

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON 1. July 4, 1915.

Abalom's Failure—2 Samuel 18; 1-15.
COMMENTARY.—1. David's tenderness toward Abalom (vs. 1-5). 1. David numbered—He mustered and reviewed his troops. We are not told how many he had in his army. Josephus places the number at four thousand. 2. A third part—David divided his men into three companies that he might succeed in dividing the force of the enemy. Joab—He was the ablest general of his time and a man upon whom David relied in his campaign. David was himself a warrior, and even if his army was smaller than Abalom's, he had great military leaders, and trained soldiers. I will surely go forth with you—He purposed to take the chief command in the engagement. 3. Thou shalt not go forth—So much depending on the life of the king, he was not allowed to take the field in person.—J. F. & B. If the king should be slain, Abalom's end would be accomplished. That thou succeed us—R. V. of David should remain in the city. Mahanaim, he would be able to send reinforcements wherever they might be needed. 4. What seemeth you best I will do—The king was inclined to yield to the wishes and judgment of his people. 5. Deal gently for my sake with—Abalom—It was David's deep affection for the beautiful youth, which, notwithstanding all his errors, still yearned for him. The tenderness of the father exceeded the justice of the king.—Whedon. David was the father of this worthless young man, and is it to be wondered at that he feels as a father? Who, in these circumstances, that had such feelings as every man should have would have felt or acted otherwise?—Clarke. Some think that David desired that Abalom should be spared to repent of his wicked deeds. All the people heard.—The entire army knew the king's feelings toward his rebellious son and knew that he wished no harm to come to him.

6. The battle in the forest (vs. 6-8). 6. The people—The supporters of David. Against Israel—The followers of Abalom. It was in reality one faction of Israel against another. Here is an indication of the line of cleavage between Israel and Judah. The wood of Ephraim—The exact location of this forest is not known, but it was probably not far from the Mahanaim toward the Jordan. 7. The people of Israel were slain—Since twenty thousand of Abalom's men fell in the battle, we conclude that he must have had an immense army in comparison with that of David. Evidently the Lord undertook for the king and gave him a decided victory over the rebellious army. 8. The battle was there scattered—The surface of the country was such that the army could not well keep together and David's men were separated into three divisions. The wood devoured more people than the sword—The explanation generally given is that they perished in the pits and precipices and morasses of the forest; but this seems unlikely. More probably it means that, owing to the nature of the ground more were slain in the pursuit through the forest, than in the actual battle.

9. Abalom met the servants of David—Abalom in flight found himself among his enemies and hastened to escape from them. He caught hold of the oak—As he ran among the low spreading trees of the forest, his head caught in the fork of a branch and his mule passing on, left him there suspended. Many suppose that, since his hair was exceedingly heavy (ch. 14, 26), it was caught in the branches. 10. A certain man—Joab—The man would not disobey the king's order by killing Abalom, and therefore took the news directly to Joab. Hanged in an oak—Abalom's condition was a desperate one. His army was defeated and badly demoralized, and he was struggling to free himself from the boughs by which, without human agency, he was held fast. 11. Ten shekels of silver—The shekel was about a half ounce in weight, and its value varied. The ten shekels would be equi-

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valent to two or three dollars. A girl—This was worn to hold the loose clothing about the waist, and was often of expensive workmanship. 12. Against the king's son—The man was loyal to David. 13. Against mine own life—it was not simply respect for the king that kept him from touching Abalom, for by doing so he would have incurred the king's displeasure and would probably have lost his life. Joab might have taken a position with the king against him. 14. Thus it came through the heart of Abalom—Joab acted contrary to the king's express orders, but he was shrewd enough to see that David would not be secure in his kingdom while Abalom was alive, therefore he took the responsibility of taking his life. 15. Ten young men—These armor-bearers accompanied Joab wherever he went. Slew him—If Joab's dart pierced Abalom's heart, he was dead already, and the young men inflicted wounds upon his lifeless body.

Questions.—Who was Abalom? What course did he take to obtain the kingdom? How and where was he proclaimed king? What course did David take while Abalom marched toward Jerusalem? How did Abalom's army compare in size with that of David? What directions did David give his army regarding Abalom? Describe the battle and the results.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Rebellion by intrigue.

I. Openly declared, justly punished.

II. Heroically met and vanquished.

I. Openly declared, justly punished.

This lesson is a narrative of that fatal contest where Abalom fought against his father David for the throne of Israel. It relates one of the saddest tragedies in human history. Abalom, knowing his father's love for him, and his last purpose was to deprive his father of his throne, his happiness and even his life, if necessary to obtain that purpose. David had no greater enemy in Israel. Abalom had ceased to be a son in the essential sense of the word. His endeavors to live without his father's fellowship and blessing seemed most successful. Lost love was succeeded by antagonism. Wise and astute men encouraged and helped him. Forces were placed at his disposal. The aim of his ambition seemed to be within reach when he found his forces scattered by an opposing force, the strength of which he did not expect to meet. Abalom learned emphatically that that the authority despised had to be dealt with. After a long course of persistent wickedness Abalom met his doom. He met David's soldiers. Although they spared him and gave him opportunity to escape, according to David's request, divine vengeance would not spare him. The instruments of his death were least thought of in battle. His inanimate tree and his trusted animal, together formed the mode of his execution. None of his companions in crime remained with him to release him from his torture, but left him to his fate, suspended between heaven and earth, a sad spectacle indeed. David, having no personal revenge against his own son, and knowing the character of Joab, he urged upon him as a strong restraint, consideration for himself as king and father. The legal question as to what would have to be done with a captured rebel had not been brought before the king's decision. To the soldier, who brought the report of Abalom's distress, the question of prudence was not considered. Obedience to the royal authority was his prime duty, government rule of his conduct. No persuasion of a general could turn him from his

principle. He was amazed that any one should think of deviating from a command as plain. His spirit was politically and morally sound and pure. Joab swept aside all such forceful pressure because his conduct was governed by the consideration of a policy of expediency. He was a man of deeds when matters were urgent. II. Heroically met and vanquished. David was challenged to vindicate his own throne. He was obliged to meet the insubordination and the revolt of his own son. He was obliged to care for the kingdom over which he had been appointed by God. The validity of his appointing was still unrevoked by him who ordained it. Duty to himself, his kingdom and his God compelled him to prevent the usurpation attempt. The recollection of such duty aroused courage and resolution. The battle had to be fought out in his own nature before it was transferred to the open field. David suppressed the pain of making war against his own son because it was right to do so, but that did not imply the uprooting from his heart of tenderness, compassion and yearning sorrow, even for a prodigal son. The emotions of his father heart were kept under by the prompt and energetic application of all his powers of mind and body in the performance of his duty. The calm and sober way in which he began to marshal his forces showed that help had come from God to subordinate the anguish of his heart to the sense of duty. He did not waver in his kindly design to subdue rebellion, nor did he show a wicked leniency toward an evil life in his son. He could not but see, in the rebellion, the chastening hand of God, before which it became him in his lifelong penitence, mingled with sincere trust, to bow. David's men offered themselves willingly to his services and readily risked their lives for his sake. They set an unestimable value on his life in comparison to their own. Patriotism and piety required utmost care for his preservation. A general and intense feeling of resentment was naturally felt against Abalom by all except his father, whom he had chiefly wronged. T. R. A.

FARM GARDEN

BEST TIME TO PRUNE.

"After three score years of experience in orchard culture," said a fruit grower, "allow me to say something about the proper time for pruning. There is but one proper time, the month of June, when the new bark forms on the wood."

When we went on to say that more orchards are ruined by being pruned at improper times than from all other causes. If pruned in autumn or winter the bark will dry around the stump and heal there, but never over the end; this exposed stump will rot out in a few years, leaving a ragged hole where the water can enter, and the decay of the centre of the whole tree begins, shortening its life many years. If pruned in the spring, the wound bleeds, the sap often running down and killing the bark below, making a black unsightly wound, which never heals over, and the whole tree is subject to decay.

If pruned in June when the new bark and wood are forming, the wound begins to heal at once, and no matter what the size of the branch cut may be, the wound will heal before decay begins if the tree is vigorous and in good condition.

Care should be taken to cut close to the trunk or larger branch, so that the wound may heal over the end for if cut two or three inches from the trunk or main branch, nature forgets to carry the necessary material to heal over the wound, and again the water enters and decay occurs.

When from an accident the effect of snow or ice, a large branch is broken, cut temporarily leaving a foot or more to be cut again close to the trunk in the month of June.

The reason farmers generally prune in early spring is that they then have time and little else to do and are anxious to be at work, and thus have some excuse; but if they could realize the damage they are doing to their own property, they might perhaps refrain and put their labor to better account at the proper season.

The New York Agricultural Exper-

Choice Fruit Deserves Redpath

EXTRA GRANULATED SUGAR

to preserve its luscious flavor for the winter days to come. For over half a century Redpath has been the favorite sugar in Canada for preserving and jelly-making—and with good reason. Because it is absolutely pure and always the same, you can use it according to your recipes, year after year, with full confidence in the results.

Fruit put up right, with Redpath Extra Granulated Sugar, will keep as long as you wish, and when opened a month or a year hence will delight you with its freshness and flavor. "Let Redpath sweeten it."

Get your supply of sugar in Original REDPATH Packages, and thus be sure of the genuine—Canada's favorite sugar, at its best.

Put up in 2 and 5 lb. Sealed Cartons and in 10, 20, 50 and 100 lb. Bags. 140

CANADA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED, MONTREAL.

CHERRY JELLY

From a recipe of Charles Froese, author of "Cherry Cook in Queen Victoria." Published in 1865.

Cherry Jelly is a beautiful and a healthy food for children. It is made by placing in a mortar 1 lb. of cherries, 1 lb. of Redpath's extra granulated sugar, 1 pint of water, 1/2 pint of lemon juice, and 1/2 pint of spring-water; boil for 15 minutes, stirring constantly, and then strain through a fine sieve. Mix with two ounces of clarified isinglass, and pour into jars or mould.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKET.

FARMERS' MARKET.
 Eggs, new-laid, dozen 28 00
 Butter, choice dairy 25 00
 Spring chickens, dressed 14 00
 Chickens, yearlings, dressed, lb. 20 00
 Ducks, spring, lb. 20 00
 Potatoes, new, bbl. 25 00
 Onions, Bermuda, case 15 00
 Strawberries, box 25 00
 Rhubarb, dozen 15 00

MEATS—WHOLESALE.
 Beef, forequarters, cwt. \$10 00
 Do., choice sides 12 00
 Do., common, cwt. 9 00
 Do., prime, cwt. 12 00
 Sheep, heavy, cwt. 12 00
 Spring lambs 10 00
 Mutton, light 10 00

SUGAR MARKET.
 Sugars are quoted as follows:—
 Extra granulated Redpath's per cwt.
 Do., 20-lb. bags 4 00
 Do., 5-lb. tins 4 00
 Do., 20-lb. bags 4 00
 Lard, refined 11 00
 Do., 50-lb. cartons 7 00
 Do., 10-lb. tins 4 00
 Do., 5-lb. tins 4 00
 Do., brilliant white 4 00
 St. Lawrence, No. 1 yellow 6 00
 Dominion crystals, 10 lbs. 6 00

LIVE STOCK.
 Receipts—22 cattle; 125 calves; 200 hogs; 200 sheep; 200 pigs.
 Do., medium, choice 8 00
 Do., common 7 00
 Butcher cows, choice 7 00
 Do., medium 6 00
 Do., canners 5 00
 Do., bulls 4 00
 Feeding steers 4 00
 Stockers, choice 7 00
 Do., light 6 00
 Milk cows, choice, each 50 00
 Springers 40 00
 Sheep, ewes 6 00
 Bucks and culs 4 00
 Lambs 11 00
 Hogs, fed and watered 9 00
 Hogs, fresh 8 00
 Calves 8 00

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS.
 Wheat—Open, High, Low, Close.
 July 1.25 1.34 1.25 1.27 1/2
 Dec 1.02 1.03 1.01 1.01 1/2
 Oct 1.02 1.03 1.01 1.01 1/2
 Jan 0.94 0.94 0.94 0.94
 Feb 1.25 1.25 1.25 1.25
 Mar 1.57 1.57 1.57 1.57

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.
 No. 1 Northern, \$1.22; No. 2 Northern, \$1.19; No. 3 Northern, \$1.16; No. 4 Northern, \$1.13; No. 5 Northern, \$1.10; No. 6 Northern, \$1.07; No. 7 Northern, \$1.04; No. 8 Northern, \$1.01; No. 9 Northern, \$0.98; No. 10 Northern, \$0.95.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.
 Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.24; No. 2 hard, \$1.21; No. 3 hard, \$1.18; No. 4 hard, \$1.15; No. 5 hard, \$1.12; No. 6 hard, \$1.09; No. 7 hard, \$1.06; No. 8 hard, \$1.03; No. 9 hard, \$1.00; No. 10 hard, \$0.97.

LONDON SKIN SALES.
 London—At the sheepskin sales to-day 9,000 bales were offered. The attendance was good and the offering well received. The market was especially full of wool from the Argentine and crossed, which sold five per cent. higher. Short shorn skins were heavily traded. The home trade purchased the bulk of the offerings. France and Russia purchased a few.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.
 Cattle receipts, 4,000.
 Texas steers, native 6 50 to 9 70
 Western steers 7 00 to 8 25
 Hogs and henders 3 25 to 9 40
 Calves 7 00 to 10 00
 Hogs receipts, 20,000.
 Light 7 00 to 7 75
 Mixed 7 00 to 7 75
 Heavy 7 00 to 7 75
 Pigs 7 00 to 7 75
 Bulk of sales, 10,000.
 Sheep receipts, 10,000.
 Native 5 50 to 8 40
 Foreign 6 25 to 9 25
 Springs 7 00 to 9 10

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.
 East Buffalo, Despatch—Cattle receipts fifty head, steady.
 Veals, receipts 10 head; active; \$1.50 to \$1.75.
 Hogs, receipts 400 head; active; heavy 5.00 to 5.50; mixed 4.50 to 5.00; light 4.00 to 4.50; receipts 400 head; active; lambs 7.00 to 8.00; 400 head; active; wethers 3.50 to 4.50; 400 head; active; sheep, mixed, 3.75 to 4.00.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.
 No. 1 narc, winter—10s, 10d.
 No. 1 Northern—10s, 10d.
 Wheat, spot—Steadier.
 No. 2 Manitoba—11s, 3d.
 No. 2 Manitoba—11s, 1d.
 No. 3 Manitoba—10s, 9 1/2d.
 Cons. spot—Quiet.
 American mixed, new—7s, 11 1/2d.
 Flour, winter patents—12s.
 Hops in London (Pacific Coast)—13, 10s to 14, 10s.
 Beef, extra India mess—10s.
 Pork, prime mess, western—10s.
 Bacon, short cut, 14 to 15 lbs.—4s, 6d.
 Bacon, Cumberland cut, 25 to 30 lbs.—7s, 6d.
 Short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs.—Nominal.
 Long clear middles, light, 25 to 34 lbs.—7s, 6d.
 Long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs.—7s, 6d.
 Short clear backs, 15 to 20 lbs.—6s, 6d.
 Shoulders, square, 14 to 15 lbs.—4s, 6d.
 Lard, prime western, in tierces, new—6s, 6d.
 Lard, prime western, in tierces, old—6s, 6d.
 American, refined, boxes—5s, 6d.
 Tallow, prime city—3s, 6d.
 Australian in London—11s, 6d.
 Turpentine, spirits—3s.
 Rosin, common—11s.
 Petroleum, refined—9d.
 Linned Oil—11s, 6d.
 Cotton Seed Oil, full refined, spot—11s, 6d.

St. Lawrence Sugar

SUCCESSFUL CANNING AT HOME

Requires Fruit perfect in shape and quality and a clear well made Syrup.

The Syrup must be made with pure good sugar, as organic matter in sugar acts like over-ripe fruit and causes fermentation. To avoid such disappointment and loss, it's worth while insisting on being supplied by your dealer with the old reliable more than 99.99 per cent pure St. Lawrence Standard Granulated Sugar.

Made exclusively from pure cane sugar in a perfectly equipped and right up-to-date refinery ST. LAWRENCE EXTRA GRANULATED SUGAR HAS THE REPUTATION WITH HOME JAR AND PRESERVE MAKERS OF BEING LIGHT, AND it is even, steady excellence and purity are the secrets of its success.

To avoid mistakes buy St. Lawrence Extra Granulated in Refinery sealed packages, 2 lb. and 5 lb. cartons, 10, 20, 25 and 100 lb. bags, which assures absolute cleanliness and correct weight. Take your choice of the three sizes of grain: fine, medium and coarse. Any good dealer can fill your order.

ST. LAWRENCE SUGAR REFINERS, LIMITED, MONTREAL.

Wool has been bought up by the competition of dealers until it has reached a point where some of the Canadian wools are not taken; it is on this account that they can purchase New Zealand and Australian wools (much of which is being reported) laid down at their mill at a lower price on a secured basis than they can purchase Canadian wools, while the present prices on Canadian wool is too high for the United States market, as they can lay down the Australian wool at their mill 75 per cent. cheaper than the Canadian manufacturer, which is much cheaper, figured on a secured basis, than Canadian wool.

The growers generally are marketing their clip, taking advantage of the extreme high prices now being paid. Washed combing fleeces (course), 34 to 37c. Washed combing fleeces (medium), 28 to 37c. Washed clothing fleeces (fine), 27 to 35c. Tub-washed, as to quality (fine), 35 to 38c. Washed selections (burry, cross-bred, chiefly, etc.), 27 to 29c. Unwashed fleeces combing (course), 25 to 26c. Unwashed fleeces combing (medium), 26 to 27c. Unwashed fleeces clothing, (fine), 27 to 28c.

Beef hides—City butcher hides, green, flat, 14c per lb. Country hides, flat, cured, 16 to 17c per lb. Part cured, 15 to 16c per lb.

Calfskin—City skins, green, flat, 14c per lb. Country, cured, 16 1/2 to 17 1/2c per lb. Part cured, 15 1/2 to 16 1/2c per lb. according to condition and take off. Deacons or bob calf, 75c to \$1.00 each.

Horn hides—City take off \$4.00 to \$5.00.

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