



Ellen G. White

Steps to Christ—Literary Analysis and Activities

Objectives:

1. To become better acquainted with Jesus Christ through an understanding of His word
2. To appreciate Ellen White's skill as a writer
3. To understand how literary techniques enhance a writer's message

Process:

1. Read *Steps to Christ*.
2. Keep a Reader's Journal while you read:
 - a. For each chapter, write a brief paragraph summary, putting it in your own words as succinctly as possible.
 - b. For each chapter, write a paragraph of personal response to the message of that chapter.
 - c. For the "meaning" part of each chapter, answer the questions from the study guide prepared by the [White Estate](#).
 - d. For the "method" part of each chapter, keep track of the literary techniques (metaphor, simile, personification, etc.) that Ellen White uses to make her case for Jesus and His love for us. Answer the questions that analyze the book from a literary standpoint.
3. Complete one of the writing projects after reading the book.





Literary Analysis:

1. What do you think was Ellen White's **purpose** in writing *Steps to Christ*? How well do you think she accomplishes this purpose? Give support for your answer.
2. What would you say is the overall **theme** of the book (besides the obvious)? Support your answer with examples throughout the book.
3. Give examples of the following literary techniques as Ellen White used them in *Steps to Christ*. What purpose does such figurative language serve here?

- a. Metaphor
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Epithet
- e. Characterization (of Christ)
- f. Repetition
- g. Apostrophe (not the punctuation mark)



4. Considering that Ellen White had only minimal formal schooling, how would you characterize her writing skills? Are they typical of a 4th grader? What accounts for the advanced writing skills you find in her writings?
5. What imagery stands out for you among these chapters? Why?



Writing Project:

Choose one writing project to complete and share with your classmates.

1. Based on what you read in *Steps to Christ*, make an annotated list, in your own words, of the steps to a relationship with Christ.
2. Write a 5-paragraph meditation on the ways nature reflects Christ's character.



3. What does Christ's sacrifice mean to you, personally? Write a reflective essay expressing your feelings.
4. Reread the last sentence of *Steps to Christ*. Using that as a springboard, write a meditation about the "joy in heaven" over "one lost soul redeemed."
5. Share your testimony about your own personal steps to your current relationship with Christ and what you plan to do to improve it.
6. Using the picture at left as inspiration, write a first-person narrative of Jesus' thoughts as He was taken to Calvary and crucified.

7. Write an account of the events at Calvary from Satan's point of view.
8. Create a dialogue between two angels in heaven as they watched Christ's crucifixion unfold before their eyes.