

Inductive Bible Study

I. Why is it important

- A. How it will benefit you
 - 1. Concrete answers to life's questions
 - 2. Faith that is set upon a solid rock and keeps you from being tossed about by every wind of doctrine
 - 3. Gives you a future and a hope
- B. Allows you to interact with Scripture so you can remember what you have studied

II. What is it

- A. Three-step process to study the Bible
- B. Life changing
- C. A study that takes you directly to God's Word - not someone else's ideas
- D. Process that allows Scripture to Interpret Scripture
- E. Interact with assignments
 - 1. May feel like a child coloring
 - 2. Necessary to do process
- F. Personally interact with the Living active word of God
- G. Helps you to wield your He 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17 offensive weapon without getting cut
- H. How we learn - chart

**** Handouts - Chart - how we learn

III. Components of Inductive Study

- A. Three components - Observation - Interpretation - Application
 - 1. Observation - What does it say?
 - 2. Inter - what does it mean
 - 3. App - How does it apply to me
 - 4. Thorough Observation will lead to correct interpretation
 - 5. Application will naturally arise
 - 6. Observation will lead to inter & app as you study
 - 7. 95% of time - observation
 - a) This is your interaction
 - b) This is time consuming
 - c) This is what people want to skip
 - d) This will be where we spend the majority of our class
 - 8. Quickly look at other 2 right now

B. Interpretation - What does it mean?

1. Context rules - Context is king
 - a) we will spend time developing that
 - b) Consider each verse in light of surrounding verses
2. Always seek full counsel of God's Word
3. Main things are the plain things
4. Scripture will never contradict Scripture - it is God-inspired - God-breathed
5. Don't base convictions or doctrinal teachings on obscure passages
6. Interpret Scripture literally
7. Look for the single meaning of the passage
 - a) What did the author have in mind
 - b) Unless author indicates there is another meaning - don't assume there is
8. Use tools - word studies, cross references, but leave commentaries until the end

C. Application - What does it mean to me personally?

1. II Tim 3:16-17
 - a) All Scripture important
 - b) All can be used for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness
 - c) Result - man of God adequate, equipped
 - d) Teaching (doctrine)
 - (1) What Bible says on particular subject
 - (2) God's Word is absolute
 - (3) Observe, understand, apply
 - e) Reproof
 - (1) Expose thinking and behavior that doesn't line up
 - (2) Accept God's truth - agree with God - change your thinking
 - (3) This is how you are set free from unbelief and sin
 - f) Correction
 - (1) Apply teaching
 - (2) Change your actions - take steps to correct
 - (3) God hasn't left you without help in any area of life
 - (4) Answers are there - sometimes hard to find - if we want to please God, His spirit will show us what to do
 - (5) Confessing and forsaking what is wrong
 - g) Training in righteousness
 - (1) Handbook for living

- (2) God equips us through
 - (a) Teaching
 - (b) Commands
 - (c) Promises
 - (d) Exhortations (encouragements)
 - (e) Warnings
 - (f) Lives of Biblical people
- 2. There is no situation in life that God's Word doesn't speak to
- 3. Result
 - a) May be adequate (#739 - artios) - perfect, complete, fitted, ready, prepared to function
 - b) Equipped for every good work
- 4. How to apply Scripture
 - a) What does the passage teach?
 - (1) What does it mean to me?
 - (2) What does it require of me?
 - b) Does this expose error in my beliefs?
 - c) What are God's instructions to His child?
 - d) Beware
 - (1) Don't apply cultural standards - just Biblical
 - (2) Don't stretch meaning to support a truth
 - (3) Don't apply Scripture based on past teaching or training

IV. Steps to a Thorough Observation

A. PRAYER!

- 1. Can't emphasize enough
- 2. HS lead to truth - importance of prayer before study
 - a) John 14:26
 - b) John 16:13-15
 - c) I Cor 2:6-16
- 3. God reveals Himself to those who seek Him
 - a) Dt 4:29
 - b) Pr 8:17
 - c) Jer 29:13

B. Learn to Read - Read with a purpose

- 1. We don't read words on a page
- 2. Read looking for something - will cause you to see other things
- 3. Hold conversation with the text
- 4. Change your life - School example

C. Setting Context

1. Context is the environment in which something lives
 - a) Every word - phrase - sentence - verse
 - b) Paragraph - chapter - book
 - c) other books same author
 - d) Section of Bible - Testament - Bible itself
2. gives meaning to the verse, word, or phrase
3. Can't pull things out of context or you lose the meaning
 - a) Trunk
 - (1) Examples
 - (a) Elephant, chest, car trunk, tree
 - (b) Swimming
 - (c) Trunk of body
 - (d) Main arteries in body
 - (e) Trunk line
 - (2) Context
 - (a) I have a trunk. (trunks)
 - (b) It is gray. (body, arteries)
 - (c) I carry things in it. (tree, trunk line)
 - (d) It is part of my body (chest, car trunk)
 - b) Turkey
 - (1) Examples
 - (a) Bird, dinner, country
 - (b) Person
 - (c) Bowling
 - (d) Idea, movie, play
 - (2) Context
 - (a) I got turkey. (country, person)
 - (b) It was right around Thanksgiving. (idea, bowling, bird)
 - (c) I went bowling with my friends
4. Context
 - a) Where do you begin?
 - b) Overview - establishes the context
 - c) You can't understand content until you understand context
 - d) Main things - Plain things
 - e) This lays your solid foundation

D. Book Overview

1. Important things to remember

- a) 5 W's and H
- b) Read with a purpose
- c) Focus on the Obvious (FOTO)
- d) Look for things that are repeated
- e) People, places, events, ideas are most obvious
- f) Reading with a purpose - what does that mean? ****Handout**
 - (1) Read thoughtfully
 - (2) Read repeatedly
 - (3) Read patiently
 - (4) Read selectively
 - (5) Read prayerfully
 - (6) Read meditatively - reflect on what you have read
 - (7) Read purposefully
 - (a) Verbs - mood, tense, voice (Eph 5:18)
 - (b) Adj/Adv - descriptions - all, many, majestic (Phil 4:19)
 - (c) Prepositional phrases (Col 1:15-20)
 - (d) Conjunctions - connectives (and, but) II Sam 11:1; Ps 37:4) -
Therefore
 - (8) Read acquisitively - acquiring knowledge to retain it
 - (a) Rewrite it
 - (b) Draw it - illustrate it
 - (c) Study history, culture
 - (9) Read telescopically
 - (a) View parts in light of the whole
 - (b) Where does it fit in history
 - (c) Close up view of book and author

2. Purpose of Overview

- a) Getting the Big Picture
- b) Building frame work of the puzzle
- c) Looking for the most obvious things - in puzzle what is most obvious?
 - (1) Author
 - (2) Recipients
 - (3) Purpose
 - (4) Key Words - Repeated things

3. Step 1

- a) Read the book
 - (1) straight through

- (2) don't stop to think or question
- (3) Get general idea or feel of the book
- b) Determine type of Literature - this will determine how to handle your study
 - (1) Historical - OT, Acts
 - (2) Prophetic - Revelation
 - (3) Biographical - Luke
 - (4) Poetic - Psalms
 - (5) Proverbial - individual teachings
 - (6) Epistles (Letters) - Philippians
 - (7) Didactic (teaching) - deep, theological - Romans
 - (8) Each one will be handled in a different way

4. Step 2

- a) Read book again beginning to ask questions
 - (1) Don't start answering questions yet
 - (2) Getting feel for the book
- b) 5 W's and H - Focus on the Obvious
 - (1) Who wrote it? Who was it written to?
 - (2) Why was it written?
 - (3) When was it written - what time in history?
 - (4) Where is the action taking place?
 - (5) What are the major teachings?
 - (6) How does this apply?
- c) Time in history did it take place
- d) Reason or Purpose the book was written
 - (1) you may not see that at this point in time that is fine
 - (2) we can look and it may be obvious - some authors make it obvious
 - (a) John 20:30-31
 - (b) Luke 1:1-4
 - (c) I John 5:13
 - (d) Jude 3-4

5. Step 3

- a) Start with people
- b) Read again and mark
- c) If letter
 - (1) Author - underline orange
 - (2) Recipient - underline green
- d) What do you learn about them

****Handout**

6. Step 4

- a) Finding purpose of the book
- b) Can you see it yet?
- c) If you can't see it here - you will look again in step 7

7. Step 5

- a) Look for and mark Key Words and Phrases
- b) Important words
 - (1) Repeated throughout book (not just in one chapter)
 - (2) Unlock meaning of text
 - (3) Without them - loose author's intent
 - (4) Come in layers
- c) Letter
 - (1) Author
 - (2) Recipients
- d) ALWAYS KEY - may not want to mark them here - but you can
 - (1) God
 - (2) Jesus
 - (3) Holy Spirit
- e) Marking cards. ****Handout**
 - (1) Bible
 - (2) Books
 - (3) Distinct colors and ways
 - (a) Not artistic contest
 - (b) Quick easy
 - (c) Easily distinguishable
- f) Slows us down
 - (1) Forces us to look at words in context
 - (2) Forces us to ask questions
 - (3) Forces us to interact
- g) Will come in layers

8. Step 6 ****Handout**

- a) Geographic Locations
- b) People
- c) Contrasts
 - (1) Showing the differences between two or more things
 - (2) Examples - But, However, Yet, Nevertheless, On the other hand
- d) Comparisons
 - (1) Showing the similarities between two or more things
 - (2) Examples - Like, As, Such as, Also, Metaphors
- e) Expressions of Time

- (1) Feasts
- (2) day, evening
- (3) When, Then, After this, Until, Now, Soon, As soon as
- f) Terms of Conclusion
 - (1) Because of the facts laid out, this is what you should do
 - (2) Examples - Wherefore, Therefore, For, For this reason, Finally
- g) Warnings
 - (1) Beware
 - (2) Exhortations
 - (3) Let us
- h) Instructions
 - (1) Do/shall
 - (2) Don't do/shall not
- i) Lists
 - (1) Reveal truth
 - (2) Highlight important concepts
- 9. **Step 7** - we have spent quite a bit of time in Philippians by now, time to draw all this together
 - a) Paragraph Themes
 - b) Chapter Themes
 - (1) What is the main idea of each chapter
 - (2) Use key words, other markings
 - (3) Each chapter needs to fit into the purpose of the book
 - c) Book theme
 - (1) Now is the time to find the purpose of the writing
 - (2) Taking into account all that we have learned
 - (3) The reason why the author wrote, what he's trying to communicate
 - d) At A Glance Chart - building your own chart
 - (1) Authors
 - (2) Recipients
 - (3) Date
 - (4) Purpose
 - (5) Key words
 - (6) Book Theme
 - (7) Chapter Themes
 - (8) Segment divisions

E. Chapter Study - Digging in deeper

1. Over view is complete - FOTO
 - a) now we zero in and focus on the details
 - b) Know what the author is saying
 - c) Know what the author is not saying
2. Prayer
3. Review context of the book (AAGC)
4. Read chapter looking for the 5 W's & H
5. Key words within the chapter
 - a) If you haven't marked the Godhead yet do so
 - b) Make lists
6. Contrasts/Comparisons - from Step 6 - in detail
7. Location and timing of events
8. Major characters
9. Major doctrines (teachings)
10. Check paragraph and chapter themes
11. Now read through verse by verse
 - a) Word Studies (meaning in the original language)
 - b) Cross-References (letting Scripture interpret Scripture)
 - c) Cultural or Historical backgrounds



Each step
reading
through the
chapter
again!

V. Applying Study method to to other types of literature

- A. Historical
 1. Old Testament, Acts
 2. Studying in sections
- B. Prophetic
 1. Revelation, Daniel
 2. Focus on the pictures
- C. Biographical
 1. Gospels
 2. Following movement and stories
- D. Poetic (Songs)
 1. Psalms, Ecclesiastes, S of S
 2. Segments or sections
- E. Proverbial
 1. Proverbs
 2. Individual teachings
- F. Doctrinal (teachings of Christian faith) - Romans, Hebrews
- G. Letters (Epistles) - Corinthians through Jude

VI. Resources

A. Books

1. The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
2. The Complete Word Study Old Testament
3. The Complete Word Study New Testament
4. International Inductive Study Bible
5. How To Study Your Bible - Kay Arthur
6. Between the Testaments - Pfeiffer
7. Gospel's in Parallel (not if Inductive Study Bible)
8. Good chronological Bible (KJV or NASB or chronological reading chart)
9. Vine's Expository Dictionary
10. Commentaries - MacArthur
11. Historical/Cultural reference

B. Internet

1. walkinlight.net
2. preceptaustin.org
3. biblegateway.com
4. blueletterbible.org
5. biblehub.com
6. listen.talkingbibles.org
7. scriptureearth.org