

Inductive Bible Study Pt.1



Introduction

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Inductive Bible Study employs a method of study studying God's Word as it was written book by book.

THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN:

- *By over 40 men as they were moved by the Spirit*
- *In the form of 66 books– containing law, historical accounts, biography, poetry, prophecy and letters*
- *Over a period of 1400 to 1800 years*

Inductive study doesn't tell us what the Bible means or what we should believe. It is a method of study that involves:

- *Using the Bible itself as the primary source of information – apart from the conclusions others have drawn from their study of the Word. People learn and remember more when they are involved in the learning process themselves. (Other resources are consulted only after we have made our own thorough examination of the Scriptures, thus serving as a sounding board for our own observations and conclusions.)*
- *Reaching conclusions by simple observation*
- *Legitimate interpretation of those observations*
- *Personal application resulting in a transformed life*

Inductive study draws us into personal interaction with the Scriptures and with the God of the Scriptures so that our lives are based on a prayerful understanding and genuine interpretation of the Scriptures that can transform our lives when we live by it.

Benefits of Inductive Bible Study

By learning and applying the principles of Inductive Bible study, we will:

- *Be equipped to study the Word on our own*
- *Be independent of relying upon other's interpretations*
- *Increase our knowledge of God and His ways*
- *Recognize the authority of God's Word as it applies to our daily lives*
- *Grow in our personal faith and in the knowledge of who we are, what we have and what we can do in Christ.*

Begin With the Basics

The Inductive Bible study method consists of three steps:

1. OBSERVATION: Observation answers the question: "What does the passage say?" It is the foundation that must be laid if we are to accurately interpret and properly apply the Word to our lives.

- *Observation asks the who, what, when, where, why and how questions*
- *Who is speaking, to whom, about what, where, when, how is it illustrated*
- *Makes note of key words and phrases*
- *Formulates lists of actions and events from those observations*
- *Looks for contrasts and comparisons*

2. **INTERPRETATION:** Interpretation asks the question: “*What does the passage mean?*” Interpretation always flows from careful observation.

Attempting to interpret without first laying the foundation of accurate observation will result in an understanding that is colored by what we think and feel or by what others have said — rather than what the Word itself says.

2 TIMOTHY 2:15

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Interpretation may involve going beyond the immediate text to investigating cross references = letting Scripture interpret Scripture. Word studies may help bring clarity and Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias may help supply historical and cultural information.

3. **APPLICATION:** Application answers the question: “*How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?*”

The goal of personal Bible study is a deep relationship with God and a transformed life.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

ALL OF GOD’S WORD IS: PROFITABLE: helpful, serviceable (useful, practical), advantageous **FOR:**

DOCTRINE: teaching

REPROOF: showing us where we are wrong in our beliefs or behavior

CORRECTION: how to take what is wrong and make it right

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: to know who we are in Christ, to know how to live in the light what God says is right and how to relate to our fellow man with right actions

SO THAT WE CAN BE:

COMPLETE: a reference to maturity (able to bear offspring) and sufficiency (competent, capable)

When we know what the Word says, means and how to put it into practice – we will be equipped for every circumstance of life – totally prepared to handle every situation in a way that honors God.

DANIEL 11:32

32 ...the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.