

OUR LITTLE FRIEND



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VERNAL FALLS, YO SEMITE, CALIFORNIA.

GOD'S GREAT LOVE.

WITH A STORY.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3: 16.

CHILDREN, we cannot tell all God's great love to us, but we know that to save us he was born into the world in the person of Jesus Christ and died on the cross for

us. He tries to get near us, so that we may see and feel his great love and turn from sin and have eternal life. He wants us to be like him that we may live always with him.

My sermon this morning will be a story that was sent to me from Scotland.

A poor Irish boy was shivering at a corner of a street in the city of Dublin. He was to meet other boys and rob a house that night. A hand was laid on his shoulder, and a kind voice asked him why he did not go home to bed.

"I have no home," said the boy.

"Would you go to a home if one were provided for you for this night?"

"That would I, sharp!" replied the boy.

"Well, in such a place you will find a bed. Here is the pass," handing him a card. "Can you read?"

"No, sir."

"Well, remember that the pass is 'John 3: 16.' Don't forget. 'John 3: 16.' There, that's something that will

do you good."

The lad rushed off repeating his lesson and soon found himself at the door. He rang the bell, when the night porter opened and asked:—

"Who's there?"

"Me, sir. I am JOHN THREE SIXTEEN."

"All right." And the boy went in.

He was soon in a nice warm bed, and as he curled up in it, he said:—

"This is a lucky name. I'll stick to it."

Next morning he had a good breakfast before he went out on the street. He wandered on, fearing to meet any of his old companions in sin, when, crossing a street, he was run over by a cart. He was carried to the nearest hospital. When he revived, he was asked whether he was a Catholic or a Protestant.

"Yesterday I was a Catholic, but now I am John Three Sixteen," he said, which made them all laugh.

His sufferings brought on fever and delirium. Then was heard, in ringing tones and oft repeated:—

"John 3: 16! It was to do me good, and so it has!"

These cries were heard by other patients. Testaments were pulled out to see what he meant. Here one and there another, and many of them read the words, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And as they read, the boy in his delirium would cry, "It was to do me good, and so it has!"

When the poor sick people in the hospital read the gracious words and heard the boy's cry, "It was to do me good, and so it has!" God's Spirit made it good to them, and God's angels rejoiced over sinners converted.

When the delirium left the boy, a voice from the next bed said:—

"John Three Sixteen, how are you to-day?"

"Why, how did you know my new name?"

"Know it! you've been crying it for days, and I for one say, Blessed John Three Sixteen! And don't you know it comes from the Bible?"

"The Bible! what is that?" asked the boy. This poor waif had never heard of the Bible. "Read it to me."

And as the words fell on his ears, he muttered:—

"That is good; it's all about love."

He soon found that it had not only given him a home for a night, but a home forever.

He soon learned the text, and day after day thought of how much God loved him, and

how Christ saved him. On a cot near him lay one very sick. Early one morning a nun came to his bedside and said:—

"Patrick, how are you to-day?"

"Badly, badly."

"Has the priest been to see you?" asked the nun.

"Oh, yes! but that makes it worse; for he has anointed me, and I am marked for death, when I am not fit to die."

"Patrick," she said, "here are these beads, blessed by the pope, and they will help you to die happy."

She put them on his neck and then left him.

"God have mercy!" he said, "I am a poor sinner, and not fit to die."

The boy heard these words.

"Patrick," he called, "I know something that will do you good—quite sure—it has done me."

"Tell me; tell me quickly!" cried Patrick.

"Here it is. Now listen. John 3: 16. Are you listening?"

"Oh, yes!"

"John 3: 16: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

Through these words Patrick found peace in his dying hours, and died in hope of everlasting life.

The little boy loved the text all his life, and by its influence became a noble man.

Children, think of our Father's great love as you read John 3: 16.—*Rev. Wm. Armstrong.*

GOOD-NIGHT.

GOOD-NIGHT, pretty sun, good-night!

I've watched your purple and golden light

While you are sinking away.

And someone has just been telling me

You're making, over the shining sea,

Another beautiful day;

That, just at the time I'm going to sleep,

The children there are taking a peep

At your face—beginning to say,

"Good-morning!" just when I say, "Good-night!"

Now, beautiful sun, if they've told me right,

I wish you'd say good-morning for me

To all the little ones over the sea.

—*St. Nicholas.*

TINY'S CLEAN APRON.

THE warm summer days had come, and the trees and bushes which in spring had been covered with pink and white blossoms were now loaded with fruit. Old and young were busy gathering and preserving, and in Mr. Ray's household even little Tiny, three and one-half years old, must help too. Tiny was the pet of the family, plump, fair, round as a kitten, and full of mischief.

Of course, Tiny must help at fruit picking; but mother thought the little fingers made more journeys in the direction of the red lips than they did toward the bowl into which the picked fruit should have been dropped, and finally she was sent to play by herself under the cool trees in the back yard.

In the afternoon there was a long row of cans filled to the brim with the fresh fruit, and the jelly and jam were made and set aside to cool. Just then mamma was called from the kitchen to see visitors, and everyone was too busy to notice Tiny slip into the pantry, mount a chair, and then begin to dip her plump fingers into the jars. When she had finished, you should have seen her face and white apron, or "pinny" as she called it, all smeared with the sticky juice.

Mamma had just said good-by to her visitors, and, coming out, met Tiny at the door. At first she thought her little girl had fallen and hurt herself; but a second glance revealed the cause of the red stains on face and apron. She was duly talked to and punished, the face and hands were washed, the dirty, sticky apron replaced by a clean one, and then the little girl went to play, as happy as before.

In the evening her eldest sister, seeing that Tiny seemed to have no remembrance of her misdeeds, thought it would be well to remind her of them, and, turning to her with a severe look, said:—

"Who took mamma's jam when she was visiting to-day?"

Poor Tiny! It was pitiful to see the change come over the happy little face, and the sweet, blue eyes fill with tears, as she said:—

"O Nelly, you shouldn't say dat! I've dot a clean pinny on now."

The little girl couldn't understand why anyone should mention her fault when all traces of it had been removed, and she had on a clean apron. She wished to forget about it, and have others do the same.

As I read of little Tiny, I thought of other stains which are not so easily removed. Perhaps you have to be very careful about getting fruit stains on your white garments, and mamma has told you how hard it is to get them out; but these stains, those which sin makes, are much harder to remove, and only one person, the dear Saviour, can take them away. He can, and he will if we ask him.

When you have done some naughty thing, go away alone and tell him all about it. He is glad to have you come to him, and has said, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." He will put on you the clean robe of his righteousness, for he came and lived a perfect, sinless life that you might be saved; and if you confess and forsake your sins, he will count his righteousness as though it was yours, and will ask his Father to forgive you for his sake, and because he died for you.

He will not be like Tiny's sister, either. He will not make you feel bad by telling you how naughty you have been, for he says he will remove our sins from us as far as the east is from the west, and that he will not only never mention them to us, but he will forget them too. We may know it will be so, for he says in the Bible that he will remember our sins no more.

You can come to this dear Friend, for he loves you, and wants to take away all the stains on your heart. Believe he will do just as he has said, for his word is faithful and true. If you believe, love, and obey him, your sins will finally be blotted out, and your names will be written in the book of life.

V. J. O.

It is better to have one friend of great value than many friends who are good for nothing.



FLOODS IN INDIA.

GREAT floods are quite common at certain seasons of the year in some parts of India. There are very high mountains in Upper India, on which a great amount of snow falls. When this snow melts, the water flows down into the valleys and floods the rivers.

Sometimes the country will be flooded for a great distance. Houses and barns are often floated down the rivers, and trees are also carried away.

At such times many animals are drowned. Both tame and wild creatures are driven by the floods to seek any place of safety they can find. Sometimes many kinds of animals will huddle together on a small piece of ground, or on a pile of drift-wood. And it is said that at such times they hardly ever try to hurt one another.

It is often the case that people are drowned; and many times they are only saved by clinging to trees, or parts of buildings that have been broken up. And sometimes wild animals will want to have a place with the people in places of safety.

The picture on the opposite page represents two children of an English officer who were caught by the flood. They were watching the flood from a tree that had fallen partly into the river. The little boy and girl thought they were in a safe place on the tree, but the water kept rising and dashing so hard that at last the bank gave way and the tree floated off.

Of course they were terribly frightened, and cried aloud for help. But no one heard them, and they were not missed for some time.

When it was discovered that the tree and children were gone, there was an eager hunt for them. When at last they were seen, the tree had lodged against some drift. But another companion had taken refuge with them on the log. A great tiger, which had to swim for its life, had climbed upon the floating tree for safety.

But the tiger did not offer to hurt the little boy and girl, but kept as far away as it could;

and when the men came with a boat to take the children off, the tiger just lay still and watched them.

Thus we see that a common danger often makes friends of those who are enemies at other times.

When some wicked men put the Lord's prophet Daniel into a den of lions, an angel stopped the mouths of the lions so they did not try to hurt Daniel. And the Lord can stop the mouths of tigers just as well as of lions. He can keep us from any harm. He does protect us many times when we do not know or think anything about it. We should thank him every day for his kind care; and we should put ourselves in his care all the time, for there are many dangers that we know nothing of.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Ps. 46: 1.

MISSIONARY CHILDREN.

THERE are missionary societies which take heathen children of some far-away country under their care. A few persons will agree to care for one child, and sometimes more. These will be clothed and sent to school until they are old enough to do for themselves.

Not long ago we read of some little girls who undertook the same kind of work at home. There was a little girl, going to their school, who was very poor because her father was a drunkard.

One day some boys made fun of her clothing; and when her old hat was blown off by the wind, they kicked it into the street. Some of the other girls saw the rude act, and, although they never had given little Rachel Rice any notice before, they really pitied her now.

One of them ran and picked up the soiled hat, brushed off the dust, and gave it back to Rachel, saying, "Why don't you tell the teacher?"

"That would only make them worse," said Rachel. "It is better not to say anything. If I had nice clothes like the other girls, they

wouldn't trouble me. I'll just have to stand it, that's all."

The boys ran away quite ashamed when they saw the kindness of Minnie Bell. But that was not all; Minnie called some of her particular friends together, and told them about Rachel's trouble and how patient she was.

Then one of them proposed that they make Rachel their missionary girl. They all agreed, and each one asked her mamma to let her give Rachel some article of clothing.

The plan was a success; and for some time it was a wonder to many people how Rachel Rice could dress so well. The boys didn't annoy her any more, for they soon found out that she had friends who would expose their naughty tricks.

In every place there are children who have plenty, and others who are in want. How it would please our kind heavenly Father to see more missionary work of the kind here mentioned. "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord."

MAMMA DOES CARE.

ROBBIE felt very unhappy. He thought mamma didn't care for him. He had been a naughty boy, and so his mother had sent him to stay alone in an empty room. He had been in there half an hour, and it seemed like half a day. He wished he had done as his mother told him, because it was such a dreadful feeling to believe that she didn't care for him.

And yet his mother did care for him, or she would not have spared the time from her busy morning to point out to her son how naughty it is not to obey. And God cared for Robbie, just as he cares for everyone, both small and great, if they will only trust him.

Do not think, children, because you have done wrong, and mother has had to punish you, that she does not care for you. Think, rather, that she loves you so much that it hurts her to see you naughty, and it hurts her more to have to punish you.

OBEDIENT BARNEY.

BARNEY was a handsome bay horse, but, better than his beauty, was his way of obeying his master's word.

"Barney's good to mind," said little Ward; "he knows a lot, doesn't he, papa?"

"Yes," said papa, "but what is better, he does what he knows how to do." Then papa called, "To the right," and Barney turned to the right at once, just as he had been trained to do.

Soon a little girl ran across the street without looking.

"Stop!" called papa, and Barney stopped that second, just as the child stumbled and fell in front of him. If he had not obeyed right away, the wee girl would have been hurt; and if the horse had not been in the habit of minding at once, he would not have stopped then.

Soon after this Ward was running up and down the garden walks. Papa saw him, and knew there was danger of his tripping over some pieces of sod left there.

"Stop, Ward!" he cried.

But Ward said to himself, "I'll stop at the end of this walk." And so he did, for there he stumbled and fell, and hurt himself, too.

Now, isn't it strange that horses are often more obedient than boys? Do they know more?—*Dew Drops.*

TOMMY'S REGRET.

IWON'T! I won't have my face washed!" said Tommy, wriggling about in his sister Mary's hands, so that she could not possibly lay the sponge upon his face.

"Never mind him," said the mother; "if he wants to go around with a dirty face, let him have his own way."

Tommy had never known his mother to be so kind before, and he thought it was lovely of her to let him have his own way. But, sometime after, when his grandfather came to the house and asked if Tommy could go down town with him to look at some wonderfully-trained dogs, his mother said:—

"You would hardly care to take a boy who

has not had his face washed to-day, so I am afraid Tommy will have to stay at home."

How Tommy wished then that he had not had his own way! and, as he watched his grandfather go down the street alone, he said meekly:—

"Please, mamma, may I have my face washed now?"—*Selected.*

JESUS THE LIGHT.

JESUS is a light, and shines in this dark world.

Before Jesus came to the earth, God sent a man named John to tell men about him.

John could not give the world light, but he came to tell them about the Light that was soon coming.

Jesus is the true Light, and he sheds light into the hearts of everybody in the world.

Although he made the world, yet when he came to it, his own people did not know him.

Some people received him as their Saviour, and he made them the children of God.

They were children of God because he gave them his Spirit.

Jesus came down from heaven, and became a little child, then grew to be a man, and lived among the people.

He did this to show us the beauty and glory of God.

John told the people who Jesus was, and said Jesus was far greater than he.

He told the people that while Moses gave them God's law, Jesus would give them grace and truth, and teach them how to keep the law.

No one has ever seen God, except as Jesus showed the world what God is like.

When we receive and love Jesus as our Saviour, we are receiving and loving God.—*Little Learner's Paper.*

ELSIE'S LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR: I love OUR LITTLE FRIEND very much. I study the lessons every week, and think they are so good. I want to be a good girl, and be ready to meet Jesus when he comes. I am six years old.

ELSIE LUCILE TEETER.

Fairfield, Iowa.



FIRST PRIMARY DIVISION.

LESSON 8.—AUGUST 22, 1891.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

(Acts 4:32-37; 2:44, 45.)

Memory Verse.—"If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4:11.

1. WHAT did Jesus leave to come to save us?

His beau-ti-ful home in heav-en.

2. Why did he do this?

Be-cause he loved us.

3. How did he spend his time?

He went about do-ing good.

4. What kind of home did he have on earth?

He had no home of his own.

5. How was he treated?

He was often treat-ed very cru-el-ly.

6. Why did he let anyone treat him this way?

To show us how to be pa-tient and for-giv-ing.

7. How can we show our love for Jesus?

By do-ing good to ev-ery-body.

8. How do we know the disciples loved Jesus?

They tried to act as he did.

9. What did they do for the poor?

Those who had houses or farms sold them.

10. What was done with the money?

It was di-vid-ed among the dis-ci-ples as they had need.

11. How did they all live?

Like one kind, lov-ing fam-i-ly.

12. What command did Jesus give to children?

He told them to love one an-oth-er.

13. How should we love each other?

As Je-sus loves us.

14. Who must help us to do this?

Je-sus must help us by his Ho-ly Spir-it.

15. How often has he promised to help us?

Ev-ery time we ask him.

"TRY to speak some kind word or do some kind deed each day of your life. You will be amply repaid."

OUR Sabbath School LESSON

SECOND PRIMARY DIVISION.

LESSON 8.—AUGUST 22, 1891.

BROTHERLY LOVE.

(Acts 4: 32-37; 2 Cor. 13: 11; John 17: 11.)

Memory Verse.—"If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." 1 John 4: 11.

GOD had blessed the preaching of his servants until more than eight thousand people had believed on Jesus. These believers "were of one heart, and of one soul;" that means they all loved one another, and were all united in working for Jesus. This was just what Jesus desires of all who follow him. Before he was crucified on the cross, he prayed that all who should believe on him should be one, as he and the Father were one. John 17: 11, 20, 21. This love for one another took all selfishness out of the disciples' hearts. They put all their money into one fund and had all things common. Acts 4: 32. Those who had farms and houses sold them and brought all the money to the apostles. Those who were rich shared equally with those who were poor, and the poor had all their wants supplied just as freely as though they had put in money into the treasury. Verses 34, 35.

This brotherly love had a wonderful effect upon the people. Jesus had told them it would. He said it would cause the world to believe that he had sent them. John 17: 21. The apostles proved his words to be true, for great power attended their preaching. Acts 4: 33. The Lord's grace rested upon them, and the people were impressed that the preaching was of God.

There was one man named Joses, a Levite, who believed, and who lived on an island in the sea some distance from Jerusalem. He was so moved upon that he sold all his possessions, and brought all the money to the apostles. Verses 36, 37. He did not wait to go home, but probably sold his lands to some of the Jews who were with him at Jerusalem. When he saw how this great multitude regarded each other, and were so happy, he wanted to have that peace also, so he gave up all for the gospel. This man was called Barnabas by the apostles.

There is a promise in the Scriptures that will help us to see that Jesus wishes us to have the same brotherly love that existed in the days of the apostles. "Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall

be with you." 2 Cor. 13: 11. This is in harmony with our memory verse. God has loved us enough to give his Son Jesus to die for us. It certainly must be our duty to love one another. If we cannot love each other here, so that we are willing to give up all we have, how can we expect to live in the kingdom where God and Jesus are, who are one in all their work. But we shall have to pray much every day, that we may deny self and have brotherly love. The apostle Peter tells us that it follows godliness. 2 Peter 1: 7. Then, if we have it, we must try to live as Jesus did.

QUESTIONS.

1. How had the Lord blessed the preaching of the apostles?
2. What is said of these believers? Acts 4: 32.
3. Was this pleasing to Jesus? John 17: 11, 20, 21.
4. What did they do with their money?
5. What did those who had farms and houses do? Acts 4: 34.
6. How did they live? Verse 35.
7. What effect did Jesus say this unity would have upon the world? John 17: 21.
8. Did it prove true in this case? Acts 4: 33.
9. What attended the preaching? *Great power.*
10. What did the Lord give them? *Great grace.*
11. What man from Cyprus accepted the gospel? Verse 36.
12. What did he do after he believed? Verse 37.
13. Does Jesus want us to have the same love for one another that they had?
14. What promise have we in 2 Cor. 13: 11? "*And the God of love and peace shall be with you.*"
15. How must we live to have this promise fulfilled to us?
16. What does our memory verse say?
17. How much has God loved us?
18. What must we do to have this love?
19. What precedes brotherly love? 2 Peter 1: 7.

BROTHERS and sisters should not tease,
But each the other try to please;
Us loving word and gentle way,
And so make sunshine all the day;
For Jesus says that you should do
Whatever you'd have done to you.

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