

Suggestions for using *The Story of the Romans*, 4th edition, from Nothing New Press, with *Matthew through Acts and Ancient Rome* lesson plans

The Simply Charlotte Mason history lesson plans for *Matthew through Acts and Ancient Rome* were written using *The Story of the Romans*, **third edition**, from Nothing New Press. Since then a **fourth edition** has been released. This document gives details on the differences between the editions and how to adjust the plans if you have the fourth edition.

Content Differences

The main content differences between the two editions affects about four chapters. A few other smaller revisions have been made (and are detailed in the fourth edition's Publisher's Preface) but should not affect the lesson plans.

- The third edition's chapter I, "The First Settlers," has been rewritten for the fourth edition and an additional chapter inserted after it, called "The Roman Religion." The new material included in the fourth edition's first chapter was previously presented in the Preface of the third edition. The fourth edition takes it out of the Preface and writes it into chapter I itself. Therefore, the fourth edition's chapter I gives much more detail than the third edition's did, and the new chapter II, "The Roman Religion," follows suit. That extra detail may be good for your older students but could be overwhelming for your younger ones, especially as their very first reading on the subject. See suggestions below for options.
- A new chapter has been inserted in the fourth edition on "The King of the Jews" (fourth edition's chapter LXXII) and focuses on Herod and the birth of Jesus Christ.
- The beginning of the the third edition's chapter, "The Siege of Jerusalem," has been moved to its own chapter in the fourth edition and called "The Soldier Emperor." Then new material has been added to form the fourth edition's chapters, "The Siege of Jerusalem" and "The Destruction of the Temple." Unfortunately the new material has some rather gruesome parts. No doubt, the historical events were gruesome, but if you have young or sensitive children, you may want to edit as you read aloud.

How to Adjust the Lesson Plans for the Fourth Edition

I have detailed each lesson plan change below. Most are simply changing the chapter number or page number (since the fourth edition has added chapters, which has moved some things around). A few lessons have more suggestions for you to consider. I recommend you grab your *Matthew through Acts and Ancient Rome* lesson plan book and a pencil, and sit down with the following list as your guide. It should take you about 5 or 10 minutes to simply strike out the old chapter numbers and write in the new ones.

Lesson 4: The First Settlers

Change to the map on page 17 and read chapters 1 and 3.

Note: You could read chapter 1, "The First Settlers," from the fourth edition, or use the text from the third edition (included on the last page of this document) and briefly explain that we believe the settlers in Italy were descendants of Japheth, the son of Noah. Choose whichever option you think your students will understand most.

If you have older students, you might assign them to read chapter 2, "The Roman Religion," if desired.

Lesson 5: The Clever Trick

Change to read chapters 4 and 5.

Lesson 9: The Wolf and the Twins

Change to read chapters 6 and 7.

Lesson 10: The Maidens Carried Off

Change to read chapters 8 and 9.

Lesson 14: Death of Romulus

Change to read chapters 10 and 11.

Lesson 15: The Quarrel with Alba

Change to read chapters 12 and 13.

Lesson 19: Tarquin and the Eagle

Change to read chapters 14 and 15.

Lesson 20: The King Outwitted

Change to read chapters 16 and 17.

Lesson 24: The Ungrateful Children

Change to read chapters 18 and 19.

Lesson 25: Tarquin's Poppies

Change to read chapters 20 and 21.

Lesson 29: The Death of Lucretia

Change to read chapters 22 and 23.

Lesson 30: A Roman Triumph

Change to read chapters 24 and 25.

Lesson 34: The Defense of the Bridge

Change to read chapter 26.

Lesson 35: The Burnt Hand

Change to read chapters 27 and 28.

Lesson 39: The Wrongs of the Poor

Change to read chapters 29 and 30.

Lesson 40: The Story of Coriolanus

Change to read chapter 31.

Lesson 44: The Farmer Hero
Change to read chapter 32.

Lesson 45: The New Laws
Change to read chapters 33 and 34.

Lesson 49: The Plans of a Traitor
Change to read chapter 35.

Lesson 50: The School-Teacher Punished
Change to read chapters 36 and 37.

Lesson 54: The Sacred Geese
Change to read chapter 38.

Lesson 55: Two Heroes of Rome
Change to read chapter 39.

Lesson 64: The Disaster at the Caudine Forks
Change to read chapter 40.

Lesson 65: Pyrrhus and His Elephants
Change to read chapters 41 and 42.

Lesson 69: Ancient Ships
Change to the Ancient Italy map on page 15 and read chapters 43 and 44.

Lesson 70: Hannibal Crosses the Alps
Change to read chapters 45 and 46.

Lesson 74: The Inventor Archimedes
Change to read chapter 47.

Lesson 75: The Roman Conquests
Change to the map on page 17 and read chapters 48 and 49.

Lesson 79: Roman Amusements
Change to read chapters 50 and 51.

Lesson 80: The Death of Tiberius Gracchus
Change to read chapters 52 and 53.

Lesson 84: Jugurtha, King of Numidia
Change to read chapters 54 and 55.

Lesson 85: The Social War
Change to read chapters 56 and 57.

Lesson 89: The Proscription Lists
Change to read chapters 58 and 59.

Lesson 90: The Revolt of the Slaves
Change to read chapters 60 and 61.

Lesson 94: The Conspiracy of Catiline
Change to read chapter 62.

Lesson 95: Caesar's Conquests
Change to read chapters 63 and 64.

Lesson 99: The Battle of Pharsalia
Change to read chapters 65 and 66.

Lesson 100: The Second Triumvirate
Change to read chapters 67 and 68.

Lesson 104: Antony and Cleopatra
Change to read chapters 69 and 70.

Lesson 105: The Augustan Age
Change to read chapters 71 and 72, "The Augustan Age" and "The King of the Jews."

Lesson 109: Varus Avenged
Change to read chapters 73 and 74, "Death of Augustus" and "Varus Avenged."

Lesson 110: Tiberius Smothered
Change to read chapters 75 and 76, "Death of Germanicus" and "Tiberius Smothered."

Lesson 124: The Wild Caligula
Change to read chapters 77 and 78.

Lesson 125: Nero's First Crimes
Change to read chapter 79.

Lesson 152: The Christians Persecuted
Change to read chapters 80 and 81.

Lesson 154: Two Short Reigns
Change to read chapters 82 and 83.

Lesson 155: The Roman Colosseum
Change to read chapters 84 and 85 instead of the first half of *The Roman Colosseum*.
Note: Be cautious of some gruesome details included and use prudent editing if needed.

Lesson 156: The Roman Colosseum (concluded)
Change to read all of *The Roman Colosseum*.

Lesson 157: The Buried Cities
Change to read chapters 86 and 87.

Lesson 159: The Emperor's Tablets
Change to read chapters 88–90.

Lesson 161: The Great Wall
Change to read chapters 91–93.

Lesson 162: The Model Pagan
Change to read chapters 94 and 95.

Lesson 164: An Unnatural Son
Change to read chapters 96–98.

Lesson 166: Invasion of the Goths
Change to read chapters 99 and 100.

Lesson 167: A Prophecy Fulfilled
Change to read chapters 101 and 102.

Lesson 170: The Roman Empire Divided
Change to read chapters 103 and 104.

Lesson 175: Sieges of Rome
Change to read chapters 105 and 106.

I. The First Settlers (original chapter in the third edition)

You are now going to hear about the building of Rome, the capital of Italy, in Europe. By looking at your maps, you will soon find in Europe a peninsula, shaped somewhat like a boot, and surrounded on three sides by the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas. This peninsula is Italy. To the north are the snow-topped Alps, a chain of high mountains which separate this country from the rest of Europe; and through the peninsula run the Apennines, a less lofty mountain range.

As Italy is in the southern part of Europe, it has a very mild and delightful climate. The tall mountains in the north prevent the cold winds from sweeping down upon it, and many plants which you see here in hothouses grow there in the open ground.

Orange and almond trees, camellias and pomegranates, are all covered with fruit or flowers, and the vine and olive both yield rich harvests in this beautiful land. The soil is so rich that people do not need to work very hard in order to have fine crops, and, as the weather is generally clear, they can live out of doors almost all the year round.

As the climate is so pleasant, the land so fertile, the skies so blue, and the views so beautiful, travelers have always liked to visit Italy, and have spoken about its charms to all they met. It is no wonder, therefore, that many people have gone to settle there, and you will easily understand that the whole country was occupied long, long ago.

So many years ago that no one can really tell when it was, Italy was already inhabited by a people who, judging from what we have heard of them, must once have lived in Central Asia. These people were probably crowded at home, and left their native land in search of good pasture for their cattle, and a fertile country where they might dwell.

They traveled on and on, day after day, and, coming finally to the great mountains, some of them climbed up to see what was on the other side. When they beheld the green valleys of Italy, and saw how beautiful the country was, they told their companions, and all made haste to cross the mountains.

These people traveled on foot, with their families, cattle, and all their household goods; and they were very rude and uncivilized. Little by little, however, they learned to build houses, to cook their food, to make rude pottery from the clay they found in the valleys, to spin and weave the wool from their sheep, and to fashion this homemade stuff into garments.

Although each family at first lived by itself, they soon discovered that if several families joined together, they could cultivate the ground better, could hunt more successfully, and that in time of danger they could more easily defend themselves.

Thus several families would form a tribe under the strongest and cleverest man among them, whom they chose as their leader. These leaders selected the best place for them to settle in, told them what to do in time of war, and thus became chiefs or kings over their own tribes.

There were a number of such little kingdoms scattered throughout Italy, and as the people grew richer, wiser, and more numerous, they occupied more and more land.

Now it was from some of these tribes that the Romans were mostly descended. Their city became in time the greatest in the world, and many histories have been written about it; but none of them were begun until several centuries after Rome was founded. Hardly any records had been kept of the distant past, and the best that could be done was to write down some stories that had been told by parents to their children, and thus had been preserved from generation to generation. These had become much changed by being told so many times, and they were connected and rounded out by pure guesswork; but the whole was soon accepted as true, and was believed in by every one for ages.

You will now read the story from the beginning, as the Romans themselves told it. Many of the events in the first part of it never really happened; but no one can tell exactly where the mere stories leave off, and the true history begins. And every well-educated person is expected to know the whole story.