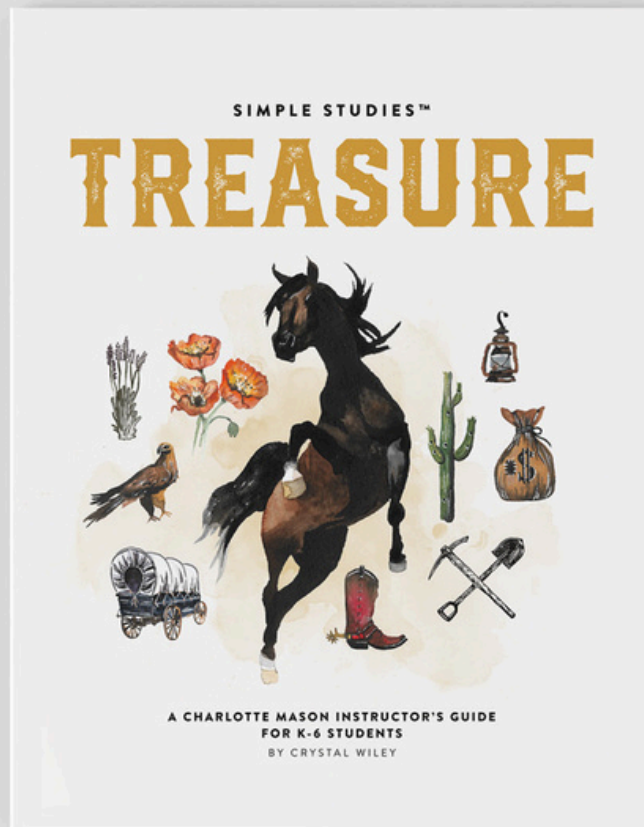


SIMPLE STUDIES

SAMPLE



S I M P L E S T U D I E S

SAMPLE

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SIMPLE STUDIES™

TREASURE



A CHARLOTTE MASON INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE
FOR K-6 STUDENTS

BY CRYSTAL WILEY

Materials Needed for Entire Study

- ❑ *The Secret Valley* by Clyde Robert Bulla
- ❑ **The Secret Valley Coloring Pages** (*print off copies for each young student*)
- ❑ **Nature Journal** (*each student*)
- ❑ **Personal Narration Notebook or Journal** (*older students*)
- ❑ **Quality Coloring Pencils** (*Recommended: Prismacolor*)
- ❑ **Watercolor paints** (*Recommended: [These Watercolors](#)*) (*optional*)
- ❑ **“Pet” Images for Nature Journaling** (*attached, optional*)
- ❑ **Picture Booklist** (*attached*)
- ❑ **A Bible** (*optional*)
- ❑ **Computer or device to listen to Accompanying Folk Songs** (*optional*)
**When viewing links from sites such as YouTube, please be advised that YouTube videos may present links to inappropriate videos or start with an ad that contains inappropriate material. I highly recommend that you enable restricted mode on YouTube.*
- ❑ **Poems** (*attached*) (*optional*)



Suggested Schedule

I generally offer a suggested weekly schedule in all my *Simple Studies*.

However, considering there are twelve straight-forward lessons in this short handbook (generally taking less than the 15-20 minutes Charlotte Mason recommends for a lesson duration), it is up to you as to when you would like to incorporate these lessons into your student's schedule. Our family enjoys *Simple Studies* most weekdays during our Morning Circle time.

Generally speaking, we aim to read through two or more lessons per week but *The Secret Valley* could easily be read through in a few days if you prefer.

There is no way to "fall behind" in these lessons. They are meant to be completed when you want, at your own pace, on your own terms.



Picture Booklist by Lesson

There are a plethora of wonderful picture books about seeking treasure, truth and contentment in life. This is by no means an exhaustive list and I encourage every instructor to seek out additional living books as you see fit.

****I would like to encourage instructors to do their due diligence in previewing picture books you offer your students. I am not the author of any books listed and therefore am not responsible for each author's viewpoint or the language used. In curating these booklists, please know I did my very best to offer multiple perspectives from all walks of life.***

*****Finally, while I researched books for hours trying to adhere to the living book recommendations, several books do not fit into this category and were chosen for their childlike, whimsical prose and overall message. I tried to offer more than one suggestion should you be unable to secure them all at your local library.***

HELPFUL TIP: I recommend gathering all the picture books you intend on using throughout this study from the library before beginning lessons.

Lesson 1:

- Gold Rush Girl*** by Avi
- Nine For California*** by Sonia Levitin
- Quest*** by Aaron Becker
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt*** by Helen Oxenbury
- Daily Life in a Covered Wagon*** by Paul Erickson
- The Truth about My Unbelievable Summer*** by Davide Cali

Lesson 2:

- Gold Fever*** by Verla Kay
- The New Friend*** by Charlotte Zolotow
- The Other Side*** by Jacqueline Woodson
- My Two Blankets*** by Irena Kobald

Lesson 9

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *The Secret Valley*
- *The Secret Valley Coloring Pages* and/or Nature Journal (*younger students*)
- Narration Notebook (*older students*)
- “Watercolor Rivers” images (*attached*) (*optional*)
- Colored Pencils and/or Watercolor paints
- Picture Books see below (*optional*)

Ask the students what they recall from the last chapter.

Read together, *The Secret Valley*, chapter 9, “The Map” and ask for an oral or written narration. Let younger students paint or color one of the pages of *The Secret Valley Coloring Pages* or choose one of the pet images attached to draw in their nature journal.

Ask students to tell of a time they weren’t allowed to go out and play or a time when the weather made it unsafe to play outside. How did it make them feel?

Older students: Have students tell of a time they felt someone was being stubborn and what they did to try and convince the other person of their wrongdoing. Then have students reference one of the attached watercolor images of the river and design one in their own nature journal. Even better, if you’re near a small stream or river, or even a neighborhood canal, venture outdoors so students are able to draw or paint one from observation.

Optional: Enjoy listening to the *Lesson 9 Folk Song*.

Discuss how stubbornness cuts us off from God, because it has roots in pride and makes us refuse to seek His will or listen to His Word. It’s the ugly side of perseverance. This is a wonderful time to ask ourselves as our children’s guides — do I ever allow the spirit of stubbornness to rule my days? The greatest gift we can give our children is modeling the wisdom to respond in a biblical manner in all of life’s circumstances.

Picture Books for Lesson 9: *The Biggest House in the World* by Leo Lionni, *It Could Always Be Worse* by Margot Zemach, *The Magic Fish* by Freya Littledale, *Stone Soup* by Ann Mcgovern, *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

Accompanying Folk Songs

Lesson 1: [Banks of Sacramento](#)

Lesson 2: [Navajo "Happy Song"](#)

Lesson 3: [Crossing the Plains](#)

Lesson 4: [Mining is a Hard Kind of Labor](#)

Lesson 5: [Oh California](#) (*Origins of "Oh Susanna"*) [Another option](#)

Lesson 6: [They Days of '49](#) (*Includes historical images*)

Lesson 7: [Little Gold Nugget](#)

Lesson 8: [Sweet Betsy from Pike](#)

Lesson 9: [The Arrival of the Greenhorn](#)

Lesson 10: [All the Gold in California](#)

Lesson 11: [Clementine](#)

Lesson 12: [Homeward Bound](#)

Final Project Option 2



Chinese railroad workers, 1919. Courtesy of Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives

Younger students are encouraged to use the image on the next page for a picture study. Looking at the image for several minutes, holding that image in their mind, and then without looking at the picture, tell back what they remember about it.

Otherwise, they may simply enjoy learning about early frontier culture including the Pacific Railway Acts of 1862 and 1864 and/or drawing an image of early railroads (*image attached*) and reading *Locomotive* by Broian Floca.

**Image on following page — Notes: 1857 engraving with modern watercolor. The California gold rush attracted Chinese miners who settled in camps scattered along the tributaries of the Yuba and Bear Rivers.*

Pets for Nature Journaling



D O G

Horse (Lesson 2)









CAT



G O L D F I S H



DAILY GRATITUDE

Today I'm grateful for...

Date:

Today I'm grateful for...

Date:

Today I'm grateful for...

Date:

SIMPLE STUDIES™

TREASURE

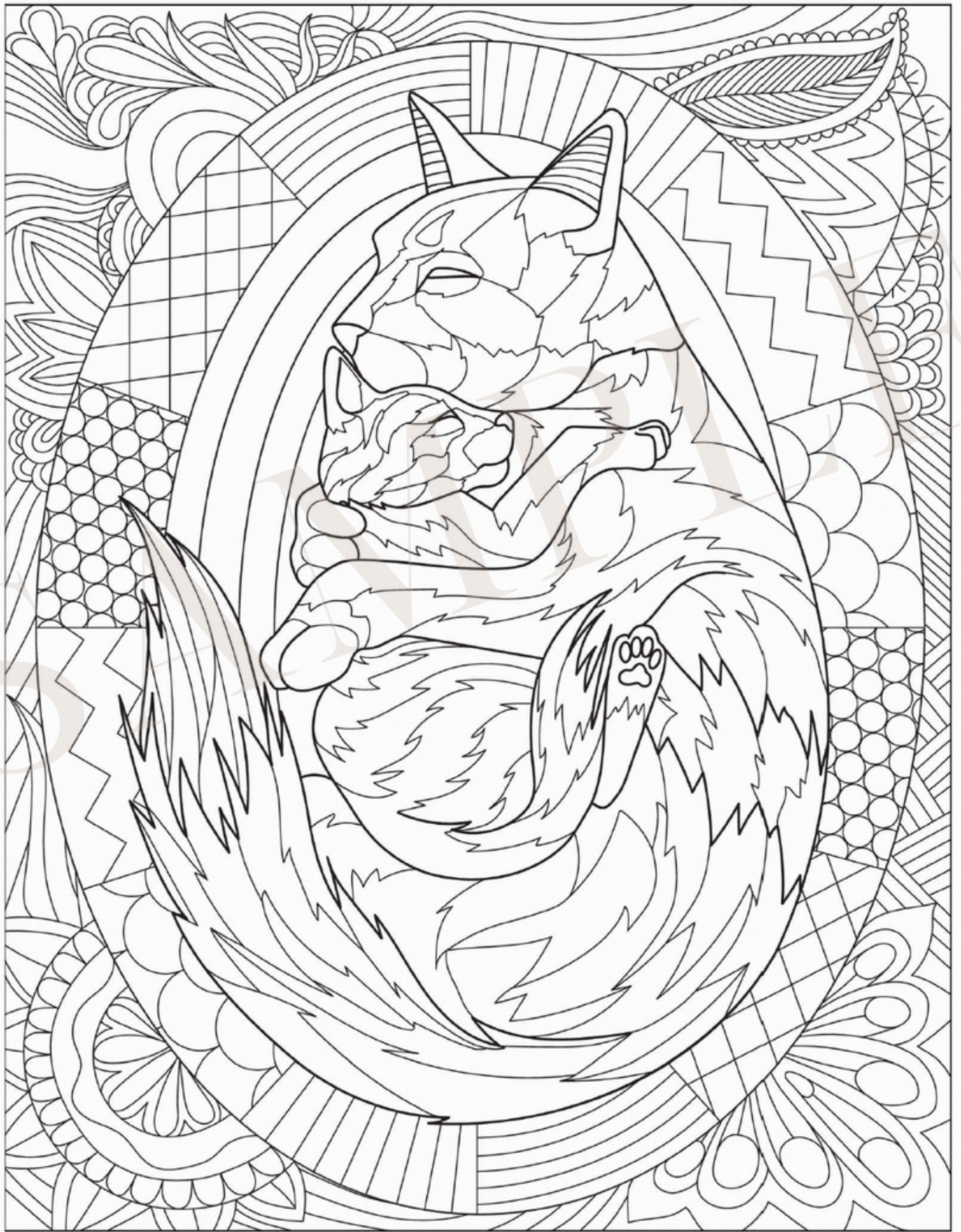


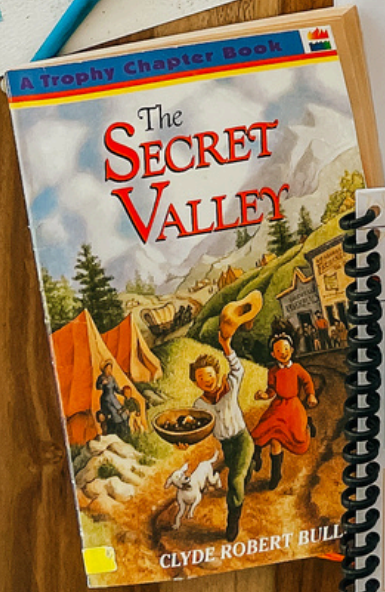
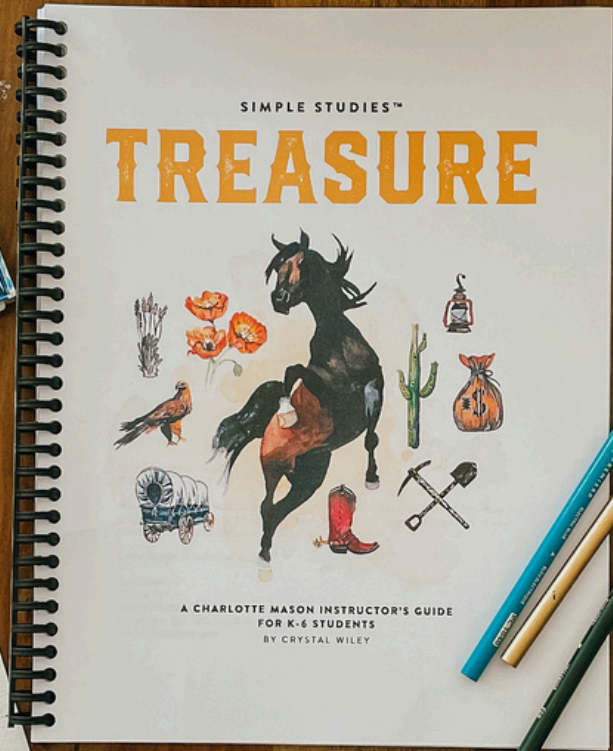
COLORING PAGES

NAME









DAILY GRATITUDE

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Today I'm grateful for... | Date: |
| | |
| Today I'm grateful for... | Date: |
| | |
| Today I'm grateful for... | Date: |
| | |



TESTIMONIALS

CMSIMPLESTUDIES.COM

I have been searching for a few years for the right addition to our morning time. I needed something that has poetry, reading, Biblical principles and nature oriented lessons. I would find something but become overwhelmed by the amount of "fluff" and extra content. These studies are so feasible and attainable and have added a wonderful component to our Charlotte Mason homeschool! My only problem is choosing which one to do next!!!! Love them all!!! - Katie Woodruff

OUR KIDS RECENTLY FINISHED YOUR JUNGLE STUDY AND REALLY ENJOYED IT. :) — GENEVIEVE D.

We've used your guides from the beginning, gosh, so many years ago. I love how you take the cream off the top of so many different curriculum and put it together in a way that's custom fit for your family. - Miette Allison

I LOVE YOUR STUDIES. I HAVE AN 8 AND 5 YEAR OLD AND WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING THROUGH THE FOREST ANIMALS GUIDE. IT'S SO FUN. - LYDIA JENKINS

I like all of these guides because they're simple but interesting and give just enough further resources (links, booklists, ideas) to be fun without being overwhelming, an important factor for us! - @thesunrisemama

TRULY LOVE YOUR PRODUCTS; THEY ARE A GREAT FIT FOR OUR FAMILY. I LOVE HOW THE LESSONS ARE SO FLEXIBLE. THEY CAN BE SHORT (JUST READING AND COLORING) OR WE CAN GO DOWN A RABBIT HOLE FOR THE AFTERNOON. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR CREATING THEM! — KÀRIN MANCINI

TESTIMONIALS

CMSIMPLESTUDIES.COM

We did the Simple Studies Burgess Birds and it was our favorite homeschool study we've ever done! We have kids in 8th grade down to kindergarten and all my children enjoyed doing this study together. It's amazing to see each bird that they drew in their nature journal. I printed "how to draw" pages for my youngest sons so it gave them step by step instructions on how to draw each bird. They loved that. My young ones also loved the coloring pages! We were sad when the book came to an end. I would highly recommend this study and you can make it work with a variety of ages.

– Claire Jones

US HISTORY IS FINALLY STARTING TO BE INTERESTING FOR MY 7 YEAR OLD. THANK YOU FOR CREATING AN INTERESTING, AFFORDABLE WAY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT US HISTORY! – SARAH W.

My daughters and I started with Among the Meadow People and I truly appreciate your simple studies. They are enjoying them and sharing facts with family. They loved how God created the robin with a pocket of oil for when it rains. Thank you for serving the homeschool community with your time and talent. – Nicole M

JUST FINISHED COURAGE. WE LOVED IT! IT WAS OUR FIRST STUDY AND NOW I WANT TO BUY THEM ALL!! -MAGGIE MILLER

I'm officially obsessed with your studies. They've been a life-giving presence in our homeschool this year & I'm so grateful to have found them. – Hannah Connor

I AM SO PLEASED WITH WHAT I FOUND! I AM PLANNING ON INCORPORATING 3 OF THE SIMPLE STUDIES IN OUR YEAR. THEY ARE SO CUTE!! AND ARE GREAT FOR MY BROOD-- 8, 6, 3.5 AND 14 MONTHS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION. – MARIA DOUGLASS

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER PRODUCTS!

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