hand has ever touched Him, and yet He is there, and He moves us more powerfully than electricity moves the laden car—moves us forward in the way of goodness and of joy.

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2. Orders for less than a year at proportionate rates.

3. Payment should accompany orders in every case.

A Look Ahead

For the last two Quarters we have been studying our Lord Jesus as the LIGHT OF THE WORLD, and as our Redeemer, SAVING US BY HIS LIFE AND DEATH.

We turn now for this quarter and the next to God's dealings with His people in the olden time before Christ came into the world as the Man of Nazareth. We shall see that God has always been gracious, and that even before Christ came the Lord saved all those who were sorry for sin, and helped all those who trusted Him.

In the lessons of this quarter we discover twelve instances of how THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS. It would be a good thing to have the children learn this list by heart and recite it. This can easily be accomplished in the twelve Sabbaths.

THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS

1. He gives grace to the penitent, Hosea 14 : 1-9.
 2. He prospered a brave boy, Dan. 1 : 8-21.
 3. He delivered three true men, Dan. 3 : 14-28.
 4. He saved a faithful prophet, Dan. 5 : 17-31.
 5. He protected a loyal worshipper, Dan. 6 : 10-23.
 6. He bestows a new heart, Ezek. 36 : 25-36.
 7. He raises to a new life, Ezek. 37 : 1-14.
 8. He gives water of life, Ezek. 47 : 1-12.
- He helps His people :
9. By giving them a king's favor, Ezra 1 : 1-11.
 10. By allowing them to build His house, Ezra 3 : 10-4 : 5.
 11. By promising to be with them, Hag. 2 : 1-9.
 12. By pouring out His spirit upon them, Zech. 4 : 1-14.
13. REVIEW — THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS.

Prayer Hymn

[To be sung with hands folded and in low and reverent tones.]

Father, lead Thy little children
Very early to Thy throne ;
We will have no gods before Thee :
Thou art God, and Thou alone.

In the Bible Thou hast taught us,
All our thoughts to Thee are known
Thou canst see us in the darkness,
Thou art God, and Thou alone.—Amen.

GRACIOUS INVITATIONS

Lesson I.

Hosea 14 : 1-9—Memory Verses 4-7

July 2, 1899

1 O Is'rael, return unto the Lord thy God ; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Takewith you words, and turn to the LORD ; say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously : so will we render the calves of our lips.

3 Assh'ur shall not save us ; we will not ride upon horses : neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *Ye are* our gods : for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely : for mine anger is turned away from him.

5 I will be as the dew unto Is'rael : he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Leb'anon.

6 His branches shall spread and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Leb'anon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return ; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine ; the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Leb'anon.

8 Eph'raim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols ? I have heard him, and observed him : I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things ? prudent, and he shall know them ? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them : but the transgressors shall fall therein.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The lessons this Quarter are taken from the first part of the Bible.

They tell of how God took care of His people long before Jesus came to the world.



A HEATHEN IDOL

The story of these people was written by a great many different men. The name of one

writer was Hosea, who was a prophet.

Hosea lived at a time when the Jews were well off. Their they forgot God and made themselves horrid idols, and worshipped them as they saw the heathen people doing. Hosea felt terribly sorry, for he knew that, if they kept on as they were doing, some day their enemies would come and destroy them altogether.

God had sent Hosea to tell the people that He still loved them as a father and to invite them to change their ways and be forgiven.

This is what he said :—

“ O Israel, come back to the Lord your God. Be sorry for your sins, and ask the Lord to forgive you. Tell Him that you mean to do better and that you know heathen idols can never help you.”

God spoke to them of their fine fruit and flowers and how they grew. The sun shines so brightly in that country that all plants would soon be burnt up if, every night, the dew did not come to water them. God said, “ You yourselves need my help just as these flowers need dew. I am able to make you sweet and strong and useful like beautiful lilies and olive trees and grape-vines in your gardens, and the grain in your fields.”

God might have sent a terrible punishment to destroy these people, but He wanted

to speak kindly and softly to them so that they might see for themselves how ugly sin

was, and learn to hate it and turn from it and be holy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. In what part of the Bible are this quarter's lessons? Ans.—In the Old Testament. 2. Who wrote to-day's lesson? Ans.—Hosea. 3. Who was he? Ans.—One of God's prophets. 4. What is a prophet? Ans.—One who speaks for God to men. 5. To whom was this prophet sent? Ans.—To God's own people. 6. What was Hosea's message? Ans.—He was to invite the people to return to God. 7. How had they got away from God? Ans.—They had done wrong. 8. What had they done? Ans.—They were worshipping idols. 9. How did they learn

to do it? Ans.—They copied their heathen neighbors. 10. What did Hosea say they must do? Ans.—Ask God to forgive their sins. 11. How must they feel? Ans.—Sorry for what they had done. 12. What did God promise to give them? Ans.—His help to make them do right. 13. What did God say His help was like? Ans.—The dew. 14. Did God speak angrily to them? Ans.—No. He spoke as a father. 15. What is the Golden Text. Ans.—“Come and let us return unto the Lord.”

How to Forgive

Once there was a man who had two boys. When they grew a little older the younger one said, “Father, I want some money,” so the father gave him half of all he had.

Two or three days after this young man packed his things and left home. He went far away and had what he called a “jolly good time.” He spent his money foolishly; and when it was gone he had nothing to eat but dry husks used for feeding pigs.

Then he thought of home, and said to himself, “My father's servants have more than they can eat. I know what I'll do. I'll go

home and ask my father to forgive me and let me be one of his servants.”

When he had gone part way his father saw him and came running to meet him, and almost before he could say a word had kissed him on both cheeks.

Then the father called to his servants to bring fine clothes and shoes for his boy and to get dinner ready quickly. “And don't forget the gold ring for his finger! for this my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be Sorry for my Sins



Golden Text—Come and let us return unto the Lord.—Hos. 6: 1.

Catechism—36. What has God done to save us from sin? God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from sin.

Lesson Hymn

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

DANIEL IN BABYLON

Lesson II. Daniel 1: 8-21 (May be used as a Temperance Lesson)
Memory Verses, 17-20

July 9, 1899

8 But Dan'iel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank : therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Dan'iel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Dan'iel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink : for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Dan'iel to Mel'zar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah.

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days : and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat : and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Mel'zar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink ; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom : and Dan'iel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Neb'uchadnezz'zar.

19 And the king communed with them ; and among them all was found none like Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah ; therefore stood they before the king.

20. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten-times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

21 And Dan'iel continued even unto the first year of king Cy'rus.

THE LESSON RETOLD



Far away in Babylon lived a great heathen king called Nebuchadnezzar.

Once he fought against God's people, the Jews, and took many of them away to his country as prisoners.

Then he said to one of his chief servants, "Choose some of the strong, bright, handsome, well-brought-up, clever boys among these Jews. I will have my wise priests teach them so that they may know our language and our worship and by-and-by become wise priests themselves."

The boys were to have a nice place to live and were to have the same food to eat as the king himself.

But there was one boy in that school who made up his mind that he would not eat king's meat, because, though it tasted so nice, he knew that it had been given to the idols first, and that to eat it was just the same as praying to idols.

His name was Daniel, and he had three boy friends who were just as brave and true as he was.

So Daniel said to the man who took care of them, "Please take away this meat and wine and give us pulse and water instead." Pulse was a coarse food like beans.

But the servant replied, "Oh, no, the king would be angry if you were to get thin and sick-looking. He would blame me for not taking good care of you."

Daniel begged so hard that at last the servant said, "You may have plain food for a little while and then I will see how you

look." So for ten days Daniel and his three boy friends had only their coarse pulse and water, whilst the other boys had king's food and wine. At the end of that time the king's servant found that Daniel and his friends were fatter and stronger than any of the others; so they were never asked to eat king's food again.

God was so pleased with what these boys had done that the Bible says He gave them wisdom and understanding so that they were ten times wiser than any of the great and wise men in Babylon. This was because they had been faithful and true to God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What was the name of the king who made prisoners of the Jews? Ans.—Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Where did he live? Ans.—In Babylon. 3. What kind of place was Babylon? Ans.—A heathen city. 4. What did the king do with the Jewish boys? Ans.—He sent them to school. 5. Were they kindly treated? Ans.—Yes. 6. What was given them to eat? Ans.—Meat and wine from the king's table. 7. What was the name of the bravest boy in the school? Ans.—Daniel. 8. What did he do? Ans.—He made up his mind not to eat the king's

meat, nor to drink the wine. 9. Why was it wrong? Ans.—Because it had been offered to idols. 10. Why did the king's servant not want to change the food? Ans.—Because he was afraid of making the boys sick-looking. 11. For how long did Daniel beg to try plain food? Ans.—For ten days. 12. Then how did Daniel and his three friends look? Ans.—Fairer and fatter than all the others. 13. Who was pleased with what Daniel had done? Ans.—God. 14. What did He do for Daniel? Ans.—He made him wiser than all the wise Jews of Babylon.

A Wise and Brave Boy

Little Harry had been very sick.

When he was slowly recovering and just able to be up, he was left alone a short time, when his sister came in eating a piece of cake. His appetite was coming back; he wanted very much to take a bite of the cake, and his sister would gladly have given it to him; but his mother had said, no, it would

not be safe till he was stronger.

What did he do?

"Jennie," said he, "you must run right out of the room away from me with that cake, and I'll keep my eyes shut while you go, so that I shan't want it."

Brave little man!

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Dare to Do Right

Golden Text—Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1: 8.

Catechism—37. How did Jesus Christ, God's Son, come into the world? Jesus Christ came into the world by being born a little child.

38. How was Jesus Christ different from us? Jesus Christ was altogether without sin.

Lesson Hymn

STANDING by a purpose true,
Heeding God's command,
Honor them the faithful few!
All hail to Daniel's band!
Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.—Amen.

—Hymn 533, Book of Praise.

THE HEBREWS IN THE FIERY FURNACE

Lesson III.

Daniel 3 : 14-28—Memory Verses, 16-18

July 16, 1899

14 Neb'uchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true*, O Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, answered and said to the king, O Neb'uchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that [we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Neb'uchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego.

23 And these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Neb'uchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Neb'uchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Neb'uchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

THE LESSON RETOLD.

When Daniel's three brave friends had become men, Nebuchadnezzar was still king and he had been making a great golden idol.

When it was all finished, he set a day for the people to come and worship it. He said, "I will tell the band when to play, and if anyone will not fall down on his knees when the music begins, I will have that man put into a blazing oven and burnt up."

So the princes and the rulers and the crowds of people were all careful to do exactly what the king said, except Daniel's three friends. They heard the band but

they did not fall down and worship the idol.

Some one went straight and told the king and the king sent to have them brought to him at once. He was very angry indeed and called to his servants to see that the furnace was hot.

But the three men only said, "Our God whom we serve is able to take care of us. He is stronger than the king himself and because we are His servants we will never fall down before the idol or pray to heathen gods." Then Nebuchadnezzar in his fury told his strongest soldiers to throw them

right into the fire.

The fire was so hot that it burnt up the soldiers, but the Bible says that God's servants were not hurt the least bit.

Nebuchadnezzar was much surprised by what he saw. He said, "Were there not three thrown in? But I see four men walking in the fire and one of them is like 'a son of the gods.'" (See Revised Version.)

Then he called them to come out of the furnace and they walked out alive. Their clothes did not smell of fire and there was not one hair on their heads even singed.

After this the king's mind changed. He said now, "If I find anyone speaking against the true God, I will punish him; for there is no other God who can deliver after this sort."



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What message did king Nebuchadnezzar send to his people? Ans.—Everyone must worship my golden idol. 2. Who disobeyed him? Ans.—Daniel's three friends. 3.—How were they punished? Ans.—They were thrown into a fiery furnace. 4. Did they know what would happen if they did not worship the idol? Ans.—Yes. 5. Why were they not afraid? Ans.—They knew that God would take care of them. 6. Did

He take care of them? Ans.—Yes, He was with them in the fire. 7. Who watched them there? Ans.—King Nebuchadnezzar. 8. When he saw them still alive what did he do? Ans.—He called them to come out. 9. Were the men at all hurt? Ans.—No, there was not even the smell of fire upon them. 10. What did the king then say? Ans.—There is no God who can deliver after this sort.

Safe

Nellie and Marjory heard a pecking noise at the window, and running over found a butterfly flying about in a great fright, for there, outside the window, was a sparrow darting at the pane to catch the butterfly.

"That sparrow makes me think of to-day's lesson," said mother. "The angry king

thought it would be easy to have God's servants burnt up, but all the time they were quite safe. The butterfly is as safe behind this glass as if it were miles away from the sparrow. Only it doesn't know it, poor thing. It's only when we forget that God is caring for us that we are afraid."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Takes Care of Those Who Love Him

Golden Text—Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3:17.



Catechism—39. What do you know of the early life of Jesus? Until Jesus was thirty years old He lived with His parents, whom He loved and obeyed.

Lesson Hymn

TO him that o'ercometh God giveth a crown;
Through faith we shall conquer,
though often cast down;
He who is our Saviour our strength
will renew;
Look ever to Jesus—He will carry
you through. Amen.

—Hymn 530, Book of Praise.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Lesson IV.

Daniel 5 : 17-31—Memory Verses, 24-28

July 23, 1899

17 Then Dan'iel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another ; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Neb'uchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour :

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him : whom he would he slew ; and whom he would he kept alive ; and whom he would he set up ; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him :

21 And he was driven from the sons of men ; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses : they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven ; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshaz'zar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this ;

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the

Lord of heaven ; and they have brought the vessels of his house, before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them ; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know : and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified :

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him ; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, ME'NE, ME'NE, TE'KEL, UPHAR'SIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing : ME'NE ; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TE'KEL ; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PE'RES : Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Per'sians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Dan'iel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshaz'zar the king of the Chalde'ans slain.

31 And Dari'us the Me'dian took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though God had made Nebuchadnezzar a very rich and powerful king, his heart only got prouder and harder all the time. At last God sent him a very severe punishment and after that he died.

Belshazzar was now reigning.

He was quite a young man. He said, " I am not afraid of anything. I have the strongest soldiers in the world to fight for me, and I can enjoy myself as I like." So he made a great feast and invited all his friends.

Then he did a very wicked thing. He sent and got the holy cups and dishes that his father had carried off from God's house in Jerusalem and used them to drink wine out of while he and his friends shouted the praises of the heathen idol.

Suddenly something happened that frightened everyone, and made the king shiver all over.

This is what he saw : on the wall of the room a man's hand writing strange words.



Belshazzar could not read the words. Neither could anyone at the table.

Then he sent for his wise men to come; but none of them could read them, and both the king and his lords were in great trouble.

But the queen said, "Send for Daniel. He will be able to tell the meaning of it."

When Daniel came in, the king offered to give him a fine present; but Daniel would not take it. He said to Belshazzar, "You know how God punished your father, Nebuchadnezzar, for his sins, but that did not make

your heart humble. It is God who gives you everything you have, but you have not thanked Him. He has written these strange words. They mean that He will punish you by not allowing you to be king any longer."

Because Daniel was able to read the writing they put a chain round his neck and made him third ruler in the kingdom.

That same night God's words came true. Belshazzar was killed by his enemies because he had not trusted in the true God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar? Ans.—He was punished for his pride and then he died. 2. Who was the king now? Ans.—Belshazzar. 3. Was he a better man? Ans.—No, he was proud and he was foolish, too. 4. How did he show that he didn't care for God's worship? Ans.—He used the temple dishes at a heathen feast. 5. Did God see him? Ans.—Yes. 6. What happened at the feast? Ans.—The king saw a man's hand writing on the wall. 7. How did he feel? Ans.—Very much frightened. 8. Could he or his wise men read the writing? Ans.—No. 9. Who did read it? Ans.—Daniel. 10. What did Daniel say it meant? Ans.—That God would punish the king and take away his kingdom. 11. What was done for Daniel? Ans.—He was made third ruler in Babylon. 12. How soon did God's word come true? Ans.—That same night. 13. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"God is the judge."

The Dragon's Eye

Frankie had made a large white kite and was painting a big green dragon with a fiery red eye upon it. May and Charlie were making the kite's tail. When it was finished Frankie put it away to dry.

Charlie had promised not to touch it, but when Frankie and May had gone away he could not resist putting a finger on the dragon's eye. Alas! the paint was wet, and the paper soft, so Charlie's finger went through, and made a big hole. "He won't

know I did it," thought the little boy; so he said nothing to anyone.

But that night he could not sleep. The dragon seemed staring at him with the hole in its eye. At last he could bear it no longer; and creeping out of bed, he went and told Frankie all about it.

Frankie soon forgave him, and the next day father pasted a piece of paper over the hole, the red eye was painted in again, and the dragon looked as well as ever.

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT God Blesses His Faithful Children

Golden Text—God is the judge.—Ps. 75: 7.

Catechism—40. How did Jesus spend the remaining three years of his life on earth? Jesus spent the last three years of His life in doing good, and in teaching men about God.

Lesson Hymn

LIFE passeth soon;
Death draweth near;
Keep us, good Lord,
Till Thou appear;
For Thee to live,
In Thee to die,
With Thee to reign through eternity.
Amen.

—Hymn 331, Book of Praise.

DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS

Lesson V.

Daniel 6 : 10-23—Memory Verses, 21-23

July 30, 1899

10 Now when Dan'iel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house ; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jeru'salem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Dan'iel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree ; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions ? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Per'sians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Dan'iel, which is of the children of the captivity of Ju'dah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Dan'iel to deliver him : and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Per'sians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they

brought Dan'iel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Dan'iel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den ; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords ; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Dan'iel.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting : neither were instruments of musick brought before him : and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, He cried with a lamentable voice unto Dan'iel : and the king spake and said to Dan'iel, O Dan'iel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions ?

21 Then said Dan'iel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lion's mouths, that they have not hurt me : forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me ; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Dan'iel up out of the den. So Dan'iel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.



THE LESSON RETOLD

Darius was the name of the king who now reigned in Babylon.

When he saw that Daniel was to be trusted, he made him chief ruler in his kingdom.

Then the other princes and rulers were jealous and they watched Daniel to see if he would make any mistakes.

When they couldn't find any, they made up a wicked plan. They knew that Daniel prayed to God every day ; so they went to the king and asked him to make a rule that if anyone was found praying except to the king himself, he was to be thrown into the den of lions.

So King Darius wrote the law and signed it with his seal and nothing could change it. When Daniel heard about it, he went into his house and kneeling down with the windows open, he prayed to God three times every day,

as he had always done. His enemies saw him do it. Then they went and told the king.

Now the king loved Daniel, and he was terribly angry with himself for making the law; but it was too late to take it back. That very evening, therefore, they threw Daniel in among the hungry lions.

But Darius was so troubled that he could not sleep, and very early in the morning he ran to the den, hardly hoping to find Daniel alive. Then he called in a sad voice, "Oh,

Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God able to save thee from the lions?" And Daniel, who was still quite safe in the lions' den, answered, "My God hath sent his angel and hath shut the lions' mouths and they have not hurt me because I have done no harm."

Then they took Daniel up, and the Bible says there was not one bite or scratch upon him because he had trusted in God and God had shut the lions' mouths.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was king now? Ans.—Darius.
2. How did Darius show that he trusted Daniel? Ans.—He set him over the other rulers.
3. How did they try to hurt him? Ans.—They got the king to make a law against praying to the true God.
4. How did Daniel show that he wasn't afraid? Ans.—He left his windows open and went on praying.
5.

How did they treat him? Ans.—They threw him into the den of lions.
6. How long did he stay there? Ans.—All night.
7. Did the lions hurt him? Ans.—No.
8. Why? Ans.—God sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths.
9. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The Lord is thy keeper."

Frank's Lion

Patty came to spend the day with her cousin Frank.

"Let's play Daniel in the lion's den," said Frank. "You be Daniel, and I'll throw you into the den. I'll be the lion."

"So Frank put Patty into a dark hole behind the steps. Then he crawled in on his hands and knees roaring and gnashing his teeth. He got Patty's arm in his mouth just as if he was going to make a meal of her.

Patty gave a terrible scream. When Frank found Patty was crying, he jumped up. "What's the matter?" he asked angrily.

"I was afraid you'd turn real lion and eat me up," sobbed Patty.

Frank felt something like a wild beast inside of him. He wanted to call Patty a silly baby and show her what he thought of her. Then he remembered God. "Oh, come and help me to be kind," he prayed all to himself.

Then the cruel feelings went away and Frank said, "I'm sorry I played so roughly. I did not mean to frighten you, Patty. Come, we'll play lamb or anything you like."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

The Lord Is My Keeper

Golden Text—The Lord is thy keeper.
—Psalm 121:5.



Catechism — 41. Whom did Jesus claim to be? Jesus said that He was the Son of God.

Lesson Hymn

GOD, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May Thine angel-guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night. Amen.
—Hymn 373, Book of Praise.

THE NEW HEART

Lesson VI.

Ezekiel 36 : 25-36—Memory Verses, 25-27

August 6, 1899

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers: and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

30 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, and ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

31 Then shall ye remember your own evil

ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

33 Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of E'den; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.

THE STORY RETOLD

The Jews were God's own people. He had given them a beautiful country and

But they forgot Him altogether and worshipped the idols of their heathen neighbors. So God punished them by allowing a heathen king to come and destroy their homes and take them far away to Babylon as slaves.

In Babylon they had to work very hard, and the heathen people made fun of them, and they were very unhappy. They often used to long to go back to their old home.

There were a few men among them still faithful to the true God. Daniel was one, Ezekiel was another. These men often prayed that God would forgive the sins of the Jews and that He would some day allow them to go home again.

At last God sent a message to Ezekiel saying that He was ready to forgive their sins if they were truly sorry and wanted to do better. He promised to send His Spirit to change their wicked hearts so that they would hate doing wrong and love to do right.

He told Ezekiel that they would have their beautiful homes again and plenty for everyone to eat. Then they would remember how



promised to take care of them if they worshipped and obeyed Him as their God.

disobedient they had been and would be ashamed at having been so foolish and sinful.

There was something else in Ezekiel's message. It was God's reason for showing

these poor Jews so much kindness. It was this: He wanted their heathen neighbors to see what God could do for His people, so that they too might become His true servants, which is real missionary work.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who were God's people? Ans.—The Jews. 2. What had He done for them? Ans.—He had given them a beautiful country to live in, and had taught them how to worship Him. 3. Did they always do right? Ans.—No, they forgot God and worshipped idols. 4. How were they punished? Ans.—They were carried off as slaves to Babylon. 5. Did God say He would have nothing more to do with them? Ans.—No, God loved them too much to say that. 6. Whom did He send to speak kindly to them? Ans.—

Ezekiel. 7. What did God tell Ezekiel to say? Ans.—That He was willing to wash away their sins. 8. What did He promise to give them? Ans.—A new heart. 9. What did God promise besides? Ans.—That some day they would be allowed to go home. 10. What was God's reason for showing these people so much kindness? Ans.—He wanted the heathen to know that He was the true God. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“A new heart also will I give you.”

Curly's Lesson

Once there was a rich shepherd who had a hundred sheep. The name of the smallest lamb was Curly.

Every morning when the shepherd took them to the green pastures and every night when he brought them home, Curly walked close beside him.

When Curly had grown a little bigger he began to say to himself, “I don't see why we have to stay in that old fold. I want to see what it's like outside at night.” So, when the rest were going home, Curly stayed and hid behind a rock. Then he turned and ran the other way.

Very soon he lost himself, and oh! how rough and sharp the stones were! A cloud

hid the moon and Curly felt something prickly. He was caught fast in a thorn-bush. Then he called “Ma-a-a”! But instead of his mother he heard a loud growl. It was Mr. Wolf. *He* was hungry too.

At the fold the shepherd was counting his sheep. “Why Curly is not here!” he cried. So he ran into the dark and got to the thorn-bush just in time to save him from the wolf and carry him safely home. Then he tied up his sore feet and gave him warm milk to drink.

All this made Curly quite different, and now, though he is an old sheep, when his master calls he is the very first to obey. It is easy to obey those who love us.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Need a New Heart, Which God Will Give Me

Golden Text.—A new heart also will I give you.—Ezek. 36: 26.

Catechism.—42. How did Jesus show that He was the Son of God? Jesus showed that He was the Son of God by His holy life, His heavenly teachings and His wonderful works.

Lesson Hymn

LORD, I confess to Thee
Sadly my sin;
All I am, tell I Thee;
All I have been!
Purge Thou my sins away,
Wash Thou my soul this day,
Lord, make me clean! Amen.
—Hymn 160, Book of Praise.

EZEKIEL'S GREAT VISION

Lesson VII.

Ezekiel 37 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 5, 6

August 13, 1899

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were very many* in the open valley; and, lo, *they were very dry*.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was no breath* in them.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Is'rael.

13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.

14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it* and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

THE LESSON RETOLD



Before Jesus Christ came, God had many ways of speaking to His people.

Sometimes He would send an angel or a cloud of fire, but often He spoke to some good and holy man and gave him a message for all the others.

Such a man was called a prophet.

Now Ezekiel was a prophet, and it was through him that the poor Jewish slaves in Babylon heard that God was willing to forgive their sins and would some day take them back to their own country.

Soon after this message, another message came to Ezekiel from God.

This time God showed him a strange picture or vision, as it was called.

In the vision Ezekiel saw a great valley all scattered over with bones. The people must have been dead a long time for the bones were so very dry.

God said to Ezekiel, "Can these bones

live?" "O Lord God, thou knowest," answered the prophet.

Then God said, "speak to these dead bones and say, 'Ye shall live. I will cover you with flesh and skin, and give you breath to make you alive, because I am the Lord.'"

Ezekiel did as he was told.

When he had spoken the words, he heard a strange rattling sound. All the bones began to move and when he looked again, they were covered with flesh.

God said, "Now call to the wind to come and give them breath that they may live."

When the wind blew, Ezekiel saw a wonderful sight—instead of the bones, the valley was full of strong, living men, a very great army.

Then God explained the vision. He told Ezekiel that the Jewish people in Babylon were like a lot of dead bones, but that He, by His Spirit, would some day make them a great nation again, for He is the living God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is a prophet? Ans.—A good and holy man who speaks for God to men.
2. What is the name of the prophet in today's lesson? Ans.—Ezekiel.
3. How did God speak to Ezekiel? Ans.—In visions.
4. What is a vision? Ans.—Something like a picture.
5. Why did God use pictures? Ans.—To make it easy for people to understand Him.
6. What did Ezekiel see in a vision? Ans.—A valley full of dry bones.
7. What did God say about them? Ans.—"Can these bones live?"
8. What did Ezekiel answer? Ans.—"O Lord God, thou knowest."
9. What did God tell Ezekiel to say to the bones? Ans.—"Ye shall live because I am the Lord."
10. What did God do to the bones? Ans.—He made them into a living army of men.
11. How? Ans.—By His Spirit.
12. What were the bones a picture of? Ans.—The Jewish people. They were not living for God.
13. What did God want to show them? Ans.—That He would make them alive and strong by His Spirit.
14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"I will put my Spirit within you."

Clara's Vision

"Mother," said Clara, looking up from her lesson paper one Sunday afternoon, "I wish God would let me see a vision; I'm going to ask Him."

"Pooh!" said Tom, "what nonsense! There are no visions now; are there, mother?"

"Oh yes, dear, plenty, if you only know where to look for them." "Real visions?" "Yes, dear. If you will come with me I'll show you one."

Mother walked down the garden, until she came to the old apple-tree. There she broke off a little branch. The blossoms were just over. "Do you see that funny little green thing where the blossom was, Clara? Well, there's a whole apple-tree curled up in that little green knob. Once this big tree was as small as that, but God watched over it and sent His sun and rain to feed it until it grew a large, strong tree."

"That's a very nice vision," said Clara. "Come, Tom, let's find some more."

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT God will give me new life in my soul

Golden Text—I will put my spirit within you.—Ezek. 36: 27.

Catechism—43. What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly and died for us.

Lesson Hymn

SPIRIT of purity and grace,
Our weakness, pitying, see:
O make our hearts Thy dwelling-place,
And worthier Thee. Amen.
—Hymn 111, Book of Praise.

THE RIVER OF SALVATION

Lesson VIII.

Ezekiel 47 : 1-12—Memory Verse, 12

August 20, 1899

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house ; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward : for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward ; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the ancles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through ; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand ; and it was a river that I could not pass over : for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this ? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at

the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea : which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live : and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither : for they shall be healed ; and everything shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En'-gedi even unto En-egla'im ; they shall be a place to spread forth nets ; their fish shall be according to their kind, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof, and the marishes thereof shall not be healed ; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed : it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary : and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

THE LESSON RETOLD

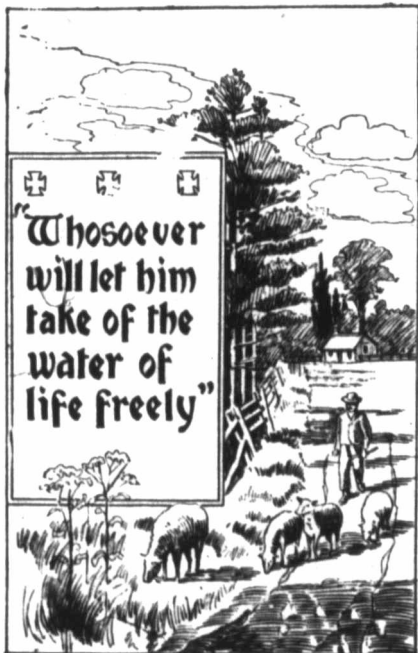
The Jews, while they were slaves in Babylon, were often in danger of forgetting their own God. They were far away from home and from their great temple at Jerusalem. The heathen people worshipped the sun and the moon, and made themselves idols. So Ezekiel, God's prophet, was sent to speak to them of the true worship.

Soon after our last lesson Ezekiel had another vision.

In this vision he saw himself walking about the temple in Jerusalem with an angel.

While they were standing beside the door the angel showed him a small stream of water coming from under the steps.

Then they walked as far as the East gate. "Look at it now," said the angel. He told the prophet to step in. It was up to his ankles. The angel measured it again further



on. It was up to the knees. Then again, and it was deeper still. Once more, and it was deep enough to swim in. Ezekiel found the little stream had grown to be a deep river that he could not cross.

There were trees all along the banks, and while he looked, the angel said to him, "Wherever this water goes it will make things live. These trees will stay green all the time. There will always be fruit hanging on these branches. And the leaves are good for medicine. At last the river will reach the Dead Sea, which is very salt and

where nothing can live. It will cure its saltness so that all kinds of fish can live there. Everything it touches will be changed."

This picture had a meaning. It showed the Jews that God's Kingdom was like a river that keeps growing wider all the time. Some day it will fill the earth and then everyone will worship the true God.

Ezekiel's part was to help the Jews to see their place in the great Kingdom of God, which in their time was only just beginning to grow, and which is now so great.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Did Ezekiel have more than one vision? Ans.—Yes. 2. What did an angel show him this time? Ans.—A little stream of water running from God's house. 3. From the gate what did they see? Ans.—A man measuring how far the river had flowed. 4. How deep was it? Ans.—Up to Ezekiel's ankles. 5. Did it get any deeper? Ans.—Yes. It grew and grew until it was deep enough to swim in. 6. Where did the angel say it was going? Ans.—Through the desert and down

to the Dead Sea. 7. What kind of sea was this? Ans.—So salt that nothing could live in it. 8. What was the water to do? Ans.—Make everything it touched live. 9. What were growing along the banks? Ans.—Trees that were always green and whose leaves were good for medicine. 10. What is the river a picture of? Ans.—The Kingdom of God. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

Help One Another

"Help one another," the dewdrop cried,
Seeing another drop close to its side,
This warm south breeze would dry me away,
And I should be gone ere noon to-day,
But I'll help you, and you help me,
And we'll make a brook and river to the sea."

"Help one another," a grain of sand
Said to another grain just at hand,
"The wind may carry me over the sea,
And then, O what will become of me?
But come, my brother, give me your hand;
We'll build a mountain and there we'll stand."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God's love has no end

Golden Text—Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.—Rev. 22:17.

Catechism—44. What would have happened to us if Jesus had not died for us? If Jesus had not died for us, we all would have been lost.

Lesson Hymn

WHOSOEVER heareth, shout, shout
the sound,
Send the blessed tidings all the world
around!
Spread the joyful news wherever man is
found,
"Whosoever will" may come. Amen.
—Hymn 457, Book of Praise.

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY

Lesson IX.

Ezra 1: 1-11—Memory Verses, 2-4

August 27, 1899

1 Now in the first year of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremi'ah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cy'rus king of Per'sia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jeru'salem, which is in Ju'dah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jer'usalem, which is in Ju'dah, and build the house of the LORD God of Is-rael, (he is the God,) which is in Jeru'salem.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free-will offering for the house of God that is in Jeru'salem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and the priests, and the Le'vites, with all them whose spirit God

had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jeru'salem.

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cy'rus the King brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Neb'uchadnezzar had brought forth out of Jeru'salem, and had put them in the house of his gods:

8 Even those did Cy'rus king of Per'sia bring forth by the hand of Mith'redath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbaz'zar, the prince of Ju'dah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbaz'zar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Bab'ylon unto Jeru'salem.

THE LESSON RETOLD

God's time came at last for setting His people free.

They had found out in Babylon how bitter



a thing it is to disobey God and they were now ready to obey Him.

At this time, Cyrus was king and God put

into the heart of Cyrus to help Him.

Cyrus wrote a message to the Jews in all his kingdom. He said, "The Lord, the God of Heaven, has told me to build Him a house in Jerusalem. Who among His people are willing to go?"

Then all those in whose hearts was God's spirit said, "We are willing."

Now the Jews had been slaves so long that they were poor. So Cyrus said to his people "You are to give these Jews money, and horses, and everything they need for the journey, and for building the house of the Lord."

So their neighbors helped them heartily, and when they were almost ready, king Cyrus went into his treasure-house and brought out the holy dishes that had been taken from the temple so long before. After they were counted he gave them to one of the princes of Judah to take back with him to Jerusalem.

By and by everything was ready, and

the long procession started.

The gates of Babylon stood wide open for God's people to pass through.

The women and children were on horses or in waggons. The camels followed loaded with treasures. The king's soldiers were there to take care of them in the wild desert. The band was playing, and the happy slaves

said, "Is it all true, or are we only dreaming?" There were shouts of joy.

The heathen people heard them laughing and singing and praising God. They said, "The Lord hath done great things for them." Yes, cried the travellers, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What message did King Cyrus send to his people? Ans.—That God had told him to build Him a house in Jerusalem. 2. What did He say to the Jews? Ans.—"Who among you are willing to help"? 3. How many said they were willing? Ans.—All those who had God's Spirit in them. 4. Were the Jews well off? Ans.—No. They were slaves. 5. Who helped them with money and other things? Ans.—The people of Babylon. 6. What did Cyrus do? Ans.—He gave back the holy dishes belonging to the Temple. 7. Who had made King Cyrus willing to do this? Ans.—God stirred up his heart. 8. Why were the Jews slaves in Babylon? Ans.—It was as a pun-

ishment for their sins. 9. What had they done? Ans.—They had forgotten God and prayed to idols, and had also lived bad lives. 10. Were they any better now. Ans.—Yes. They were willing to do right. 11. Whom did King Cyrus send with them? Ans.—Soldiers to take care of them. 12. Had they far to go? Ans.—Yes. A long journey; many, many days. 13. How did they travel? Ans.—Some on horses and camels and some walked. 14. What great work were they to do at Jerusalem? Ans.—To build the House of the Lord. 15. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The Little Slave Boy

Adjai was a little black boy who had lived with his father and mother far away in heathen Africa. One day cruel men came to their village and took Adjai and his mother away as slaves. Very soon the little boy was sold and put on a ship with a lot of other slaves to be sent away to Cuba.

But God was taking good care of Adjai. After a while an English ship found them and brought all the slaves back, but to another part of Africa, where Adjai was sent to school. He learned to read the Bible, and soon he was baptized. Then they changed

his name, and instead of Adjai he was called Samuel Crowther.

When he grew older he wanted to be a preacher. He went to preach to some slave people near his old home. One day an old woman came to hear him—it was his own mother. She knew him, too, and called him by his old name. How happy they were! How they thanked God together for His goodness to them! And, do you know?—This young man afterwards became a Bishop and a very useful missionary. The Lord had done great things for him.

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT The Lord Hath Done Great Things for Me

Golden Text—The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—Ps. 126: 3.



Catechism—45. What is it to be lost? To be lost is to be left without God in this world, and to be shut out from his presence forever.

Lesson Hymn

BRIGHTLY gleams our banner,
Pointing to the sky,
Waving on Christ's soldiers
To their homes on high.
Marching through the desert,
Gladly thus we pray,
Still with hearts united
Singing on our way.

*Brightly gleams our banner,
Pointing to the sky,
Waving on Christ's soldiers
To their home on high. Amen.*
—Hymn 304, Book of Praise.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

Lesson X.

Ezra 3 : 10-4:5—Memory Verses, 10, 11

September 3, 1899

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Le'vites, the sons of A'saph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of Da'vid king of Is'rael.

11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is good*, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Is'rael. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

12 But many of the priests and Le'vites and chief of the fathers *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

1 Now when the adversaries of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Is'rael;

2 Then they came to Zerub'babel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'sar-had'don king of As'sur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerub'babel, and Jesh'ua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Is'rael, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Is'rael, as king Cy'rus, the king of Per'sia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Ju'dah, and troubled them in building.

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, even until the reign of Dari'us king of Per'sia.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The story of the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem was written by Ezra. It was many weeks before the people got there. Then they found a great deal of work waiting to be done.



Jerusalem, where the beautiful temple had stood, was just a heap of stones. So, before they could begin to build, they had to spend a long time clearing away rubbish. But

everybody helped and soon the ground was ready for the masons and carpenters to do their work.

When at last the foundation was laid, the trumpets sounded for all the people to hold a great thanksgiving. The priests put on their beautiful purple and scarlet coats, trimmed with gold and precious stones. The singers got together and started David's thanksgiving psalm beginning, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for he is good." Everybody knew the chorus, "For his mercy endureth for ever!" and soon all the people were singing and shouting and praising God for His goodness.

But Ezra saw some old men crying. They had seen the first temple. Perhaps it made them sad to think why it had been destroyed. But most were very glad because now there was to be a new temple.

The singing and the shouting and the crying all together made a noise that could be heard miles away.

When the Samaritans near by, who were partly heathen, knew what was doing, they

asked if they might help with the work. But the builders said, "No, it would never do to have the worship of God and of heathen idols mixed up together."

Then these people were angry and did

something that showed they were not the servants of God at all. They made a plan to hinder the builders, and they gave so much trouble that the work had to be stopped for fifteen years.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who wrote the story of the journey back to Jerusalem? Ans.—Ezra. 2. How did they find their old homes? Ans.—Tumbled to pieces. 3. What was the temple like? Ans.—Only a heap of stones. 4. What was the first thing to be done? Ans.—To clear away the rubbish. 5. How did they work? Ans.—Gladly and heartily. 6. What building did they do first? Ans.—They laid the foundation of the temple. 7. How did they feel then? Ans.—Very glad and thankful. 8. How did they show it? Ans.—By holding a great thanksgiving. 9. Who were there? Ans.—The priests and

the singers and all the people. 10. Who were crying while the others shouted and sang? Ans.—The old men. 11. Why did they cry? Ans.—They had seen the first temple and felt sad that it had been destroyed. 12. Who heard about the building? Ans.—The Samaritans. 13. Why were they not allowed to help? Ans.—Because they were not true worshippers of God. 14. How did they show it? Ans.—By stopping the builders in their work. 15. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

Rob's Building

Lilian and Rob were making sand houses on the shore. Rob took a sharp stone and drew a mark to show which was "his ground." "You can have the rest, Lilian."

When Lilian's house was made, it reached just the least bit over the mark.

"Didn't I tell you this part was mine?" said Rob, angrily. "There!" And he knocked his sister's work to pieces. "It's your own fault, too," said Rob.

"What have my little people been building?" said mother, happening along.

Rob felt ashamed to have had mother see

what he had done. "Oh, nothing," he answered sullenly.

"But you have both made something that I can see," said she. "What's that?" asked Lilian. "You've made a bit of character." "How, mother?" "Well, every time you speak, you make a bit. Whenever you do anything, you make another bit. When all the bits are put together, that makes something called Yourself."

"Mother," said Rob after a minute, "I'll let Lilian have as much room as she likes, now."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

We are temples of God

Golden Text—The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3 : 17.



Catechism—46. How did Jesus die for us? Jesus was nailed on the cross by wicked men.

Lesson Hymn

JESUS, Saviour, hear me call,
Sinful though my heart may be,
Thou my life, my hope, my all,
Lord, abide with me.

Fill me with Thy love divine,
Consecrate my life to Thee,
Bend my stubborn will to Thine.
Lord, abide with me. Amen.

—Hymn 579, Book of Praise.

ENCOURAGING THE BUILDERS

Lesson XI.

Haggai 2 : 1-9—Memory Verses, 4, 5

September 10, 1899

1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Hag'gai, saying,

2 Speak now to Zerub'babel the son of Sheal'tiel, governor of Ju'dah, and to Josh'ua the son of Jos'edeck, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerub'babel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Josh'ua, son of Jos'edeck, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of E'gypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people were discouraged in their work.

They began to talk in this way. "It's no use for us to go on building the Temple. Our enemies are too strong for us. It's really no use trying. We had better get to work and build some homes for ourselves."

So they made splendid houses and planted fields and gardens. Fifteen years had gone

governor of Judah and all the people a question. "How many of you remember what the first Temple was like?"

Then the old people began to tell how King Solomon had sent all over the world for gold, and precious stones, and fine sorts of wood and money for God's house; how a hill was chosen to build on, so that all could see it and how the beautiful gold roof glistened when the sun shone. Then away inside stood the ark to help them to remember that God was always there. But now everything was gone except the hill and the blocks of stone which they had set there sixteen years ago.

"Things do look pretty badly, do they not?" said the Lord. "Yet I want you to be strong and get to work, for I AM WITH YOU and the new Temple will be more glorious than the old."

God never forgets a promise. Long before this He had promised to make the children of Israel a great nation by His

by and the Temple was not yet built. They had not done right.

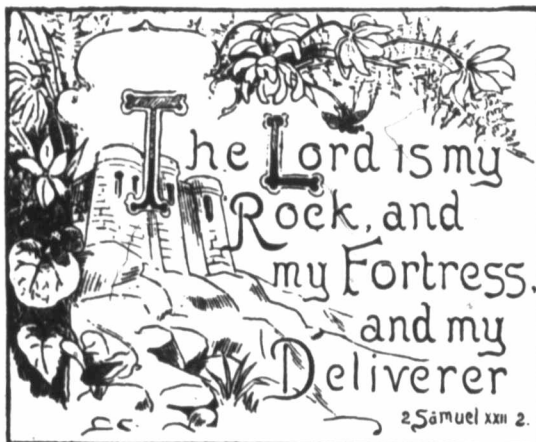
But the crops did not turn out well and many of the cattle and sheep died.

Something was the matter.

Then God sent them a message. This time He spoke by the prophet Haggai. He was told to ask the high priest and the

spirit, and now He sent Haggai to remind them of His words and to tell them not to be down-hearted.

Of course the builders needed money. The Jews had brought a great deal from Babylon but they had been using it for themselves. But God said, "The silver and the gold are mine."



Then He promised that the new Temple would be much greater than the first, and that all the nations who were now making trouble would some day learn to obey His voice.

In this way God allowed His people to see a little of His plans, so that they might be happier and stronger in doing the hard work He wanted them to do.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why were the builders discouraged? Ans.—Because their enemies made so much trouble. 2. What did they do? Ans.—They began to build fine houses for themselves and forgot to build God's house. 3. Whom did God send to speak to them? Ans.—The prophet Haggai. 4. What question did God tell him to ask? Ans.—“How many of you remember what the first Temple was like”? 5. Why did God want them to remember? Ans.—Because He had a promise to give them. 6. What was it? Ans.—That,

when the new one was finished, it would be even more glorious than the first. 7. What was the rest of God's message? Ans.—“Be strong and work, for I AM WITH YOU.” 8. What did He say about money? Ans.—“The silver and the gold are Mine.” 9. What did God say about their enemies? Ans.—That some day they would learn to obey Him. 10. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work, for I AM WITH YOU.”

What's Encouragement

Clifford McLeod was getting over the whooping-cough and was visiting at Aunt Helen's down at the lake, where he was getting well rapidly.

His mother had made him a bathing-suit of pretty red flannel with some little silk anchors worked on the collar.

Aunt Helen's two boys, Henry and Max, were older than Clifford. Henry was fourteen and Max twelve.

Said Max, “Oh! you'll soon learn to swim. I'll just drop you off the end of the boat and then you'll have to, that's all.”

Clifford's eyes filled with tears.

“Never mind what Max says,” said Henry, “I know a better way than that.” So when Max had gone fishing with the Smith boys, Henry and Clifford put on their bathing suits.

As soon as Clifford stepped into the water,

a great wave ran at him. “Don't be frightened,” said Henry, “it's only playing tag. Give me your hand.” That made Clifford feel better. So holding Henry very tight and trying to be brave, they walked together into the water until Clifford was wet to the knees. Then a little further, then a little further until only his head was dry.

“That's enough for to-day,” said Henry. “I'll give you another lesson to-morrow. You only need a little encouragement.”

Aunt Helen was sitting on the shore knitting. “Auntie, what's encouragement?” said Clifford, the water running off him in little pools and his eyes shining like the little sand diamonds. “It's a friend who helps little boys to learn to swim and to do other hard things,” said Aunt Helen.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is with Me

Golden Text—Be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work : for I am with you.—Hag. 2 : 4.

Catechism—47. What was done with the body of Jesus after his death on the cross? The body of Jesus was taken by his friends and laid in a tomb or grave.

Lesson Hymn

THOUGH small is all that we can do
To please the King of Heaven ;
When hearts and hands and lips unite
To serve the Saviour with delight,
They are most precious in His sight :
Such grace to mine be given. Amen.

—Hymn 532, Book of Praise.

POWER THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Lesson XII.

Zechariah 4: 1-14—Memory Verses, 8-10

September 17, 1899

1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.

2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerub'babel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerub'babel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

9 The hands of Zerub'babel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerub'babel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

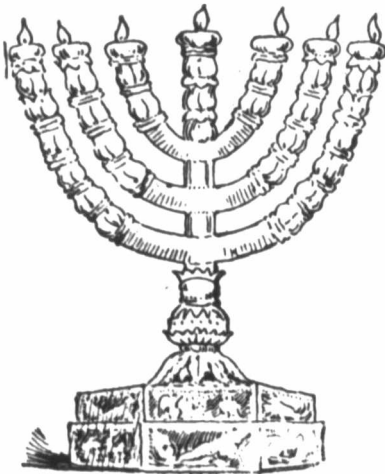
12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

THE LESSON RETOLD

God wanted His people to be very sure of His promise to help them, and soon after Haggai's message He sent another message.



GOLDEN CANDLESTICK, TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM

This time it was a picture-vision. A good man called Zechariah saw it and afterwards told the people about it.

One night, when Zechariah was sleeping in his bed, an angel came and wakened him.

"Tell me what you see," said the angel.

Then Zechariah looked and saw a beautiful golden candlestick or lamp-stand, with places enough for seven lights, and in the middle a large bowl to hold oil.

Zechariah had often seen lamp-stands before, and wondered why God was showing him this one. So he said to the angel, "What are these, my lord?" "This is the word of the Lord," said the angel. So Zechariah knew that the picture had a heavenly meaning, and that God wanted to give His people a message from Himself.

The golden candlestick was just a picture of the Jewish nation.

God had chosen the Jews and had taught them more about Himself than any other people, so that those who did not know God would learn from them how to love and serve Him. When they lived like God they showed truly God's glory and were like lamps giving light.

But a lamp can't shine without oil. So God's servants need His Spirit to make them of any real use.

The builders had been thinking that they needed some other things more than God's Spirit. They thought, "We need money and strong arms, and friends to help us." Perhaps they thought "We need a better leader than this man Zerubbabel," who was their judge.

But God said, "Tell them that the way to get help is not by might, nor by power, but

by My Spirit."

Then Zechariah told the people, "You who have seen the Temple begun are going to see it finished sooner than you think. How glad you will be! There will be shouting and singing such as you have never heard before.

Here are some of the things God's Spirit can do: He can make a great ending out of a small beginning. He can change enemies into friends, and can make every hard thing easy for those who trust God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why did God send so many messages to His people? Ans.—So that they might be quite sure of His promises. 2. What did Zechariah see in a vision? Ans.—A large golden candlestick or lamp-stand. 3. How many lights had it? Ans.—Seven. 4. What else was there? Ans.—A bowl to hold oil. 5. Who explained the picture? Ans.—An angel. 6. What was the vision a picture of? Ans.—The Jewish people. 7. What were they doing at this time? Ans.—Building the Temple. 8. Was it easy work? Ans.—No. 9. What did they think they needed to help them? Ans.—Money and friends and rest from their enemies. 10. What did God tell them they needed? Ans.—His Spirit. 11. What does oil do for a lamp? Ans.—It feeds the lamp and makes it burn. 12. What does God's Spirit do for His people? Ans.—It makes them strong to work. 13. Why did God give the Jews so much help? Ans.—So that they might tell others of the true God. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

The Lord is my Helper



Golden Text—Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.—Zech. 4 : 6.



Catechism—48. What happened on the third day after Jesus died and was buried? On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

Lesson Hymn

HOLY Spirit, prompt us
When we kneel to pray;
Nearer come and teach us
What we ought to say.

Holy Spirit, help us
Daily by Thy might,
What is wrong to conquer,
And to choose the right. Amen.
—Hymn 551, Book of Praise.

Lesson XIII.

REVIEW—Third Quarter

September 24, 1899

Golden Text.—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them.—Ps. 34 : 7.

Catechism.—Questions 36-48.

Lesson Hymn

GOD, who made the earth,
The air, the sky, the sea,
Who gave the light its birth,
Careth for me.

God, who sent His Son
To die on Calvary,
He, if I lean on Him,
Will care for me.

When in heaven's bright land
I all His loved ones see,
I'll sing with that blest band,
"God cared for me." Amen.

—Hymn 509, Book of Praise.



Lesson Title	Golden Text
LESSON I. Gracious Invitations.	Come and let us return unto the Lord.—Hos. 6 : 1.
LESSON II. Daniel in Babylon.	Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1 : 8.
LESSON III. The Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace.	Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3 : 17.
LESSON IV. The Handwriting on the Wall.	God is the judge.—Ps. 75 : 7.
LESSON V. Daniel in the Den of Lions.	The Lord is thy keeper.—Ps. 121 : 5.
LESSON VI. The New Heart.	A new heart also will I give you.—Ezek. 36 : 26.
LESSON VII. Ezekiel's Great Vision.	I will put my spirit within you.—Ezek. 36 : 27.
LESSON VIII. The River of Salvation.	Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.—Rev. 22 : 17.
LESSON IX. Returning from Captivity.	The Lord hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad.—Ps. 126 : 3.
LESSON X. Rebuilding the Temple.	The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3 : 17.
LESSON XI. Encouraging the Builders.	Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work : for I am with you.—Hag. 2 : 4.
LESSON XII. Power Through the Spirit.	Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. 4 : 6.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

<p>LESSON I. Gracious Invitations.</p>	<p>LESSON VII. Ezekiel's Great Vision.</p>
<p>LESSON II. Daniel in Babylon.</p>	<p>LESSON VIII. The River of Salvation.</p>
<p>LESSON III. The Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace.</p>	<p>LESSON IX. Returning from Captivity.</p>
<p>LESSON IV. The Handwriting on the Wall.</p>	<p>LESSON X. Rebuilding the Temple.</p>
<p>LESSON V. Daniel in the Den of Lions.</p>	<p>LESSON XI. Encouraging the Builders.</p>
<p>LESSON VI. The New Heart.</p>	<p>LESSON XII. Power through the Spirit.</p>

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

For Primary Classes, Third Quarter, 1899

I. AT SIGNAL, RISE, AND REPEAT SOFTLY—

God, my Father, I would serve Thee,
Every moment, all my days ;
In Thy tenderness preserve me,
Teach my lips to speak Thy praise.

II. OPENING HYMN.

III. RESPONSIVE EXERCISE—

TEACHER—Come, ye children, hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of
the LORD.

CLASS—The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open
unto their cry.

TEACHER—The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth.

CLASS—And delivereth them out of all their troubles.

PRAYER, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert.

IV. COLLECTION.

V. BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND PRAYER.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON—Recite Golden Texts for the Quarter, as far as learned ;
also Psalm 121.

VII. GESTURE HYMNS ; followed by PRAYER HYMNS.

VIII. THE LESSON for the Day, with Golden Text, Lesson Hymn, and Catechism.

IX. SING Lesson Hymn for Quarter, 514, Book of Praise—

God made the little birds and flowers,
And all things large and small ;
He'll not forget his little ones,
I know he loves them all.

*He loves me too, He loves me too,
I know He loves me too ;
Because He loves the little things,
I know He loves me too. Amen.*

X. SILENT PRAYER, closing with a few sentences repeated in concert after teacher.

XI. DISMISSAL HYMN.

XII. MIZPAH BLESSING (in concert), "The Lord watch between me and thee when
we are absent one from another."

Let papers be distributed as the children pass out.

[No provision is made for Roll Call. The assistant should mark the book as the children enter. Order of service may be simplified by omitting Nos. V., VI., and VII.]

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At the Spring,
Cupid's Playtime,
Tender Memories,
Kings of the Deep,
Aristocrats of the Table,
Fall Beauties,
Summer Visitors,
In Disgrace,
Penitence,
Alone,
Making it Grow,
Five O'Clock Tea,
A Disgrace to the Family,
The Investigating Committee.

In Great Distress,
The Plot,
Silent Persuasion,
Doggie's Toilet,
In Sunny Italy,
My Easter Hat,
Two Little Girls in Blue,
Luscious Luxury,
Iris Lily,
First Love,
'Twixt Love and Duty,
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THE
PRIMARY QUARTERLY

The
Home
Study
Series



FOR
THE
LITTLE
ONES

PUBLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REV. R. DOUGLAS FRASER, M.A.

Editor and Business Manager

Confederation Life Building

TORONTO



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ourselves - it is to remember others."

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your friends about
Blue Ribbon Ceylon Tea?

"Then shall our names be as
familiar in their mouths as
household words."

says Shakespeare. Or,
as Blue Ribbon Ceylon Tea.

The Primary Quarterly

VOL. IV.

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1899

No. 3



GREAT delight it has been to the editor that the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and PRIMARY LEAFLET have been in such brisk demand, for there is nothing that he and those who help him value more than the high privilege of teaching the very little ones. Instructing these is like sowing in the early springtime. The sun is warm, the air is moist, the soil is greedy for the seed. Of course, it grows. A later sowing is by no means so sure.

This very demand caused embarrassment last quarter. We had printed *a very large edition* both of the QUARTERLY and the LEAFLET, but the orders fairly showered upon us, and some have had actually to wait for this present issue. We are taking care to provide another time for the biggest shower that can fall. Fruitful showers they are.

"Do you really intend the PRIMARY QUARTERLY and LEAFLET for little ones who cannot read?" some have asked us in surprise. "Why not?" "Is there not too much in them," is the reply; "how can the little ones master it all?"

Well, let us see. Take the first lesson of the quarter. The child cannot read, but his eyes and ears are very sharp. He fastens at once on the picture of the strange looking heathen idol. Explain what it is and he will quickly make choice as between worship of such a creature and of the great God who made and loves us all.

Now tell him how God's own people had turned their backs on Him for just such idols and how faithful Hosea, who was loyal to his Lord, pleaded with them to come back. This prepares for the Golden Text. The words are easy and it is soon learned—here it is—"Come and let us return unto the Lord." This is the key to the lesson.

THE LESSON RETOLD may come next. Read it over to the child two or three times on as many different days, and you will scarcely need to repeat the ANSWERS when you ask the QUESTIONS. The child's nimble tongue will be too quick for you.

Perhaps he can just spell out the I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY, which is always in big letters to catch the eye—and the heart, as well. It is quite as readily memorized as is the Catechism, with its admirably simple language and clear thought.

The Scripture Text is given in full chiefly that those who teach the child may have it at hand to answer the questions that are sure to be asked. The Lesson Hymn, seeking, as it does, to give wings to the chief practical truth of the lesson, comes last and may be said or sung. It needs no explanation:

"If I come to Jesus,
He will hear my prayer,
For He loves me dearly
And my sins did bear."



A Talk with Parents by a Primary Teacher

M. S. C.
By Rae Furland Readman

Dear Christian parents, what do you covet most earnestly for your children? I think I hear you answer "that they may early be true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ"; and many a one will add, "I do pray for them, and try to teach them all I can." Some will go further and say, "But it seems as if my prayers were not answered and my long talks were all wasted. My elder children cause me more anxious thought than do my little ones."

Dear fathers and mothers, however many talks may have been wasted, not one earnest prayer is lost, though it may not be answered in the time or way you expect.

About the talks you have tried to give. Have they always been wise, or did you sometimes take the opportunity of giving them when your little one had been naughty, thus associating in his mind words of counsel with his own unhappy feeling? In such a case the child would hasten to forget them, because, as you know, we do not wish to remember unpleasant things. And more, if uttered in anger, though slight, they would be promptly resented.

Four-year-old Willie was being put to bed one evening by his father. He had been entertaining two little friends, and, being somewhat excited, was more trouble than usual. "Do be quiet, Willie," said his father, rather impatiently. Willie looked up and remarked pleasantly, "You should not speak to me like that, papa, my teacher says we must love one another." The father accepted the rebuke meekly, and, by talking quietly to his child about his Sabbath School, got him calmed down and to sleep.

Without a word, the father taught Willie two very important lessons, viz., that love can overcome, and how to receive a deserved rebuke.

How was the father able to do this? Because he had learned to control *himself*. Ah, here is a power, which we who have to do with children often either forget or fail to make use of. Because Willie's father used it on that occasion he obtained a new hold on his child, and can, with benefit to him, use his own remark when he (Willie) is not showing love by word or act.

One mother says, "I leave our evening dishes to put away after the children have gone to bed, and the half-hour after tea is the happiest in the day. In winter round the fire, in summer out of doors, we have our little Sunday School every day. We talk about the old or the new lesson, and they teach me the hymns they have learned. Because I am truly glad to learn of them, they are truly glad to learn of me."

Another mother hearing of this plan said: "I cannot give half an hour, but I think I can manage ten minutes." She did: and now with tears in her eyes, says, "If only I

had thought about it when my elder children were little. It has given me such an influence over my little ones, and they have such confidence in me; they come to me with everything in a way my other children never did."

Neither of these mothers has need to give long talks to her children about what they should or should not do. They know each other so well that a word or a look is sufficient.

Perhaps at first glance, it seems strange to speak of parents and children knowing each other, but, when we think about it, it is appalling how few really and truly do.

A father once said to a visiting teacher, "How do you manage to teach the children the golden text? I try to do so every week but they seem so stupid with me, they never know it until after Sunday School." "Oh," said the teacher, a light breaking over her face, "that accounts for something I have sometimes wondered at. Your children always remember it when they *have* learned it. I see now; it is because of the double teaching. As to how I teach it, I suppose it is because I illustrate it. Sometimes you know it answers a question in the lesson story, as, 'What did the three men say to King Nebuchadnezzar when he would put them in the fiery furnace?' (Lesson III.). Then I ask, 'When we are in trouble, to whom shall we go?' Thus in various ways I get the answer several times. Sometimes the golden text is a promise of God as 'I will put my spirit within you,' or again it is a command as 'Be ye strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work.' Whatever it is, it is nearly always the central thought of the lesson, and a few questions will cause its repetition again and again, not in a tedious way, but showing it in its connection and surroundings, and thus unconsciously fixing it in the minds of the children."

"I often think if more of the parents would teach their little ones something of the lesson, we could do so much more for them, for if they only hear it *once* it is so easy to forget it," replied the father.

And so do I, dear fathers and mother. If

you are thinking about the lesson yourselves you will be able to put in a judicious word or suggestion now and again, to fit right in with their Sabbath School teaching, and which will perchance be of more real benefit than all the long talks in the world.

Toronto

The Children's Sunday Evening

By Ellen M. Hurl

Mothers often find it difficult to entertain their children on Sunday. I would like to tell them of an evening that I once spent with some friends, thinking that it may contain a few helpful suggestions.

As the twilight hour approached, all who could not attend the evening church service assembled in the parlor for a social hour.

It was one of those chilly evenings which we sometimes have in late summer and a cheerful wood-fire blazed upon the hearth. Since the Sabbath School at noon, Auntie had entertained the children with readings in her own room.

Now the little ones were in bed, and the elder boys were eager for further entertainment, before they too left us for sleep-land.

"What shall we do?" they cried, as we gathered around the fire.

"Let us have a good sing," said Ernest, the eldest. We all agreed, and while one played the organ, the others joined in the old familiar hymns; and the boys must have a solo from each one, so Royal sang a lovely little song about the Star of Bethlehem, others followed with selections of their own. "Now we will sing my favorite," said Royal:

"Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose true!
Dare to make it known!"

"I like that hymn," he continued, "it sounds so noble and grand." So we all sang the favorite hymn, and the boys made it very inspiring with their emphatic "dares."

"Now," said Auntie, "you must be tired singing, so we will have Bible 'come's you come.'"

"What is that?" asked the uninitiated.

"You will see presently," said Auntie. "Ernest, you may begin—choose some character from the Bible, give us the initial letter of the name, and we will guess who it is."

The boys were familiar with Bible history, and it took only a moment for Ernest to select the letter S.

"Do we read about this person in the Old Testament?" asked Auntie.

"Yes."

"Is he mentioned after the Children of Israel came out of Egypt?"

"Yes."

"Was he a very strong man, and did he have long hair?"

"I do not think his hair was remarkably long, and I never heard that he was especially strong," said Ernest.

"Did his mother dedicate him to the Lord when he was a little boy, and did he go to live with a priest, and one night did the Lord call him by name three times?" asked Royal.

"No, it was not Samuel."

"Was he a great king?" inquired Auntie.

"Yes."

"Was he jealous of a young man who, he thought, wanted to take away his kingdom, and did he go to war against him?"

"No, it was not Saul."

"Was he a very rich king?"

"Yes."

"Was he noted for his wisdom?"

"Yes."

"Ah, now we are getting nearer the right answer. Did a certain queen come to visit him when she heard of his fame and glory, and did she declare the half was never told her?" asked one.

"Yes."

"Solomon," we all exclaimed.

"Right," said Ernest.

"Now let me give one," said Royal, "and it shall be the letter D."

"Was he also a great king?" we asked.

"No."

"Was he a very good man, and was he put in the lion's den at one time for praying to the Lord?"

"No, it is not a man at all."

"Oh, it is a woman then?"

"Yes."

"Was she a prophetess?"

"No."

"Do we read about her in the Old Testament?"

"No."

"In the New Testament, then?"

"Yes."

"Was she a very good and benevolent woman?"

"Yes."

"Did she make clothing and give to the poor, and was she raised from the dead by one of Christ's disciples?"

"Yes."

"Dorcas," was the general exclamation.

"That is right."

After several other characters had been named, Auntie suggested that we vary the programme, and let each in turn give a passage of Scripture, from memory, bearing upon a certain subject, if possible.

"We will take that of trust," said she, and each give some text that tells us of God."

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not to thine own understanding," promptly began Royal.

"Very good, Royal, now the next."

"Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed."

"Now, May."

"What time I am afraid I will trust in thee."

"Good."

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass." And so on around the circle. "Now," said Auntie, "we will change the topic to love."

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"; that is easy," exclaimed Ernest.

"I am glad you find it so easy to keep that commandment, Ernest, I am afraid it is rather difficult for most of us."

"Now, Auntie, you know I did not mean that; I meant it was easy to find passages of Scripture with love in them."

"You are right, my boy; the Bible, especially the New Testament, is full of love."

"Because 'God is love,'" spoke up Royal.

"And if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another," continued May.

"If ye love me keep my commandments," said Auntie. And so we finished the circle. Rest was the next subject given us, then others followed, until it was long past the boys' bedtime. Royal wanted to sing one more hymn before leaving us, so we all joined in "Home Sweet Home," a fit ending to an enjoyable and profitable evening. As the happy children bade us good-night, I thought how good a thing it would be if the same simple custom were carried into many other households.—*The Observer*

What Makes It Go?

(See Lesson XII.)

Harry lived in the country. Last summer he went to the city to visit. How he did enjoy it! What he liked best was to ride with Uncle Edgar on the electric cars. It was such fun to climb up beside the window and see the houses and shops flying past.

"But, uncle, what makes it go? There are no horses."

"It's electricity, my boy."

"What's that," said Harry. "Where is it, uncle?"

"It's running along that wire up there."

"I don't see anything," said Harry. "I don't believe it is there at all."

Just then some people got out. The bell rang for the car to go on. But it didn't move.

"What's the matter, uncle?"

"Power's off," said he, looking up from his paper.

Harry saw the driver sit down on the step. "How long before we start?" asked a man.

"Don't know, sir."

After they had sat a long time a light flashed from the lamps, the bell rang, the wheels turned, and away the great car went bounding down the track. "That's queer stuff, that electricity," said Harry.

Strange too, is it not, how the Spirit of God works in our hearts? No eye has ever seen Him, no hand has ever touched Him, and yet He is there, and He moves us more powerfully than electricity moves the laden car—moves us forward in the way of goodness and of joy.

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A Look Ahead

For the last two Quarters we have been studying our Lord Jesus as the LIGHT OF THE WORLD, and as our Redeemer, SAVING US BY HIS LIFE AND DEATH.

We turn now for this quarter and the next to God's dealings with His people in the olden time before Christ came into the world as the Man of Nazareth. We shall see that God has always been gracious, and that even before Christ came the Lord saved all those who were sorry for sin, and helped all those who trusted Him.

In the lessons of this quarter we discover twelve instances of how THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS. It would be a good thing to have the children learn this list by heart and recite it. This can easily be accomplished in the twelve Sabbaths.

THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS

1. He gives grace to the penitent, Hosea 14 : 1-9.
 2. He prospered a brave boy, Dan. 1 : 8-21.
 3. He delivered three true men, Dan. 3 : 14-28.
 4. He saved a faithful prophet, Dan. 5 : 17-31.
 5. He protected a loyal worshipper, Dan. 6 : 10-23.
 6. He bestows a new heart, Ezek. 36 : 25-36.
 7. He raises to a new life, Ezek. 37 : 1-14.
 8. He gives water of life, Ezek. 47 : 1-12.
- He helps His people :
9. By giving them a king's favor, Ezra 1 : 1-11.
 10. By allowing them to build His house, Ezra 3 : 10-4 : 5.
 11. By promising to be with them, Hag. 2 : 1-9.
 12. By pouring out His spirit upon them, Zech. 4 : 1-14.
13. REVIEW — THE LORD BLESSES AND HELPS.

Prayer Hymn

[To be sung with hands folded and in low and reverent tones.]

Father, lead Thy little children
Very early to Thy throne ;
We will have no gods before Thee :
Thou art God, and Thou alone.

In the Bible Thou hast taught us,
All our thoughts to Thee are known
Thou canst see us in the darkness,
Thou art God, and Thou alone.—Amen.

GRACIOUS INVITATIONS

Lesson I.

Hosea 14 : 1-9—Memory Verses 4-7

July 2, 1899

1 O Is'rael, return unto the Lord thy God ; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Takewith you words, and turn to the LORD ; say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously : so will we render the calves of our lips.

3 Assh'ur shall not save us ; we will not ride upon horses : neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, *Ye are* our gods : for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely : for mine anger is turned away from him.

5 I will be as the dew unto Is'rael : he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Leb'anon.

6 His branches shall spread and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Leb'anon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return ; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine ; the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Leb'anon.

8 Eph'raim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols ? I have heard him, and observed him : I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.

9 Who is wise, and he shall understand these things ? prudent, and he shall know them ? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them : but the transgressors shall fall therein.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The lessons this Quarter are taken from the first part of the Bible.

They tell of how God took care of His people long before Jesus came to the world.



A HEATHEN IDOL

The story of these people was written by a great many different men. The name of one

writer was Hosea, who was a prophet.

Hosea lived at a time when the Jews were well off. Their they forgot God and made themselves horrid idols, and worshipped them as they saw the heathen people doing. Hosea felt terribly sorry, for he knew that, if they kept on as they were doing, some day their enemies would come and destroy them altogether.

God had sent Hosea to tell the people that He still loved them as a father and to invite them to change their ways and be forgiven.

This is what he said :—

“ O Israel, come back to the Lord your God. Be sorry for your sins, and ask the Lord to forgive you. Tell Him that you mean to do better and that you know heathen idols can never help you.”

God spoke to them of their fine fruit and flowers and how they grew. The sun shines so brightly in that country that all plants would soon be burnt up if, every night, the dew did not come to water them. God said, “ You yourselves need my help just as these flowers need dew. I am able to make you sweet and strong and useful like beautiful lilies and olive trees and grape-vines in your gardens, and the grain in your fields.”

God might have sent a terrible punishment to destroy these people, but He wanted

to speak kindly and softly to them so that they might see for themselves how ugly sin

was, and learn to hate it and turn from it and be holy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. In what part of the Bible are this quarter's lessons? Ans.—In the Old Testament. 2. Who wrote to-day's lesson? Ans.—Hosea. 3. Who was he? Ans.—One of God's prophets. 4. What is a prophet? Ans.—One who speaks for God to men. 5. To whom was this prophet sent? Ans.—To God's own people. 6. What was Hosea's message? Ans.—He was to invite the people to return to God. 7. How had they got away from God? Ans.—They had done wrong. 8. What had they done? Ans.—They were worshipping idols. 9. How did they learn

to do it? Ans.—They copied their heathen neighbors. 10. What did Hosea say they must do? Ans.—Ask God to forgive their sins. 11. How must they feel? Ans.—Sorry for what they had done. 12. What did God promise to give them? Ans.—His help to make them do right. 13. What did God say His help was like? Ans.—The dew. 14. Did God speak angrily to them? Ans.—No. He spoke as a father. 15. What is the Golden Text. Ans.—“Come and let us return unto the Lord.”

How to Forgive

Once there was a man who had two boys. When they grew a little older the younger one said, “Father, I want some money,” so the father gave him half of all he had.

Two or three days after this young man packed his things and left home. He went far away and had what he called a “jolly good time.” He spent his money foolishly; and when it was gone he had nothing to eat but dry husks used for feeding pigs.

Then he thought of home, and said to himself, “My father's servants have more than they can eat. I know what I'll do. I'll go

home and ask my father to forgive me and let me be one of his servants.”

When he had gone part way his father saw him and came running to meet him, and almost before he could say a word had kissed him on both cheeks.

Then the father called to his servants to bring fine clothes and shoes for his boy and to get dinner ready quickly. “And don't forget the gold ring for his finger! for this my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should be Sorry for my Sins



Golden Text—Come and let us return unto the Lord.—Hos. 6: 1.

Catechism—36. What has God done to save us from sin? God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to save us from sin.

Lesson Hymn

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

DANIEL IN BABYLON

Lesson II. Daniel 1: 8-21 (May be used as a Temperance Lesson)
Memory Verses, 17-20

July 9, 1899

8 But Dan'iel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank : therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Dan'iel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Dan'iel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink : for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Dan'iel to Mel'zar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah.

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days : and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat : and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Mel'zar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink ; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom : and Dan'iel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Neb'uchadnezz'zar.

19 And the king communed with them ; and among them all was found none like Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah ; therefore stood they before the king.

20. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten-times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

21 And Dan'iel continued even unto the first year of king Cy'rus.

THE LESSON RETOLD



Far away in Babylon lived a great heathen king called Nebuchadnezzar.

Once he fought against God's people, the Jews, and took many of them away to his country as prisoners.

Then he said to one of his chief servants, "Choose some of the strong, bright, handsome, well-brought-up, clever boys among these Jews. I will have my wise priests teach them so that they may know our language and our worship and by-and-by become wise priests themselves."

The boys were to have a nice place to live and were to have the same food to eat as the king himself.

But there was one boy in that school who made up his mind that he would not eat king's meat, because, though it tasted so nice, he knew that it had been given to the idols first, and that to eat it was just the same as praying to idols.

His name was Daniel, and he had three boy friends who were just as brave and true as he was.

So Daniel said to the man who took care of them, "Please take away this meat and wine and give us pulse and water instead." Pulse was a coarse food like beans.

But the servant replied, "Oh, no, the king would be angry if you were to get thin and sick-looking. He would blame me for not taking good care of you."

Daniel begged so hard that at last the servant said, "You may have plain food for a little while and then I will see how you

look." So for ten days Daniel and his three boy friends had only their coarse pulse and water, whilst the other boys had king's food and wine. At the end of that time the king's servant found that Daniel and his friends were fatter and stronger than any of the others; so they were never asked to eat king's food again.

God was so pleased with what these boys had done that the Bible says He gave them wisdom and understanding so that they were ten times wiser than any of the great and wise men in Babylon. This was because they had been faithful and true to God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What was the name of the king who made prisoners of the Jews? Ans.—Nebuchadnezzar. 2. Where did he live? Ans.—In Babylon. 3. What kind of place was Babylon? Ans.—A heathen city. 4. What did the king do with the Jewish boys? Ans.—He sent them to school. 5. Were they kindly treated? Ans.—Yes. 6. What was given them to eat? Ans.—Meat and wine from the king's table. 7. What was the name of the bravest boy in the school? Ans.—Daniel. 8. What did he do? Ans.—He made up his mind not to eat the king's

meat, nor to drink the wine. 9. Why was it wrong? Ans.—Because it had been offered to idols. 10. Why did the king's servant not want to change the food? Ans.—Because he was afraid of making the boys sick-looking. 11. For how long did Daniel beg to try plain food? Ans.—For ten days. 12. Then how did Daniel and his three friends look? Ans.—Fairer and fatter than all the others. 13. Who was pleased with what Daniel had done? Ans.—God. 14. What did He do for Daniel? Ans.—He made him wiser than all the wise Jews of Babylon.

A Wise and Brave Boy

Little Harry had been very sick.

When he was slowly recovering and just able to be up, he was left alone a short time, when his sister came in eating a piece of cake. His appetite was coming back; he wanted very much to take a bite of the cake, and his sister would gladly have given it to him; but his mother had said, no, it would

not be safe till he was stronger.

What did he do?

"Jennie," said he, "you must run right out of the room away from me with that cake, and I'll keep my eyes shut while you go, so that I shan't want it."

Brave little man!

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Should Dare to Do Right

Golden Text—Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1: 8.

Catechism—37. How did Jesus Christ, God's Son, come into the world? Jesus Christ came into the world by being born a little child.

38. How was Jesus Christ different from us? Jesus Christ was altogether without sin.

Lesson Hymn

STANDING by a purpose true,
Heeding God's command,
Honor them the faithful few!
All hail to Daniel's band!
Dare to be a Daniel!
Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known.—Amen.

—Hymn 533, Book of Praise.

THE HEBREWS IN THE FIERY FURNACE

Lesson III.

Daniel 3 : 14-28—Memory Verses, 16-18

July 16, 1899

14 Neb'uchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it true*, O Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, answered and said to the king, O Neb'uchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that [we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Neb'uchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego.

23 And these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Neb'uchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Neb'uchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And the princes, governors and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Neb'uchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'nego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

THE LESSON RETOLD.

When Daniel's three brave friends had become men, Nebuchadnezzar was still king and he had been making a great golden idol.

When it was all finished, he set a day for the people to come and worship it. He said, "I will tell the band when to play, and if anyone will not fall down on his knees when the music begins, I will have that man put into a blazing oven and burnt up."

So the princes and the rulers and the crowds of people were all careful to do exactly what the king said, except Daniel's three friends. They heard the band but

they did not fall down and worship the idol.

Some one went straight and told the king and the king sent to have them brought to him at once. He was very angry indeed and called to his servants to see that the furnace was hot.

But the three men only said, "Our God whom we serve is able to take care of us. He is stronger than the king himself and because we are His servants we will never fall down before the idol or pray to heathen gods." Then Nebuchadnezzar in his fury told his strongest soldiers to throw them

right into the fire.

The fire was so hot that it burnt up the soldiers, but the Bible says that God's servants were not hurt the least bit.

Nebuchadnezzar was much surprised by what he saw. He said, "Were there not three thrown in? But I see four men walking in the fire and one of them is like 'a son of the gods.'" (See Revised Version.)

Then he called them to come out of the furnace and they walked out alive. Their clothes did not smell of fire and there was not one hair on their heads even singed.

After this the king's mind changed. He said now, "If I find anyone speaking against the true God, I will punish him; for there is no other God who can deliver after this sort."



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What message did king Nebuchadnezzar send to his people? Ans.—Everyone must worship my golden idol. 2. Who disobeyed him? Ans.—Daniel's three friends. 3.—How were they punished? Ans.—They were thrown into a fiery furnace. 4. Did they know what would happen if they did not worship the idol? Ans.—Yes. 5. Why were they not afraid? Ans.—They knew that God would take care of them. 6. Did He take care of them? Ans.—Yes, He was with them in the fire. 7. Who watched them there? Ans.—King Nebuchadnezzar. 8. When he saw them still alive what did he do? Ans.—He called them to come out. 9. Were the men at all hurt? Ans.—No, there was not even the smell of fire upon them. 10. What did the king then say? Ans.—There is no God who can deliver after this sort.

Safe

Nellie and Marjory heard a pecking noise at the window, and running over found a butterfly flying about in a great fright, for there, outside the window, was a sparrow darting at the pane to catch the butterfly.

"That sparrow makes me think of to-day's lesson," said mother. "The angry king

thought it would be easy to have God's servants burnt up, but all the time they were quite safe. The butterfly is as safe behind this glass as if it were miles away from the sparrow. Only it doesn't know it, poor thing. It's only when we forget that God is caring for us that we are afraid."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God Takes Care of Those Who Love Him

Golden Text—Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3:17.



Catechism—39. What do you know of the early life of Jesus? Until Jesus was thirty years old He lived with His parents, whom He loved and obeyed.

Lesson Hymn

TO him that o'ercometh God giveth a crown;
Through faith we shall conquer,
though often cast down;
He who is our Saviour our strength
will renew;
Look ever to Jesus—He will carry
you through. Amen.

—Hymn 530, Book of Praise.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

Lesson IV.

Daniel 5 : 17-31—Memory Verses, 24-28

July 23, 1899

17 Then Dan'iel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another ; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18 O thou king, the most high God gave Neb'uchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour :

19 And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him : whom he would he slew ; and whom he would he kept alive ; and whom he would he set up ; and whom he would he put down.

20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him :

21 And he was driven from the sons of men ; and his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses : they fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven ; till he knew that the most high God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will.

22 And thou his son, O Belshaz'zar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this ;

23 But hast lifted up thyself against the

Lord of heaven ; and they have brought the vessels of his house, before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them ; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know : and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified :

24 Then was the part of the hand sent from him ; and this writing was written.

25 And this is the writing that was written, ME/NE, ME/NE, TE/KEL, UPHAR/SIN.

26 This is the interpretation of the thing : ME/NE ; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27 TE/KEL ; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28 PE/RES : Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Per'sians.

29 Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Dan'iel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

30 In that night was Belshaz'zar the king of the Chalde'ans slain.

31 And Dari'us the Me'dian took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Though God had made Nebuchadnezzar a very rich and powerful king, his heart only got prouder and harder all the time. At last God sent him a very severe punishment and after that he died.

Belshazzar was now reigning.

He was quite a young man. He said, " I am not afraid of anything. I have the strongest soldiers in the world to fight for me, and I can enjoy myself as I like." So he made a great feast and invited all his friends.

Then he did a very wicked thing. He sent and got the holy cups and dishes that his father had carried off from God's house in Jerusalem and used them to drink wine out of while he and his friends shouted the praises of the heathen idol.

Suddenly something happened that frightened everyone, and made the king shiver all over.

This is what he saw : on the wall of the room a man's hand writing strange words.



Belshazzar could not read the words. Neither could anyone at the table.

Then he sent for his wise men to come; but none of them could read them, and both the king and his lords were in great trouble.

But the queen said, "Send for Daniel. He will be able to tell the meaning of it."

When Daniel came in, the king offered to give him a fine present; but Daniel would not take it. He said to Belshazzar, "You know how God punished your father, Nebuchadnezzar, for his sins, but that did not make

your heart humble. It is God who gives you everything you have, but you have not thanked Him. He has written these strange words. They mean that He will punish you by not allowing you to be king any longer."

Because Daniel was able to read the writing they put a chain round his neck and made him third ruler in the kingdom.

That same night God's words came true. Belshazzar was killed by his enemies because he had not trusted in the true God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What happened to King Nebuchadnezzar? Ans.—He was punished for his pride and then he died. 2. Who was the king now? Ans.—Belshazzar. 3. Was he a better man? Ans.—No, he was proud and he was foolish, too. 4. How did he show that he didn't care for God's worship? Ans.—He used the temple dishes at a heathen feast. 5. Did God see him? Ans.—Yes. 6. What happened at the feast? Ans.—The king saw a man's hand writing on the wall. 7. How did he feel? Ans.—Very much frightened. 8. Could he or his wise men read the writing? Ans.—No. 9. Who did read it? Ans.—Daniel. 10. What did Daniel say it meant? Ans.—That God would punish the king and take away his kingdom. 11. What was done for Daniel? Ans.—He was made third ruler in Babylon. 12. How soon did God's word come true? Ans.—That same night. 13. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"God is the judge."

The Dragon's Eye

Frankie had made a large white kite and was painting a big green dragon with a fiery red eye upon it. May and Charlie were making the kite's tail. When it was finished Frankie put it away to dry.

Charlie had promised not to touch it, but when Frankie and May had gone away he could not resist putting a finger on the dragon's eye. Alas! the paint was wet, and the paper soft, so Charlie's finger went through, and made a big hole. "He won't

know I did it," thought the little boy; so he said nothing to anyone.

But that night he could not sleep. The dragon seemed staring at him with the hole in its eye. At last he could bear it no longer; and creeping out of bed, he went and told Frankie all about it.

Frankie soon forgave him, and the next day father pasted a piece of paper over the hole, the red eye was painted in again, and the dragon looked as well as ever.

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT God Blesses His Faithful Children

Golden Text—God is the judge.—Ps. 75: 7.

Catechism—40. How did Jesus spend the remaining three years of his life on earth? Jesus spent the last three years of His life in doing good, and in teaching men about God.

Lesson Hymn

LIFE passeth soon;
 Death draweth near;
 Keep us, good Lord,
 Till Thou appear;
 For Thee to live,
 In Thee to die,
 With Thee to reign through eternity.
 Amen.

—Hymn 331, Book of Praise.

DANIEL IN THE DEN OF LIONS

Lesson V.

Daniel 6 : 10-23—Memory Verses, 21-23

July 30, 1899

10 Now when Dan'iel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jeru'salem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

11 Then these men assembled, and found Dan'iel praying and making supplication before his God.

12 Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Per'sians, which altereth not.

13 Then answered they and said before the king, That Dan'iel, which is of the children of the captivity of Ju'dah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

14 Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Dan'iel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

15 Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Per'sians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

16 Then the king commanded, and they

brought Dan'iel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Dan'iel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

17 And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Dan'iel.

18 Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, He cried with a lamentable voice unto Dan'iel: and the king spake and said to Dan'iel, O Dan'iel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Dan'iel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lion's mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Dan'iel up out of the den. So Dan'iel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Darius was the name of the king who now reigned in Babylon.

When he saw that Daniel was to be trusted, he made him chief ruler in his kingdom.

Then the other princes and rulers were jealous and they watched Daniel to see if he would make any mistakes.

When they couldn't find any, they made up a wicked plan. They knew that Daniel prayed to God every day; so they went to the king and asked him to make a rule that if anyone was found praying except to the king himself, he was to be thrown into the den of lions.

So King Darius wrote the law and signed it with his seal and nothing could change it. When Daniel heard about it, he went into his house and kneeling down with the windows open, he prayed to God three times every day,



as he had always done. His enemies saw him do it. Then they went and told the king.

Now the king loved Daniel, and he was terribly angry with himself for making the law; but it was too late to take it back. That very evening, therefore, they threw Daniel in among the hungry lions.

But Darius was so troubled that he could not sleep, and very early in the morning he ran to the den, hardly hoping to find Daniel alive. Then he called in a sad voice, "Oh,

Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God able to save thee from the lions?" And Daniel, who was still quite safe in the lions' den, answered, "My God hath sent his angel and hath shut the lions' mouths and they have not hurt me because I have done no harm."

Then they took Daniel up, and the Bible says there was not one bite or scratch upon him because he had trusted in God and God had shut the lions' mouths.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who was king now? Ans.—Darius.
2. How did Darius show that he trusted Daniel? Ans.—He set him over the other rulers.
3. How did they try to hurt him? Ans.—They got the king to make a law against praying to the true God.
4. How did Daniel show that he wasn't afraid? Ans.—He left his windows open and went on praying.
5.

How did they treat him? Ans.—They threw him into the den of lions.
6. How long did he stay there? Ans.—All night.
7. Did the lions hurt him? Ans.—No.
8. Why? Ans.—God sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths.
9. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The Lord is thy keeper."

Frank's Lion

Patty came to spend the day with her cousin Frank.

"Let's play Daniel in the lion's den," said Frank. "You be Daniel, and I'll throw you into the den. I'll be the lion."

"So Frank put Patty into a dark hole behind the steps. Then he crawled in on his hands and knees roaring and gnashing his teeth. He got Patty's arm in his mouth just as if he was going to make a meal of her.

Patty gave a terrible scream. When Frank found Patty was crying, he jumped up. "What's the matter?" he asked angrily.

"I was afraid you'd turn real lion and eat me up," sobbed Patty.

Frank felt something like a wild beast inside of him. He wanted to call Patty a silly baby and show her what he thought of her. Then he remembered God. "Oh, come and help me to be kind," he prayed all to himself.

Then the cruel feelings went away and Frank said, "I'm sorry I played so roughly. I did not mean to frighten you, Patty. Come, we'll play lamb or anything you like."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

The Lord Is My Keeper

Golden Text—The Lord is thy keeper.
—Psalm 121:5.



Catechism — 41. Whom did Jesus claim to be? Jesus said that He was the Son of God.

Lesson Hymn

GOD, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light;
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May Thine angel-guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us,
This livelong night. Amen.
—Hymn 373, Book of Praise.

THE NEW HEART

Lesson VI.

Ezekiel 36 : 25-36—Memory Verses, 25-27

August 6, 1899

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers: and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

30 And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, and ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen.

31 Then shall ye remember your own evil

ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

32 Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

33 Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

34 And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by.

35 And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of E'den; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited.

36 Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it.

THE STORY RETOLD

The Jews were God's own people. He had given them a beautiful country and

But they forgot Him altogether and worshipped the idols of their heathen neighbors. So God punished them by allowing a heathen king to come and destroy their homes and take them far away to Babylon as slaves.

In Babylon they had to work very hard, and the heathen people made fun of them, and they were very unhappy. They often used to long to go back to their old home.

There were a few men among them still faithful to the true God. Daniel was one, Ezekiel was another. These men often prayed that God would forgive the sins of the Jews and that He would some day allow them to go home again.

At last God sent a message to Ezekiel saying that He was ready to forgive their sins if they were truly sorry and wanted to do better. He promised to send His Spirit to change their wicked hearts so that they would hate doing wrong and love to do right.

He told Ezekiel that they would have their beautiful homes again and plenty for everyone to eat. Then they would remember how



promised to take care of them if they worshipped and obeyed Him as their God.

disobedient they had been and would be ashamed at having been so foolish and sinful.

There was something else in Ezekiel's message. It was God's reason for showing

these poor Jews so much kindness. It was this: He wanted their heathen neighbors to see what God could do for His people, so that they too might become His true servants, which is real missionary work.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who were God's people? Ans.—The Jews. 2. What had He done for them? Ans.—He had given them a beautiful country to live in, and had taught them how to worship Him. 3. Did they always do right? Ans.—No, they forgot God and worshipped idols. 4. How were they punished? Ans.—They were carried off as slaves to Babylon. 5. Did God say He would have nothing more to do with them? Ans.—No, God loved them too much to say that. 6. Whom did He send to speak kindly to them? Ans.—

Ezekiel. 7. What did God tell Ezekiel to say? Ans.—That He was willing to wash away their sins. 8. What did He promise to give them? Ans.—A new heart. 9. What did God promise besides? Ans.—That some day they would be allowed to go home. 10. What was God's reason for showing these people so much kindness? Ans.—He wanted the heathen to know that He was the true God. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“A new heart also will I give you.”

Curly's Lesson

Once there was a rich shepherd who had a hundred sheep. The name of the smallest lamb was Curly.

Every morning when the shepherd took them to the green pastures and every night when he brought them home, Curly walked close beside him.

When Curly had grown a little bigger he began to say to himself, “I don't see why we have to stay in that old fold. I want to see what it's like outside at night.” So, when the rest were going home, Curly stayed and hid behind a rock. Then he turned and ran the other way.

Very soon he lost himself, and oh! how rough and sharp the stones were! A cloud

hid the moon and Curly felt something prickly. He was caught fast in a thorn-bush. Then he called “Ma-a-a”! But instead of his mother he heard a loud growl. It was Mr. Wolf. *He* was hungry too.

At the fold the shepherd was counting his sheep. “Why Curly is not here!” he cried. So he ran into the dark and got to the thorn-bush just in time to save him from the wolf and carry him safely home. Then he tied up his sore feet and gave him warm milk to drink.

All this made Curly quite different, and now, though he is an old sheep, when his master calls he is the very first to obey. It is easy to obey those who love us.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I Need a New Heart, Which God Will Give Me

Golden Text.—A new heart also will I give you.—Ezek. 36: 26.

Catechism.—42. How did Jesus show that He was the Son of God? Jesus showed that He was the Son of God by His holy life, His heavenly teachings and His wonderful works.

Lesson Hymn

LORD, I confess to Thee
Sadly my sin;
All I am, tell I Thee;
All I have been!
Purge Thou my sins away,
Wash Thou my soul this day,
Lord, make me clean! Amen.
—Hymn 160, Book of Praise.

EZEKIEL'S GREAT VISION

Lesson VII.

Ezekiel 37 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 5, 6

August 13, 1899

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, *there were very many* in the open valley; and, lo, *they were very dry*.

3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was no breath* in them.

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.

12 Therefore prophecy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Is'rael.

13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves.

14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken *it* and performed *it*, saith the LORD.

THE LESSON RETOLD



Before Jesus Christ came, God had many ways of speaking to His people.

Sometimes He would send an angel or a cloud of fire, but often He spoke to some good and holy man and gave him a message for all the others.

Such a man was called a prophet.

Now Ezekiel was a prophet, and it was through him that the poor Jewish slaves in Babylon heard that God was willing to forgive their sins and would some day take them back to their own country.

Soon after this message, another message came to Ezekiel from God.

This time God showed him a strange picture or vision, as it was called.

In the vision Ezekiel saw a great valley all scattered over with bones. The people must have been dead a long time for the bones were so very dry.

God said to Ezekiel, "Can these bones

live?" "O Lord God, thou knowest," answered the prophet.

Then God said, "speak to these dead bones and say, 'Ye shall live. I will cover you with flesh and skin, and give you breath to make you alive, because I am the Lord.'"

Ezekiel did as he was told.

When he had spoken the words, he heard a strange rattling sound. All the bones began to move and when he looked again, they were covered with flesh.

God said, "Now call to the wind to come and give them breath that they may live."

When the wind blew, Ezekiel saw a wonderful sight—instead of the bones, the valley was full of strong, living men, a very great army.

Then God explained the vision. He told Ezekiel that the Jewish people in Babylon were like a lot of dead bones, but that He, by His Spirit, would some day make them a great nation again, for He is the living God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What is a prophet? Ans.—A good and holy man who speaks for God to men.
2. What is the name of the prophet in today's lesson? Ans.—Ezekiel.
3. How did God speak to Ezekiel? Ans.—In visions.
4. What is a vision? Ans.—Something like a picture.
5. Why did God use pictures? Ans.—To make it easy for people to understand Him.
6. What did Ezekiel see in a vision? Ans.—A valley full of dry bones.
7. What did God say about them? Ans.—"Can these bones live?"
9. What did Ezekiel answer? Ans.—"O Lord God, thou knowest."
10. What did God tell Ezekiel to say to the bones? Ans.—"Ye shall live because I am the Lord."
11. What did God do to the bones? Ans.—He made them into a living army of men.
12. How? Ans.—By His Spirit.
13. What were the bones a picture of? Ans.—The Jewish people. They were not living for God.
14. What did God want to show them? Ans.—That He would make them alive and strong by His Spirit.
15. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"I will put my Spirit within you."

Clara's Vision

"Mother," said Clara, looking up from her lesson paper one Sunday afternoon, "I wish God would let me see a vision; I'm going to ask Him."

"Pooh!" said Tom, "what nonsense! There are no visions now; are there, mother?"

"Oh yes, dear, plenty, if you only know where to look for them." "Real visions?" "Yes, dear. If you will come with me I'll show you one."

Mother walked down the garden, until she came to the old apple-tree. There she broke off a little branch. The blossoms were just over. "Do you see that funny little green thing where the blossom was, Clara? Well, there's a whole apple-tree curled up in that little green knob. Once this big tree was as small as that, but God watched over it and sent His sun and rain to feed it until it grew a large, strong tree."

"That's a very nice vision," said Clara. "Come, Tom, let's find some more."

I HAVE LEARNED TO-DAY THAT God will give me new life in my soul

Golden Text—I will put my spirit within you.—Ezek. 36: 27.

Catechism—43. What did Jesus do to save us from our sins? Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly and died for us.

Lesson Hymn

SPIRIT of purity and grace,
Our weakness, pitying, see:
O make our hearts Thy dwelling-place,
And worthier Thee. Amen.
—Hymn 111, Book of Praise.

THE RIVER OF SALVATION

Lesson VIII.

Ezekiel 47 : 1-12—Memory Verse, 12

August 20, 1899

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house ; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward : for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward ; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the ancles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through ; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand ; and it was a river that I could not pass over : for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this ? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at

the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea : which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live : and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither : for they shall be healed ; and everything shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En'-gedi even unto En-egla'im ; they shall be a place to spread forth nets ; their fish shall be according to their kind, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof, and the marishes thereof shall not be healed ; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed : it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary : and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

THE LESSON RETOLD

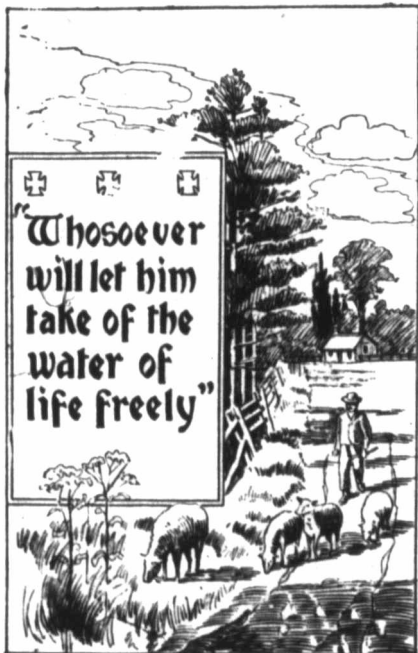
The Jews, while they were slaves in Babylon, were often in danger of forgetting their own God. They were far away from home and from their great temple at Jerusalem. The heathen people worshipped the sun and the moon, and made themselves idols. So Ezekiel, God's prophet, was sent to speak to them of the true worship.

Soon after our last lesson Ezekiel had another vision.

In this vision he saw himself walking about the temple in Jerusalem with an angel.

While they were standing beside the door the angel showed him a small stream of water coming from under the steps.

Then they walked as far as the East gate. "Look at it now," said the angel. He told the prophet to step in. It was up to his ankles. The angel measured it again further



on. It was up to the knees. Then again, and it was deeper still. Once more, and it was deep enough to swim in. Ezekiel found the little stream had grown to be a deep river that he could not cross.

There were trees all along the banks, and while he looked, the angel said to him, "Wherever this water goes it will make things live. These trees will stay green all the time. There will always be fruit hanging on these branches. And the leaves are good for medicine. At last the river will reach the Dead Sea, which is very salt and

where nothing can live. It will cure its salt-ness so that all kinds of fish can live there. Everything it touches will be changed."

This picture had a meaning. It showed the Jews that God's Kingdom was like a river that keeps growing wider all the time. Some day it will fill the earth and then everyone will worship the true God.

Ezekiel's part was to help the Jews to see their place in the great Kingdom of God, which in their time was only just beginning to grow, and which is now so great.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Did Ezekiel have more than one vision? Ans.—Yes. 2. What did an angel show him this time? Ans.—A little stream of water running from God's house. 3. From the gate what did they see? Ans.—A man measuring how far the river had flowed. 4. How deep was it? Ans.—Up to Ezekiel's ankles. 5. Did it get any deeper? Ans.—Yes. It grew and grew until it was deep enough to swim in. 6. Where did the angel say it was going? Ans.—Through the desert and down

to the Dead Sea. 7. What kind of sea was this? Ans.—So salt that nothing could live in it. 8. What was the water to do? Ans.—Make everything it touched live. 9. What were growing along the banks? Ans.—Trees that were always green and whose leaves were good for medicine. 10. What is the river a picture of? Ans.—The Kingdom of God. 11. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely."

Help One Another

"Help one another," the dewdrop cried,
Seeing another drop close to its side,
This warm south breeze would dry me away,
And I should be gone ere noon to-day,
But I'll help you, and you help me,
And we'll make a brook and river to the
sea."

"Help one another," a grain of sand
Said to another grain just at hand,
"The wind may carry me over the sea,
And then, O what will become of me?
But come, my brother, give me your hand;
We'll build a mountain and there we'll
stand."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God's love has no end

Golden Text—Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.—Rev. 22:17.

Catechism—44. What would have happened to us if Jesus had not died for us? If Jesus had not died for us, we all would have been lost.

Lesson Hymn

WHOSOEVER heareth, shout, shout
the sound,
Send the blessed tidings all the world
around!
Spread the joyful news wherever man is
found,
"Whosoever will" may come. Amen.
—Hymn 457, Book of Praise.

RETURNING FROM CAPTIVITY

Lesson IX.

Ezra 1: 1-11—Memory Verses, 2-4

August 27, 1899

1 Now in the first year of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremi'ah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

2 Thus saith Cy'rus king of Per'sia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jeru'salem, which is in Ju'dah.

3 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jer'usalem, which is in Ju'dah, and build the house of the LORD God of Is-rael, (he is the God,) which is in Jeru'salem.

4 And whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth, let the men of his place help him with silver, and with gold, and with goods, and with beasts, beside the free-will offering for the house of God that is in Jeru'salem.

5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin, and the priests, and the Le'vites, with all them whose spirit God

had raised, to go up to build the house of the LORD which is in Jeru'salem.

6 And all they that were about them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with beasts, and with precious things, beside all that was willingly offered.

7 Also Cy'rus the King brought forth the vessels of the house of the LORD, which Neb'uchadnezz'ar had brought forth out of Jeru'salem, and had put them in the house of his gods:

8 Even those did Cy'rus king of Per'sia bring forth by the hand of Mith'redath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbaz'zar, the prince of Ju'dah.

9 And this is the number of them: thirty chargers of gold, a thousand chargers of silver, nine and twenty knives,

10 Thirty basons of gold, silver basons of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels a thousand.

11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. All these did Sheshbaz'zar bring up with them of the captivity that were brought up from Bab'ylon unto Jeru'salem.

THE LESSON RETOLD

God's time came at last for setting His people free.

They had found out in Babylon how bitter



a thing it is to disobey God and they were now ready to obey Him.

At this time, Cyrus was king and God put

into the heart of Cyrus to help Him.

Cyrus wrote a message to the Jews in all his kingdom. He said, "The Lord, the God of Heaven, has told me to build Him a house in Jerusalem. Who among His people are willing to go?"

Then all those in whose hearts was God's spirit said, "We are willing."

Now the Jews had been slaves so long that they were poor. So Cyrus said to his people "You are to give these Jews money, and horses, and everything they need for the journey, and for building the house of the Lord."

So their neighbors helped them heartily, and when they were almost ready, king Cyrus went into his treasure-house and brought out the holy dishes that had been taken from the temple so long before. After they were counted he gave them to one of the princes of Judah to take back with him to Jerusalem.

By and by everything was ready, and

the long procession started.

The gates of Babylon stood wide open for God's people to pass through.

The women and children were on horses or in waggons. The camels followed loaded with treasures. The king's soldiers were there to take care of them in the wild desert. The band was playing, and the happy slaves

said, "Is it all true, or are we only dreaming?" There were shouts of joy.

The heathen people heard them laughing and singing and praising God. They said, "The Lord hath done great things for them." Yes, cried the travellers, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What message did King Cyrus send to his people? Ans.—That God had told him to build Him a house in Jerusalem. 2. What did He say to the Jews? Ans.—"Who among you are willing to help"? 3. How many said they were willing? Ans.—All those who had God's Spirit in them. 4. Were the Jews well off? Ans.—No. They were slaves. 5. Who helped them with money and other things? Ans.—The people of Babylon. 6. What did Cyrus do? Ans.—He gave back the holy dishes belonging to the Temple. 7. Who had made King Cyrus willing to do this? Ans.—God stirred up his heart. 8. Why were the Jews slaves in Babylon? Ans.—It was as a pun-

ishment for their sins. 9. What had they done? Ans.—They had forgotten God and prayed to idols, and had also lived bad lives. 10. Were they any better now. Ans.—Yes. They were willing to do right. 11. Whom did King Cyrus send with them? Ans.—Soldiers to take care of them. 12. Had they far to go? Ans.—Yes. A long journey; many, many days. 13. How did they travel? Ans.—Some on horses and camels and some walked. 14. What great work were they to do at Jerusalem? Ans.—To build the House of the Lord. 15. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The Little Slave Boy

Adjai was a little black boy who had lived with his father and mother far away in heathen Africa. One day cruel men came to their village and took Adjai and his mother away as slaves. Very soon the little boy was sold and put on a ship with a lot of other slaves to be sent away to Cuba.

But God was taking good care of Adjai. After a while an English ship found them and brought all the slaves back, but to another part of Africa, where Adjai was sent to school. He learned to read the Bible, and soon he was baptized. Then they changed

his name, and instead of Adjai he was called Samuel Crowther.

When he grew older he wanted to be a preacher. He went to preach to some slave people near his old home. One day an old woman came to hear him—it was his own mother. She knew him, too, and called him by his old name. How happy they were! How they thanked God together for His goodness to them! And, do you know?—This young man afterwards became a Bishop and a very useful missionary. The Lord had done great things for him.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

The Lord Hath Done Great Things for Me

Golden Text—The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.—Ps. 126: 3.



Catechism—45. What is it to be lost? To be lost is to be left without God in this world, and to be shut out from his presence forever.

Lesson Hymn

BRIGHTLY gleams our banner,
Pointing to the sky,
Waving on Christ's soldiers
To their homes on high.
Marching through the desert,
Gladly thus we pray,
Still with hearts united
Singing on our way.

*Brightly gleams our banner,
Pointing to the sky,
Waving on Christ's soldiers
To their home on high. Amen.*
—Hymn 304, Book of Praise.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE

Lesson X.

Ezra 3 : 10-4:5—Memory Verses, 10, 11

September 3, 1899

10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Le'vites, the sons of A'saph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of Da'vid king of Is'rael.

11 And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because *he is good*, for his mercy *endureth* for ever toward Is'rael. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

12 But many of the priests and Le'vites and chief of the fathers *who were* ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

1 Now when the adversaries of Ju'dah and Ben'jamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Is'rael;

2 Then they came to Zerub'babel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye *do*; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'sar-had'don king of As'sur, which brought us up hither.

3 But Zerub'babel, and Jesh'ua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Is'rael, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Is'rael, as king Cy'rus, the king of Per'sia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Ju'dah, and troubled them in building.

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cy'rus king of Per'sia, even until the reign of Dari'us king of Per'sia.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The story of the journey from Babylon to Jerusalem was written by Ezra. It was many weeks before the people got there. Then they found a great deal of work waiting to be done.



Jerusalem, where the beautiful temple had stood, was just a heap of stones. So, before they could begin to build, they had to spend a long time clearing away rubbish. But

everybody helped and soon the ground was ready for the masons and carpenters to do their work.

When at last the foundation was laid, the trumpets sounded for all the people to hold a great thanksgiving. The priests put on their beautiful purple and scarlet coats, trimmed with gold and precious stones. The singers got together and started David's thanksgiving psalm beginning, "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for he is good." Everybody knew the chorus, "For his mercy endureth for ever!" and soon all the people were singing and shouting and praising God for His goodness.

But Ezra saw some old men crying. They had seen the first temple. Perhaps it made them sad to think why it had been destroyed. But most were very glad because now there was to be a new temple.

The singing and the shouting and the crying all together made a noise that could be heard miles away.

When the Samaritans near by, who were partly heathen, knew what was doing, they

asked if they might help with the work. But the builders said, "No, it would never do to have the worship of God and of heathen idols mixed up together."

Then these people were angry and did

something that showed they were not the servants of God at all. They made a plan to hinder the builders, and they gave so much trouble that the work had to be stopped for fifteen years.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who wrote the story of the journey back to Jerusalem? Ans.—Ezra. 2. How did they find their old homes? Ans.—Tumbled to pieces. 3. What was the temple like? Ans.—Only a heap of stones. 4. What was the first thing to be done? Ans.—To clear away the rubbish. 5. How did they work? Ans.—Gladly and heartily. 6. What building did they do first? Ans.—They laid the foundation of the temple. 7. How did they feel then? Ans.—Very glad and thankful. 8. How did they show it? Ans.—By holding a great thanksgiving. 9. Who were there? Ans.—The priests and

the singers and all the people. 10. Who were crying while the others shouted and sang? Ans.—The old men. 11. Why did they cry? Ans.—They had seen the first temple and felt sad that it had been destroyed. 12. Who heard about the building? Ans.—The Samaritans. 13. Why were they not allowed to help? Ans.—Because they were not true worshippers of God. 14. How did they show it? Ans.—By stopping the builders in their work. 15. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."

Rob's Building

Lilian and Rob were making sand houses on the shore. Rob took a sharp stone and drew a mark to show which was "his ground." "You can have the rest, Lilian."

When Lilian's house was made, it reached just the least bit over the mark.

"Didn't I tell you this part was mine?" said Rob, angrily. "There!" And he knocked his sister's work to pieces. "It's your own fault, too," said Rob.

"What have my little people been building?" said mother, happening along.

Rob felt ashamed to have had mother see

what he had done. "Oh, nothing," he answered sullenly.

"But you have both made something that I can see," said she. "What's that?" asked Lilian. "You've made a bit of character." "How, mother?" "Well, every time you speak, you make a bit. Whenever you do anything, you make another bit. When all the bits are put together, that makes something called Yourself."

"Mother," said Rob after a minute, "I'll let Lilian have as much room as she likes, now."

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

We are temples of God

Golden Text—The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3 : 17.



Catechism—46. How did Jesus die for us? Jesus was nailed on the cross by wicked men.

Lesson Hymn

JESUS, Saviour, hear me call,
Sinful though my heart may be,
Thou my life, my hope, my all,
Lord, abide with me.

Fill me with Thy love divine,
Consecrate my life to Thee,
Bend my stubborn will to Thine.
Lord, abide with me. Amen.

—Hymn 579, Book of Praise.

ENCOURAGING THE BUILDERS

Lesson XI.

Haggai 2 : 1-9—Memory Verses, 4, 5

September 10, 1899

1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Hag'gai, saying,

2 Speak now to Zerub'babel the son of Sheal'tiel, governor of Ju'dah, and to Josh'ua the son of Jos'edeck, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerub'babel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Josh'ua, son of Jos'edeck, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of E'gypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

THE LESSON RETOLD

The people were discouraged in their work.

They began to talk in this way. "It's no use for us to go on building the Temple. Our enemies are too strong for us. It's really no use trying. We had better get to work and build some homes for ourselves."

So they made splendid houses and planted fields and gardens. Fifteen years had gone

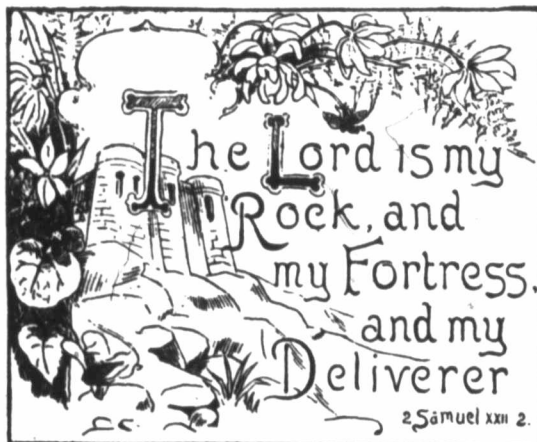
governor of Judah and all the people a question. "How many of you remember what the first Temple was like?"

Then the old people began to tell how King Solomon had sent all over the world for gold, and precious stones, and fine sorts of wood and money for God's house; how a hill was chosen to build on, so that all could see it and how the beautiful gold roof glistened when the sun shone. Then away inside stood the ark to help them to remember that God was always there. But now everything was gone except the hill and the blocks of stone which they had set there sixteen years ago.

"Things do look pretty badly, do they not?" said the Lord. "Yet I want you to be strong and get to work, for I AM WITH YOU and the new Temple will be more glorious than the old."

God never forgets a promise. Long before this He had promised to make the children of Israel a great nation by His spirit, and now He sent Haggai to remind them of His words and to tell them not to be down-hearted.

Of course the builders needed money. The Jews had brought a great deal from Babylon but they had been using it for themselves. But God said, "The silver and the gold are mine."



by and the Temple was not yet built. They had not done right.

But the crops did not turn out well and many of the cattle and sheep died.

Something was the matter.

Then God sent them a message. This time He spoke by the prophet Haggai. He was told to ask the high priest and the

Then He promised that the new Temple would be much greater than the first, and that all the nations who were now making trouble would some day learn to obey His voice.

In this way God allowed His people to see a little of His plans, so that they might be happier and stronger in doing the hard work He wanted them to do.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why were the builders discouraged? Ans.—Because their enemies made so much trouble. 2. What did they do? Ans.—They began to build fine houses for themselves and forgot to build God's house. 3. Whom did God send to speak to them? Ans.—The prophet Haggai. 4. What question did God tell him to ask? Ans.—“How many of you remember what the first Temple was like”? 5. Why did God want them to remember? Ans.—Because He had a promise to give them. 6. What was it? Ans.—That,

when the new one was finished, it would be even more glorious than the first. 7. What was the rest of God's message? Ans.—“Be strong and work, for I AM WITH YOU.” 8. What did He say about money? Ans.—“The silver and the gold are Mine.” 9. What did God say about their enemies? Ans.—That some day they would learn to obey Him. 10. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—“Be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work, for I AM WITH YOU.”

What's Encouragement

Clifford McLeod was getting over the whooping-cough and was visiting at Aunt Helen's down at the lake, where he was getting well rapidly.

His mother had made him a bathing-suit of pretty red flannel with some little silk anchors worked on the collar.

Aunt Helen's two boys, Henry and Max, were older than Clifford. Henry was fourteen and Max twelve.

Said Max, “Oh! you'll soon learn to swim. I'll just drop you off the end of the boat and then you'll have to, that's all.”

Clifford's eyes filled with tears.

“Never mind what Max says,” said Henry, “I know a better way than that.” So when Max had gone fishing with the Smith boys, Henry and Clifford put on their bathing suits.

As soon as Clifford stepped into the water,

a great wave ran at him. “Don't be frightened,” said Henry, “it's only playing tag. Give me your hand.” That made Clifford feel better. So holding Henry very tight and trying to be brave, they walked together into the water until Clifford was wet to the knees. Then a little further, then a little further until only his head was dry.

“That's enough for to-day,” said Henry. “I'll give you another lesson to-morrow. You only need a little encouragement.”

Aunt Helen was sitting on the shore knitting. “Auntie, what's encouragement?” said Clifford, the water running off him in little pools and his eyes shining like the little sand diamonds. “It's a friend who helps little boys to learn to swim and to do other hard things,” said Aunt Helen.

I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

God is with Me

Golden Text—Be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work : for I am with you.—Hag. 2 : 4.

Catechism—47. What was done with the body of Jesus after his death on the cross? The body of Jesus was taken by his friends and laid in a tomb or grave.

Lesson Hymn

THOUGH small is all that we can do
To please the King of Heaven ;
When hearts and hands and lips unite
To serve the Saviour with delight,
They are most precious in His sight :
Such grace to mine be given. Amen.

—Hymn 532, Book of Praise.

POWER THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Lesson XII.

Zechariah 4: 1-14—Memory Verses, 8-10

September 17, 1899

1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep.

2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerub'babel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerub'babel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

9 The hands of Zerub'babel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerub'babel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?

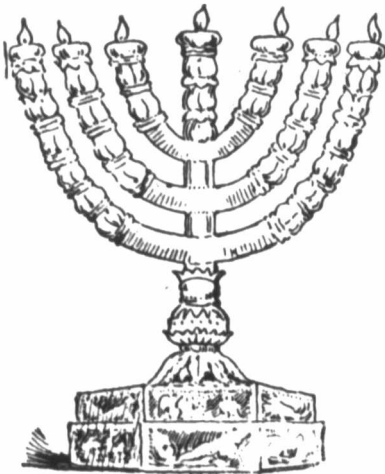
12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

THE LESSON RETOLD

God wanted His people to be very sure of His promise to help them, and soon after Haggai's message He sent another message.



GOLDEN CANDLESTICK, TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM

This time it was a picture-vision. A good man called Zechariah saw it and afterwards told the people about it.

One night, when Zechariah was sleeping in his bed, an angel came and wakened him.

"Tell me what you see," said the angel.

Then Zechariah looked and saw a beautiful golden candlestick or lamp-stand, with places enough for seven lights, and in the middle a large bowl to hold oil.

Zechariah had often seen lamp-stands before, and wondered why God was showing him this one. So he said to the angel, "What are these, my lord?" "This is the word of the Lord," said the angel. So Zechariah knew that the picture had a heavenly meaning, and that God wanted to give His people a message from Himself.

The golden candlestick was just a picture of the Jewish nation.

God had chosen the Jews and had taught them more about Himself than any other people, so that those who did not know God would learn from them how to love and serve Him. When they lived like God they showed truly God's glory and were like lamps giving light.

But a lamp can't shine without oil. So God's servants need His Spirit to make them of any real use.

The builders had been thinking that they needed some other things more than God's Spirit. They thought, "We need money and strong arms, and friends to help us." Perhaps they thought "We need a better leader than this man Zerubbabel," who was their judge.

But God said, "Tell them that the way to get help is not by might, nor by power, but

by My Spirit."

Then Zechariah told the people, "You who have seen the Temple begun are going to see it finished sooner than you think. How glad you will be! There will be shouting and singing such as you have never heard before.

Here are some of the things God's Spirit can do: He can make a great ending out of a small beginning. He can change enemies into friends, and can make every hard thing easy for those who trust God.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why did God send so many messages to His people? Ans.—So that they might be quite sure of His promises. 2. What did Zechariah see in a vision? Ans.—A large golden candlestick or lamp-stand. 3. How many lights had it? Ans.—Seven. 4. What else was there? Ans.—A bowl to hold oil. 5. Who explained the picture? Ans.—An angel. 6. What was the vision a picture of? Ans.—The Jewish people. 7. What were they doing at this time? Ans.—Building the Temple. 8. Was it easy work? Ans.—No. 9. What did they think they needed to help them? Ans.—Money and friends and rest from their enemies. 10. What did God tell them they needed? Ans.—His Spirit. 11. What does oil do for a lamp? Ans.—It feeds the lamp and makes it burn. 12. What does God's Spirit do for His people? Ans.—It makes them strong to work. 13. Why did God give the Jews so much help? Ans.—So that they might tell others of the true God. 14. What is the Golden Text? Ans.—"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."



I HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

The Lord is my Helper



Golden Text—Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.—Zech. 4 : 6.



Catechism—48. What happened on the third day after Jesus died and was buried? On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

Lesson Hymn

HOLY Spirit, prompt us
When we kneel to pray;
Nearer come and teach us
What we ought to say.

Holy Spirit, help us
Daily by Thy might,
What is wrong to conquer,
And to choose the right. Amen.
—Hymn 551, Book of Praise.

Lesson XIII.

REVIEW—Third Quarter

September 24, 1899

Golden Text.—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him and delivereth them.—Ps. 34 : 7.

Catechism.—Questions 36-48.

Lesson Hymn

GOD, who made the earth,
The air, the sky, the sea,
Who gave the light its birth,
Careth for me.

God, who sent His Son
To die on Calvary,
He, if I lean on Him,
Will care for me.

When in heaven's bright land
I all His loved ones see,
I'll sing with that blest band,
"God cared for me." Amen.

—Hymn 509, Book of Praise.



Lesson Title	Golden Text
LESSON I. Gracious Invitations.	Come and let us return unto the Lord.—Hos. 6 : 1.
LESSON II. Daniel in Babylon.	Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Dan. 1 : 8.
LESSON III. The Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace.	Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3 : 17.
LESSON IV. The Handwriting on the Wall.	God is the judge.—Ps. 75 : 7.
LESSON V. Daniel in the Den of Lions.	The Lord is thy keeper.—Ps. 121 : 5.
LESSON VI. The New Heart.	A new heart also will I give you.—Ezek. 36 : 26.
LESSON VII. Ezekiel's Great Vision.	I will put my spirit within you.—Ezek. 36 : 27.
LESSON VIII. The River of Salvation.	Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.—Rev. 22 : 17.
LESSON IX. Returning from Captivity.	The Lord hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad.—Ps. 126 : 3.
LESSON X. Rebuilding the Temple.	The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—1 Cor. 3 : 17.
LESSON XI. Encouraging the Builders.	Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work : for I am with you.—Hag. 2 : 4.
LESSON XII. Power Through the Spirit.	Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. 4 : 6.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

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

<p>LESSON I. Gracious Invitations.</p>	<p>LESSON VII. Ezekiel's Great Vision.</p>
<p>LESSON II. Daniel in Babylon.</p>	<p>LESSON VIII. The River of Salvation.</p>
<p>LESSON III. The Hebrews in the Fiery Furnace.</p>	<p>LESSON IX. Returning from Captivity.</p>
<p>LESSON IV. The Handwriting on the Wall.</p>	<p>LESSON X. Rebuilding the Temple.</p>
<p>LESSON V. Daniel in the Den of Lions.</p>	<p>LESSON XI. Encouraging the Builders.</p>
<p>LESSON VI. The New Heart.</p>	<p>LESSON XII. Power through the Spirit.</p>

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

For Primary Classes, Third Quarter, 1899

I. AT SIGNAL, RISE, AND REPEAT SOFTLY—

God, my Father, I would serve Thee,
Every moment, all my days ;
In Thy tenderness preserve me,
Teach my lips to speak Thy praise.

II. OPENING HYMN.

III. RESPONSIVE EXERCISE—

TEACHER—Come, ye children, hearken unto me : I will teach you the fear of
the LORD.

CLASS—The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and His ears are open
unto their cry.

TEACHER—The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth.

CLASS—And delivereth them out of all their troubles.

PRAYER, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert.

IV. COLLECTION.

V. BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND PRAYER.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON—Recite Golden Texts for the Quarter, as far as learned ;
also Psalm 121.

VII. GESTURE HYMNS ; followed by PRAYER HYMNS.

VIII. THE LESSON for the Day, with Golden Text, Lesson Hymn, and Catechism.

IX. SING Lesson Hymn for Quarter, 514, Book of Praise—

God made the little birds and flowers,
And all things large and small ;
He'll not forget his little ones,
I know he loves them all.

*He loves me too, He loves me too,
I know He loves me too ;
Because He loves the little things,
I know He loves me too. Amen.*

X. SILENT PRAYER, closing with a few sentences repeated in concert after teacher.

XI. DISMISSAL HYMN.

XII. MIZPAH BLESSING (in concert), "The Lord watch between me and thee when
we are absent one from another."

Let papers be distributed as the children pass out.

[No provision is made for Roll Call. The assistant should mark the book as the children enter. Order of service may be simplified by omitting Nos. V., VI., and VII.]

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Awakening of Spring,
A Study in Pink,
Brilliant Beauties,
Roses and Clematis,
In Full Bloom,

The National Favorite,
At the Spring,
Cupid's Playtime,
Tender Memories,
Kings of the Deep,
Aristocrats of the Table,
Fall Beauties,
Summer Visitors,
In Disgrace,
Penitence,
Alone,
Making it Grow,
Five O'Clock Tea,
A Disgrace to the Family,
The Investigating Committee.

In Great Distress,
The Plot,
Silent Persuasion,
Doggie's Toilet,
In Sunny Italy,
My Easter Hat,
Two Little Girls in Blue,
Luscious Luxury,
Iris Lily,
First Love,
'Twixt Love and Duty,
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