



# The Home Study Quarterly

FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

Vol. III.

January, February and March.

No. 1.

## SHORTER CATECHISM FOR THE QUARTER.

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

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

A. No mere man since the fall is able, in this life, perfectly to keep the commandments of God,<sup>a</sup> but doth daily break them in thought,<sup>b</sup> word,<sup>c</sup> and deed.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Eccl. vii, 20. For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

<sup>b</sup> Gen. viii, 21. The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.

<sup>c</sup> James iii, 8. The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>d</sup> James iii, 2. In many things we offend all.

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

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> John xix, 11. He that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Gal. iii, 10. Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

<sup>c</sup> Matt. xxv, 41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

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

A. To escape the wraith and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life,<sup>a</sup> with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Acts xx, 21. Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

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

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

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

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

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

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace,<sup>a</sup> whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin,<sup>b</sup> and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ,<sup>c</sup> doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God,<sup>d</sup> with full purpose of, and endeavour after, new obedience.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>f</sup> Acts xi, 18. Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

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

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

<sup>i</sup> Jer. xxxi, 18. Turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God. V. 19. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

<sup>k</sup> Ps. cxix, 59. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

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

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

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

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

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners,<sup>a</sup> and of building them up in holiness and comfort,<sup>b</sup> through faith unto salvation.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>d</sup> Ps. xix, 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple.

<sup>n</sup> 1 Thes. 1, 6. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>o</sup> Rom. 1, 16. I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation unto every one that believeth.

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

A. That the word may become effectual to salvation, we must attend thereunto with diligence,<sup>p</sup> preparation,<sup>q</sup> and prayer;<sup>r</sup> receive it with faith<sup>s</sup> and love,<sup>t</sup> lay it up in our hearts,<sup>u</sup> and practice it in our lives.<sup>w</sup>

<sup>p</sup> Prov. vii, 34. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

<sup>q</sup> 1 Pet. ii, 1. Wherefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil-speaking. <sup>r</sup> 2. As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. <sup>s</sup> Heb. iv, 18. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

<sup>t</sup> 2 Thes. ii, 10. They received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

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

<sup>w</sup> James 1, 25. But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

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

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

<sup>x</sup> 1 Cor. iii, 7. So then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase.

<sup>y</sup> 1 Pet. iii, 21. The like figure whereunto even

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

Q. 92. What is a sacrament?

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

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

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

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

A. The sacraments of the New Testament are, Baptism,<sup>b</sup> and the Lord's supper.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Mark xvi, 16. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved.

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

Q. 94. What is baptism?

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

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

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

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

## LESSONS AND GOLDEN TEXTS.

### FIRST QUARTER.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Golden Text*—Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. 1 Sam. 16: 7.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WHAT THE BOOK OF THE ACTS WAS MEANT TO TELL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## LESSON I—January 3rd, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 7-9.)

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1. The "former treatise" is the Gospel by Luke. It also is addressed to Theophilus. The name means "The Friend of God," and from the respectful way in which he is addressed we presume he was a person of rank. The Acts is a continuation of the story of Jesus working and teaching through his Spirit in the Church. (Luke 1: 3; Eph. 1: 23).

2. Jesus ascended to heaven just 40 days after his crucifixion.

3. The "Passion" of Jesus means his sufferings and death. There could be no doubt that he was alive again and that he was the same Jesus as before. He spent the 40 days in instructing the disciples with regard to the church, its nature, doctrines, ordinances and government. (1 John 1: 1-3; 2 Pet. 1: 16; Luke 24: 39).

4. The Holy Spirit had been promised by God, and Christ had repeatedly spoken of his coming. (Joel 2: 28, 29; John 16: 7-15).

5. Baptism with water can do no good unless the Holy Spirit cleanse the heart. This baptism came 10 days later. (Luke 3: 16; 24: 49; John 3: 5).

6. The hope of a temporal kingdom died hard. Even yet after 40 days special instruction, the disciples scarcely understood the true nature of Christ's kingdom. When the Holy Spirit came they saw it clearly. (Luke 19: 11; 24: 21).

7. God does not want us to waste our time in trying to find out what he has not seen fit

to reveal. It is better for us to ask for the Holy Spirit to fit us for service and cleanse us from sin. (Deut. 29: 29; Jer. 23: 18).

8. We too should be witnesses for Christ, telling others what a precious Saviour we have found him to be. (John 15: 27; Luke 24: 18).

9. Jesus did not vanish out of their sight as when he parted from the two disciples at Emmaus. They saw him taken up from them. As he arose he raised his hands in benediction and they reverently worshipped him, gazing upwards after him, until the bright cloud, which was a sign of God's presence, unfolded him in its bosom. (Luke 24: 51, 52; Matt. 17: 5; Ex. 13: 21; 2 Chr. 5: 13, 14).

10. Jesus was not forgetful of their sorrow. He sent two angels to tell them that he would really return and to remind them of the blessing so soon to come upon them. (Rev. 1: 7; Ps. 104: 3).

12. Jesus probably ascended from the summit of the Mount of Olives, near the border of the district of Bethany, about 2,000 cubits, or three quarters of a mile, from Jerusalem. This was the distance which the Jewish law permitted one to travel on the Sabbath day. To take a longer journey would be considered a breach of the Fourth Commandment. (Luke 24: 50).

14. What a wonderful prayer-meeting that was. Here were gathered together the whole Christian Church earnestly praying that the Holy Ghost might come upon them.

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

## LESSON II—January 10th, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 1-4.)

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1. The Feast of Pentecost was so called because it occurred fifty days after the Passover. It was a "Harvest home" celebration, and one of its chief features was the presentation in the temple of bread made from the new wheat. Ten days before this Jesus had ascended and the intervening time was spent in prayer by the whole body of the disciples, male and female, a hundred and twenty in number. They seem to have met quite early, for it was only nine o'clock when Peter addressed the multitude. (Ex. 23: 16; Lev. 23: 15, 16; ch. 1: 20; 2-15).

2-3. All at once, while they were praying, they heard a sound like that of a great gale of wind. It seemed to come down from heaven and to fill the whole house. At the same time flames like fire appeared and divided themselves up so that a tongue of fire rested on the forehead of each. This was the fulfilment of Christ's promise. (Luke 3: 16, Acts 1: 5).

4. The reality, of which these sounds and sights were the token, immediately revealed itself in their hearts and they were filled with wonder and gratitude. These feelings the Holy Spirit enabled them to express in languages they had never learned, perhaps never heard, before. (Mark 16: 17; Acts 10: 46; 19: 6; 1 Cor. 14: 22).

5-6. The noise that filled the house was heard all over the city, and seemed to come from the room where the disciples were assembled. So, very soon a great crowd was collected amongst which were pious Jews who had

been born and brought up in foreign lands, and they were astonished to hear amongst the disciples those who told them the story of God's wonderful love in the native language of each. (Luke 2: 25; Acts 8: 2).

7-8. Their astonishment was all the greater when they perceived by their rough Galilean accent that they were not educated men, and came from a part of the country not noted for being the home of very religious people. Matt. 26: 69-73; John 1: 46; 7: 41, 52; Isa. 9: 1, 2; Mark 14: 70; Judges 12: 6).

9-11. They wondered at two things: the new story of God's love in Christ, and the fact that they heard it in their native languages. The first seems to have been the greater wonder for three thousand of them, then and there accepted as their Saviour one whom they had crucified seven weeks before. (Rom. 11: 33).

12. There was only one explanation of the strange occurrence, and Peter gave it, but they were not at first ready to accept this. There is only one way in which the effects of Christianity can be accounted for, namely, that they are the work of the Holy Spirit.

13. Some people who were present, only jeered at them and said that they had been drinking too much "sweet wine," that is, wine whose sweetness had been preserved by putting into it a large percentage of alcohol, like our port wine. Their jests were very wicked for they were ridiculing the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12: 31; Heb. 10: 29).

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

## LESSON III—January 17th, 1897.

### A Multitude Converted. ACTS 2 : 32-47.

(Commit to memory verses 38, 39):

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

32. Jesus was the person referred to in David's prophecy. God had raised him from the dead, and every one of the disciples had seen him alive again. (Ps. 16 : 8-11).

33. Jesus was now exalted to God's right hand, where Stephen saw him, and the tongues of flame and foreign languages spoken were signs that he had sent the Holy Spirit as he had promised, and the ancient prophets had foretold. (Acts 7 : 56 ; 5 : 31 ; 1 : 4 ; 2 : 16).

34. David, too, had foretold this of his "Lord," that is, of Jesus. (Ps. 110 : 1).

35. Conquerors used to set their foot upon the neck of a defeated enemy to shew that he was completely subdued. (Josh. 10 : 24 ; 1 Cor. 15 : 25).

37. It was as if a needle pierced their hearts, they were so grieved at their sin and alarmed at the punishment it deserved. (John 15 : 8, 9 ; Zech. 12 : 10).

38. (See Shorter Catechism Questions 87 and 94). You have been already baptized and Christ counts you among his young disciples. He has a right to expect that you will be sorry for sin, and confess him as your Lord and Saviour. He will give the Holy Spirit to all who ask him in faith. (Ps. 56 : 12 ; Gal. 3 : 27 ; Rom. 6 : 3, 11, 12).

39. The promise of a Saviour was given to the Jews, but meant for all mankind.

Christian parents are invited to claim for their children a place in His kingdom. (Mark 10 : 16 ; 2 Cor. 6 : 1 ; Isa. 57 : 19 ; Eph. 2 : 13, 17, 19).

40. We have only a part of Peter's Sermon. He earnestly entreated them not to continue to refuse the mercy of God through Jesus Christ, but to give their hearts to Him.

41. About three thousand persons were baptized that day, believing on Jesus and rejoicing in the forgiveness of their sins. (Isa. 52 : 15 ; Ezek. 36 : 25).

42. Here follows a beautiful description of the first Christian church. They spent their time in the society of the apostles listening to their teaching, observing the Lord's Supper daily, and praying together. (1 Cor. 10 : 16 ; Rom. 12 : 12 ; Eph. 6 : 18 ; Col. 4 : 2 ; Heb. 10 : 25).

43-45. The mockers were awe-struck and the apostles wrought many miracles. The disciples lived together and put all they had into one purse out of which everyone received what he needed, so that the poor were helped by the generosity of the rich. (Mark 16 : 17 ; 4 : 33 ; 5 : 12 ; Acts 4 : 32, 34).

46-47. They were a happy family living in brotherly love, the people respected them, and new members were added every day.

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

## LESSON IV—January 24th, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 13-16).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1. Peter and John seem to have been very close friends for they are often found together. It is a good thing when friends encourage one another in going to church, Sabbath school, and prayer meeting (Luke 5: 1-11; Ps. 55: 14). There were three hours of prayer, 9 o'clock in the morning, noon, and 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

2. The man was forty years old and had never walked. The gate at which his friends laid him was the one through which most of the worshippers entered, it was very beautiful and richly overlaid with gold. There were no hospitals and asylums for cripples and sick people in those days (Acts 4: 22; Mark 10: 46; John 9: 8).

4. The man thought that Peter and John were going to give him some money, but they had given up their business in order to follow Christ and so had none to spare, but Jesus had given them something better than money and had commanded them to use it in his service (Mark 10: 28; Matt. 10: 8).

7. To shew his sincerity and sympathy Peter took the man's hand and encouraged him to try to rise, but it was Christ that gave him strength and cured his lameness.

8. He was completely cured at once and taught to walk without having learned by practice. It was a double miracle. If we try to do what Christ tells us we shall find that he will give us strength necessary (Isa. 35: 6).

10. There could be no doubt about the

miracle for everybody knew the man to be a helpless cripple as long as they could remember. They wondered how Peter had been able to cure him. They had seen no such miracle since Jesus healed the sick (Acts 4: 16, 21).

11. Solomon's Porch was a covered walk on the east side in front of the Beautiful gate. It was so called because it was built where one erected by Solomon had stood (John 10: 23-28).

13. Peter answered the question that was in the hearts of the people by telling them that the very Jesus, whom they had wickedly crucified, wrought the miracle. For God had glorified him and he was now raised from the dead and ascended to heaven (Matt. 27: 2, 20; Luke 23: 18, 20, 21; John 19: 15; Acts 13: 28).

14. Had they believed that Jesus was God's Son they never would have preferred the robber and murderer Barabbas to him (verse 17; Luke 23: 34; 1 Cor. 2: 8). But they ought to have known him (John 5: 39; Luke 24: 27; 1 Pet. 1: 10, 11).

15. Jesus is called the "Prince of Life" because he gives life, temporal, spiritual and eternal. It is by his power that the dead are raised (John 1: 3, 4; 10: 10; 17: 1, 2; 1 Cor. 15: 20, 53-57; John 6: 51, 53-56; Acts 5: 31).

16. The "name" of Christ means Christ himself. Peter had faith, he believed that Christ was able and willing to heal the man. The lame man too must have had some faith or he would not have tried to rise when Peter told him (Matt. 17: 20; 9: 22).

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



## LESSON V—January 31st, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 10-13).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1-2. While the apostles were speaking the captain of the levite temple guard came to arrest them because they preached that Jesus had risen from the dead. The chief priest and his friends at this time belonged to the sect of the Sadducees who did not believe that there was any future life, or angel, or spirit. (Luke 22: 4; Acts 5: 24; 23: 8; 1 Cor. 15: 22).

3. They put the apostles into prison until next day as it was then too late to bring them before the court.

4. The arrest of the apostles did not prevent some from believing that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

5. The court that assembled in the morning was called the Sanhedrim. It was composed of 71 members chosen for their learning and personal character. It was the highest court of the Jews, and met in one of the rooms of the temple every day. The Scribes not only wrote copies of the Bible, but were its chief teachers. (Matt. 13: 52; 7: 29).

6. Annas and Caiaphas were the two high priests before whom Jesus was brought. The High Priest was often changed by the Roman rulers. Annas had filled the office and so retained popularly the title. Caiaphas, his son-in-law, was the present possessor of the dignity. We know nothing about the others mentioned in this verse. (John 18: 13, 24).

7. The council wished to convict them of healing the man by magic or sorcery. Ex. 22: 18; Deut. 13).

8. Christ's promise was now fulfilled to them. (Luke 12: 11, 12; Matt. 10: 19, 20).

9. Peter hints that it was a very strange

thing that they were being tried for such a good deed, but he does not hesitate to answer their question even though it may make them angry.

10. This was a noble answer. The miracle was a proof that the crucified Jesus still lived and was able to save. Peter who denied his Lord was now a brave soldier of Christ. He charged these grave and dignified counselors with the awful crime of putting to death the Son of God.

11. Peter assures them that Jesus was the stone spoken of by the prophets just as he himself had said a few days before his betrayal. They had rejected him but God had raised him to the chief place of honor. (Matt. 21: 42; Ps. 118: 22; Isa. 28: 18).

12. Peter makes it very plain that there is only one Saviour of sinners. He who was able, from heaven, to heal the lame man must be able to do all he promises. He came to seek and to save that which was lost and he assures us that he will refuse no one who comes to him really sorry for their sins and loving and trusting him with all their heart. (Luke 19: 10; John 6: 37; Heb. 2: 3).

13. The "boldness" of Peter and John was their courage and readiness in speaking. It was so like the way in which Jesus answered his adversaries that the council said "They learnt that from Jesus." They knew that they had never been taught in the schools but had learned of Jesus. (Phil. 2: 5; Rom. 8: 29; 2 Cor. 3: 18).

14. They could not deny the miracle that there was the man cured.

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

## LESSON VI—February 7th, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 32, 33).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

32. This is a beautiful picture of brotherly love and kindness. There were no jealousies or quarrels, and everyone was ready to help another when in need. (John 17: 21; Jas. 2: 8).

33. The apostles could not help but preach well with such a congregation to encourage them. The Holy Spirit made their words effectual and many were converted. The church enjoyed God's favor and was enriched in love, joy, peace, and all the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal. 5: 22, 23; John 17: 17, 23; Luke 2: 40).

34. No case of need was unattended to. The rich even sold their property in order to have a fund out of which the apostles could assist those in want.

36. This Joseph Barnabas afterwards became Paul's companion, and was a missionary to his native island. (Col. 4: 10). Cyprus is an island in the Mediterranean Sea opposite Asia Minor.

37. Either his gift was an unusually generous one, or it is mentioned as being the one which prompted Ananias and Sapphira to act as they did.

1. Ananias, means "*The grace of the Lord,*" and Sapphira, means "*Beautiful,*" but their conduct does not seem to have corresponded to their names.

2. The word for "kept back" means also "to steal." They professed to give the whole of it to God, and so what they kept back was as if stolen. They wished to get the praise of others without deserving it. They cared more for the good opinion of men than for the approval of God. (Tit. 2: 10; Josh. 7: 11; Mal. 1: 14; 3: 8, 9).

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

3. The Holy Spirit told Peter what Ananias had done. Nothing can be concealed from God. Satan suggested the sin, but he could not have made them do evil, if they had resisted the temptation. It was a lie to God for they tried to deceive the Holy Spirit who was with the apostles.

4. They did not need to sell the land, or having sold it, to give the whole price. Their sin consisted in pretending to give the whole, when really only a part was brought.

5. What a terrible punishment. But the church needed a very solemn warning against hypocrisy, and those outside could not learn too soon that the God of the Christians would not be mocked.

6. The young men present wound his robe around him and buried him at once. No one had the courage to go and tell his wife what had happened.

7. Perhaps Sapphira was waiting all that time for Ananias to come and tell her how much they were praised for their gift, but as he did not return she went to the upper room herself to find him.

8. Oh, if she had only told the truth then. It was an opportunity mercifully given her, but she only confirmed her guilt.

9. Peter sadly told her the punishment God was going to send. Imagine what her feelings must have been.

10. How beautifully the Bible reflects God's mercy. There is not one harsh word said concerning these wicked persons.

11. We do not wonder that a deep and lasting impression was made on all who heard of it in Jerusalem.

## LESSON VII—February 14th, 1897.

### The Prison Opened. ACTS 5: 17-32.

(Commit to memory verses 29-32).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

17. The rulers hated the apostles and feared their influence with the people and they were specially indignant because they continued to preach and work miracles after they had forbidden them. (ch. 4: 18).

18. They arrested all the apostles and put them in the public prison intending to have them very severely punished in the morning.

19. The Sadducees did not believe in angels, or spirits, but they here acted as the servants of Christ's suffering disciples (Heb. 1: 14). After this the apostles would fear the council less than ever.

20. The angel bade them go on with the work which had been interrupted. They were not to flee from the city like escaped criminals but to continue preaching about the life-giving Saviour. (John 10: 10; 6: 68; 17: 3; 1 John 1: 1-3; 5: 11).

21. In warm climates the heat of midday compels people to do much of their work in the early part of the day. At sunrise the morning sacrifice was offered, and before this, about daybreak, the apostles were again surrounded by eager listening crowds. Meantime a full meeting of the sanhedrim had assembled and sent to the prison to have the apostles brought before them. (Acts 22: 5).

22, 23. The officers of the temple guard, who went to bring them in, found the prison doors locked and the keepers at their posts, all unconscious that their charge had escaped.

24. At this the high priest, and the commander of the temple guard and others, were much perplexed. Their escape did look as if God was helping them, and there was danger

of new excitement among the people. They began to fear that this heresy of the apostles was a more serious matter than they had thought.

25, 26. While they were puzzling over the matter some one came and told the council that their prisoners were preaching in the temple. The people listened gladly to them and they were ready to assent any illtreatment that they might receive. So the arrest was made quietly, the apostles obeying their own teaching by loyal submission to authority.

28. The high priest seemed afraid to ask any questions about their escape from prison and he does not mention the name of Jesus. The only charge he urges is that they disobeyed the command not to preach, and charged the rulers with being responsible for the death of Christ. (Matt. 27: 25).

29. Peter had made this answer before (4: 19). There could be no doubt about their duty to obey God first, so Peter goes on to shew that he had a commission from God to preach as he was doing.

30. Jesus came in accordance with God's promises in the Old Testament, but the rulers crucified their Messiah. (Deut. 18: 15).

31. This same Jesus was now exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, the royal gifts he bestows are repentance and pardon.

32. There were two witnesses to the truth of this; the apostles who had seen him ascending and the Holy Spirit by whose power these miracles were wrought, and who dwells in the hearts of all believers.

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

## LESSON VIII—February 21st, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 57-60).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

8. Stephen was one of the seven deacons. He was noted for his piety and spiritual influence. He had also the power of working miracles. (Luke 21: 15; Isa. 54: 17).

9. The Libertines were "freedmen," the children of Jews who had been enslaved by the Romans, but freed by their masters. They had a synagogue, or "church," of their own at Jerusalem.

10. The Jews could not answer him because the Holy Spirit helped him and he had truth on his side.

11. So they procured, probably by bribing them, men who agreed to say, what they knew to be false, in order to excite the people against Stephen. (Matt. 26: 59, 60; 1 Kings 21: 10, 13).

12. In this they succeeded and he was roughly arrested and brought before the sanhedrim.

13. No doubt Stephen had said that the temple was not the only place where God could be worshipped and that sacrifices were to cease now that the Great High Priest had offered up himself, but this was only what the Old Testament said and could not be blasphemy. (John 4: 2; Acts 7: 48; Matt. 5: 17; Mark 13: 2; Heb. 8: 13; Col 2: 16, 17).

15. While his enemies were so fierce against him Stephen was not afraid, but the peace and quiet trust in God which filled his heart seemed to make his face bright with a supernatural light. (Ecc. 8: 1; Ex. 24: 29; Matt. 17: 12).

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

54. Stephen's words only made them furious and they raged at him like wild beasts gnashing their teeth.

55. The greater his danger the nearer the Saviour for whom he witnessed seemed to come. (Dan. 7: 13; Isa. 6: 1-3; Ezek. 1: 28; Rev. 21: 23).

56. Christ is usually represented as "sitting," but Stephen saw him as if he had risen up to welcome him.

57. When Stephen told what he saw they all cried out, and put their fingers in their ears, as if they would not listen to such blasphemy, and rushed at him and dragged him out of the city. (Lev. 24: 16).

58. When outside the wall they threw him down and pelted him with large stones to kill him. The false witnesses threw the first large stone, and while they did so they put their loose outer garments in charge of a young man named Saul. (1 Tim. 1: 13; Lev. 24: 14; Heb. 13: 12, 13).

59. But while they were putting him to death so cruelly, just as they did to his Master, Stephen was praying, with his heart full of love and forgiveness, for Jesus to take his spirit when it should leave the poor bruised and mangled body. (Ps. 31: 5; Luke 23: 46).

60. His last prayer was the one Jesus had taught him to pray. So peacefully did Stephen die, although the cruel stones were raining down upon him, that Luke says he "fell asleep"—yes, he was "safe in the arms of Jesus."

## LESSON IX—February 28th, 1897.

### The Disciples Dispersed. Acts 8: 1-17.

(Commit to memory verses 5-8).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1. The mob that stoned Stephen went directly to the homes and churches of Christians and began a fierce persecution so that they were compelled to fly for their lives. Saul was one of the leaders in this cruel work.

2. Good men, both Jews and Christians, who loved Stephen, and were sorry that he had been put to death carried his body away and were not ashamed or afraid to shew their grief.

3. The persecution, under Saul's leadership, grew very hot. Men and women were dragged out of their homes and thrown into prison. (1 Cor. 15: 9; Gal. 1: 13; Phil. 3: 6; Acts 22: 20; 1 Tim. 1: 13).

4. Those who were persecuted became missionaries where ever they went. (Matt. 10: 23; Acts 11: 19; Rom. 16: 7).

5. Philip, one of the seven deacons, went to Samaria, and found, as Jesus had said, that the fields were white unto the harvest. (ch. 6: 5; John 4: 35, 42).

6. Crowds of people were converted under Philip's preaching. There seems to have been no opposition. His words convinced them that Jesus was the Messiah and his miracles proved that He was with him.

7. Evil Spirits were cast out just as when Jesus spoke to them and the sick and infirm were made well and strong. It was as if Jesus had bequeathed his power to his apostles.

8. There was joy wherever Jesus came into their hearts, or when their dear ones were made well. Everybody was glad to see so many happy. Religion always brings true joy into the heart and home. (Isa. 35: 1, 2; 42: 10, 11; Luke 2: 10; 1 Pet. 1: 8).

9. Simon Magus, as he is usually called,

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

was a pretender to supernatural powers. He deceived the people by tricks and made them believe he was some angel or messenger from God. (Acts 13: 6, 7).

11. "Bewitched" should be "amazed". The same word is rendered "wondered" in verse 13. No one has any power to "Jewitch" another. God's people are safe from every evil influence. (Ps. 91: 1-4; Matt. 10: 29-31).

12. The people found the story of God's love more interesting than Simon's foolish pretensions, and the miracles of healing were better than clever tricks that only astonished them. They wished to forsake sin and receive the Holy Spirit and so they were baptized. (ch. 2: 38).

13. Simon Magus could not have been a true believer, but he was surprised at the miracles and wanted to find out how they were wrought.

14. The apostles had remained at Jerusalem so as to be together and direct the Church by their counsel. They now sent these two of their number to inspect and confirm the work of Philip in Samaria.

15. The converts had already received the ordinary gift of the Holy Spirit such as we may have, but the special gifts such as healing and speaking with tongues could only come through the apostles.

16. We are not to suppose that they were baptized in any other form than "into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," but their baptism was a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus.

17. "Laying on hands" is a sign of imparting a spiritual gift.

## LESSON X—March 7th, 1897.

### The Ethiopian Convert. Acts 8: 26-40.

(Commit to memory verses 29-31).

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

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

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

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

**DAILY PORTIONS.** *Monday.* The Ethiopian convert. Acts 8: 26-33. *Tuesday.* The Ethiopian convert. Acts 8: 34-40. *Wednesday.* The Ethiopian's reading. Isa. 53. *Thursday.* The command. Matt. 28: 16-20. *Friday.* Preaching Jesus. 1 Cor. 1: 18-25. *Saturday.* Christ in the scriptures. Luke 24: 13-27. *Sabbath.* The new life. Rom. 6: 1-11. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections*).

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

26 While Philip was busy preaching in Samaria an angel was sent to tell him that there was work for him to do elsewhere. He was told to go to a certain place on one of the roads from Jerusalem to Gaza and to be there at noon. The locality was uninhabited or "desert."

27. When he got there he saw a nobleman with his escort and drawing near found that it was the Royal Treasurer of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia, an African, who was a believer in the true God and had been on a visit to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. He must have come over 1,300 miles, more than half the distance between Montreal and the Rocky Mountains. Ethiopia included Abyssinia, Nubia and the provinces to the west. (Acts 17: 4; Luke 7: 5).

28. He was improving the time in a most profitable way. He was reading aloud (verse 30) so that his escort got the benefit of it. Very likely he had heard about Christ and his apostles at Jerusalem and was "searching the Scriptures" on the subject. (Acts 17: 10, 11). *Esaiás*, is the Greek form of *Isaiah*.

30. Philip gave him a pleasant greeting and was very politely welcomed. Perhaps the Eunuch took him for a scribe or rabbi.

31. He was reading Isa. 53: 7, 8 which tells of a suffering Messiah. This was very hard for those to explain who expected a temporal Prince.

32. Notice how beautifully this describes the meek and patient Jesus when before the priests

and Herod, and Pilate. (John 1: 20; 1 Pet. 2: 23; Rev. 5: 6; 1 Cor. 5: 7).

33. The best meaning given to this verse is "Justice was denied him in his humiliation. Who can find words in which to describe the wickedness of those who hurried him to a violent death."

35. Philip shewed him that Isaiah was speaking about the sufferings and death of Jesus (Luke 24: 27; Acts 18: 28).

36. No doubt Philip told him that baptism was a "seal of our engraving into Christ," and the eunuch earnestly wished to become a branch of the True Vine (Matt. 28: 19; Mark. 16: 16; John 15: 1, 2).

37. Since he had not been baptized when young, the only way in which he could now unite with the church of Christ was by professing faith in the Saviour. Those who were baptized in infancy are already members of the church and under solemn obligations to love and obey Christ.

38. They both went down to the water and came up from it. They may have waded into it so that Peter could conveniently lift the water in his hand, or in a cup, and pour it on the eunuch's head. There is no reason to suppose that the eunuch was immersed.

39. We do not know how Philip was "caught away," but he seems to have disappeared suddenly, and was next seen at Azotus, or Ashdod, some 18 or 20 miles away. The Eunuch went home with a glad heart for it was full of the love of Jesus.

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

## LESSON XI—March 14th, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 17-20).

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

1. Saul hated the Christians so bitterly that his very breath seemed to utter nothing but threats against them. (Acts 8: 2, 3; Gal. 1: 13; 1 Tim. 1: 13).

2. Securing letters giving him authority to arrest Christians he set out for Damascus, a journey of five or six days.

3. He was near that place, and at noon, when the sun was brightest, a still brighter light shone all around him. It was the cloud of glory which once filled the temple, afterwards shone on the Mount of Transfiguration and had received Jesus when ascending to heaven. It was the sign of God's presence.

4. Blinded and astonished he and the whole company were thrown to the ground at first, and Paul heard a voice reproaching him for persecuting. It was Christ who feels every pain suffered by his people. (Matt. 25: 40; Heb. 4: 15; Zech. 2: 8; Isa. 63: 9).

5. Saul does not recognize Jesus. He may never have seen him when on earth. A goad is a sharp-pointed stick, tipped with iron, and used instead of a whip for driving oxen. For Paul to try and put down the disciples of Jesus was as foolish and hurtful as for an ox to kick against the point of a goad. He hurt himself most of all (ch. 5: 39).

6. What a sudden and complete change. The fierce persecutor becomes the meek and obedient disciple of Him whose followers he hated with a bitter hatred. Jesus had work for him to do that no one else could manage. (Acts 26: 16-18).

7. Those with Saul heard the sound of voices but did not see any one, nor could they make out what was said (22: 9).

8. When Saul opened his eyes he found that he was blind. God sent this so as to give him quiet for reflection.

9. He probably spent these days in repentance and prayer for mercy in the name of Jesus.

10. We know nothing more about Ananias, except what is told us in ch. 22: 12.

11. This was the principal street of Damascus and was, at that time, a magnificent triple avenue divided into three by rows of Corinthian columns. Ananias need not have feared to visit Saul when he was told that he was praying to Jesus.

12. More than that he was expecting a visit from him. The Holy Spirit had prepared him to welcome Ananias.

13. So when Ananias came in he could call Saul "Brother" and when he laid his hands on him he was filled with the Holy Ghost, just as others had been blessed.

14. Whatever caused Saul's blindness was taken away and he was made a member of the Church by baptism.

15. He had letters with him to the Synagogues authorizing him to arrest and bring all Christians to Jerusalem, but instead of using these letters he preached in these very Synagogues telling all that Jesus was the Son of God the Saviour of "the Chief of Sinners."

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

## LESSON XII—March 21st, 1897.

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

(Commit to memory verses 25-27.)

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

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

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

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

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

### HELPS IN STUDYING.

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

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

19. Paul means that he was not obliged to serve anyone but that, of his own accord, tried to help others all he could so as to win them to Christ.

20. When he was among the Jews he was careful to observe all their customs, and to keep the ceremonial law and traditions, not because he felt that he ought to do so, but in order not to offend them. They would listen more readily to his preaching if they saw that he respected the old customs.

21. The Gentiles did not have the law, *i. e.* the books of Moses, and so Paul never required them to adopt Jewish observances. Neither they nor Paul were free from the obligation to serve God. He does not mean that, for one who loves Jesus will always try to do what pleases him. (Rom. 2: 12-14; 13: 10.)

22. Paul would not do any thing, no matter how right, or how pleasant it was, if it grieved another, or led him to do wrong.

23. He did not do this merely to make himself popular, nor would he do what was wrong to please anybody, but he did it in order to make others willing to listen to the gospel and share with him its blessings and hopes. (Ch. 8: 7-13; 10: 23.)

24. Everybody in Corinth had seen the

famous athletic contests when in the foot race every runner did his best, although but one could get the prize. But Christ holds out a reward to everyone who runs the Christian race.

25. Anyone who wished to enter for a prize had to submit to "training." He had to be very careful about his exercise and what he ate and drank. If the heathen would do this to obtain merely a wreath of pine leaves, ought not Christians to be willing to do far more in order to win the "Crown of Life." (Phil. 3: 13, 14).

26-27. If a runner was not sure where his goal was he would not keep a very straight course. But Paul knew well what he meant to do. His goal was Christ, and to become like him and to draw others to him, was what he lived for. If a soldier was only "showing off" by fighting with an imaginary opponent, he would not do an enemy much harm. But Paul treated his corrupt and sinful nature as an enemy to be subdued. So he never allowed any of the bodily appetites to gain the mastery over him. He felt that it would be a dreadful thing, if after teaching others to "mortify the flesh" and "die daily unto sin" he should be self-indulgent and allow his sinful desires to overcome him. (2 Tim. 2: 5).

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



# LESSON XIII—March 28th, 1897.

## REVIEW.

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

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

**SHORTER CATECHISM.** Review Questions 82-94.

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

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

### REVIEW CHART—FIRST QUARTER.

LESSON.	TITLE.	GOLDEN TEXT.	LESSON PLAN.	TEACHINGS.
I. Acts 1: 1-14	C. A.	While he blessed....	F. P.—S. D.—S. C.	Christ will come again.
II. Acts 2: 1-13	H. S. G.	They were all.....	W. D.—W. P.	The Holy Spirit brings power.
III. Acts 2: 32-47	M. C.	The promise is.....	A. S.—B. B.—L. B.	We all need repentance.
IV. Acts 3: 1-16	L. M. H.	His name, through..	W. C.—W. S.	We should pray for others.
V. Acts 4: 1-34	B. P. J.	There is none.....	S. C.—W. C.—B. C.	Jesus sustains in difficulties.
VI. Acts 4: 32-47; 5: 11	T. F. G.	Man looketh.....	T. G.—F. G.	God loves cheerful giving.
VII. Acts 5: 17-32	P. O.	We ought to.....	A. I.—A. P.—A. W.	The Holy Spirit witnesses for Christ.
VIII. Acts 6: 8-15; 7: 54-60.	F. C. M.	Be thou.....	F. D.—C. L.	We should forgive our enemies.
IX. Acts 8: 1-17	D. D.	They that.....	S. S.—W. H. F.—S. B.	The gospel brings joy.
X. Acts 8: 26-40	E. C.	Then Philip.....	E. B.—R. T.—B. C.	We should search the Scriptures.
XI. Acts 9: 1-12, 17-20.	S. P. C.	This is a.....	S. P.—S. P.—S. P.	Jesus is mighty to save.
XII. 1 Cor. 9: 19-27	C. S. R.	Every man.....	S. W. S.—S. C.—R. B.	We should set a good example.

### REVIEW QUESTIONS.

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

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

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

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

**LESSON I—January 3rd, 1897.**  
**Christ's Ascension. ACTS 1: 1-14.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

- 1.—What other books did Luke write? (4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.—What proofs did Christ give of the reality of his resurrection body? (4)

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON II—January 10th, 1897.**  
**The Holy Spirit Given. ACTS 2: 1-13.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

- 1.—What was the feast of Pentecost? (5)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.—What outward signs of his coming did the Holy Spirit manifest? (5)

(OVER.)

3.—What did he teach the disciples about after his resurrection? (4)

4.—For what baptism were the apostles to wait, and when did it come. (5)

5.—Describe briefly the scene at the ascension of Christ. (8)

Name.....

3.—What effect did he produce upon the disciples? (5)

4.—What persons were astonished, and why? (5)

5.—What did the mockers say? (5)

Name.....

**LESSON III—January 17th, 1897.**  
**A Multitude Converted. Acts 2 : 32-47.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

- 1.—By whom was the Holy Spirit sent ? (4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.—Why were some “pricked in their hearts?” (5)

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON IV—January 24th, 1897.**  
**The Lame Man Healed. ACTS 3 : 1-16.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

- 1.—What is meant by the “ninth hour?” (3)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2.—Describe the man whom the apostles healed. (5)

(OVER.)

3.—What did Peter tell them to do? (4)

4.—For whom does he say that salvation was intended? (5)

5.—Describe the daily life of the early church? (7)

Name.....

3.—What did he do as soon as he found he could walk? (4)

4.—Of what great sin did Peter accuse the Jews? (5)

5.—Why is Christ called "The Prince of Life?" (8)

Name.....

**LESSON V—January 31st, 1897.**

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

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

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

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

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON VI—February 7th, 1897.**

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

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

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

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

(OVER.)

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

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

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

Name.....

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

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

5.—How were they punished? (5)

Name.....

**LESSON VII—February 14th, 1897.**

**The Prison Opened. ACTS 5: 17-32.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

1.—Why were the rulers indignant? (5)

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

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON VIII—February 21st, 1897.**

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

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

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

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

(OVER.)



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

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

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

Name.....

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

4.—How was he put to death? (5)

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

Name.....

**LESSON IX—February 28th, 1897.**  
**The Disciples Dispersed. ACTS 8: 1-17.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

1.—Why did the apostles remain at Jerusalem? (5)

2.—What effect had persecution upon the spread of the gospel? (5)

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON X—March 7th, 1897.**  
**The Ethiopian Convert. ACTS 8: 26-40.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

1.—Where was Ethiopia? (5)

2.—What was the Eunuch reading? (5)

(OVER.)

3.—What success did Philip meet with in Samaria? (5)

4.—What notable convert did he make? (5)

5.—Who were sent to Samaria, by whom, and why? (5)

Name.....

3.—What question did he ask about its meaning? (5)

4.—What answer did Philip give? (5)

5.—What was his confession of faith? (5)

Name.....

**LESSON XI—March 14th, 1897.**

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

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

1.—Why did Paul go to Damascus? (5)

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

(OVER.)

---

**LESSON XII—March 21st, 1897.**

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

**QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN WRITING.**

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

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

(OVER.)

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

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

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

Name.....

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

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

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

Name.....

LESSON XIII—March 28th, 1897.

**REVIEW.**

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

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

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

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....

EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE.

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

Name.....