

*Simply Charlotte Mason presents*

10TH GRADE AND UP • BOOK 9  
ADVANCED  
LEVEL  
BOOK 9 • 10TH GRADE AND UP

# IN THE WORD



SAMPLE

Student Bible Studies

by Sonya Shafer

**BOOK 9**

1, 2, 3 JOHN • REVELATION



Your student will grow in faith and understanding of Scripture and learn several Bible study methods with these weekly 25-minute lessons. Throughout these lessons, your student will

- get to know the **Apostle John** with a character study;
- make personal life applications and do a word study with **1 John**;
- pray through **2 John**;
- complete a narrative study of **3 John**;
- use several study methods together with an inductive study of **Revelation**.

Throughout these studies, your student will also be prompted to record his findings about 10 major doctrines in a long-term project of creating his personal doctrinal summary as he encounters truths in Scripture.

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## 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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**ADVANCED LEVEL**  
10TH GRADE AND UP

BOOK 8 • BOOK 9 • BOOK 10

# IN THE WORD

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Student Bible Studies, Book 9  
1, 2, 3 John • Revelation

by Sonya Shafer

On the cover: “And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:17)  
Cover illustration by Priscilla Baker



*In the Word: Student Bible Studies, Book 9* is part of a complete Charlotte Mason curriculum. See where this course fits in the Simply CM curriculum at [simplycm.com/curriculum](https://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 20–25 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)**

- Character study
- Word study
- Praying through Scripture study
- Narrative study
- Inductive 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
- Encyclopedia or historical atlas, in print or online (for lesson 29)



Follow this link or use the QR code to learn more about *My Book of Centuries*, a personal timeline resource, at [simplycm.com/boc](http://simplycm.com/boc).

## **Helpful Online Bible Study Tools**

*Make sure you have parental permission before going online.*

- Blue Letter Bible (at [blueletterbible.org](http://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](http://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.

# The Apostle John

**JOHN HAD SEEN A LOT IN HIS LONG LIFE: THE DESTRUCTION** of Jerusalem; the scattering of the church; the burning of Rome and the terrible persecution of believers by Nero, now intensified by Domitian; the murder of his close friends, Peter and James—even Paul was gone; the false teachings infiltrating the church and spreading like a cancer. Yes, John had seen a lot. But his most cherished memories were of his time with Jesus Christ. And that is what John focused on as he picked up a quill to write.

He had grown up with Jesus, for they were earthly cousins. John's mother, Salome, was the sister of Jesus' mother, Mary. John had also known Peter and Andrew for years as they worked together in a fishing business. Then he had become a disciple of John the Baptizer and had seen him point his finger at Jesus and declare Him to be the Lamb of God. So he had left his fishing job behind and followed Jesus as a young man.

John had been one of the 12 apostles, even one of the inner circle of 3. Only he, Peter, and James had seen Jesus raise Jairus' daughter from the dead, had witnessed Elijah and Moses at the Transfiguration, and had heard Jesus crying and praying in Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion. John was the lone apostle who stayed at the cross and watched as Jesus died. And it was he who had taken his aunt, Jesus' mother, into his home and cared for her after Jesus' death.

Three days later it was John who had run inside the empty tomb and later seen the risen Christ alive. He had watched as Jesus ascended into Heaven and as the Holy Spirit descended upon himself and more than a hundred other disciples in the upper room at Pentecost. He had been beside Peter when the lame man at the temple was miraculously healed, and he had suffered the beating with Peter because of it.

And now more than 70 years had passed, and John was the last eyewitness alive. It was astounding that he was still around, for he was close to 90 in an era when the average life expectancy was only 35 or 40. But though church tradition tells us he could no longer walk, he could write. And he needed to write to this third generation of Christians and encourage them to continue in the truth, for he did not have much time left.

Make an entry at the bottom of the first century page in *My Book of Centuries* for "John the Apostle dies (100)."

## LESSON 1

### Character Study of the Apostle John, part 1

A character study focuses on the life of a Bible character. The Lord included personal information about real people in His Word, and we can learn from studying what happened to them, how they responded, the struggles they had, and the victories they experienced. For this character study, you will focus on the Apostle John and see what lessons you can learn from his life.

A character study involves three steps:

- 1 Search for passages that include the person's name and summarize what you find out about him.
- 2 Search for passages in which the person describes himself or his life and summarize what you find out about him.
- 3 Read through your discoveries and determine what lessons you can learn from that person's life.

Step 1 is to search the Bible for your character's name and record all the references that you find. It works well to use *Strong's Concordance* or an online Bible for this step. Since there are many references to several different Johns in the Bible, we have listed below the ones that refer to the apostle and grouped together the passages that refer to the same event.

Read each passage and summarize what you find out about John: What did he say or do, think or feel? You may need to read verses before and after the ones that mention the character's name in order to determine the context: who was talking, what was happening, where, and why. Be sure to read all of the passages listed for each account, even when they tell about the same event. Different writers often included different details.

**MATTHEW 4:21; MARK 1:19** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MATTHEW 10:2; MARK 3:17; LUKE 6:14** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MATTHEW 17:1; MARK 9:2; LUKE 9:28** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MARK 1:29** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MARK 5:37; LUKE 8:51** \_\_\_\_\_

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**MARK 9:38; LUKE 9:49** \_\_\_\_\_

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**LESSON 2**

**Character Study of the Apostle John, part 2**

Continue doing your research about John's life. Read the rest of these accounts in which John was involved and record what you find out about him.

**MARK 10:35-45** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MARK 13:3** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MARK 14:33** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LUKE 5:10** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LUKE 9:54** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**LUKE 22:8** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**ACTS 1:13** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACTS 3:1-11** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACTS 4:13-22** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACTS 8:14** \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACTS 12:2** \_\_\_\_\_

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**LESSON 3**

**Character Study of the Apostle John, part 3**

The next step in a character study is to search for passages in which the person describes himself or his life, or passages that another person wrote about him, and summarize what you find out in them. The Apostle John never referred to himself by name in the Gospel that he wrote; instead, he used a unique phrase. The passages below reveal what John said about himself and what Paul said about him in Galatians.

**JOHN 13:23** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**JOHN 19:26, 27** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**JOHN 20:1–10** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**JOHN 21:7** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**JOHN 21:20–25** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**GALATIANS 2:9**

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