

Institution: Charles Stanley Institute

Course Length: 52 Courses

Pacing: Flexible; students progress in a manner that best supports their schedule and spiritual formation

Format: Scripture-based study with book overviews, instructional video content, guided reflection, and more

Level: Foundational–Intermediate Biblical Studies

Prerequisites: None

Course Series Description

Dr. Charles Stanley frequently referred to the Bible as *the Book of Books*—the one volume unlike any other, inspired by God and preserved through history to reveal who He is and how we are to live before Him. Through its pages, God speaks with clarity, faithfulness, and power, drawing His people into deeper trust, obedience, and relationship.

The Book of Books is a year-long course series designed to guide students through all sixty-six books of the Bible, helping them understand not only what Scripture says, but why it matters and how it fits together as one unified, God-authored story. From Genesis to Revelation, students will trace the unfolding purposes of God as He reveals His character, His redemptive plan, and His desire to dwell with His people.

Central to this course series is the conviction that the entire Bible points to Jesus Christ. Though written across centuries by many human authors, Scripture speaks with one divine voice, consistently bearing witness to Him. The Old Testament anticipates Christ through promise, pattern, and prophecy; the New Testament proclaims His coming, explains His work, and celebrates His reign. Every book contributes to the one redemptive story that finds its center and fulfillment in Jesus.

The Bible is not merely a collection of religious writings. It is the enduring revelation of the Lord God Almighty—the Creator of heaven and earth—who has chosen to make Himself known through His Son. Through Scripture, God declares His holiness and mercy, His judgment and grace, and His intention to redeem and restore a people for Himself in Christ. This course series invites students to approach the Bible with reverence, confidence, and expectancy, recognizing it as the primary means by which God reveals Christ and shapes His people.

Built upon Dr. Charles Stanley’s foundational teaching series *The Book of Books*, this course series examines Scripture from multiple angles—historical, theological, cultural, and devotional—while maintaining a clear focus on the Bible as God’s inspired and trustworthy Word. Over the progression of fifty-two courses, students will grow in biblical literacy, theological understanding, and personal confidence in reading the Scriptures as a unified testimony to Christ.

Course Series Objectives

By the end of this course series, students will be able to:

- Understand the overarching storyline of Scripture from creation to consummation.
- Identify how each of the sixty-six books contributes to God's redemptive plan in Christ.
- Recognize the unity of Scripture across diverse authors, genres, and historical settings.
- See how the Old Testament anticipates Christ and the New Testament proclaims and explains Him.
- Appreciate the historical, cultural, and geographical contexts of the biblical text.
- Articulate biblically grounded reasons for trusting the Bible's reliability, authority, and Christ-centered message.
- Engage God's Word more confidently, thoughtfully, and consistently.

Course Series Structure and Weekly Rhythm

The Book of Books is intentionally designed as a 52-week study, providing a steady, manageable rhythm for sustained engagement with Scripture over the course of a year. Each course corresponds to a portion of the biblical narrative and is structured to help students see both the individual book of the Bible and its place within God's greater redemptive plan in Christ.

While the course series follows a weekly framework, students are encouraged to progress through the material at a pace that best fits their schedule, attentiveness, and season of spiritual growth. Some may choose to move steadily week by week, while others may take additional time to reflect, revisit material, or linger in particular portions of Scripture. This flexibility is intentional, allowing space for prayerful reading, thoughtful study, and meaningful application.

Each course includes:

- A guided Bible study rooted directly in Scripture.
- At least one overview of a specific book of the Bible.
- Teaching that situates the book within the broader biblical storyline and points clearly to Christ.

As students move through the course series, they will gain increasing clarity regarding how the Law, the Prophets, the Writings, the Gospels, and the Epistles together proclaim one gospel and one Savior.

Course Series Content and Learning Resources

To support deep and sustained engagement with Scripture, this course series integrates a wide range of learning resources:

1). Bible Studies

Each course includes a Bible study designed to guide students through key themes, structures, and theological emphases of the text, with consistent attention to Christ-centered interpretation.

2). Book Overviews

Accessible overviews introduce each biblical book, highlighting authorship, historical context, literary features, and how the book contributes to the story of redemption in Christ.

3). Instructional Videos

Video content reinforces major insights and helps students see the unity of Scripture and its fulfillment in Jesus.

4). Topical Commentary and Enrichment Resources

Throughout the course series, students will engage focused teaching on:

- The names and attributes of God.
- Fulfilled prophecy related to Christ.
- Major biblical timelines.
- Archaeological discoveries that affirm the biblical record.
- The formation and recognition of the biblical canon.
- The geography of the biblical world.
- Cultural contexts that illuminate the biblical message.

These resources are designed to deepen understanding while continually directing students back to Scripture itself.

5). Course Series Sequence

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| • Genesis | • Job | • Nahum | • Ephesians |
| • Exodus | • Psalms | • Habakkuk | • Philippians |
| • Leviticus | • Proverbs | • Zephaniah | • Colossians |
| • Numbers | • Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon | • Haggai & Zechariah | • 1 & 2 Thessalonians |
| • Deuteronomy | • Isaiah | • Malachi | • 1 & 2 Timothy |
| • Joshua | • Jeremiah & Lamentations | • Matthew | • Titus |
| • Judges | • Ezekiel | • Mark | • Philemon |
| • Ruth | • Daniel | • Luke | • Hebrews |
| • 1st & 2nd Samuel | • Hosea | • John | • James |
| • 1st & 2nd Kings | • Joel & Amos | • Acts | • 1 & 2 Peter |
| • 1st & 2nd Chronicles | • Obadiah | • Romans | • 1, 2, & 3 John |
| • Ezra | • Jonah | • 1 & 2 Corinthians | • Jude |
| • Nehemiah | • Micah | • Galatians | • Revelation |
| • Esther | | | |

Theological Emphasis and Learning Approach

The Book of Books is grounded in a high view of Scripture as inspired, authoritative, and trustworthy. The Bible is presented not merely as a text to be studied, but as the living Word through which God reveals Himself most fully in Jesus Christ.

Consistent with Dr. Charles Stanley's lifelong conviction, this course affirms that lasting spiritual growth flows from faithful, regular engagement with God's Word. Students are encouraged to read Scripture with Christ-centered eyes, humility of heart, and readiness to obey, recognizing that the goal of studying the Bible is not information alone, but transformation through knowing and following Christ.

Course Series Foundations

This course series is shaped by Dr. Charles Stanley's teaching series, including:

- *God's Great Purpose*
- *Trembling Before the Word of God*
- *Reasons to Believe the Bible*
- *How to Handle the Bible*

These teachings provide the theological framework and pastoral heart that guide the entire study.

Suggested Readings

The following readings are optional and not required for course series completion. They are provided for students who wish to deepen their theological reflection and spiritual formation alongside the core course series material.

These resources support the aims of *The Book of Books* by encouraging disciplined engagement with Scripture, attentiveness to God's voice, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and growth in prayer.

Suggested readings include:

- **10 Principles for Studying Your Bible**
- **30 Life Principles Bible Study**
- **Handbook for Christian Living**
- **The Will of God**

All study guides are available through the In Touch Store [HERE](#).

Intended Audience

The Book of Books is designed for believers at every stage of spiritual growth—those new to reading the Bible as well as seasoned Christians seeking a comprehensive, Christ-centered understanding of God's Word. It is well suited for individual learners, small groups, churches, and ministry leaders. No prior theological training is required—only a desire to know God more deeply through His Word and to see Christ more clearly in all of Scripture.