

*Simply Charlotte Mason presents*

# *Life* in the WORD

by Sonya Shafer

SAMPLE

*Learn to study the Bible accurately and effectively!*

*Grades 7–12*

# *Yes, you can study the Bible for yourself!*

As you complete the studies in this book, you will develop the essential Bible study skills you need to understand God's Word.

Using the step-by-step guidelines given in these studies, you will be able to

- become familiar with any book of the Bible,
- discover what the words in the Bible mean and what God has to say about them,
- glean all that the Bible says about your selected topic,
- collect and organize doctrinal truths that will keep you grounded in your faith,
- make Biblical accounts come alive in your mind,
- get to know Bible characters as real people,
- combine several study methods to dig deeper into a Bible passage,
- handle God's Word accurately and effectively.

*Life in the Word* teaches you how to study the Bible accurately and effectively—for life!

The studies in this book are from

James	1 Thessalonians	1 Corinthians
Galatians	2 Thessalonians	2 Corinthians

*Simply*  
**Charlotte Mason**  
.com

# Life in the Word

Learn to Study the Bible  
Accurately and Effectively

for Grades 7–12

by  
Sonya Shafer

Life in the Word

© 2017 by Sonya Shafer

All rights reserved. However, we grant permission to make printed copies or use this work on multiple electronic devices for members of your immediate household. Quantity discounts are available for classroom and co-op use. Please contact us for details.

Cover Design: John Shafer and Sarah Shafer

ISBN 978-1-61634-088-9 printed

ISBN 978-1-61634-087-2 electronic download

Published by

Simply Charlotte Mason, LLC

930 New Hope Road #11-892

Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045

[simplycharlottesmason.com](http://simplycharlottesmason.com)

Printed by PrintLogic, Inc.

Monroe, Georgia, USA

# Contents

How to Use this Bible Study.....	5
Chapter 1: Book Study of James .....	7
Chapter 2: Word Study on ‘Faith’ .....	15
Chapter 3: Topical Study on Freedom .....	21
Chapter 4: Doctrine Study .....	27
Chapter 5: Narrative Study of Acts 17 .....	33
Chapter 6: Book Study of 2 Thessalonians.....	41
Chapter 7: Character Study on Paul .....	47
Chapter 8: Narrative Study of Acts 18 .....	63
Chapter 9: Topical Study on Weakness .....	71
Chapter 10: Inductive Study of 2 Corinthians 4 .....	77
Chapter 11: Character Study on Titus .....	97
Basic Principles of Bible Study.....	103



# How to Use this Bible Study

## Resources Needed

- Bible  
You choose which version you want to use.
- Bible Reference Tools (Get one, two, or all three.)
  - Study Bible—A study Bible contains outlines, background information, and notes intermingled along with the text of each book of the Bible.
  - Bible Commentary—A commentary records another Bible student's comments on a particular book of the Bible or all the books of the Bible. Ask your parents and pastor to recommend a good one.
  - Bible Handbook—A handbook is a collection of background information and notes, somewhat similar to those found in a study Bible, but without the Bible text included.
- *Strong's Concordance*  
*Strong's Concordance* is available for many versions of the Bible. You can find it as a printed book, as software, or on Web sites like <http://blueletterbible.org> and <http://biblos.com>.

## How It Works

Each chapter in this book will walk you through a different type of Bible study. You will learn how to perform a

- Book Study—Become familiar with one book of the Bible.
- Word Study—Discover what a particular word means and what God says about it.
- Topical Study—Investigate what the Bible says about a certain topic.
- Doctrine Study—Collect and organize doctrinal truths throughout Scripture.
- Narrative Study—Make Biblical accounts come alive in your mind.
- Character Study—Get to know a Bible character as a real person.
- Inductive Study—Combine several study methods to dig deeper into a passage.

Just follow the simple step by step instructions in each chapter. Most study methods are repeated in another chapter to help you gain confidence in performing that type of study. Once you complete all of these studies, you can use the same step by step instructions to perform other studies on your own.

## Your Schedule

Each chapter is divided into shorter lessons. You should be able to complete one lesson in one sitting. Wait at least a day before tackling the next lesson. Sure, you could complete all the lessons in a chapter in one day, but you would miss the benefits of having time to meditate on what you are studying. Spreading out your study over several days or weeks gives you time to ponder, contemplate, and consider truth rather than rushing through the study just to get it done. So take your time.



# Chapter 1

## *Book Study of James*

Let's start out by doing a Book Study. In a Book Study you focus on one book of the Bible. You'll be completing these steps in your Book Study:

1. Read through the entire book, watching for its background and purpose.
2. Read through each chapter and summarize it.
3. State the book's main theme, outline the book, and summarize it as an acrostic.

### Lesson 1

For this Book Study, you'll be focusing on the book of James. Let's dive in.

Read through the entire book, watching for its background and purpose. An easy way to remember what you are looking for is to think of an e-mail. The four important pieces of information that are displayed when you receive an e-mail in your Inbox are

To:  
From:  
Date:  
Subject:

Those are the items you should watch for as you read through James this time. See how many of them you can find, and record them below along with the chapter and verse references where you found them.

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The writer doesn't usually come right out and say, "This is my subject." Watch for clues such as, "I wanted to write to you to . . ." or a topic that comes up often or takes up a lot of verses.*

Some of that background information isn't included in the book itself. Did you notice? Use your Bible reference tools to learn more about those four key items. The tools that would probably help the most would include

- A study Bible's introduction to James
- A commentary that includes James
- A Bible handbook's notes on James

Read what one or two or all three of those resources have to say, and add any extra information you find to your notes on page 7.

*Ask your pastor or parents to help you find good Bible reference tools and to recommend a good commentary.*

## Lesson 2

The next step in doing a Book Study is to read through each chapter and summarize it.

Read through James 1, paragraph by paragraph, and summarize each paragraph in one sentence. Ask yourself, "What is this paragraph about?" and write your answer in one sentence beside its reference below. The first two are done for you as an example.

*If you are using a Bible that gives titles for various sections in the chapters, you may not just copy those titles. Read the passages, think about the passages, and come up with your own titles.*

James 1:1 James wrote this letter to the twelve scattered tribes.

James 1:2-4 Welcome trials because they produce maturity.

James 1:5-8

James 1:9-11

James 1:12-15

James 1:16-18

*If the paragraphs are marked differently in your Bible, feel free to follow those divisions or use the ones given here.*

James 1:19–21

James 1:22–25

James 1:26, 27

Now do the same thing for James 2. Summarize each paragraph in one sentence.

James 2:1–7

James 2:8–13

James 2:14–17

James 2:18–23

James 2:24–26

## Lesson 3

Continue reading through each chapter of James and summarizing it.

Read James 3 and summarize each paragraph in one sentence.

James 3:1–5

---

---

---

James 3:6–12

---

---

---

James 3:13–18

---

---

---

Do the same for James 4.

James 4:1–10

---

---

---

James 4:11, 12

---

---

---

James 4:13–17

---

---

---

## Lesson 4

It's time to finish the chapter-by-chapter step of your Book Study.

Read James 5 and summarize each paragraph in one sentence.

James 5:1–6

---

---

---

James 5:7–11

---

James 5:12

---

---

James 5:13–18

---

James 5:19, 20

---

---

Now read through each chapter's summary sentences and come up with one sentence that summarizes the entire chapter. Record your chapter summaries below.

James 1

---

James 2

---

James 3

---

---

James 4

---

---

James 5

---

---

*The study done here shows you how to do an overview of a Bible book. If you want to study the Bible book more in-depth, you can do word studies, topical studies, and other inductive studies within that book. You'll learn more about those types of studies later.*