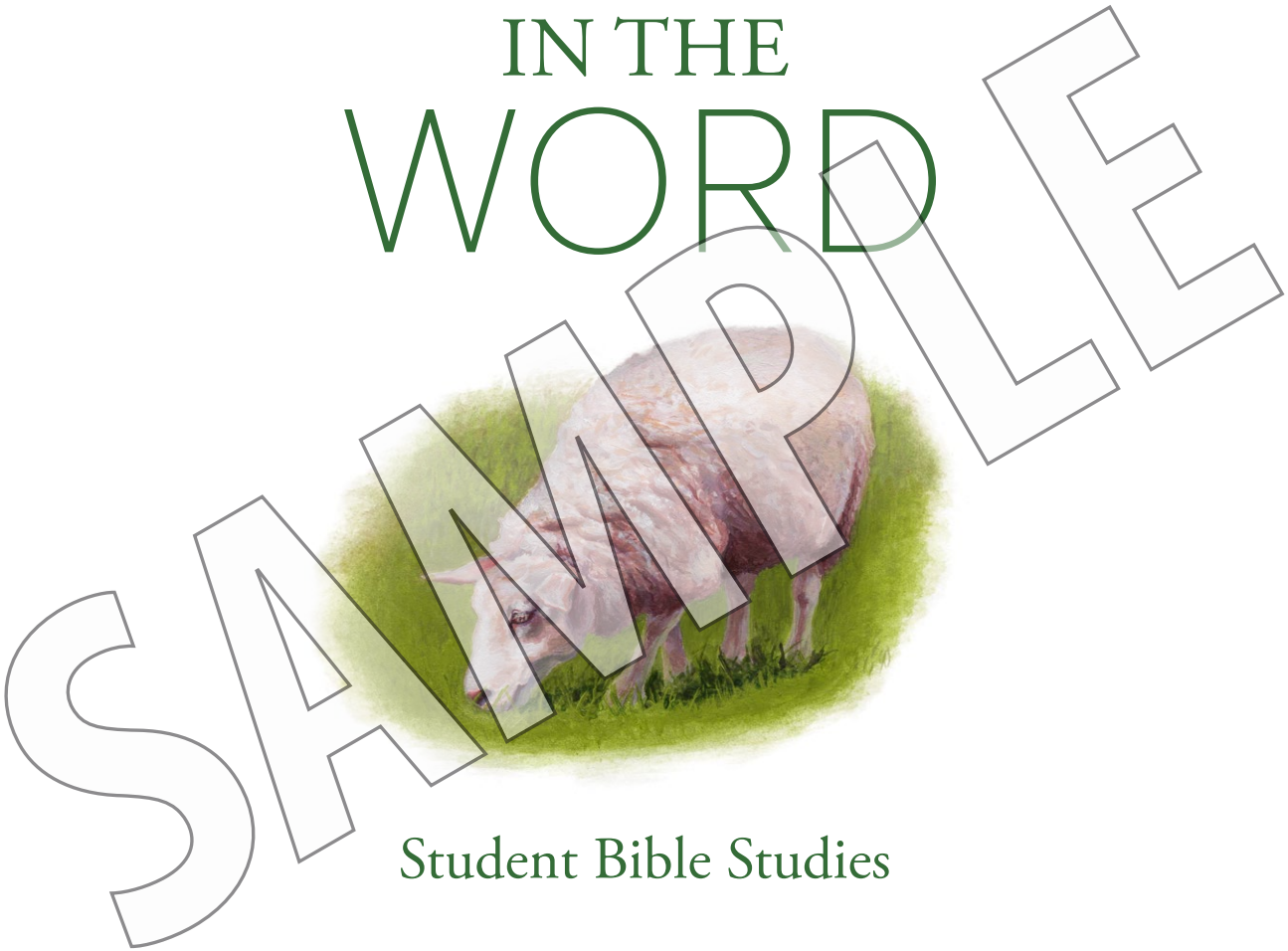


Simply Charlotte Mason presents

BOOK 1 • 3RD GRADE AND UP •
BEGINNER
LEVEL

IN THE WORD



Student Bible Studies

by Sonya Shafer

BOOK 1

PSALMS • PARABLES • NAMES OF GOD



Your student will grow in faith with these weekly 10-minute Bible study lessons. You and your student will work together and share wonderful discoveries as you

- learn important principles through four **Psalms**;
- apply lessons of timeless truth found in nine **Parables of Jesus**;
- deepen your understanding of God with an overview of **His Names**.

Bible Mastery Moments in each lesson build your student's familiarity with the Bible itself as they help your student become familiar with what the Bible is and the names of the books and their locations.

LEARN TO STUDY THE BIBLE

The In the Word series helps students gain strong Biblical literacy and develop personal Bible study skills. The lessons are designed to guide students step by step as they learn how to study the Bible for themselves. The series begins at a level appropriate for 3rd grade and up, with enough depth that adults new to the Bible can learn from and enjoy these studies. As the series progresses, more Bible study methods are learned and practiced, setting students up for lifelong personal Bible study.

Use as a stand-alone study or as a complement to the Bible history lessons in The Story of God and His People. Give your students a firm foundation of Bible study skills that will enrich their faith and deepen their confidence and understanding of Scripture.

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BEGINNER LEVEL
3RD GRADE AND UP

BOOK 1 • BOOK 2 • BOOK 3 • BOOK 4

MODERATE LEVEL
7TH GRADE AND UP

BOOK 5 • BOOK 6 • BOOK 7

ADVANCED LEVEL
10TH GRADE AND UP

BOOK 8 • BOOK 9 • BOOK 10

IN THE WORD

Student Bible Studies, Book 1
Psalms • Parables • Names of God

by Sonya Shafer

On the cover: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)
Cover illustration by Priscilla Baker



In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 1 is part of a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum. See where this course fits in the Simply CM curriculum at simplycm.com/curriculum.

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In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 1
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HOW TO USE

This gentle introduction to personal Bible study offers short, oral lessons

designed for the student and teacher to do together. Each lesson should take about 10 minutes. Complete one lesson per week to finish this book in a school year.

The lessons are built around reading from the Bible and discussing what the passage says and means. If your student is comfortable and fluent in reading, she may read the lessons and Bible passages aloud. Alternatively, the teacher may read it aloud or that task may be shared between the student and the teacher, each taking a turn reading a portion. As your student grows in reading fluency throughout the year, you can adjust your approach to fit. The main guiding principle to remember is that the ideas from the Bible should take precedence in these lessons; they are not reading lessons. Be careful that the effort of reading does not overshadow the ideas presented from God's Word.

In each lesson your student will be invited to narrate, or tell in her own words, what she has learned. The narrations in this study are oral, and some include opportunities to draw.

At the end of each lesson you will find a Bible Mastery Moment. These bite-sized ideas and activities are designed to help your student explore and get to know her Bible. The activities work best with a printed copy of the Bible, rather than a digital copy. Bible Mastery Moments will continue through the In the Word studies, Books 2–4, gradually helping your student to become thoroughly familiar with the Bible's structure and contents, to memorize the names of the books of the Bible in order, and to develop fluency in finding passages on her own.

Materials Needed

- Bible (printed is best)
- Pencil
- (optional) Colored pencils or crayons
- 12 small self-stick papers or small pieces of scratch paper

Psalms

WHAT SONGS DO YOU LIKE TO SING OR TO HEAR SOMEONE else sing? Do you know who wrote those songs? Someone had to write the words and the music for each one.

It's fun to hear the songs that people have written. Those songs tell us about the songwriters' lives: what they enjoyed, what made them sad, what was important to them, and the special times in their lives.

God's people have written songs for many, many years. One hundred fifty of those songs are included in your Bible, composed by different people who lived thousands of years ago. We don't know exactly how the music of each song sounded; we don't know the tunes, but we have the words. So let's take a look at some of those songs now.

LESSON 1

Psalm 23:1-3

The songs in the Bible do not have names; they are simply numbered. We will start with song #23. In your Bible, the songs are called *psalms*. Look closely at that word. Even though it starts with a *p*, we don't pronounce the *p*; we just say *sahms*.

1. Read Psalm 23:1-3, or listen carefully while your teacher reads it.
2. Tell what a *shepherd* is, if you know. What do you think his job would be?
3. When this psalm was originally written, it was not written in English as you see in your Bible. It was written in Hebrew. This is how the first verse of Psalm 23 looks in the Hebrew language:

מְזֶמֶר לְדָוִד ה' רֹעִי לֹא אֶחָסֵר

In the Hebrew language, "I shall not want" means "I shall not lack anything; I shall never be without; I shall have what I need." What do you think a sheep needs?

4. Look at verses 2 and 3 again, and tell what the Lord does for us, His sheep.
5. Why would the shepherd lead his sheep to green pastures and still waters? What would they find there? (Hint: Think about what a sheep eats.)
6. The way that a shepherd took care of his sheep was well known to the people around him. They could tell if his sheep were well cared for or poorly cared for. They could see whether he was leading his sheep in the right paths or in wrong ones. Notice where the Lord leads His sheep in verse 3. When we follow Him in those paths, we help keep His name respected by those around us. What do you think it looks like to follow the Lord in "paths of righteousness"?
7. A shepherd's job is to feed and lead his sheep. Draw a picture on the next page showing what you discovered about God in Psalm 23:1-3.



Bible Mastery Moment

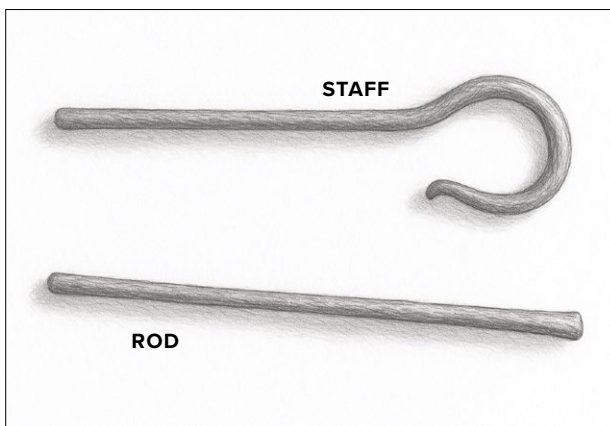
Look closely at the title of your Bible. It might be on the cover, on the spine, or on a title page that you will see the words "Holy Bible." Do you know what those words mean? *Bible* is from a Greek word that means "the books." And *holy* means "set apart" for a special purpose, or "sacred." Now put those ideas together and tell what *Holy Bible* means.

LESSON 2**Psalm 23:4**

What do you recall from Psalm 23:1–3 about a shepherd’s job and about the Lord?

1. Think of the animals you know. How do they defend themselves from predators, from other animals that want to eat them? Many animals have sharp claws and teeth that they can use to defend themselves. Others can run or fly fast in order to get away. Some animals blend into the background so predators can’t see them. A skunk sprays a nasty odor that makes others want to avoid it! But what defense does a sheep have? Read Psalm 23:4, or listen carefully while your teacher reads it, to discover the answer.
2. The shepherd is the sheep’s defense! The sheep has no other defense. It does not have sharp teeth or claws. It can’t run fast. It doesn’t blend into the background with that huge, fluffy fleece of wool on its back. A sheep depends on the shepherd to protect it. And that is the other job the shepherd has: to protect, as well as to lead and feed, his sheep. Look at verse 4 again to see what two things the shepherd uses to protect the sheep.
3. The person who wrote this psalm was a shepherd himself. This song was written by David. Listen as your teacher reads what David said about how he protected his sheep in 1 Samuel 17:34 and 35.

We often think about David with his sling, which he used to kill the giant Goliath. But a sling is designed to be used from far away. Notice how close David must have been to the predators of his sheep. He grabbed hold of the lion’s beard and struck him! With what? With the two tools that a shepherd has to protect his sheep. You can see them pictured below.



4. A *rod* is a club to use against the enemies. A *staff* has a hook to help retrieve a sheep that is wandering into danger. The shepherd can hold out the staff, hook the curved part of his staff around a sheep's neck, and bring it back to a place of safety. Why would those two tools be a comfort to the sheep?

5. Draw a picture on the next page showing what you discovered about God in Psalm 23:4.



Bible Mastery Moment

Tell what one of your favorite books is. Do you know who the author is of that book? The Holy Bible has an Author too; that Author is God. Second Timothy 3:16 tells us that all Scripture in our Bible is inspired, or “breathed out,” by God.

LESSON 3

Psalm 23:5–6

Tell what you remember from Psalm 23:1–4 about a shepherd’s job and about the Lord.

1. Read or listen carefully as your teacher reads Psalm 23:5. The enemies cannot interfere with the shepherd’s provision for his sheep. Look at how the songwriter described that provision. If you ask for a glass of lemonade, how would you feel if you received only a few drops in the bottom of your cup? What if your cup was half full? How would you feel if it was full to the brim? Here the song writer is saying that the Lord provides even better than that! He not only fills our cup; He gives us so much that our cup can’t hold it all. What does that tell you about the Lord?
2. Now read or listen as your teacher reads Psalm 23:6, and notice what will follow God’s sheep, or be close to His sheep. Remember that the psalms were originally written in the Hebrew language. In that language, *goodness* means “good things” or “pleasant things” and *mercy* means “eager kindness.” How does a shepherd give his sheep good and pleasant things? How is he kind to them? What’s the difference between someone being kind because he *has* to be and someone being kind because he’s *eager* to be? Which one describes God?
3. A sheep’s lot in life depends a lot on the shepherd who is taking care of it. What would life be like for a sheep if its shepherd did not lead it to green pastures and still waters or protect it from predators? What if that shepherd gave his sheep unpleasant things and was unkind to them?
4. But God is not like that! Read through Psalm 23 again and think about the relationship between this shepherd and his sheep. How would you describe their relationship? How do they feel about each other? How does that show?
5. Draw a picture on the next page of the Shepherd described in Psalm 23 and His sheep, picturing their relationship with each other.



Bible Mastery Moment

Before you close your Bible, put your finger in the book of Psalms. Now gently close your Bible and see where your finger is inserted among the pages. Where would you say the book of Psalms is located: in the front of your Bible? in the back? in the middle? Now carefully pull your finger out of your Bible, then see if you can open it to the book of Psalms.

