

Inductive Bible Study

Guide

Steps

1. **Pray and Choose Book of the Bible to Study**
2. **Observation**
3. **Interpretation**
4. **Application**

1. Pray and Choose a Book

Choose a Book.

Pray and ask God to:

- Guide you.
- Teach you the truth.
- Give you understanding.
- Let you be alert to the Holy Spirit

2. Steps of Observation

- a) Read the Text/book (no marking)
- b) Gather background information
- c) Read and Mark the Text Comparing Translations
- d) Word Studies and Research
- e) Keeping things in Context
- f) Cross References
- g) Consult other Resources

a) Read the Book

The absolute first step is reading the book in our primary Bible translation. Before we can take any additional steps, we must familiarize ourselves with the text we're studying. Once we've done that we're free to move to the next step. If you have thoughts and questions you wish not to forget write them down separately.

b) Gather Background Information

Answer Questions:

- Who is the Author?
- Where was it Written? (if known)
- Who are the Recipient's? (who does it include?)
- Where are they located? (Map)
- What is the Literary Style?
- When was it written?
- Any Culture Background information?

c) Read and Mark the Text while Comparing Translations

The goal here is to make note of these words and phrases so we can investigate them in the next step.

These are things we want to note because they will help us in our interpretation later. While there will be obvious words that stand out, we also want to look for words and phrases with significance, that we want deeper understanding on, or we don't understand.

Things to observe and mark:

- God and His characteristics
- Names and places - for meanings, context and understanding locations (map)
- Words that you want to study for better understanding or deeper understanding – word study
- Cultural Customs that are different/unknown
- Notice any lists in the text
- Figures of speech, what are we to understand with them
- Repeated words or phrases in verse, chapter, or book
- Any cause and effects
- Pay attention to conjunctions, context is important
- Pay attention to Verb tense

Gather multiple Bible Translations examine the differences in word choices. At least 2 additional ones from primary Version.

(My primary version is KJV and I compare at least 3 others. ESV, NIV, NLT)

d) Word Studies and Research

Key Words capture the essence of the Topic

- Strong's Number
- Part of Speech
- Root Word (Etymology)
- Translations in English
- Define Word – Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Research unknown customs, locations, figures of speech, using a bible dictionary or study bibles, maybe even a bible atlas and see if you can gather information about the things you need clarification on.

e) Keeping things in context

Context - the parts of a discourse that surround a word or passage and can throw light on its meaning.

Reread the verses, chapters and book this verse is in.

Ask Questions like:

- Who is speaking?
- Who are the recipients?
- Who is this about?
- Figures of speech?
- When is this happening?
- What is the subject?
- Where are they?

f) Find Cross References

Cross References are scriptures that have the same topic or theme as the ones you are studying. We look at the whole of Scripture to understand what it teaches about a given theme or topic. Comparing Scripture with Scripture helps us interpret the text correctly.

Places to find cross References:

- Blue letter Bible
- Study Bibles
- Logos Bible Software

g) Consult Other Resources

Up to this point we have consulted very few outside resources that give us the meaning of the text. At most, we've consulted resources that give us general background on Scripture and dictionaries that define words. We have not touched resources like commentaries and study Bibles. It is now, at final step of observation, that we consult these resources. We do not study in isolation from the rest of church history and the Body of Christ. We should respect our brothers and sisters in the faith that can help us understand God's Word. This is why we should, as a last step of observation consult the works of others. They may make us aware of something in the text that we missed and we can research further on it.

3. Interpretations

Interpret - to explain or tell the meaning of

With our observations complete, we can move to the next step, which is interpretation. In this step we are taking all our observations and explain the meaning of the scripture based on what we uncovered in our step of observation. Interpretation of some passages are obvious and we may see no need to note it in our notes. However, many passages of scripture are difficult to come to an interpretation and we certainly should write it down.

Especially write it down if you are still working on the interpretation. If you have one but you know it's incomplete. You don't have complete peace with it. I write it down to come back to it eventually.

4. Application

Apply - To put to use especially for some practical purpose; to bring into action; to lay or spread on; to put into operation or effect

How do I apply this to my life?

Things to ask:

- Is there any Sin to Forsake?
- Is there a Promise to claim?
- Is there a Command to Obey?
- Is there any Truth to Believe?
- What do I Need to do differently or change to bring into action this word of God into my Life?
- What is God saying to me:
 - right now, in this season I am in right now?
- Prayer
 - Praise, Repent, Claim, Give Thanks

I pray this guide encourages you to dig deeper into God's Word. I pray you continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray you grow in God's Word and He gives you understanding, knowledge and wisdom in all things.

In Christ,

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