
Why Inductive Bible Study?

Into Thy Word Ministries www.intothyword.org

Inductive Bible study is learning how to exegete the Bible for all its worth with our best efforts. We do this through teaching people tools and skills to help observe the text, dig out the meaning, and then apply it to their lives.

Some people view the Bible as an un-climbable mountain, a dark cave that is feared to be trespassed upon. Be encouraged, and be comforted, that you can indeed do it. Through the inductive method, you can climb that mountain and venture into the cave with confidence. In fact you will be able to mine the truths as an expert “exegete” does! The Bible is a diamond mine filled with precious nuggets that can be applied to your life, for a life to be transformed and renewed! As with any mine, you do have to start digging and we show you how to do this. The inductive method has been proven as the best way to find those diamonds, and the more you dig the more you will find!

Inductive Bible study has 3 primary areas:

First is Observation:

This is carefully going over the text to see what is going on, the “who, what, where, when, how, and why.” It is like training a missionary about the culture before venturing to their new country of ministry. If they are not trained of the culture and customs, they will miss a lot of opportunities, and their effectiveness will fall way short of what they could have done.

This is done by teaching you how to pull out the facts through the nature of Scripture and how to avoid presumptions and fallacies, because God’s Word speaks for itself.

Second is Interpretation:

This is taking what is said and finding out what does the text mean. How to interpret literally in the correct context. That is we never take out of God’s Word what is not there, or read in our will as His.

Third is Application:

This is taking the plain meaning and putting it to practical use. This is the, ‘how shall I respond’ to the Word. What sin to get rid of, what commands to yield too, the pitfalls to avoid, the actions to engage in, and the promises we are to keep.

What are the other ways to study the Bible?

There are many ways to study the Bible and the best way is that you do it!

There are three common ways to study the Bible and all have their advantages and shortfalls.

First is the 'Deductive Approach': This is the common way of reading the Bible. The reader acts as a detective; which is good at first, as we all need to deduct what the Bible says. This form usually starts with a premise such as a topic or idea and then pulls out the relative ideas. This deductive method tends to skip the key process that helps you organize what the text says in a logical manner. Thus you skip and miss a lot and do not get out of your Bible reading what you should. The danger is that when ideas are pulled out of their context, they result in theology, interpretation, and application that may not exist.

Second is the 'Opinion Approach': This form uses the personality of the reader as the template to gathering the information from the text. That all that is read and studied is compared to their experience and education. The reader has the tendency to go to the text with firm preconceived ideas. The pitfall is even if you are a seminary grad and experienced pastor, you will miss a lot and get things wrong.

In the above approaches, the reader plows into the Bible without knowing how to do it. Like using a cookbook without understanding how to cook or what the measurements and ingredients mean. So your meal will be less than what may have been intended. Thus, the Bible reader becomes confused, overwhelmed, and frustrated. Of course there is always a benefit to just read the Bible. Our point is we can do it much better and gain more for our lives as His child.

Third is the 'Inductive Method': The Inductive approach looks at the whole text in its context and pulls out facts, interprets them, and then applies them. There are no pitfalls with this method as long as the 'exegete' is honest to the text.

So what is special and unique about your ministry?

We wholeheartedly believe and teach the 'inductive Bible study method.' What we do is teach it in such a way that you can draw out even more, by using proven ways on how we learn and assimilate information. How God created us to absorb and learn, and applying that to better understand His Word. We combined this with the exegetical methods pastors learn in Seminary. Our call is to produce the best way possible to teach others how to study the Bible.

The inductive method of Observation, then Interpretation and then Application is

a great way to study God's Word. We teach, inspire, and encourage you further, the way the great exegetes and preachers do. Why are some people great at teaching and others not? Because the ones who are good at it, are good at digging out the Bible's insights without compromising the integrity of the text. We teach you how to do this.

With 'Into Thy Word,' we have an 8-step process. At the heart, are the 3 steps of Observation, Interpretation, and Application. Our extra steps are not to be convoluted, but allow you to draw out even more. Because we capitalize on how our minds work, so you get more out of your experience in His Word.

Because of the way our minds naturally work, we expanded the 3 step 'Inductive' process into 8 steps. This is done in a logical and systematic way. This is not adding irrelevant information, causing distraction, or making it convoluted, but rather making the process easier and more insightful.

Our unique process of 'Into Thy Word' allows each step to build upon the previous step in a logical and systematic way, which paves the way for the next step. So you learn more and are able to progress at your own level.

The first two steps are designed to prepare you to enter the relationship of Bible reading. Because you are going before a holy God, and you need to do it in a reverent way.

- **STEP I: "KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:" BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!**
This is about Prayer and Attitude, two essential factors that will enable you to excel if you do, or fail if you do not.
- **STEP II: "HOW": THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD**
This step is showing you how to start, choosing your text, and how to go about it.

The next 5 steps are the inductive process of observing then learning, then applying it into your life.

- **STEP III: "OBSERVE IT" ASK WHAT DOES IT SAY?!**
This has to transpire so we can dig out what is there.
- **STEP III (B): "OBSERVE IT" ASK WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**
Since we naturally interpret and jump to conclusions in our fallen human thinking, we just start the interpretation process, because you are going to do it anyway. We then place a 'governor' to slow you down, without sacrificing your enthusiasm and creativity, so we can do it right.
- **STEP IV: "QUESTIONS": ASK AND LEARN!!!**
We then ask key essential questions to dig out more that we may have missed.

- **STEP V: “KNOW IT”!!!**
Then we can really start to make sense and internalize the implications and truth, so it effects who we are at the very ‘existential’ core of our being. This needs to take place before we can apply it. Because we need to be the people of God in order to do the work of God.
- **STEP VI: “APPLICATION”!!!**
Then we can apply it. We take a careful look on how we can do this with honesty and forethought. And then take on the responsibility to reciprocate, that is telling others!

The last step is taking the previous steps and writing it down for lasting remembrance and commitment.

- **STEP VII: “CHARTING YOUR PATH”**
This is so we can keep track what we learn as you progress. You can use this step throughout the inductive process.

Go Over How to teach Inductive bible Study:

Into Thy Word “The cheat sheet”

“ *THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON’T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!* ”

STEP I: “KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:” BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!

ATTITUDE is crucial!!! (Gal. 2:20)

- “ REMEMBER TO ALWAYS: BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.
- “ DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!.
- “ BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

STEP II: “HOW:” THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD’S WORD

LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

STEP III: “OBSERVE IT:” ASK WHAT DOES IT SAY?! Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

- “ Give the Book the “Looks:” Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, “once, then, now, will be, etc.” Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So, Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?

- .. Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in “Bible Dictionaries.”
- .. Consider repeated words & phrases.
- .. Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. “Scripture interprets scripture.” Use a “Concordance.”
- .. Notice what is being taught
- .. Notice the promises
- .. Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications
- .. What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?
- .. Look out for types of “literary style;” history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.
- .. Look at different translations

STEP III (B): “OBSERVE IT:” ASK WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Let God have His way with you! Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

- .. We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!
- .. We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.
- .. Be focused on Christ not ourselves.
- .. Be aware of the CONTEXT!!!! The “historical” and “literary” settings?” What is going on?
- .. What is the point and train of thought?
- .. ANALYZE by gathering facts and all the information available to you.
- .. Paraphrase the passage yourself.
- .. What is supported?
- .. What are the conclusions?

Make an emotional identification into the text.

THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:

- .. Ask what is actually being said?
- .. Try reading aloud!
- .. Consider nothing insignificant!
- .. Have a mentor to ask questions.
- .. Look for stuff to carry out in your life.
- .. Write down your questions
- .. What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?
- .. What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?
- .. How can I model His Character?
- .. What is our duty?
- .. What is God’s character?
- .. Make a commitment to the meaning.
- .. Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!
- .. Accept what It says: This is God’s Word!

STEP IV: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!!

THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!

- .. **WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?
- .. **WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?
- .. **WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?
- .. **WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?
- .. **HOW:** did it happen? How can it happen? How was something done?
- .. **WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- .. Are there any commands?
- .. Are there any contrasts?
- .. Are there things repeated?
- .. Is there cause and effect?
- .. Is there a problem and solution?
- .. Are there any promises?
- .. Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?
- .. Notice the setting!

STEP V: "KNOW IT"!!!

START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS

- .. WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?
- .. Be sure your information is correct!!!
- .. Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

Digging Personally:

- .. How are you encouraged & strengthened?
- .. Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?
- .. What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?
- .. We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!
- .. We must allow God's Word to break our will and desires over to His!
- .. What did God say to you today?
- .. Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?
- .. Are you appreciating it?
- .. Are you receiving and practicing the great benefits to others around you?
- .. Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

STEP VI: "APPLICATION!!!" (Gal 5:21-26)

- .. Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!
- .. What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?
- .. When will it end up in my day planner?
- .. Mediate over the passage

ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:

- “ What illustration can I use to remember?
- “ How does the truth apply to my life?
- “ What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?
- “ What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?
- “ How should I carry out these changes?
- “ **Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others.
Accountability.

STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART

- “ Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

“You can do it!”

Keep this guide “tucked” in your Bible for reference and guidance.

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