

INDUCTIVE BIBLE
STUDY (IBS)
Exposing the Scripture

2Ti 2:15 Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God,
a workman that does not need to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES;

The Study of God's Word is the most important, rewarding, and fulfilling aspect of the Christian's relationship with the Lord. It is the means by which we come to know Him, not simply know about Him. To know Him is to love Him and it is here where intimacy begins.

Our objective for this block of instruction and training is fourfold;

1. To have complete assurance that the Bible is the “Word of God” and that it has no equal.
2. To develop the skill to see beyond the surface to find what most people miss.
3. To create an unquenchable desire for and delight in the Word of God.
4. To; **“press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus”. (Ph 3:14)**

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The Inductive Bible Study method, (IBS),
has been used for many years,
and has proven to be very effective and reliable.
It is objective and impartial to any scripture passage,
it is analytical and systematic in its approach which allows a person
to discover
what the passage says,
what the passage means
and how it is to be applied.

INTRODUCTION

What is IBS?

IBS is a method of study that approaches the Scripture with the single purpose of letting the Scripture speak for itself. IBS looks beyond the surface of any passage and seeks the treasures, which lay beneath.

Why is IBS important?

While some ignore the truth, some teach partial truth and others pervert the truth, IBS establishes principles and parameters by which we are able to see truth for ourselves as the Holy Spirit reveals to us the “**God breathed**” words of Scripture. **(2 Timothy 3:16)**. Also, it promotes personal interaction with the passage where the “**truth that sets us free**” is discovered, shared and practiced. **(John 8: 31-32)**

How does IBS work?

It is a three-step process where each step brings more clarity to the passage being studied.

Observation (O) – this is where we answer the question, “**What does the passage say?**”

Here our purpose is to **explore** the passage and record our discoveries, like detective on a crime scene.

This first step is foundational to correct interpretation and application.

Interpretation (I) – answers the question, “**What does the passage mean?**”

Here we seek to **explain** those things that were discovered in our process of observation and define their meaning.

Application (A) – answers the question, “**What does the passage require of me?**”

Since we have discovered what our passage says and defined what it means, we must now act upon what we have learned.

Our goal is to **experience** intimacy with our Father.

THE OBSERVATION PROCESS

“Explore”

What does the passage say?

The **observation** process, **(O)**, is the foundation of the IBS method. It is important in this step to take all the time that is needed to truly see what God desires to reveal to us. To neglect or cut short this step can lead to the passage being twisted to agree with our own opinions or prejudices.

The sequence of steps that follow are designed to keep this from taking place. They will guide you to thoroughly observe any passage while building a sure foundation. Follow them in the order they are given and do what each says.

Pray

Prayer **must** always be the priority!
As God's Spirit is the author,
He is also our
teacher, guide and revealer of truth.
Our prayer should be like that of the Psalmist,

“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things in your law.” *Psalms 119:18*

Prepare

Identify the type of literature - (we will use the two **literal** types in class)

Narrative form - (literal) writings of historical accounts and events

OT - Genesis to Esther

NT - Gospels and Acts

Main features - people, places, events, emotions

Focus - Investigative questions (5w's & h), put yourself in text

Epistle form - (literal) writings that give instruction or exhortation

Pauline - Romans to Philemon

General - Hebrews, James and Jude

Peterine - 1st & 2nd Peter

Johanine - 1st, 2nd & 3rd John

Main features - Doctrine, words, Ideas, arrangement of passage

Focus - outline, phrases, word lists, verbs, comparisons, contrasts, conclusions

Note - These are (*non-literal*) writings that require specific methods of study.
We will look at them in detail further on.

Parable - Gospels

Hebrew poetry - Job to Song of Solomon

Prophetic – OT **Isaiah to Daniel (*Major Prophets*) and Hosea to Malachi (*Minor Prophets*)**
NT- Revelation

First readings - saturate yourself with the passage by reading it through several times
and record your first impressions and the major facts.

Read prayerfully, repeatedly, thoughtfully, patiently, selectively, purposefully,
imaginatively, telescopically, accusatively and *INTENTIONALLY*

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed,
and is profitable for doctrine,
for reproof,
for correction,
for instruction in righteousness,
17 that the man of God may be perfected,
thoroughly furnished to every good work.

(MKJV)