

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

Parables



Bible Picture Portfolios

by Emily Kiser

With Bible Picture Portfolios

you have everything you need to present enjoyable Bible lessons in a school Bible class, family devotions, or Sunday School. The beautiful art combined with the Bible accounts will influence and enrich your students more than you can imagine.

In this book you will find

- Eight Bible passages from the book or theme of this portfolio. Both English Standard Version (ESV) and King James Version (KJV) are included for you to choose from.
- Simple step-by-step instructions that explain how to use the artwork to enrich Bible lessons with all ages.
- Helpful Leading Thoughts that will allow you to point out details and engage in discussion about each picture.
- A brief biographical sketch of each artist to share with your students as desired.
- Cross references to related works in other Bible Picture Portfolios and Picture Study Portfolios, so you can easily expand or extend your Bible study.

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published by Simply Charlotte Mason

Bible Picture Portfolio: Parables
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About Bible Picture Portfolios

In *Home Education*, Charlotte Mason suggested that parents give their children reverent pictures to look at—art that illustrates the Bible stories read from Scripture. She said, “The study of such pictures . . . should be a valuable part of a child’s education; it is no slight thing to realise how the Nativity and the visit of the Wise Men filled the imagination of the early Masters, and with what exceeding reverence and delight they dwelt upon every detail of the sacred story. . . . [T]he child who gets it in early days, will have a substratum of reverent feeling upon which should rest his faith” (*Home Education*, p. 252). In keeping with this advice, these Bible Portfolios have been produced, in order to make the selection of profitable pictures easy and to include the relevant Scripture texts that accompany the stories.

Miss Mason recommended that a simple picture study be done with these pictures, allowing the children a few moments to carefully and quietly observe the painting. Afterwards, turn the picture over and give them the chance to “say what they have seen in it” (*Home Education*, p. 253). She cautioned that parents and teachers shouldn’t give the interpretation of the picture, nor drive home the points of the story, but instead, “let the pictures tell their own tale” (p. 253).

These portfolios have been created for all those interested in giving their students biblical art to study and enjoy:

- Teachers may use these portfolios for Bible lessons during school time.
- Families can benefit from adding them into their devotions or family worship.
- Sunday School teachers can use them with their classes to bring high-quality artwork and picture study to children who may not regularly be exposed to it.

We hope these portfolios help make this aspect of the great feast of a Charlotte Mason education easy to implement and enjoy!

How to Use Bible Picture Portfolios

As in other Bible lessons, the Scripture passage should be read and narrated first. This is the one lesson in which Miss Mason encouraged children to use the exact words they heard in their narrations; and as these words are the inspired word of God, it's no wonder! Two translations for each Scripture passage are included in this portfolio: the English Standard Version (ESV) and the King James Version (KJV). You are welcome to use whichever version your family, school, or church prefers.

After the passage has been narrated, show the students the corresponding picture and allow them to observe it carefully for a few minutes in silence. Encourage the children to make a picture of it in their mind. After this quiet time of studying the picture, turn it over and have them share what they've seen. This is all that is necessary to enjoy and learn from the artwork.

Some Leading Thoughts have been included for each picture that give a bit more information about each piece. The biographical information may be shared with your students before looking at the picture to arouse their sympathy with the artist. The other information may prove interesting and useful for the teacher: a painting's history has been shared if it is of particular interest, optional prompts for discussion have been given, and some details that may be unclear have been explained. Teachers should feel free to use the Leading Thoughts with their students if they ask questions or would like to know more about the artwork, but it is perfectly fine to enjoy the picture without using these additional materials.

To recap,

1. Read the Scripture passage.
2. Have the children narrate the passage, using words as close to the text as possible.

3. Show the artwork to the children, possibly sharing a bit about the artist who painted the piece, and allow a few quiet moments to closely examine the painting.
4. Turn the picture over and ask the children to tell what they saw in it—not only a description of what it looked like, but also anything it made them think of in light of the Scripture passage just read.
5. Optionally, share some interesting idea from the Leading Thoughts section about the piece, or invite the students into a discussion using the prompts in the text as they are interested and engaged.

Introductory Note

In *Home Education*, Charlotte Mason recommended learning Bible passages by heart, beginning when children were quite young—six or seven years old. She mentioned parables as being a good place to start. Children are naturally more interested in and able to remember stories, so these short narrative accounts told by Christ are a great introduction to Scripture memory. With this in mind, we have produced this portfolio dedicated to the parables of Christ. It can be used in conjunction with the Gospel portfolios, placing each story in the context of the specific Gospel being read, or as a stand alone study.



The Parable of the Good Samaritan

The Good Samaritan (After Delecroix) by Vincent van Gogh

1890, oil on canvas, 73 x 60 cm
Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, The Netherlands

1. *Read the Bible passage in the translation of your choice.*

Luke 10:30–37 (ESV)

Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up

his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

Luke 10:30–37 (KJV)

And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to

him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

2. *Ask for a narration of the Bible passage.*

3. *Show the picture, tell about the artist if desired, and allow a few minutes to study it.*

Vincent Van Gogh was born in the Netherlands in 1853. In his short career as an artist, only the last 10 years of his life, Van Gogh produced nearly 900 oil paintings. As the son of a minister, Van Gogh initially pursued a career as a minister. Although his early ambition did not succeed, many of his pieces are religious in nature, and some, like this painting of the Good Samaritan, are copies, or rather, translations of pieces by other prominent artists. This painting was completed in the final year of his life.

4. *Turn the picture over and ask students to tell what they saw.*

5. *(optional) Share some or all of these Leading Thoughts.*

Van Gogh modeled this painting after a work by Eugène Delacroix, a French artist. Van Gogh's is a mirror image of Delacroix's, and Van Gogh's painting style is quite different. If you'd like, you can compare the two pieces. (See the next page.)

What details did the artist include that let us know this is a painting of the parable Jesus told?

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was only about 18 miles long, but a traveler would descend more than 3,000 feet in elevation. This route was fraught with danger and was notorious as a hideout for robbers. Reflect on how Jesus used this well-known fact His audience would have been familiar with to set the stage for the spiritual lesson He wished to impart.

