

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Dependability.

Remember that our Star Angel this month is Venus, and the message is, "Children, love one another."

Who loves us more than anyone else? (God.) Of course, God does. We have heard it said many times that God loves us, but it is important every once in a while to stop and think what that means. God loves us so much, He never, even for a second, stops loving us. He is always there, always taking care of us and watching over us. Many of us know what it is like to have an argument with a good friend and hear him say — or say ourselves — "I don't like you any more". Now, we know that when a person says that sort of thing after an argument, he probably doesn't mean it at all, and after thinking about it afterward is very sorry for saying it.

But God would never think or say anything like that, no matter how badly behaved we might be, or how sad we might make Him by deliberately doing things we know we shouldn't. God loves us *always*, no matter what we may do, and we can always count on Him to be there whenever we need Him. Sometimes, when we have done something wrong, or when things don't go right for us, and we feel particularly sad or sorry, we pray to God and ask Him to help us out of whatever the trouble is. Then, after a while we get a wonderfully warm feeling inside, and suddenly know that everything is going to be all right again. That feeling comes from God's love; we can feel His love and know that all is well. It is always there, no matter what, and that is what we call "dependability." We can always depend on God's love to comfort us, help us, and make us feel good. God is never too busy, or too tired, or too interested in other things, to love, help, and protect us. We can always depend on Him.

It is a great comfort to us to know that God is so dependable, and we, too, must learn to be dependable — first in

little things, so that later we can be dependable in big things. Mother is happy when she can depend on us to dry the dishes, instead of having to wonder every evening, "Do I have to remind Mary to help me before she starts playing, or will she remember?" If we promise a friend to help him with a project, he likes to know that we are the kind of people who can be depended on to keep their promises, instead of the kind who forget to keep them if there are other, more interesting, things to do. Just imagine what it would be like if we couldn't depend on the grocery store manager to keep food on his shelves, or the gasoline station manager always to have gas when the car needs it.

The more people come to realize that they can depend on us, the more they will count on us, and the more we will be able to help them. The more we help them, the more we will learn, and the more we, in turn, will be able to help God in His great work. Let us always remember how dependable God is, and try to learn to be just as dependable as we can, ourselves.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 3

ADAM AND EVE

Golden Text — God commanded Adam, "Of every tree in the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat."—*Genesis 2:16-17*.

When we study the Bible, we must remember that many stories in it are really symbolic ways of telling something that is much more important. We must learn to understand the truths that lie behind these Bible stories.

For instance, you have probably all heard the story of Adam and Eve, a man and a woman, who lived in a beautiful garden, were very happy, and did not know what suffering was. God had given them only one commandment: that

they should not eat the fruit of a particular tree, called the tree of knowledge of good and evil. One day, however, a serpent urged Eve to eat the fruit, and then she urged Adam to eat it, too. When they had done this they were ashamed and tried to hide from God, but He found them. He said that because they had disobeyed Him they could no longer live in the beautiful garden. They would have to go out into a barren world, and suffer pain and unhappiness.

This story doesn't really mean that God punished two people because they ate some fruit He didn't want them to eat. What it means is this:

Adam was a name given to all men, and Eve a name given to all women, when they lived on the Earth a long, long time ago. They are really we, ourselves, in former lives. The beautiful garden we lived in was a part of the world called the Continent of Lemuria. At that time, we could see the Angels and the other Beings who guided us, which most of us can't do now. But, because we could not see our own bodies, we did not think of ourselves as being separate from other people. We all lived peacefully together, and there was no selfishness or jealousy or ugly feelings among us.

The Great Beings who guided us then knew that if we learned we were each separate from everyone else, we would start wanting things for ourselves alone, and soon selfishness and jealousy and all the other ugly feelings would rise up inside of us. This is why the story says God did not want Adam and Eve to eat the "fruit of the tree of knowledge."

You know that in our lifewave there have been some people who could not learn their lessons on Earth as fast as other people, and fell farther behind in their evolution. Although it might seem hard to believe, this was true of the lifewave of the Angels, too. There were some members of that lifewave who did not keep up with the other Angels, and fell farther behind in their evolution. They came to be called the Lucifer Spirits.

The time finally came when the Lucifer Spirits showed

the women that they were, each one, separate from every other person. Then the women showed this to the men. In the Bible story, the serpent is a symbol for the Lucifer Spirits, and not really a snake at all.

Now that Adam and Eve — or the men and the women — knew that they were each separate, they began using this knowledge for selfish purposes, just as the Great Beings had feared they would do. Little by little, each person wanted more things, and power, and prestige for himself, and cared less and less about what would help the other men and women around him. We know that when we are selfish we hurt ourselves and others, and this is exactly what happened to those men and women. For the first time, they began to know what pain and suffering were, and the beautiful garden — or that part of the world in which they lived — no longer seemed so beautiful. This is what is meant when the story says that God told Adam and Eve that they would learn pain and unhappiness. We see, however, that it was really not God, but the men and women who, by becoming selfish, brought pain and suffering upon themselves.

Knowledge should not be used for selfish purposes, but for the good of other people. As long as we are selfish, we will continue to bring pain and sadness to ourselves and others. When we use our minds for the good of those around us, and all humanity, we can bring help, joy, peace, and love, wherever we go. Adam and Eve — those early men and women — used their knowledge for selfish purposes, and in the long years since then, selfishness has been the cause of all human sorrow.

Little by little, however, people are learning to become more selfless, and to think about using their knowledge for others instead of themselves. The more we can do this, the more we are able to take away pain and suffering, and substitute for it joy and happiness.

In what ways can we use our knowledge to help others? What can we do to make ourselves less selfish?

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORDS: Kind Words — The Larynx.

The Star Angels from Taurus, who are telling us, "Children, love one another," are helping us build an important part of our bodies — the throat. Inside our throat there is an organ called the larynx. Another word for the larynx is the "voice box," because that is where our wonderful voice comes from.

Most people have no idea how important the larynx is. Oh, yes, they know that without the larynx we wouldn't have a voice. But they don't know what is going to happen to the larynx after we have learned many, many more lessons and have become as good and as pure as the Angels and even the Archangels. You know the wonderful Word that God spoke in the beginning, and that is still sounding. That Word created everything that is — everything we see in God's great world. Some day, after millions of years, we will have developed our larynx so far that we will be able to say the Creative Word too, and create life ourselves, just the way God does.

That's very hard to believe or imagine, isn't it? But it is true, and it is important for us to remember this because we must, even now, start to train our larynx. God's creative word is a true and a good and a pure word, and we, also, must learn only to speak good and true and pure words. If we are very careful about this, then, when we say things, people will believe us, and know that what we are saying is important and worthwhile. They will say, "If John says that, I know it is true, for he always speaks the truth." Or they will say, "John never wastes his words telling nonsense or saying silly things. I want to listen to him because what he says is important."

If we are going to talk about other people, we should remember to say the good things about them, and not gossip. Who knows what gossip is? (Discussion.)

Suppose someone starts to gossip about a person we know. Right away we should try to say something nice about that person — and there are nice things to say about everybody, if we just look for them. Maybe we can say, “She is very generous, and always lets other children play with her toys.” Or we might say, “She is very good at arithmetic and always gets good grades on her tests.” Or maybe, “She has such a pretty smile.” As soon as we say something good like that, the people listening will start thinking about the person’s good points, instead of about the gossip, and if you keep talking about the good things, even the person spreading gossip will have to stop.

We should always remember to use our larynx — our voice — only to do good. If we say cheerful things to try to make sad people happy, or sick people well, that is doing good. Even if we might feel sad or worried about something, it’s better to keep it to ourselves because talking about it might just make other people sad or worried too. Instead of saying, “I’m scared of that test tomorrow; I know I won’t pass,” (which might make other people more worried about it too) we should say instead, “I’m going to study as hard as I can, and then do my very best, and it will come out all right.” And then, of course, if we do study hard and do our best, it *will* come out all right.

This week, as often as we can, let’s try to use our voices for good things, and see how many people we can cheer up and help. There are always people around us who need cheering if we just look for them. This is a good chance to practice observation, observing if people look happy or sad. If they look sad then we can surely at least give them a cheerful smile or happy greeting. Perhaps we could even give them a bouquet of flowers or share something else we have with them. There is always something we can do if we really want to help people.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 7 and 8

THE FLOOD

Golden Text — And God said, “I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a token of a covenant between me and the earth . . . the water shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.”—*Genesis* 9:1.

The story of Noah’s Ark is another symbolic way of telling of a very important event. According to the story, God commanded a man named Noah to build an ark, and place therein the members of his family, animals and birds, and food enough for many days. When the ark had been built and all were safely aboard, it began to rain heavily, and it continued raining for 40 days and 40 nights. The whole Earth was flooded, and everyone living on it perished. Three times Noah sent out a dove, to find out if it was safe to land. Twice the dove returned, but it did not return the third time. and Noah knew then that it was safe to go ashore again. Noah and his family then gave thanks to God for allowing them to be saved.

What the story really means is this: Many years had passed since the men and women we talked about last Sunday had lived on the Lemurian Continent. They now lived on another continent called Atlantis. A new era was rapidly approaching, because the people had used their knowledge of good and evil to become very wicked, and the divine Leaders saw that they were moving farther and farther away from God’s commandments. There had been many floods during those years, but a final great flood now had to come in order to cleanse the people, and the Earth, from the evil which they were doing.

Not all men and women, however, had been evil. There were some, more advanced than the others, who knew how wrong the wicked things were that were going on. They

tried to live good, clean lives, as God would have them do, and because of this, they were developing lungs, which many people at that time did not yet have. This meant that they could breathe clear, fresh air, whereas the other people, who had no lungs, could live only in the damp mist and fog which covered Atlantis.

Noah and his family are really those advanced people who were trying to live good lives in the midst of the great wickedness around them. When the great flood came which was to cleanse the Earth and its inhabitants, these good people, because of their lungs, were able to save themselves by fleeing to the high places where there was fresh air to breathe. The wicked people, without lungs, all perished, because they were not able to breathe the air of the high places.

The people whom Noah and his family represent were guided by the divine Leaders in saving themselves, as well as some of the animals and birds, and to begin an entirely new way of life. Because they were good and wise, and tried to obey God's Laws, they were chosen to begin a new race of people — the Aryan Race — about which we will learn more later on.

Most of the continent of Atlantis was destroyed in the flood, and the people who were saved gave thanks to God for their escape, and the great privilege accorded them. Then the divine Leaders made a promise to these people, that never again would water completely cover the whole Earth. To show this promise, the first rainbow ever seen on Earth was caused to appear after the fearful storm was finally over. That is why the age in which we now live is called the Rainbow Age.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS FOR GEMINI

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Reason.

The Star Angel this month is Mercury, and his message is: "Look! God's truth is everywhere!"

Do you remember how we learned that each one of us is really a divine spark of God, and that our bodies are just the houses we live in? Today I'm going to tell you something that may surprise you, and that is, that each one of us has more than one body. We each have the physical body that we can see. This is the body that lets us move around and do things here on Earth. The physical body is the first body that we were given when we started going to God's school here on Earth, millions and millions of years ago. Because we have had them for such a long time, our physical bodies are the most perfect of our bodies, but even they are not yet completely perfect and we must learn many more lessons before they will be. Then we have two other bodies that we cannot see. They are called the vital body and the desire body, and they are in and around our physical body all the time, even though we can't see them. The vital body helps us grow and learn, and the desire body has to do with how we feel — happy, sad, loving, kind, angry, or any other feeling. We were given those two bodies after we got our physical bodies, and we have a lot of work to do on them before they become perfect. Each day can bring some improvement if we try.

Then we have one more body — one you know about but probably never thought of as being a body before — and that is the mind. The mind helps all the other bodies work together; if we didn't have minds for this purpose, all our bodies would want to do things that interfere with each other, and we would end up being sick! The mind is the last body that we were given, and it is so new that we will

have a lot of work to do before it will be able to do its work perfectly.

The more we use our minds, the sooner they will become stronger and better. Our minds cannot work unless they know what is going on around us in the world, and that is why we have our five senses — sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. You probably know pretty well how they take messages to the brain, which is the physical organ the mind works through. When your eyes see a car coming as you want to cross the street, they send this message to your brain, and you know that you must stand at the curb until the car has gone by. If you go into the kitchen and feel heat coming from the oven, your sense of touch sends this fact to the brain, and you know that you had better stay away from the oven or you might burn yourself.

Now let's all close our eyes, block our ears, and imagine as hard as we can that we cannot taste, smell, or touch anything. Let's sit that way for just a minute, and maybe we will get a little idea of what it would be like if we didn't have any senses at all.

(After a minute.) What did it feel like? (Discussion, getting children to indicate general "nothingness" resulting from senseless state.)

Now you see that our senses help us very much, but they will not help us all they can unless we train them, and we train them by *paying attention* to what is going on around us. For instance, suppose we wanted to cross the street, and our eyes saw the car coming. But we were so busy talking to friends or thinking about what we were going to do when we got home, that we didn't pay any attention and started to cross the street anyhow. We'd be in for trouble then. Or, suppose we ran into the kitchen full of plans for a party we were going to have, paid no attention to the fact that the oven was hot, and leaned up against it anyhow. We'd certainly forget our party plans in a hurry if we got burned, wouldn't we?

Our senses will never send the right message to our brains and mind unless we pay attention and train them, and our brains and minds will never do their work perfectly unless they get the right message. So let's remember always to pay attention. Next Sunday, be ready to tell us about something you have seen, or heard, or touched, or tasted, or smelled, this week, and let's see how much attention you can pay to that something and how well you can tell about it.

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 11:1-10

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Golden Text — I have applied my heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things. —*Ecclesiastes* 7:25.

“Let us build a tower high enough to reach to Heaven, making ourselves a name, in the event we should be scattered around the earth.” So said the people of Shinar, a province of Babylon, on the shores of the Euphrates River. That section was the most powerful one in the Babylonian Empire, but it was also the most evil place in the world. The people were very proud, and they wanted to be remembered for all the years to come. They worshipped the idol god “Baal”.

The Tower of Babel (meaning Gate to God) was built in the temple of the god Baal. The people said that after the Tower was completed they would rebel against the true God and do battle with Him, afterwards setting up their own gods and thus making a name for themselves.

You may think it strange that those people believed they could build a tower high enough to reach to heaven, but we must remember that peoples' minds were not yet very strong.

At that time, all people on Earth spoke one language

and were united, although they didn't realize how important that was. They had been led by their divine Leaders who carried out God's will.

When they decided to build the Tower of Babel, the people developed their own selfish will, turning away from the guidance of their divine Leaders. Thus, they were placed under the rule of Jehovah, who said, "Let us confuse the people so they will not understand one another's speech. Let us scatter people over the face of the earth."

In building the Tower, the people were giving the material things of life first place in their thoughts and actions. So intent were they on building the Tower that they grieved more when a single stone was lost than when a worker on the Tower lost his life.

Since that time, people in different countries have not been able to understand each others' languages without special study. So the confusion began: people became separated and unity among mankind was ended. Separation will continue until we learn to overcome selfishness and carry out our responsibilities to all mankind.

God is ready and willing to help us onto the right path, but we must ask Him to do so. Man has the divine right of free will, which means that each of us makes the choice of whether to follow God's will or our own selfish desires and wishes. We all, however, have to take the consequences of whatever choice we make. This is the meaning of the words: "As we sow, so shall we reap."

Today, many people are helping other people in our country and in other nations. This is especially true when there are disasters such as fires, floods, and earthquakes. This is good, but as long as there are people anywhere who need help, additional aid will be necessary.

In our daily mingling with other people we so often fail to be kind, thoughtful, and helpful. Christ Jesus, however, urged us to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." When enough people do that, we shall have peace on Earth. Peace must

begin with you and me, right where we are, each and every day.

Let us begin by loving, praying, and helping one another. It matters not how small our part may be, as long as we do our best. In praying for God's help, we shall find the way opening up before us, and we shall bring Love, Peace, and Joy to others as well as ourselves.

KEYWORD: Adaptability.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Let's see how well we listened last week to Mercury's message: "Look! God's truth is everywhere!" Who would like to tell us of an experience with one of the five senses? (Discussion, praising children who describe experience in detail, and trying to draw out those who have not included as many particulars as might be possible.)

I'm glad to see that so many of you really are paying attention. Today we're going to talk about what happens when our brains and minds get the messages that our senses send them. The mind has to stay wide awake and alert, because so many different messages come in, telling it so many different things, that it has to listen to them all and then decide what to do. This is "adapting." You have probably been studying in school about the Pilgrims who first came from England to settle in America. They landed in New England, where it was very cold, and they had to have places to live because they couldn't stay on their ship very long. There were no houses, because they were the first white men there, but there were big deep forests, and also there were many stones lying all over the ground. So the Pilgrims adapted themselves to what they had, and built homes out of logs and stones. Today we have people who like to travel a lot and don't want, always, to stay in hotels or motels. So they have adapted and made house trailers,

so that they can take their homes with them wherever they go.

Ever since man first got his mind, he has been learning to adapt to the conditions around him and make things easier and better for himself and his brothers. Maybe some of you have been studying about the cave men, who were called that because they lived in caves. They, too, were surrounded by forests and rocks, just as the Pilgrims, but they did not know how to make houses out of them, so the best they could do was to live in the caves. Little by little, though, as men developed their minds more and more, they learned to make better places in which to live. Someone figured out how to make a nail and how nails would hold pieces of wood together, and someone else figured out how to cement rocks together into a wall, and much later someone figured out how to make glass for windows, and much, much later than that someone figured out how to heat houses with electric heat instead of with coal, or with wood-burning fireplaces. Through the years, men's houses have changed from caves to modern, well-equipped houses, all because men have learned to improve conditions for themselves.

We can improve conditions for ourselves, too, in our own lives, not just to make ourselves and others more comfortable, but also to help ourselves, and others, grow, and learn, and do God's work. There are probably things that each one of us can do to help make our mothers' work easier at home. This would improve things for mother, and also for us because it would teach us to be more helpful and loving. Maybe there is someone we know with whom we seem to quarrel a great deal. Almost every time we play with him, we manage to get into some sort of argument. There must be something we can do to improve that situation, and if we think and work long and hard enough at it, we will find the way. Maybe we can be more eager to share our toys with that person; maybe we can spend a little more time playing the games he wants to play, instead of only the games we want to play.

Now, each of you try to find something in your own lives — either at home, or at school, or with your friends, or somewhere — that you can improve, and work on making that improvement. Next Sunday we will talk about what you did.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 12:1-10; 22:1-10

THE STORY OF ABRAHAM

Golden Text — I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.—*Philippians* 4:12,13.

The Bible tells very little about Abram's early life except that he was the son of Terah and that he had two brothers. The elder was named Nabor, and the younger, Haran, died leaving a son named Lot. They lived in a city called Ur of the Chaldees, about which scarcely anything was known until 30 years ago, when archeologists who unearthed it found that it was a great city of wealth and beauty, far superior to any other of its day. We aren't told why, but Terah moved to Haran taking with him Abram and his wife Sarai, also Lot, his grandson. It was here that Abram's father died.

When Abram was 75 years old, the Lord told him, "Get you out of the country, away from all your relatives, into a land I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and in you shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Abram did as the Lord commanded, taking his wife Sarai, and Lot, his brother's son, together with their servants and all their belongings.

They set forth under the guidance of their divine Leader,

traveling until they reached a place named Sychar, where the Lord appeared to Abram, saying, "To your people will I give this land." Abram built there an altar to the Lord. They continued journeying south, but found a great famine in the land, so they went on into Egypt.

Here they lived for a time, but Abram lied to the king about Sarai, his wife, saying that she was his sister. Of course the king found out about it and sent Abram and all of his company of people and their goods to a place not far from Jerusalem, called Bethel (meaning house of God). Abram was sorry for having lied and asked God's forgiveness. The king could very easily have put Abram in prison, but, instead, he sent him away to a place where he did not have the conveniences he had enjoyed in Egypt. The important thing is that Abram learned his lesson after not telling the truth.

For many years they lived in Bethel among strange peoples who were at war, and often Abram helped them out of their troubles. In doing so, he passed through many trials, tests, and temptations, growing in understanding, and faithfulness to God. As a result of steadfast dedication to God, their divine Leader directed that the names of both Abram and Sarai be changed to include the letter "H", an indication of progress. Thus, their names became Abraham and Sarah.

Later, they moved to a place called Gerar, near Gaza. When Abraham was 100 years old (people lived longer in those days) their son Isaac was born. He was their first and only child, and they rejoiced. God gave them a son because they had continually striven to become better people by overcoming trials and temptations. They no longer had any ill-will against anyone, and placed God first in their lives.

When Isaac was older, Abraham faced the greatest test of his life. God commanded him, "Take your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and get you to the land of Moriah,

unto one of the mountains I will show you. There offer up Isaac as a burnt offering." That was indeed a very strange thing for God to ask of Abraham, especially as He had said that through Isaac would rise great nations, and that He, God, would bless them. Nevertheless, Abraham did as he was commanded.

Abraham, Isaac, his donkey, and two servants set out for Moriah, taking wood for the burnt offering. On the third day they saw the mountain afar off. Abraham spoke to the servants, saying, "Stay you here with the donkey and I, together with Isaac, will go yonder and worship, returning to you afterwards."

As they walked toward the mountain, Isaac asked, "Father, we have the fire and the wood, but where is the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "My son, God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering."

When they reached the chosen spot, Abraham built an altar, laid the wood on it, then bound his son, placing him on the altar with the wood. Abraham was heartbroken. He loved his son and he loved God too, but he was showing that God had the first place in his life. Just as he raised his arm to strike Isaac, an angel called Abraham, saying, "Lay not your hand on the boy, neither do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, seeing you have not held your only son from Him."

How relieved Abraham was! He could look up once more. As he did so, he saw a ram in the nearby brush. He quickly caught it and used it for the burnt offering.

Again the angel spoke: "Abraham, because you have not withheld your only son Isaac from the Lord, in blessing thee I shall multiply those who come after Isaac so that they shall be as great in number as the stars in the heavens, and the sand upon the seashore. And in thy children's children shall all the people of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed the Lord's command."

We can only marvel at Abraham's great courage in

doing as he was commanded. He left all his friends and went to live among strange people who did not believe in God. Then he was willing even to sacrifice his beloved son because God had commanded it.

The homeward journey was a very happy one for Abraham, you may be sure.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORDS: Wisdom — Lungs.

Who will begin this morning by telling us of something they have been trying to improve this week? (Discussion.)

So you see how important it is that you go on paying attention to things in your lives that need improving, and adapting yourselves so that you will make the improvements.

The Star Angels from Gemini, whose message is: "Look! God's truth in everywhere!", have another job, too, and that is to help us build good, strong lungs. You probably know that the lungs are the organs through which we breathe, and if we don't have good lungs, we don't take in the proper amount of good fresh air that we need in order to live.

Once upon a time there was a very wise man, who knew many, many things, and all the people came to him with their questions and problems. One day a young man asked him, "What must I do to be wise?"

The wise man didn't say a word, and finally the young man went away. The next day he came back and asked the same question, and still the wise man said nothing. On the third day, when the young man came again, the wise man walked down to a nearby river, and asked the young man to follow him into the water.

When they had gotten to where it was quite deep, the wise man suddenly pushed the young man's head under the water, and held it there for several moments, even though the young man was struggling hard to come up for air. When

the wise man finally let go, he asked the young man, "What did you wish for most when you were under water?"

"Air, Sir, air," replied the young man.

"Didn't you wish for money, or pleasure, or a car?" asked the wise man.

"No, sir, I only wanted air. Nothing else was important."

"Then," said the wise man, "you see how important air is to life, and you must desire wisdom as much as you wanted the air when you were under water. You must be willing to struggle just as hard to get wisdom as you were to get the air. If you want wisdom *that* badly, and work *that* hard to get it, then you shall be wise."

Who can tell us what they think this story means? (Discussion, getting children to state in their own words the importance of air to life, and the importance of desire and hard work in the obtaining of wisdom.)

Let's always remember that there is much to learn here on God's Earth, and that before we can learn all our lessons, and learn to be a big help to other people, and to God, we must *want* and *work* to learn the lessons and become wise. It is not enough just to say, "I wish I could read that hard book." We must practice our reading until it is so good that we *can* read the hard book. It is not enough to say, "I wish I could help that person in trouble." We must think and try to figure out, as best we can, what it is we could do that would help. When we are willing to put fun and pleasure aside in order to learn, and take the time for it, then we will really begin to learn.

Some one has rightly said: "Wisdom consists not in knowing many things, nor even in knowing them thoroughly; but in choosing and in following what conduces the most certainly to our lasting happiness and true glory." That really means to choose and practice doing the things that Christ Jesus taught us to do. When we do that we are expressing real wisdom, and that is what the Star Angels from Gemini are helping us to do.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 24:1-29

THE STORY OF ISAAC AND REBEKAH

Golden Text — And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.—*Genesis 2:7.*

We now come to a very special time in the life of Isaac. His father, Abraham, was growing old, and was saddened by the death of his wife, Sarah. Both Isaac and his father missed her very much.

You remember how God promised Abraham that Isaac would have a very important part in the building of a great nation. It was with this in mind that Abraham spoke to his most trusted servant: "Promise me you will not take a wife for my son Isaac from among the Canaanite people, but that you will go and search for one in the country where my relatives live."

In those days it was not unusual for trusted servants to help find wives for their masters' sons. So the servant asked, "What if the woman is not willing to follow me to this land, must I take Isaac to that faraway land from which you came?"

Abraham replied, "You must not take Isaac away from our home here. The Lord our God will send his angel before you to lead you." That shows the great faith Abraham had in God. It was a great responsibility for the servant, but with God's help, he could carry it out.

The next morning the trusted servant and the other servants set out on their journey, with ten camels loaded with gifts and food. We are not told how long it took them to reach the outskirts of the city of Nahor in Mesopotamia, but we do know it was evening, the time when the women of the city would come to draw water from the well outside the city.

As Abraham's group rested beside the well, his trusted servant prayed:

"Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray you, send me help this day and show kindness to my master Abraham, as I stand here beside the well of water and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water, let it be that the girl to whom I shall say, 'Set down your pitcher that I may drink!' that she shall say, 'Drink, and I will give your camels to drink also, until they have had enough.' Let her be the one you have appointed for Isaac, that I may know you have shown kindness to my master Abraham."

Scarcely had the servant finished praying when Rebekah came out of the city, went down to the well, and filled her pitcher with water. The servant ran to her, saying, "Let me, I pray you, drink a little of the water from your pitcher." She answered, "Drink, my lord," quickly setting down her pitcher and giving him to drink. When he had finished drinking, Rebekah said, "I will draw water for your camels also until they have finished drinking." Quickly she ran to the water trough, emptying water from the pitcher, ran again to the well to draw more water, and continued doing so until the camels were satisfied. Rebekah was very kind to give water to the stranger and his camels. The servant stood watching her and wondering, but said not a word.

After the camels finished drinking, the servant took a gold earring and two bracelets from among the gifts they had brought, and gave them to Rebekah. At the same time he asked, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, I pray, and is there room at your father's house for us to lodge there?"

Rebekah replied, "I am a daughter of Nahor. We have both straw and food as well as room for your lodging."

The servant was overcome upon learning whose daughter Rebekah was, for her father was Abraham's brother. He was also grateful because his prayer had been so quickly answered. He bowed his head and worshipped God, giving thanks.

Rebekah ran home, telling everyone what had happened. Her brother, Laban, when he heard the news, ran out to the well, saying, "Why do you stand outside? Come in, for I have prepared the house, and there is also room for the camels."

They all went to the house, where they unsaddled and fed the camels. The servant and his men were given water to wash their feet. Afterwards food was set before them, but the servant said, "I will not eat until I have told you why I am here." Nahor said, "Speak on."

The trusted servant told who he was and why he had been sent at this time to seek a wife for Isaac among Abraham's relatives. He also told how his prayer had been answered, because he had been led to the right girl and the right home. "Now, will you permit Rebekah to return with me and become Isaac's wife?"

Nahor's family said, "Let us ask her." They did so, and her answer was, "I will go."

They were eager to return home as quickly as possible, although Nahor's family would have liked them to rest before making the return trip. The travelers, however, set out the next morning, taking with them Rebekah and her servants, together with their belongings.

We do not know how long the homeward journey took, but Isaac saw them coming, for he had been out in the field meditating. No doubt he was wondering when they would return, and what news they might bring.

Rebekah saw Isaac from a distance, and asked the head servant, "What man is this who walks in the field to meet us?" He said, "It is Isaac."

Rebekah got down off her camel and covered herself with a veil, as was then the custom of women in that country. When they met, the servant told Isaac all that had taken place on the journey. Isaac was happy to meet Rebekah and to know she was willing to be his wife. He then brought Rebekah and her maidens to his mother's tent.

After everyone had rested from their journey, preparations were begun for the wedding. Happier days were beginning for everyone, Abraham was comforted, and Isaac also, as a new way of life was opening up before them.

We now begin to understand how God was leading toward the fulfillment of His promise to Abraham many years before. Next Sunday we shall talk more about Isaac and Rebekah.

GRADE III — 4TH SUNDAY — Review.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS FOR CANCER

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Intuition.

Our Star Angel this month is Cancer, and his message is: "Remember! Remember!"

Today we are going to talk about how the Moon came to be. Many scientists think that the Moon might have come from our Earth, and they are right, but not too many people understand why this came about. Long ago, millions of years ago, in fact, there was no Moon. We were all here on God's Earth, learning our lessons. We did not look then the way we do now because we had not developed our bodies very far, we had not learned as much as we know now, and we had not yet been given our fourth body, which, you remember, is the mind.

But even in those days, there were some people who did not learn their lessons as fast as others, and started lagging behind. After a while, they lagged behind so much that there was a great danger they would keep all the other people back with them. This is just as if there were some children in your arithmetic class who just couldn't seem to learn their arithmetic, and the teacher had to keep trying to explain

the same things over and over to them, instead of going on to new problems so that the children who did understand would have something new to learn.

When God saw what was happening, He decided that those people who were lagging behind should have another place in which to learn their lessons, so that those who *were* learning would not be kept back. The people who were not learning were becoming crystallized and hardened, so much so that they even crystallized that part of the Earth on which they lived. So that crystallized portion of the Earth, with the laggards on it, was sent off into space. That piece of Earth became the Moon.

Besides being a place on which the slower people were to live, the Moon had another job, which it still has, and that is to reflect the rays from the Sun to the Earth. (Show how light can be reflected from one object to another.) The Sun's rays are very important in helping plants, animals, and humans grow, but they are tremendously strong. If the Sun's rays were sent to Earth directly instead of reflected from the Moon, they would be too strong for us. This way, however, they are the right strength to help us grow and learn. So you see how important the Moon is to us.

At Easter time, we talked about how the Christ gives His life each year for us, too, that we may grow, and learn and be better able to help God in His great work. In a little way, the divine spark of God which is in each one of us is trying to take care of us also. Everyone of us has an "inner voice" which tells us if something we are planning to do is right or not. Sometimes that voice is called "conscience," and sometimes it is called "intuition," and we have all heard it. All of you can probably tell of times when that voice told you not to do something, and you didn't, and later you were very glad that you listened to the voice. Maybe you could tell of times when you didn't listen, too, and then were sorry.

Let's try hard always to listen to that inner voice, so that we will know, and *do*, what is right, and true, and good.

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 25:27-34

ESAU AND JACOB

Golden Text — Cause me to know the way wherein I should walk: for I lift up my soul to thee.—*Psalm* 143:8.

Twin sons were born to Isaac and Rebekah. They could easily be told apart, for Esau, the older, had reddish hair over most of his body, while Jacob, the younger, was smooth-skinned. They were different in many ways. Esau was an outdoor type, while Jacob preferred indoor activities. They did not get along well together, as they should have done.

One day, when Esau came home hungry, he saw that Jacob had prepared some lentils. He asked for some, saying, "Feed me that pottage, for I'm faint with hunger."

Jacob said, "Sell me this day your birthright as my older brother. That meant that Jacob wanted Esau to give him all the privileges and the material things that usually belonged to the oldest boy in the family.

Esau answered, "I am famished, and what shall this birthright do to me?" Jacob then asked him to swear that he would give up his birthright, and Esau swore. Then Jacob gave him food and he ate the lentils.

We understand that a great wrong had been done by the brothers. Esau did not realize how important his birthright was as far as material things were concerned, and even more important, as far as spiritual development was concerned. As older brother, he should have been the one to set the example of good behavior, worshipping God and carrying out His commandments. Esau only thought about how hungry he was. Jacob, on the other hand, saw how weak Esau was being, and took advantage of this to get, unfairly, what did not belong to him. Many years were to pass before that great wrong could be undone.

Isaac, their father, grew old, and after a time he was

not able to see very well. He called Esau, saying, "Take your bow and arrow and go into the field and get some venison, preparing it as I love. Bring it to me that I may eat; then my soul will bless you before I die."

Rebekah, their mother, called Jacob, telling him what Esau had been asked to do by his father. She said, "Now, Jacob, you go and get two young goats and I will make the savory meat for you father loves. You shall bring it to him to eat that he may bless you before his death."

Jacob was afraid that his father, even though he couldn't see very well, would feel, by touching his smooth skin, that he wasn't Esau. Rebekah, however, put goatskins around Jacob, and Jacob took the meat in to his father. Isaac touched Jacob, felt the hairy skin, and thought it was Esau. He then blessed Jacob, saying: "God give you the dew of heaven, the growth of grain, and plenty of corn and wine. Let the people serve you, and nations bow down before you, be lord over your people, let your mother's son bow down before you. Cursed be every one that curses you, and blessed be he that blesses you."

Jacob had scarcely left the room when Esau came in with his prepared food. When Isaac discovered that he was Esau, and that Jacob, whom he had abundantly blessed, had lied to him, he was very unhappy. When Esau asked for his father's blessing also, Isaac said, "Your dwelling shall be fertile earth, of the dew of heaven. By your sword you shall live and serve your brother. It shall be when you have dominion you shall break his yoke off your neck." His father's blessing meant that someday, after serving the brother who had wronged him, and learning an important lesson, Esau would get back his birthright.

In the meantime, however, Esau was angry, and hated his brother. He even threatened to kill Jacob, which shows that he still had much to learn about love and forgiveness — even though Jacob had wronged him.

When Rebekah heard of Esau's threats, she sent Jacob

to visit her brother Laban, in Haran, and, while there, to find a wife for himself. Then Esau, too, left home, planning to find a wife in the place where his uncle Ishmael lived.

So many unfortunate things happened as a result of Jacob's and Rebekah's wrongdoing. We see how one thing led to another until the family was separated. Jacob was sent away from his home, and Esau was filled with bitter hatred toward his brother because of what Jacob did to him and their father. How different all would have been had there been more love in the family! Let us be very sure that we are loving, kind, and true to those we know, not only to people in our own family, but also to our friends and to people we think we don't like.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Sympathy.

What is the Golden Rule? ("Do unto others as you would have them do unto you") Who can tell us what that means? (Discussion.)

Many of the quarrels and difficulties among people are caused by the fact that each person is so concerned with what *he* feels and thinks and, often, is sure is right, that he never tries to figure out what the other person is thinking and feeling, or *why* he thinks and feels the way he does. If each person would try to put himself in the other's place, he would understand the other person much better, know why he does the things he does, and have sympathy for him instead of disgust or annoyance.

In order to help other people and in order to learn all the lessons God wants us to learn, it is very important that we learn to understand and sympathize with others, and try to forget our own selfish thoughts and feelings. To help us do this, Christ Jesus gave us the Golden Rule. The more we try to follow that, the more we try to put ourselves in other

people's places and try to understand why they do and say the things they do, the more kindly and loving we will be to them, and this is just what God and the Christ want us to do. If nations followed the Golden Rule there would be no more wars. But first people like you and me must learn to follow the Golden Rule — because nations are made up of people like you and me.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 28:10-22

JACOB'S DREAM

Golden Text — Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one to another: love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.—*I Peter 3:8.*

At the end of his first day's journey to his Uncle Laban's house, Jacob, as well as his company of servants and camels, rested after the Sun had set. Jacob made for himself a pillow of stones and slept the whole night through.

He had a strange dream of a ladder reaching from Earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending thereon. Above the ladder stood the Lord, who said to Jacob:

“I am the Lord God of your Father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you live, I will give to you and your children and their descendants. They shall be as great in number as the dust of the earth, spreading out in all directions. In them shall all the families of the earth be blessed. I am with thee and will keep you in all places you go, bringing you back again to this place; I will not leave you until I have done that which I now tell you.”

When Jacob awakened, he said, “Surely the Lord is in this place.” He felt honored and privileged that the Lord had spoken to him, and he took the stones that he had used as a pillow and made of them a pillar, pouring oil over

it and then naming it Bethel, which means the house of God. Then they all continued on their Journey.

When they reached the outskirts of Haran, where Jacob's uncle lived, he met Rachel, his uncle's daughter. She was very beautiful, and Jacob fell in love with her. One of the first things he asked his uncle after he had introduced himself was whether he could marry Rachel. Laban promised Jacob that he could do so after serving him for seven years. When Jacob had done so, Uncle Laban said, "You must first marry Rachel's older sister, Leah, and serve another seven years before you can marry Rachel." So Jacob served the additional seven years, and finally was permitted to marry Rachel.

All of this seems strange to us until we understand the hidden meaning behind what was taking place. Remember that Jacob had done a great wrong, so there was much for him to learn before he could make the progress he desired and return to Bethel as God had promised. Jacob had showed that he had some understanding of God and His commandments when he set up the pillar of stones to represent the house of God. Even with that understanding, however, he had disobeyed the commandments, so it was necessary for him to grow through service. He finally learned that it was only through obedience that he could become a person worthy of receiving that which God had told him would one day be his own.

The ladder in Jacob's dream symbolized the way in which we all try to climb upward by doing the greatest possible good. We find that we receive help along the way from others who have learned those very same lessons that we must learn. There are times when we fall back, because we do and say the wrong things, but we must never stop trying to become better. All of this Jacob learned during the fourteen years he worked for his Uncle Laban, before he was free to marry Rachel and return to Bethel.

We can be sure that, during those long years, Jacob

often thought of his brother, Esau. Now the time had come to right the wrong he had done Esau. A great test faced Jacob after he took leave of his uncle and started homeward with his family and all of his possessions.

As Jacob drew near his old home he wondered, "How will my brother Esau take me into his heart?" He sent some of his servants on ahead, bearing gifts to Esau. As they drew nearer, Jacob saw Esau coming toward him with about 400 men, and he could only believe that this meant there would be a struggle between them.

Jacob separated all the children and their mothers from the rest of the company of men and servants, while he went on before them, gradually drawing closer to Esau and his company. Instead of starting a battle, however, Esau embraced Jacob and they wept on each other's shoulders. Esau asked, "Who are all those with you?" to which Jacob replied, "They are the children which God has graciously given unto me." Next Esau asked, "What means all the group that came before you?" Jacob answered, "They were to find favor in your sight."

And so the brothers were once again united, but this time in peace and the love and understanding which they had both learned during the years of separation.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

KEYWORD: The Stomach.

Our Star Angel from Cancer this month is telling us to "Remember! Remember!" and today we are going to learn things to remember about the part of our body that the Cancer Star Angels helped us build. This is the stomach.

The stomach is a strange looking bag, big at one end where the food comes in and small at the other end where the food goes out. When we eat, it puffs up like a balloon,

and when it is empty it crumples up like a balloon when the air has been let out of it.

You know that our body is made up of many cells, all doing different jobs, and all requiring food and nourishment in order to do their work. Before the cells can use the food we eat, however, it must be broken up and mixed with different juices until it is soft and watery. Most of that work is done in the stomach.

The stomach itself is made up of many cells, some making the juices that soften the food, some working the muscles and nerves that do the mixing. There are also cells which serve as "messengers", and let our stomachs know what kind of food we are chewing in our mouths, so that when we swallow and the food gets to the stomach, the right kind of juice will be ready for it. Peaches, for instance, need one kind of juice so that they may be properly softened, and potatoes or bread need an entirely different kind.

After the food has been properly mixed and softened — or what we call digested — it is pushed along to a little door-like opening at the small end of the stomach. This "door" stays shut until a certain kind of juice touches it; then it opens to let a small amount of food through at a time, and this food eventually is sent all over the body to nourish the cells that are working everywhere.

Now you see what an important organ the stomach is — and why our bodies could certainly not get along without it. Our bodies are really very perfect "machines," all parts working together to help us grow, and be strong, and learn. In an automobile all parts must work together, or it won't run. In our bodies, if one part does not work properly, the other parts don't work properly either. If the automobile is not given gas and oil, its parts break down and it does not work. In the same way, if the cells in our bodies don't get the right kind of food, they break down, get sick, and don't work right.

That is why it is so important to eat the right kinds of foods — vegetables and fruits especially. Most of us have

days when we would much rather eat too many cookies or pieces of cake, and not enough of the things that are good for us. But if we "Remember! Remember!" how much the cells in our bodies need good and nourishing food in order to do their important work and keep us well, strong, and happy, it won't be such a problem to eat the right food.

GRADE III — THIRD SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 37

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Golden Text — Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. — *Matthew 4:4*.

"Here comes that dreamer. Let us do away with him. We can then tell Father that a wild animal carried him off," said one of Joseph's brothers. What made his brothers so angry with Joseph was that he kept telling them of his dreams, in which the whole family bowed down before him.

"How about putting him in that dry well nearby?" said Reuben, who, being kinder than the others, planned to return later and pull Joseph out of the well.

Jacob, their father, had sent Joseph out to see how his older brothers were doing in a far-away pasture, tending sheep. As he drew near, they recognized him by his coat of many colors which Jacob had given him.

Reuben went away for a while, and while he was gone, a traveling group of merchants appeared. Cruel as it was, Joseph's brothers sold him to the merchants as a slave. Such things were done in those days long ago, and it shows how much people then still had to learn about love and kindness to each other.

When Reuben returned, he thought the brothers had put Joseph in the dry well as he had suggested, and he went to

pull him out. Joseph was not there, and when, later, the brothers had told him what they had done, Reuben was very upset. He was the oldest, and it would be up to him to tell their father what had happened to Joseph.

The brothers, who now had to lie to cover up their terrible deed, decided that their father should be told that a wild animal had carried Joseph away. Their father believed them, and was grief-stricken. He mourned for Joseph for a long time and, in his grief, turned more of his attention to Benjamin, Joseph's younger brother.

Thus began a new life for the entire family, in which all the brothers had, each day, to re-live the lie they had told their father, and to have always on their consciences the terrible deed they had done.

Next Sunday we shall learn what happened later.

GRADE III — FOURTH SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis 41

JOSEPH IN EGYPT

Golden Text — Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.—*Mark*, 10:15.

What a great change took place in Joseph's life as he journeyed with the strange caravan farther and farther away from home and all those he loved!

When the merchants reached Egypt, they sold Joseph as a slave to Potiphar, one of the chief officers to the king. The king was called Pharaoh in those days. Life as Potiphar's slave was much different from life at home, where Joseph had servants to care for his needs.

Furthermore, the people of Egypt did not believe in the God that Joseph had learned about from his father. How often Joseph prayed to God, asking him for help in doing

what was right in his new life among the Egyptians.

After a time, Potiphar began to notice that Joseph carried out his orders very well, and never made trouble. Potiphar was so pleased that he placed Joseph in charge of his household. Everything went well until one day Potiphar's wife spoke falsely to her husband about Joseph, saying that he had done something wrong. Naturally, Potiphar believed his wife, and Joseph was unjustly thrown into prison.

Even there, Joseph's fine behavior came to the attention of the keeper of the prison, who placed him in charge of all prisoners and their activities. Again Joseph proved himself able to do all that was required of him. The prisoners liked him and discussed their problems with him.

One day Joseph saw that a prisoner, former chief butler to Pharaoh, seemed upset, and he asked the man what troubled him. The man said that he had had a dream the night before which he couldn't understand. Joseph asked what it was, and then explained the meaning. He explained another prisoner's dream for him, too.

Later, when the ex-butler was released from prison, Joseph said to him: "Think about me when all shall be well with you, and show kindness, I pray you, making mention of me to Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house. For I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that I should be put into the dungeon."

The butler, however, forgot all about Joseph until one day Pharaoh asked the help of his wise men and astrologers in explaining the meaning of two dreams he had. Not one could tell him their meanings. Then the butler spoke up, saying: "I do remember my fault this day in failing to tell you about the young Hebrew who explained my dream while we were both in prison."

Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph who, after being made presentable, came before him. Pharaoh said, "I have

heard said of you that you can understand and explain dreams." Joseph replied, "It is not in me: God shall give Pharoah an answer of peace."

Pharoah then told his dreams to Joseph, as follows: "I stood on the river bank up which came seven well-fed cows, feeding in a meadow. After them came seven lean cows as we have never seen. The lean cows ate the fat cows, remaining as lean as ever. Then I awoke. In the second dream, I saw seven good ears of corn on one stalk, with seven thin ears coming up afterwards, devouring the good ears."

Joseph explained: "The dreams are one. God is showing Pharoah what He plans to do. The seven good cows and the seven good ears of corn are seven years of plenty, while the seven lean cows and the seven thin ears of corn are seven years of famine. The dream was doubled because it is established by God, and He will soon bring it to pass. Let Pharoah place a wise and careful man as chief overseer for the land, appointing officers to take one-fifth of all crops in the years of plenty, storing them in the cities against the coming years of famine."

God used Joseph to help the people of Egypt. He used Joseph's imprisonment to test his faithfulness to Him. We see that Joseph did his very best under difficult circumstances. God was preparing him for a special work.

GRADE III — FIFTH SUNDAY — Review.

LESSON SUGGESTIONS FOR LEO

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

KEYWORD: Dominion.

Our Star Angel this month is the Sun. His message is: "I will be kind, loving, brave, and strong."

(Show picture or diagram of the planets in orbit around

the Sun.) Most of you probably know a little bit about our solar system — the Sun and the planets moving around it. The whole solar system is a part of God, and today we will talk about how it came into being.

When God first created us, and started us off in the school of life, we were all living on the Sun. This was long, long ago — so many billions of years ago that it is quite impossible to imagine. At first, everything was dark, but little by little, as we began to build our bodies, God's love made the Sun all fiery and bright.

There were many of God's children growing up together in that fiery world. Some worked harder than others and got ahead, some didn't work quite so hard, and some wanted to do one thing and some another. Finally, we all had to be divided up into classes just like in classes at school, and all be sent to different places to learn our lessons, just as different classes are in different rooms at school.

God divided His children into classes and gave each class a bit of the Sun for its own home. He caused these parts of the Sun to be broken off from it and sent out into space, each one just the right distance from the Sun so that those particular children might learn the lessons they needed, and He gave each group of children a great Star Angel to take care of them.

That is how our Earth and all the planets came to be traveling around the Sun, each in its own path. All the planets were not sent off at the same time. Uranus was sent out first, then the others in order, and last of all Mercury, which is closest to the Sun. Only Neptune was not originally a part of the Sun. Neptune came from another world to learn from God how to make a world of his own.

The planets are all very far from each other and from the Sun, and it would take months, and even years, for us to travel to some of them if we could. You can imagine how heavy they are, too, if you think about how much just one big rock on our Earth weighs, and how many billions and

billions of tons of earth and rocks are on the Earth. It takes a tremendous amount of power to keep all these heavy, far-away planets moving in their right paths around the Sun, and all that power comes from God.

GRADE III — FIRST SUNDAY

Bible Lesson — Genesis: 41:37-57

JOSEPH'S SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Golden Text — He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—*Proverbs* 16:32.

After listening to Joseph's explanation of his dreams and what could be done, Pharaoh asked, "Can we find such a man as this, in whom the spirit of God is?" Turning to Joseph he said, "As God has shown you all this, there is no one so wise and careful as yourself. You shall be over my house, and by your word shall all my people be ruled, only in the throne will I be greater than you. See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Can't you just imagine how surprised Joseph must have been? He had been brought out of prison to appear before Pharaoh and interpret his dreams, and now was chosen as the Pharaoh's chief overseer! He had passed God's test, and now his life was to be completely changed. He had been given a tremendous task, but with God's help he would be able to carry it out.

Pharaoh gave him a new name, and a wife. She was daughter of one of the priests. Joseph was then 30 years old.

Joseph traveled all across the land, seeing that food was gathered for storage in the cities. Corn was as plentiful as the sand by the sea. Everyone was busily raising grain, harvesting, loading, and sending it to the cities for storage — all under Joseph's supervision. Nothing must be wasted,

for it would be needed when the years of plenty were at an end and the famine was upon them.

When the years of famine came, Joseph had everything in readiness. Although other lands had no food, Egypt had plenty. People came from afar to purchase food for which they had money to pay. Now Joseph had a new job: to sell the grain from the storehouses. He required the help of many people in doing this. Again Joseph was equal to his task because he was carrying out his share of work in God's divine Plan, doing what God wanted him to do.

During all these years of separation from his family, Joseph must often have wondered about them. Now especially, with the famine everywhere, he very likely thought of their probable hunger. Next Sunday we shall find out what Joseph did to help them.

GRADE III — SECOND SUNDAY

KEYWORDS: Dominion, Loyalty.

This month our Star Angel the Sun is telling us to be kind, loving, brave, and strong.

Who can tell us what our government does? (Discussion, getting children to express particularly the regulatory functions of government.)

Just as groups of people living together need a government to make laws for them and see that the laws are carried out, so, too does each person need a government within himself to rule his thoughts, feelings, and actions. We have all tried in one way or another to govern ourselves, but probably we haven't thought much about the fact that that's what we were really doing. We all know, for instance, that it isn't good to get angry, and we have all probably had times when we thought we had a very good reason to be angry with someone, but kept our anger back. When we did that, we were governing ourselves. At other times, though, we have

gotten angry even though we knew we shouldn't, and when we did that, we weren't governing ourselves very well. We had made the law for ourselves, but then we went on and broke it.

There are many other things about which we might make laws for ourselves: about doing our chores cheerfully and without being reminded, or about finishing our school-work each day, or about being kind to new children in our neighborhood, or about sharing our belongings, or about trying to help people who need help. Who can think of some others? (Discussion.)

This week, suppose each of you draws up a list of laws for yourself — laws that you think might be most important for you — and next Sunday we will talk about them, and see how well you were able to keep the laws you made.

There is something else to remember about these governments you are setting up for yourselves, and that is the need for loyalty. When we are asked to be loyal to our government, it means that we are asked to support it, and help it, and obey its laws. In the same way, we must be loyal to our ideals and the laws we set up for ourselves.

Suppose we decide to make a law for ourselves that says, "I will try to be more helpful to other people." This is certainly a worthwhile ideal, and if an ideal is worth setting up at all, it is worth being loyal to. In other words, if we once set up an ideal for ourselves, we should do our best to follow it *always*, and not say, "Oh, well, I'll be helpful tomorrow. Today I want to go to the park and play."

The Bible tells us how Christ Jesus went about teaching the people and healing the sick. His two great ideals were to love and to serve all the people; and love and service are the two ideals which both God and Christ want us to follow, too, and make the most important part of our lives. Christ Jesus was always true to His ideals, and we must be also.

Remember, then, this week we are going to work on setting up laws for ourselves, and on being loyal to them, and next Sunday we will see what we have accomplished.