

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

7TH GRADE AND UP • BOOK 6 •
MODERATE
LEVEL
BOOK 6 • 7TH GRADE AND UP

IN THE WORD



Student Bible Studies

by Sonya Shafer

BOOK 6

PHILIPPIANS • COLOSSIANS • PHILEMON • EPHESIANS • 1, 2 PETER



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

- find out about **Philippi** and **Philemon** through narrative studies;
- do a word study and make personal life applications from **Philippians**;
- dig deeper with a doctrine study of **Colossians**;
- look for promises, commands, sins to avoid, and principles to live out in **Ephesians** with a GOAL study;
- get to know the **Apostle Peter** with a character study;
- understand the main theme of **1 Peter** with a book study;
- complete a personal study of **2 Peter**.

Throughout these studies, your student will also be prompted to record her findings about 10 major doctrines in a long-term project of creating her own personal doctrinal summary as she 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 6

Philippians • Colossians • Philemon • Ephesians • 1, 2 Peter

by Sonya Shafer

On the cover: “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.” (Ephesians 4:1)
Cover illustration by Priscilla Baker



In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 6 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 each week to finish these studies 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

- Narrative study
- Personal study
- Word study
- Doctrine study
- GOAL study
- Character study
- Book 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 2, 13, 25, 27)



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.

Philippi

PAUL WAS ON THE MOVE AGAIN, TRAVELING WITH SILAS, revisiting the churches that he had established on his first missionary journey more than a year ago. When they came again to Lystra, Timothy joined their team and they continued westward. As much as they enjoyed seeing their old friends, they longed to take the gospel to people who had never heard it before.

They arrived, finally, at the port of Troas on the edge of the blue Aegean Sea. And it was there that God sent Paul a vision, showing him where to go next: Macedonia.

Macedonia, home of the famous Philip of Macedon and his son Alexander the Great, was now a Roman province. For more than four decades the Roman Empire had brought peace and prosperity to the region, along with a major highway called the Via Egnatia.

Paul and his companions immediately booked passage on a ship and headed to one of Macedonia's leading cities: Philippi.

LESSON 1

Narrative Study of Acts 16, part 1

Narrative studies are for passages that tell a story or give an account of an event that happened. You'll complete these steps in a narrative study:

- 1 Read the passage and create a storyboard or write scene descriptions to show Who, What, Where, and When the account happened.
- 2 Read the passage and any Bible reference books to help you determine Why and How the account's events happened.
- 3 Record any principles the account teaches.

For this narrative study, let's read the account of Paul at Philippi. You'll find it in Acts 16:11–40. Read the passage and create a storyboard on pages 11 and 12 or write scene descriptions on pages 13 and 14. A storyboard is somewhat like a comic strip; you can use it to illustrate each scene as the action unfolds in the passage. If you would rather write than draw, divide the account into scenes and describe the action in each one. Whichever option you choose, try to communicate Who, What, Where, and When the account happened.

Here are some scene suggestions to help you get started. You can use these scene divisions or come up with your own.

Scene 1: The first believers in Philippi

Scene 2: The slave girl and her owners

Scene 3: The scene in the prison

Scene 4: The Philippian jailer

Scene 5: The city magistrates

SCENE STORYBOARDS (USE AS MANY AS YOU NEED.)

A large empty rectangular box divided into two horizontal sections, intended for drawing scene storyboards.



LESSON 2**Narrative Study of Acts 16, part 2**

Continue your narrative study by looking for the Why and How of the event. Read the passage again to help you determine Why and How the account's events happened. Think of Why and How questions you or someone who reads this epistle might have; for example,

- Why did Paul and his fellow travelers go to the riverside to look for a place of prayer?
- Why is it significant that Lydia sold purple goods?
- Why was Paul annoyed at the slave girl's endorsement of their message?
- Why would the jailer try to kill himself over some escaped prisoners?

Look first in the passage itself for answers to your questions. If you can't find the answer to a question in the passage, check a commentary or study Bible notes. You might not find answers to all of your Why and How questions; sometimes Scripture doesn't tell us all of those details.

Record below your Why and How questions and any answers you find.

The final step of a narrative study is to record any principles the account teaches. Can you learn anything about responding to hostility? about loving your enemies? What else?

Philippians

MORE THAN 10 YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT EVENTFUL night in the Philippian jail. Paul had traveled hundreds more miles and established many more churches, but Lydia, the slave girl (who was grown up by now), her family, and the jailer and his family held a special place in Paul's heart. They and the other believers in this growing church were always eager to support Paul, sending him money whenever they could. That was not an easy task, for the Philippians weren't able to schedule regular deposits into Paul's bank account or even mail him checks; those conveniences didn't exist in Paul's day. In fact, the Philippian believers often didn't even know where Paul was or what was happening to him. And there was no mail system except for the Roman military.

So imagine Paul's surprise and excitement when one of the believers, Epaphroditus (*Eh-PAFF-ro-die-tus*), walked into the house where Paul was a captive, hundreds of miles from Philippi, and handed him some money that the church had sent! Somehow they had heard that he was under house-arrest in Rome, waiting for his trial to be called for hearing, and Epaphroditus had volunteered to undertake the long journey. This letter, written by Paul to the Philippians, is his thank you note.

Make an entry in *My Book of Centuries* for "Paul writes Philippians from prison in Rome (c. 62)." (The "c." stands for *circa*, which means sometime around that year or range of years.)

LESSON 3**Personal Study of Philippians 1**

A *personal study* is a basic study that you could easily do in a daily quiet time for your own encouragement. It's called a *personal study* because the focus is on making personal application from the passage: What can you take from the verses that will affect how you live your life? But you must be careful not to just jump to the application. It's important, as you read through the passage, to keep these three questions in mind:

- 1 What does it say?
- 2 What does it mean?
- 3 How does it apply to me?

If you have questions as you work through this study, jot them in the margins of the pages. You may find the answers as you continue to read and learn. You will also have opportunities to discuss your questions with your teacher.

Read Philippians 1 all the way through first, then go back and work through the chapter again with the guiding questions below.

VERSES 1–11

Why could Paul pray with joy whenever he prayed for the Philippian believers?

Paul thought of them as partners in two things. Look in verses 5 and 7 to discover those two things.

Paul prayed that their love would abound with two “guardrails.” Check verse 9 for those two guides to their love.

Why are those two qualities important in order to demonstrate a love that “approves what is excellent”?

VERSES 12–18

When Paul was imprisoned in Philippi, what had the believers there seen God do?

God had a different plan for this imprisonment. What good had come from Paul’s remaining in prison this time?

VERSES 19–26

Paul was sure about something in verse 19. What was it? _____

Yet he went on to talk about two possibilities: being set free or being killed (in verse 20). How could Paul use that same word for either possibility?

If he had a choice, which option would he prefer and why? _____

What kind of inner attitude does it take to have Paul’s mindset? _____

VERSES 27–30

Regardless of what happened, what was Paul's desire for the Philippians?

Their unity and courage in the midst of persecution would show clearly two things: one about them and one about their persecutors. Record those two signs.

Earlier Paul pointed out the Philippians' partnership with him in grace and in the gospel. Now he mentioned that they could join in his ministry in another way. What was it?

The Greek word translated *granted* or *given* means "to do something pleasant or agreeable; to do a favor." Can you think of any ways that suffering for the sake of Christ could be viewed as something positive?

Record here any personal applications that you want to remember from Philippians 1.
