

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

7TH GRADE AND UP • BOOK 5 •
MODERATE
LEVEL
BOOK 5 • 7TH GRADE AND UP •

IN THE WORD



Student Bible Studies

by Sonya Shafer

BOOK 5

JAMES • GALATIANS • 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS



Your student will grow in faith and understanding of Scripture and learn several Bible study methods with these weekly 20-minute lessons. Throughout these lessons, your student will

- learn to do a book study and pray through Scripture with **James**;
- complete a character study of the **Apostle Paul**;
- dig into a word study and a topical study in **Galatians**;
- find out about **Thessalonica** through a narrative study;
- do a personal study of **1 Thessalonians** and a book study of **2 Thessalonians**.

Throughout these studies, your student will also be prompted to record his findings about ten major doctrines in a long-term project of creating his own personal doctrinal summary as he encounters truths in Scripture.

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 5
James • Galatians • 1 & 2 Thessalonians

by Sonya Shafer

On the cover: “For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain”
(1 Thessalonians 2:1)
Cover illustration by Priscilla Baker



In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 5 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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HOW TO USE

Complete one lesson per week to finish this book in a school year. Each lesson should take about 20 minutes. Throughout the year you will be learning how to do several types of Bible studies. Once you know how to do them, you will be able to use the same methods anytime with any Bible passage you want to study on your own.

In these lessons, you will be learning the methods for a

- Book study
- Praying through Scripture study
- Character study
- Word study
- Topical study
- Doctrine study
- Narrative study
- Personal study

Three lessons are set aside as times to meet with your teacher and review your studies. Those are great opportunities to discuss any questions you might have. As you are doing each lesson, jot down in the margins any questions that come to mind. You might discover the answers in later lessons, or you can ask your teacher during your scheduled times together. Of course, you can also ask your teacher questions anytime as you dig into the Word for yourself.

Materials Needed

- Bible, in the translation of your choice
- *My Book of Centuries*
- *Strong's Concordance*, in print or online
- Commentary or study Bible of your choice (in lessons 1, 21, 26, 32)



Follow this link to learn more about *My Book of Centuries*, a personal timeline resource, at simplycm.com/boc.

Helpful Online Bible Study Tools

Make sure you have parental permission before going online.

- Blue Letter Bible (at blueletterbible.org) provides a free searchable online Bible in many translations along with several study tools, including *Strong's Concordance* and *Vine's Expository Dictionary*. Both are helpful resources to use when researching definitions of words in the original Hebrew and Greek.
- Bible Gateway (at biblegateway.com) offers a free searchable online Bible in many translations.

CHOOSING A

A commentary is exactly as its name suggests: a collection of comments on Scripture. People who have spent a lot of time in the Word—who are more familiar with Greek, Hebrew, archaeology, and things like that—have arranged their notes and published them for others' benefit.

As a Bible student, the best way for you to profit from a commentary is to first conduct your own study on a passage, then go back and read the comments on those same verses in order to confirm or clarify your findings and potentially discover extra material that expands on what you learned for yourself.

Because so many commentaries are available, it can be helpful to think through three questions to determine which one will best fit your study:

1 **How in-depth do I want the comments to be?**

Commentaries fall into basically three categories:

Technical: This type of commentary is written for in-depth exegetical study. The author often assumes the reader knows Greek and Hebrew.

Pastoral: This type of commentary is often used for sermon preparation. It offers a good balance between technical and devotional.

Devotional: This type of commentary is written for personal study with more of an emphasis on practical application.

COMMENTARY

2 How many comments do I want to read through?

Commentaries are available in several formats, some longer and more extensive than others.

Book by Book: This kind of commentary focuses on only one book of the Bible at a time; Joshua, for example, or Romans. If you want to dig deeply into one particular book, get a book-specific commentary. As you can imagine, you will find a lot of notes to read through for every passage with this size of commentary.

Commentary Sets: Sometimes authors and publishers take their individual book-by-book commentaries and condense them into smaller sets.

Usually part of that condensing includes shortening the comments in order to make them fit, so you may not find as many notes to read through for each passage as with the book-by-book commentary.

One Volume: Some authors publish one book that contains all of their comments on the whole Bible, or on the New Testament or the Old Testament. If you compare the

size of a single-volume commentary that covers the whole Bible with a commentary set that covers the whole Bible, you will see how condensed the comments are in the single volume. A commentary in one volume will not go nearly as in-depth as a set of commentaries or a book-by-book commentary. You can assume that not every verse will be commented on.

Study Bible: A study Bible displays the comments alongside the Scripture they pertain to. Of course, a study Bible can contain only a portion of the amount of comments that a complete commentary volume or set can hold. If the idea of reading comments on each verse of a Bible chapter seems overwhelming, a study Bible might be a good choice. In addition, many study Bibles, such as the ESV Study Bible, also contain helpful maps, charts, illustrations, timelines, and topical articles. Some study Bibles are also offered in a student version.

3 Which theological approach do I want to inform the comments?

Ask your pastor for a recommendation or a short list of favorite commentators.

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLE STUDY

The *In the Word* series promotes these basic principles of Bible study:

1 Practice “exegesis.”

Seek to draw out what the Scripture passage actually says. Don’t come with a predetermined idea already in your head and try to make the passage fit your idea.

2 Take Scripture at face value.

Don’t try to read into Scripture some mysterious message. Ask yourself three key questions: What does it say? What does it mean? How does it apply to me?

3 Keep verses in context.

Read the verses before and after your selected passage to determine the context of who was speaking, to whom, and in what situation. You wouldn’t like to be misquoted because someone pulled your words out of context; give God’s Word the same respect.

4 Understand the original language.

Remember that you are dealing with words that were originally written in a different language. Look up words’ definitions in their original languages in order to gain a full and accurate picture of their meanings. Use *Strong’s Concordance* or another Bible study tool to help you.

5 Go from whole to parts to whole.

Read a passage for the main idea, then dig into its parts, then put it all back together again.

6 Study to obey.

God’s Word is powerful, even more so if you allow it to change your life. You must determine to apply what you learn. Watch for lessons and principles that challenge you to change your thinking or behavior, then purpose to obey God’s Word.

James

THINK HOW IT WOULD FEEL TO HAVE JESUS AS YOUR OLDER

brother. What would it be like to sit with Him at the table at every meal? What would He laugh at? What would you talk about in those quiet moments before you drifted off to sleep? It's true you would have an older brother Who was always kind to you, but you would also have an older brother Who never did anything wrong, and you would have that standard before you your whole life.

James was one of the brothers of Jesus (Mark 6:3)—a half-brother really, for his father was Joseph and Jesus' Father was the Holy Spirit. But they grew up together, and James watched as, after more than 20 years at home, Jesus began to travel and preach and teach. James found it difficult to believe that his older brother was God. Yes, He was a good person, but claiming to be God was another matter!

Then Jesus was crucified, and that was the end of the story as far as James was concerned. But just a few days later, suddenly Jesus appeared to him (can you imagine what that conversation was like?), and James realized that His older brother was in fact God, the Savior of the world (1 Corinthians 15:7). From that moment on, James dedicated his life to spreading the good news and supporting the other believers (Acts 21:18). He became a leader in the church in Jerusalem and was called "James the Just,"—which reminds us of his father Joseph, who was also known as being "just" (Matthew 1:19).

One of the ways James supported the believers was by writing a letter to encourage them. Most of the believers James knew were Jews, as he was. And many of them were being persecuted by other Jews who didn't believe in Jesus as their Messiah, plus they were being persecuted by Rome because they were Jews. They were being driven out of their homes, forced to leave their land and most of their possessions behind. And in their troubles, they had begun to turn against each other and wonder about their faith in Christ. James picked up his pen and wrote the letter you are about to study.

LESSON 1

Book Study of James, part 1

Let's start out by doing a book study. In a book study you focus on one book of the Bible. For this book study, you'll be focusing on the book of James. Over the next few lessons, you'll be completing these steps:

- 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.

Let's dive in. First, read through the entire book of James, 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 study Bible or commentary's notes to learn more about those four key items. Add any extra information you find to your answers above.

Make an entry in *My Book of Centuries* for this letter, using the date you found in your research.

LESSON 2

Book Study of James, part 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 below its reference listed. The first two are done for you.

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

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

JAMES 1:1 James wrote this letter to the 12 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

JAMES 1:19–21

JAMES 1:22–25

JAMES 1:26, 27

LESSON 3

Book Study of James, part 3

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
