

Course Series Syllabus: In Step with God

Institution: Charles Stanley Institute

Course Series Length: 12 Sessions

Format: R.E.A.D. Club (Book-based study with video instruction, guided reflection, and community discussion)

Level: Foundational Christian Formation

Prerequisites: None

Course Series Description

In Step with God is a twelve-session R.E.A.D. Club course series designed to guide believers through Dr. Charles Stanley's book, *In Step with God*, chapter by chapter. Each session corresponds directly to one chapter of the book, allowing students to slowly and intentionally deepen their understanding of who God is and how He faithfully works in the lives of His children.

Many believers know facts about God yet struggle to truly know Him personally. As a result, fear, uncertainty, anxiety, and discouragement often shape the way they approach life's circumstances. This course series seeks to bridge that gap by helping students grow in the knowledge of God's character and discover how that knowledge transforms everyday living.

As Dr. Stanley often taught, the Christian life is not simply about learning more information about God—it is about walking closely with Him. The better we know Him, the more we trust Him. The more we trust Him, the more confidently we follow His leadership in every area of life.

Unlike many Charles Stanley Institute course series, *In Step with God* is intentionally designed as a reading-centered experience. Students are encouraged to thoughtfully read each chapter and engage the accompanying teaching, reflection, and discussion resources in order to move beyond intellectual knowledge into a deeper relationship with their Heavenly Father.

Course Series Objectives

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

- Develop a deeper understanding of God's character as revealed in Scripture.
 - Grow in intimacy with God through a deeper knowledge of who He is.
 - Learn to trust God's wisdom, timing, and purposes in every season of life.
 - Recognize how God uses trials, circumstances, and daily experiences to accomplish His will.
 - Apply biblical truth about God's character to everyday decisions and challenges.
 - Cultivate greater confidence in God's love, forgiveness, goodness, and faithfulness.
 - Engage meaningfully with other believers through encouragement, prayer, and biblical discussion.
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R.E.A.D. Club Learning Framework

This course series follows the Charles Stanley Institute's R.E.A.D. Club model, designed to foster deep engagement and faithful obedience.

READ

Students read one chapter per session from *In Step with God* by Dr. Charles Stanley, treating the book as the primary course text.

EXAMINE

Through Scripture, guided reflection, and teaching videos, students examine God's character, His ways, and His work in the lives of His people.

APPLY

Students prayerfully consider how God's truth should shape their attitudes, decisions, relationships, and daily walk with Christ.

DISCUSS

Students engage in community discussion by sharing insights, asking questions, praying together, and encouraging one another as they pursue a deeper relationship with God.

Course Series Content and Learning Resources

This R.E.A.D. Club course series integrates several resources designed to support both personal study and spiritual growth.

1). Core Reading

In Step with God by Dr. Charles Stanley (12 chapters)

2). Video Content

Short, focused teaching videos accompany each chapter, emphasizing key biblical themes and reinforcing the central truths presented in the reading.

3). R.E.A.D. Guides

Guided materials help students reflect on each chapter, examine relevant Scripture passages, and thoughtfully apply biblical truth to everyday life.

4). Community Discussion Forum

An interactive discussion forum allows students to connect with fellow participants, ask questions, share personal insights, pray for one another, and encourage one another throughout the course series.

Theological Emphasis and Learning Approach

In Step with God is grounded in a high view of Scripture and presents God as He has revealed Himself in His Word. Throughout the course series, students are continually directed back to the Bible as the trustworthy source for understanding God's character, His purposes, and His will.

Central to this study is the conviction that knowing God changes everything. As believers grow in their understanding of His holiness, goodness, love, faithfulness, wisdom, and sovereignty, they are increasingly able to trust Him with every circumstance they encounter. Rather than viewing life's challenges through the lens of fear or uncertainty, students learn to interpret them through the unchanging character of God.

Each session encourages students not simply to gain theological knowledge, but to cultivate a deeper relationship with their Heavenly Father—one marked by trust, obedience, confidence, and joyful dependence upon Him.

Intended Audience

In Step with God is designed for believers who desire to know God more deeply and walk more closely with Him. Whether someone is new to the Christian faith or has followed Christ for many years, this course series offers biblical encouragement and practical guidance for developing a richer understanding of God's character and His work in everyday life.

It is well suited for individual study, small groups, Sunday School classes, discipleship ministries, and church leadership development. No prior theological training is required—only a willingness to read attentively, reflect prayerfully, and pursue a deeper relationship with the God who desires to be known.