

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

10TH GRADE AND UP • BOOK 8
ADVANCED
LEVEL
BOOK 8 • 10TH GRADE AND UP

IN THE WORD



Student Bible Studies

by Sonya Shafer

BOOK 8

1 AND 2 CORINTHIANS



Your student will grow in faith and understanding of Scripture with these weekly 20-minute lessons studying **1 Corinthians** and **2 Corinthians**.

Through these studies, your student will use a variety of study methods and approaches, including personal study, text marking, inductive study, narrative study, and GOAL study. Your student will also be guided to pray through 1 Corinthians 13.

Throughout these studies, your student will 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.

Simply
Charlotte Mason

simplycharlottemason.com

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 8
1 and 2 Corinthians

by Sonya Shafer

On the cover: “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Corinthians 4:7)
Cover illustration by Priscilla Baker



In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 8 is part of a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum. See where this course fits in the Simply CM curriculum at simplycm.com/curriculum.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 8
© 2026 by Simply Charlotte Mason

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.

ISBN 978-1-61634-791-8 printed
ISBN 978-1-61634-792-5 electronic download

Published by
Simply Charlotte Mason, LLC
930 New Hope Road #11-892
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045
simplycharlottesmason.com

Printed in the U.S.A.

CONTENTS

How to Use	5
Choosing a Commentary	6
Principles of Bible Study	8

Corinth

Lesson 1: Narrative Study of Acts 18, part 1.....	11
Lesson 2: Narrative Study of Acts 18, part 2.....	16

1 Corinthians

Lesson 3: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 1.....	18
Lesson 4: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 2.....	21
Lesson 5: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 3.....	23
Lesson 6: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 4.....	26
Lesson 7: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 5 and 6.....	28
Lesson 8: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 7.....	31
Lesson 9: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 8.....	33
Lesson 10: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 9.....	35
Lesson 11: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 10.....	37
Lesson 12: Review and Discussion with Teacher.....	39
Lesson 13: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 11.....	40

Lesson 14: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 12.....	42
Lesson 15: Praying through Scripture in 1 Corinthians 13.....	44
Lesson 16: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 14.....	46
Lesson 17: Text Marking in 1 Corinthians 15, part 1.....	49
Lesson 18: Text Marking in 1 Corinthians 15, part 2.....	51
Lesson 19: Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 16.....	56

2 Corinthians

Lesson 20: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 1.....	60
Lesson 21: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 2.....	63
Lesson 22: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 3.....	66
Lesson 23: Inductive Study of 2 Corinthians 4:1–6.....	68
Lesson 24: Review and Discussion with Teacher.....	72
Lesson 25: Inductive Study of 2 Corinthians 4:7–12.....	73
Lesson 26: Inductive Study of 2 Corinthians 4:13–15.....	76
Lesson 27: Inductive Study of 2 Corinthians 4:16–18.....	79
Lesson 28: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 5.....	82
Lesson 29: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 6 and 7.....	85

Lesson 30: GOAL Study in 2 Corinthians 8	88
Lesson 31: GOAL Study in 2 Corinthians 9	90
Lesson 32: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 10.....	91
Lesson 33: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 11.....	93

Lesson 34: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 12.....	96
Lesson 35: Personal Study of 2 Corinthians 13.....	98
Lesson 36: Review and Discussion with Teacher	100

Discovering Doctrine Journal	101
--	-----

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(n)

- Narrative study
- Personal study
- Praying through Scripture study
- Text Marking study
- Inductive study
- GOAL 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
- Colored pencils (in lessons 17 and 18)



Follow this link or use the QR code 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.

Corinth

IF YOU WANTED TO LIVE IN A BUSTLING, PROSPEROUS, NOISY, multicultural major city, that was Corinth. This busy seaport was a trading station of the world. Romans, Greeks, and Jews all resided there, about 80,000 of them, plus their slaves. Corinth sat on the isthmus that connects the Greek mainland with the Peloponnesian peninsula. There is a canal across that isthmus now, but in Paul's day that canal was not there. The city of Corinth had one port on the west and one on the east. Sailors could save time, instead of sailing hundreds of miles around the isthmus, by rolling their ships the three and a half miles across the land . . . for a fee, of course. Add to those fees the tolls that Corinth levied on the cargo, and you can imagine how wealthy the city was—richer and more comfortable than Athens, with more valuable art and finer statues. Of course, appearance was important in such a wealthy city, and great emphasis was placed on the jewelry that the women wore.

At the heart of the city was the Fountain of Peirene, a freshwater spring that was the primary water source for everyone who lived there. Underground tunnels directed the water to four large reservoirs, and water pipes passed beneath the shops in the central marketplace, giving merchants access to the water, as well as a cool place in which to keep perishable food products. This marketplace, or Agora, was about the size of four football fields, set two by two, and provided a noisy, central gathering place where people could

hear news, talk and argue philosophy, and discuss business. Temples and shrines to many different Greek gods were scattered throughout the city, and statues of the gods and heroes were set up on display throughout the public streets and marketplace. And those temples and statues were not just for show. Worship of those gods was an integral part of the city's government affairs, festivals and holidays, social clubs, trade guilds, and everyday life.

One of the main gods they worshiped was Aphrodite, or Venus, the goddess of love, beauty, pleasure, passion, and procreation. A magnificent statue of Venus overlooked the city on the top of the Acrocorinth, a steep rocky hill about 1,800 feet high. Of course, you can imagine what worship of that goddess promoted. On the top of that hill, 1,000 temple prostitutes were available to the steady stream of people climbing up the Acrocorinth to "worship." It's not hard to see why Corinth had a reputation of being the most wicked city in the world.

The seaports and roads in and out of Corinth brought a continual wave of travelers, performers, professional speakers, and foreign merchants, who carried with them lots of ideas to share in the marketplace and the forum, a hope of making money, and base desires to gratify in the taverns, temples, and dark streets.

Amid that crowd surging along the road from Athens, 53 miles away, Paul came walking with the sole purpose of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in Corinth.

LESSON 1**Narrative Study of Acts 18, 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.

Read Acts 18:1–18 to learn the story of how the church at Corinth began. Next, read the notes in a commentary or study Bible to make sure you have an accurate picture of the whole story.

Once you know the narrative, create a storyboard on pages 12 and 13 or write scene descriptions on pages 14 and 15. 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: Paul arrives in Corinth

Scene 2: The Jews' and Gentiles' responses

Scene 3: Paul's dream

Scene 4: The Jews attack Paul

Scene 5: Paul leaves Corinth

SCENE STORYBOARDS (USE AS MANY AS YOU NEED.)

A large, empty rectangular box divided into two horizontal panels, intended for drawing scene storyboards. The box is centered on the page and occupies most of the middle section.

--	--	--

LESSON 2

Narrative Study of Acts 18, 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,

- How did they make tents in those days?
- What was the tribunal and why did it play a role in this situation?
- Why did they beat Sosthenes?

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 doing missionary work? about how God can protect His people? What else?

1 Corinthians

WHEN PAUL LEFT CORINTH, HE MADE A BRIEF TRIP TO JUDEA and Syria, then settled in Ephesus for three years. While he was living there, he sent a letter back to the Corinthian believers to encourage them to live pure lives. As you learned, Corinth was a wicked city, and the new Christians there would need to change their thinking about many things. We do not have a copy of that letter today, but Paul referred to it in his subsequent letters to the Corinthians that you will be studying next.

Soon Paul began to receive reports that the Corinthian believers had misunderstood parts of his letter and were having a lot of problems. They were struggling with social prejudices, immorality, argumentative divisions, and a preoccupation with wealth and status. In other words, they were allowing the city's culture to influence them.

Then arrived a letter, or possibly several letters, from the Corinthians themselves. They were confused about God's plan for marriage; they weren't sure how to interact with pagan customs around them; their worship services had devolved into chaos; and some of them were questioning Jesus' resurrection.

Paul responded by writing a lengthy letter to address his concerns and to answer their questions. We call that letter 1 Corinthians. The name can be confusing, since it is really the second letter he wrote to the Corinthians. However, since it is the first one we have available to read, it is referred to as 1 Corinthians.

Make an entry in *My Book of Centuries* for "Paul writes 1 Corinthians from Ephesus (c. 53–55)." (The "c." stands for *circa*, which means sometime around that year or range of years.)

LESSON 3

Personal Study of 1 Corinthians 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.

Let's see what we can learn from this letter of Paul's to the Corinthian believers. First he responded to a report he had received about them. Read 1 Corinthians 1 all the way through first, then go back and work through the chapter again with the guiding questions below.

VERSES 1-3

Paul started the letter emphasizing two key principles that he would repeat throughout.

First, the Corinthian believers were sanctified in Christ Jesus. Use *Strong's Concordance* to look up the meaning of *sanctified* in its original Greek language.

Second, notice the words *together* and *both*. What principle was Paul emphasizing by using those words?

VERSES 4–9

Even with all its problems, Paul was thankful for the Corinthian church. What was he thankful about?

VERSES 10–17

Because Corinth was host to many traveling professional speakers, it was probably a normal part of Corinthian culture to boast about who they had heard and whose ideas they accepted. Those itinerant orators wanted to make a name for themselves; publicity was good for their purses. How was that mindset different from the apostles' mindset?

HOW TO USE STRONG'S

Using a *Strong's Concordance* is an easy way to look up the meaning of a Bible word in its original language. You can use a printed *Strong's* or an online version. (Be sure to get your parent's permission before you use the internet.)

Here's how to use the printed version:

STEP 1 Find your selected word in *Strong's*. The words are listed in alphabetical order.

STEP 2 Look through the listings under your word to find the verse you're studying.

STEP 3 Note the number to the right of that line of text.

STEP 4 Look up that number in the back of the book to find the word's original definition. (Be sure you use the Greek dictionary to define words in 1 Corinthians. First Corinthians was originally written in Greek.)

Here's how to use the online version at blueletterbible.org:

STEP 1 Select the Bible translation that you are using.

STEP 2 Perform a search for your selected word.

STEP 3 Look through the search results to find the verse you are studying and click on the Tools button beside it.

STEP 4 Find your selected word in the list and click on the *Strong's* number beside it. Since 1 Corinthians was originally written in Greek, the number will have a "G" in front of it to direct you to the Greek dictionary. You will see several helpful definitions and synonyms there.

VERSES 18–25

Paul’s message was not designed to wow his audience with fancy philosophies or catchy phrases. People in the city were despising his message, saying that it was weak and foolish. How did Paul answer that accusation?

VERSES 26–31

And that principle carried through even to those who responded to Paul’s message. Why?

How can that principle encourage a believer who is being ridiculed for what he believes?



Discovering Doctrine Journal

It’s good to get in the habit of looking for any doctrinal truths that are tucked into the verses. *Doctrine* means “teaching,” and it’s all about what the Bible teaches and, therefore, what you should believe to be true.

In the back of this book you will find a Discovering Doctrine Journal. As you come across doctrinal truths, you will record those findings in the journal, organizing them by category.

In the passage you just studied, you will find several doctrinal truths. Read the verses listed below and record what they say in the corresponding sections in the Discovering Doctrine Journal.

- Jesus Christ (Christology)—1:8, 30
- God (Theology Proper)—1:9
- Bible (Bibliology)—1:18