



A Tour of the Charlotte Mason Method A Facebook-based Beginner's Class

This group is for the Day 1 online "tour group" through the Charlotte Method led by the team at Simply Charlotte Mason, a CM-based curriculum and resource company for homeschooling families. The tour will run through Day 8, and members will have access to the group until Day 13 to gather any links or materials they would like to keep. After the group closes, we recommend members post in our general group when they have questions: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/simplycm/>

Welcome friends!

We are so excited to have you for our tour through the Charlotte Mason method! As you join the group, we would love to learn a little about you! Please reply to this post with an introduction, and be sure to let us know how you came to know about the Charlotte Mason Method 😊

A little about how we will operate over these next few weeks.

1. Monday - Thursday each week, posting will be limited to admins only and we will post the lesson for the day each morning. Most lessons will include a core lesson along with a few optional resources to take a peek at if you would like to learn more about that particular topic. We will take discussion, comments, and questions as replies on the day's lesson post so all discussion can stay in one place and easy to navigate.
2. Friday - Sunday, we will "open the floor" for group members to create new posts to chat, get to know each other better, and ask additional questions.
3. Official lessons will wrap up on Day 8, and we will keep the group open until Day 13 to allow everyone time to bookmark links and gather any additional info they would like from our discussions together. After that date, feel free to ask any additional questions you have in our main group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send me a PM 😊

DAY 1:

Good morning! Welcome to Day 1 😊

As mentioned in the guidelines, only admins can create posts on lesson days so we can stay organized, but please reply here as you have questions and comments.

Each day, we will be posting a few resources as a Core Lesson, and then we will be adding optional additional resources to a document in the Files section of the group.

To get us started, let's learn a little bit about who Charlotte Mason was and how she was a voice for change in education in her lifetime and today 😊 We will also explore some of the basics of a CM education.

As you read the materials - we highly encourage you to narrate them. Retell what you have learned either orally to a family member, by writing them down in a journal, or even typing up your narration - challenge yourself not to look back at the readings while you do it. You will have now started to participate in one of central aspects of a CM education! (Feel free to narrate each reading separately!)

Who was Charlotte Mason

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/what-is-the-charlotte-mason-method/who-was-charlotte-mason/>

What are the basic keys of a CM Education

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/what-is-the-charlotte-mason-method/>

Atmosphere

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/education-is-an-atmosphere/>

Discipline

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/education-is-a-discipline/>

Life

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/education-is-a-life/>

Basic Keys

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/the-power-of-good-habits/>

Day 1:

Evening Chat ☕

The term Mother Culture, developed based on Charlotte Mason's teachings by Karen Andreola is considered central to a CM Atmosphere. So each evening of our core lesson days, we'll have a Mother Culture chat.

Karen defines Mother Culture: "Mother Culture is the skillful art with which a mother looks after the ways of her household and herself. In her home she creates a culture all her own with a mingling of love and responsibility. A mother does a lot of taking care, so she also takes care of herself. So much depends on how she manages her life."

Tonight's question: What is YOUR favorite subject of study? What draws you to it?

DAY 2:

Day 2!

Today, we have collected quite a few resources for you - be sure to check the files later today when we update them with all of the extras as well if you find yourself with a few moments to spare ❤️

Today we are talking about the science of relations and the value of short lessons - both of which are terms we don't hear much in discussions of conventional education. They happen to be two of the aspects of CM that I love the most though 😊

Science of Relations

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/education-is-too-often-misunderstood/>

Value of Short Lessons

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/three-basic-cm-principles-subject-by-subject-part-2/>

Why Delay Formal Education?

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/thoughts-early-education/>

Day 2:

Evening chat time ❤️

When you see the words "favorite book," (besides the Bible 😊) what is the first book that came to mind? When did you first read it? Why do you love it?

The last time we asked this question the thought came up to do a favorite book from childhood and one from adulthood, so feel free to name two!

DAY 3:

Happy Wednesday morning!

Day 3!

Today we want to discuss living books and narration. Both are foundational elements to Charlotte's method. It's important to understand that literature alone does not make a method or curriculum true to Charlotte's method.

As always, make sure to check out the files section later today. We have some additional links and resources to share with you guys.

Definition of a Living Book

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/faq/livingbook/>

5 Ways to Find Living Books

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bwAprK5XtE>

The Charlotte Mason Method of Narration

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/the-charlotte-mason-method-of-narration/>

How to do Narration

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/how-to-do-narration/>

Day 3:

Evening Chat

"Let creativity bubble up. Then step forward. Give it a try. This isn't a selfish thing to do. The advantages of a little domestic creativity do not end with yourself. They spill over into the family circle. Being a domestic artist can be one aspect of your Mother Culture."

~Karen Andreola

What is a handicraft or a creative endeavor that you engage in or would like to engage in as part of your Mother Culture?

DAY 4:

Can you believe we are already on day 4?!

Today will be a "lighter" day concerning links but the subject we will discuss brings a richness to our homes and schools: The Feast.

As always, make sure to check the files for additional (optional) reading.

This Year's Feast

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/this-years-feast/>

Simple Weekly Subjects

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UxYYaTbUtQ

Day 4:

Evening Chat

What drew you or is drawing you to educate your children utilizing Charlotte's method.
What's your "why"?

Remembering our why can be beneficial on the hairy days.

DAY 5:

Happy Monday!

Today, we are discussing LESSON PLANS! Yes, we do sell ready-made lesson plans and many families choose to use these tools, but today's lessons are useful whether you want to completely DIY, partially DIY, or understand the principles that went into the development of our ready-made plans.

Be sure to check the files for more links 😊

5 Steps to Planning your Charlotte Mason Education

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/planning-charlotte-mason-education/>

5 Things to Remember When Planning Your Charlotte Mason Home School

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/5-things-to-remember-when-youre-planning-your-homeschool-curriculum/>

5 Questions to Ask about Your Schedule

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/5-questions-to-ask-about-your-schedule/>

Day 5:

Evening Chat ☕

Our lesson was on planning today - so let's talk about goals! What are 2-3 goals for your family for the future? They can be academic, personal, habit-based, etc. 😊

Sometimes putting our goals into writing helps us focus in on them and be more likely to make them happen!

DAY 6:

Good morning! We're on to Lesson 6 today - Nature!

Time in nature and nature study is central to a CM education, but can be a tough area to get going on. We've got a bunch of great resources for you today, and more coming in the files!

How to do Nature Study

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHGaOj4OcNM>

Nature Study in a Nutshell

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/nature-study-in-a-nutshell/>

Nature Walk or Nature Study?

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/nature-walk-or-nature-study/>

8 Great Reasons to do Nature Study

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/8-reasons-to-do-nature-study/>

Nature Study, plus Living Books

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/nature-study-plus/>

Day 6:

Tuesday Evening Chat ❤️

Tell us about your experience with nature - do you remember the first time (or any time!) you were ever awed with God's creation? Have you seen that type of moment in your children yet?

DAY 7:

Welcome to Day 7!

We often see questions concerning Charlotte's method in the early years (pre-1st grade) and in high school. Is her method of education enough? The SCM team can confidently say yes!

We'll have more reads and resources available in our Files later today.

Early Years

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/series/the-early-years/>

Homeschooling through High School the CM Way

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/series/homeschooling-through-high-school-the-cm-way/>

Day 7:

Evening chat

Yesterday we chatted about our experiences with nature.

I'd like us to continue reflecting on our experience with focused time in nature. Nature study and Nature walks are 2 important (key) activities that Charlotte expected her teachers and mothers to include in their children's lives.

How has time in nature benefited you, your child, or your family?

Have you had an obstacle to overcome in order to find peace in nature?

DAY 8:

Lesson 8! We are beginning to wind down our studies. We've presented quite a bit. We hope that you all have benefitted from the resources we've shared.

Now that you've spent time learning more about Charlotte's method and our resources you may have questions about finding the sweet spot. We'd love to help you with that and is something we are always willing to do via a PM or an email us.

If you have any questions concerning how to adjust history, Visits to...., or any other resource to better fit a younger or older student, please don't hesitate to add those questions in the comment thread. I'm sure it will benefit many.

Mathematics

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/the-charlotte-mason-elementary-arithmetic-series/>

Concerning math placement, we currently offer Books 1 and 2 of The Charlotte Mason Elementary Arithmetic series. We encourage families trying to decide between either book to download the sample of Book 2 and use the review as a placement guide. We also recommend Math-U-See and Right Start Mathematics. Both companies provide placement guides on their websites.

Learning to Read

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/delightful-reading/>

Often times there are questions as to whether a child should be placed in Delightful Reading level 2 or ready for level 3. The sample download for level 2 include the Table of Contents. There, you will find a complete list of the various word families and blends students will learn while using Delightful Reading, Level 2. If your child is familiar with all of the word families and blends, Level 3 may be the perfect fit.

Handwriting

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/product-category/product-language-arts/>

Our suggested order is Delightful Handwriting, A Child's Copybook Readers (3), Print to Cursive: Proverbs, and Hymns in Prose. We suggest waiting to begin Delightful Handwriting until a child is ready for Delightful Reading, Level 3. It is important that a student is able to read what they are copying in order for it to be a lesson in spelling. Hymns in Prose is a unique product. It can be utilized as copywork only however if you add the Teacher's Guide and Reader you can utilize it as a remedial reading program. It is written at approximately a 3rd grade level.

Dictation and Grammar

<https://media.simplycharlottesmason.com/downloads/Using-Language-Well-Placement-Guide.pdf>

Our grade ranges are only recommendations. Any child who gets through Using Language Well Book 3 and is progressing through Spelling Wisdom Book 4 by graduation will be well on their way to excellent spelling and English usage for life. Many families do not know about our placement guide. You can find it at any time on our Using Language Well page in the Bookstore.

Day 8:

Evening chat -

If you could choose one word to describe a focus goal for the year in your home school, what it would be? What appeals to you about that goal?

LESSON EXTRAS:

After each Core Lesson is posted, we will add additional resources here for further reading or specific topics.

Lesson 1 - Who was Charlotte Mason? What are the basic keys of a CM Education? What is meant by education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life?

[no cost] Atmosphere, Discipline, Life additional info - this e-book contains atmosphere, discipline, life info as well as a little extra

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/education-is/>

Lesson 2 - The Science of Relations and the value of short / paced lessons

[no cost] Delay of formal grammar lessons

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/a-charlotte-mason-approach-to-english-grammar-language-arts-part-9/>

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/postponing-formal-grammar-instruction/>

[no cost] Lessons done by lunch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fd50LW3UGe0>

[no cost] Science of Relations

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/the-familiar-face-of-a-friend/>

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/i-can-relate/>

[no cost] Short lessons

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/small-constant-touches/>

[no cost] Is my child learning enough?

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/is-my-child-learning-enough/>

[available in our store] When Less is More Workshop

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/when-more-is-less-workshop/>

Lesson 3 - Living Books and the basics of narration (and...literature alone does not make a curriculum CM)

[no cost] Choosing Books like a connoisseur

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/choosing-books-like-a-connoisseur/>

[no cost] 5 Ways NOT to use a living book

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9gbW4qFgr0>

[no cost] Narration ideas

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/timesavers/narration/>

[no cost] Narration with multiple children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=px4tWb4Be6k>

[no cost] Narration Q/A (long series but valuable)

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/series/narration-qa/>

[no cost] 5 steps to successful narration

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/five-steps-to-successful-narration/>

[no cost] Narration Bookmarks

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/narration-bookmarks/>

[available in our store] Your Questions Answered: Narration

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/questions-answered-narration/>

Lesson 4 The Feast

[no cost] Enrichment 1 suggestions

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/curriculum-guide/enrichment-year-ideas-1/>

[no cost] Enrichment 2 suggestions

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/curriculum-guide/enrichment-year-ideas-2/>

[no cost] Enrichment 3 suggestions

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/curriculum-guide/enrichment-year-ideas-3/>

[no cost] Enrichment 4 suggestions

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/curriculum-guide/enrichment-year-ideas-4/>

Lesson 5 Lesson Planning

[no cost] Subject Cards

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/using-subject-cards-to-plan-your-homeschool-schedule/>

[no cost] Organizing Your Home School

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/your-questions-answered-organizing-your-home-school/>

[available in our store] The Keep it Simple homepage

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/keep-it-simple/#choose-your-history-study>

[no cost] Productive Afternoons

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/productive-afternoons-in-charlotte-mason-homeschooling/>

[no cost] Finishing Lessons by Lunch

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/how-to-finish-lessons-by-lunch/>

[available in our store] Planning Your Charlotte Mason Education

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/planning-your-charlotte-mason-education/>

[no cost] Productive Afternoons free download

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/productive-afternoons/>

Lesson 6 - Nature

[available in our store] Journaling a Year in Nature

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/journaling-a-year-in-nature/>

[available in our store] Living Science Courses

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/living-science-courses/>

[booklist] Living Science Books

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/curriculum-guide/individual-graded-subjects/living-science-books/>

Lesson 7 - Early Education / High School Education

[resources, lists, and suggestions] Preschool and Kindergarten

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/preschool-guide/>

[resources, lists, and suggestions] Preschool Foundations

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/planning/preschool-guide/preschool-foundations/>

[fee] Our Preschool Life

<https://ourpreschool.life/>

[available in our store] The Early Years

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/early-years-charlotte-mason-preschool-handbook/>

[no cost] Starting Charlotte Mason in High School

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/starting-charlotte-mason-homeschooling-high-school/>

[no cost] Scheduling a High Schooler in the Mix

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/blog/scheduling-high-schooler-mix/>

[available in our store] Your Questions Answered: High School

<https://simplycharlottesmason.com/store/your-questions-answered-high-school/>