

Simply Charlotte Mason Presents

GOAL

Grasp

Obey

Avoid

Live

Bible Study Journal

SAMPLE

by Sonya Shafer

Great for family devotions or individual Bible study!

Your GOAL Bible Study Journal is a simple yet powerful tool to help nudge you toward the GOAL of being a doer of the Word, not just a hearer (James 1:22).

Grasp this promise
Obey this command
Avoid this sin
Live this principle

Each week you and your family will study a chapter of the Bible to discover the promises, commands, sins, and principles mentioned. Together, you'll press toward the life-changing goal of doing God's Word. And at the end of each week, you will be reminded to give God the praise for how His Word was put into practice in your lives.

Simply
Charlotte Mason
.com

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by Sonya Shafer

GOAL Bible Study Journal
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Please note: The books of the Bible are arranged in chronological order in this journal. Feel free to read them in any order you prefer.

How to Use Your GOAL Bible Study Journal

Everything we learn from the Bible about God and His dealings with mankind should shape our attitudes and actions. James 1:22 summarizes this goal: we should be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.”

Your *GOAL Bible Study Journal* is designed to help you read Scripture with an eye toward that goal of life change. You will be encouraged to press toward the goal of becoming more like Christ by discovering and determining to

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This journal focuses on many of the epistles, or letters, included in the Bible. Each epistle has a quick summary page that will give you an overview of why it was written and to whom. The summary pages also provide handy dates for your Book of Centuries (or time line) and suggested passages to memorize.

Step 1: Read the passage.

Once a week, ask God to help you understand His Word, then read the chapter listed at the top of the page.

Step 2: Record your findings.

Look for promises, commands, sins, and principles (basic truths for life) and record them in their sections. (You may not find all four in every chapter.) Write down your findings in a way that will help you remember them as you review them during the coming week. See pages 6–9 for some ideas.

Step 3: Determine to be a doer of the Word

Every day during the week, review your findings and ask God for opportunities to shape your actions and attitudes according to His Word. At the end of the week, identify the truths that you had an opportunity to put into practice, and thank God for giving you the power to be a doer of the Word.

An Example of Quoting Your Findings

You might want to write out the verses, quoting the portion that applies. Here is an example of writing the verses from James 1. These are from the King James Version. Use whatever version of the Bible you prefer.

GOAL *Grasp this promise.*

v. 5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that
giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it
shall be given him."

v. 12: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when
he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the
Lord hath promised to them that love him."

v. 25: "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and
continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but
a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his
deed."

GOAL *Obey this command.*

v. 19: "let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to
wrath."

v. 22: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only."

GOAL *Avoid this sin.*

v. 20: "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of
God."

v. 21: "lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness."

GOAL *Live this principle.*

v. 3: "the trying of your faith worketh patience."

v. 8: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

v. 27: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is
this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,
and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Notes

An Example of Summarizing Your Findings

You might want to summarize your findings in your own words. Do whichever you prefer: quote the verses or summarize them. Here is an example of summarizing findings from James 1.

GOAL *Grasp this promise.*

v. 5: God will give wisdom to those who ask (and He will give generously and without scolding).

v. 12: Those who endure testing will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.

v. 25: Those who do what the Bible says, not just forget what it says, will be blessed.

GOAL *Obey this command.*

v. 19: Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to get angry.

v. 22: Do what the Bible says; don't just listen to it.

GOAL *Avoid this sin.*

v. 20: Wrath

v. 21: All filthiness and naughtiness

GOAL *Live this principle.*

v. 3: Trials that test your faith develop patience in you.

v. 8: Trying to trust in two different sources of wisdom will
bring uncertainty.

v. 27: True religion will show in action: visiting and helping
orphans and widows, and staying pure in the midst of
this sinful world.

Notes

James

When Jesus was alive here on earth, you'll remember, his brothers didn't believe that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. But after Jesus' resurrection, some of His brothers believed. One was named James. This James became a leader among the believers in Jerusalem. (See Matthew 13:55; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Galatians 1:19; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18.)

About ten or fifteen years after Jesus left this earth, James wrote a letter to other Jewish believers. Those believers were scattered about in other towns and countries and were enduring persecution for their faith. James wanted to encourage them to show their faith in Jesus through their actions and words, even when they were in the middle of hard times.

As you read through the book of James, think about not just hearing what the Bible says, but doing what it says.

Book of Centuries Entries

Jesus raised from the dead (30)

James believes on Jesus (30)

James writes his letter to scattered Jewish believers (c. 40–45)

Scripture Memory Suggestions

James 1:5

James 1:22–25

James 3:1–12

James 4:1–10

Galatians

Galatia was a region in Asia that included several towns. You might think of it like a state or province. Paul visited Galatia on his first missionary journey and many people in different towns believed the gospel of Jesus Christ. (See Acts 13 and 14.) These believers included both Jews and Gentiles (non-Jewish people).

Unfortunately, soon after Paul left Galatia to preach the gospel in other places, some people started telling those new believers that they must obey the Jewish religious laws or they weren't really righteous before God. When Paul heard about that false teaching, he wrote a letter to the Galatian believers to expose that error and teach them more about the freedom they had in Christ.

As you read through the book of Galatians, think about how believers do not have to earn their salvation because Jesus Christ already “earned” it with His blood.

Book of Centuries Entries

Paul believes on Jesus (c. 33)

Paul's first missionary journey (46–47)

Paul writes his letter to the churches in Galatia (c. 48)

Scripture Memory Suggestions

Galatians 2:20

Galatians 5:16

Galatians 5:22, 23

Galatians 6:1, 2

