

## Inductive Bible Study Pt.3



### Overview of the Book

1. *PRAY.*
2. *READ AND RE-READ THE BOOK.*
3. *IDENTIFY THE TYPE OF LITERATURE BEING READ.*

**HISTORICAL:** Gives background information and tells how God dealt with real people and real events.

**BIOGRAPHICAL:** The book of Luke gives the chronological biography of Jesus.

**POETIC:** The book of Psalms is Hebrew poetry.

**PROVERBIAL:** Proverbs is a compilation of sayings which set forth wisdom and instruction.

**PROPHETIC:** Prophetic literature tells of future events which are certain to come to pass.

**EPISTLE:** Letters written to individuals or groups which contain the bulk of the doctrine for the Church.

**COMBINATION:** Some books are a combination of different types of literature.

4. *DEAL WITH THE BOOK OBJECTIVELY.*

— Approach the text with an unbiased viewpoint.

— Let the text speak for itself.

— Allows God to reveal what He wants you to learn.

5. *ASK THE '5 W AND H' QUESTIONS OF THE PASSAGE BEING READ.*

6. *IDENTIFY THE CONTEXT OF THE BOOK BY IDENTIFYING FACTS ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND EVENTS MENTIONED.*

#### *IDENTIFY OBVIOUS NAMES*

— When reading Epistles – **identify and mark every reference to the AUTHOR, RECIPIENTS and OTHER PEOPLE** (as well as singular pronouns). Each time a reference is marked, ask the '5W and H' questions.

**Who** is the author? **Who** are the recipients? **What** does he tell us about himself?

**What** are his circumstances? **Where** is he? (Mark references to geographical locations in a distinct way)

**Why** is he there? **When** in his life is he writing? **Why** is he writing? **Why** are they doing this? **Why** is this being said to them? **What** does the author talk about most? **What** does the author tell the people to do?

— Make **LISTS** of all that is learned through the process of marking and interrogating the passage.

#### *IDENTIFY THE OBVIOUS EVENTS*

**What** is happening? **Where** is it happening and **When**? **Who** is involved? **What** are the consequences of this event? **How** did this happen?

7. *IDENTIFY AND MARK WORDS AND PHRASES THAT ARE REPEATED AND BUILD BRIEF LISTS IN THE MARGIN OF THE TEXT.*

— **KEY WORDS** are vital to understanding the meaning of the text. These are words that **when removed, leave the passage devoid of meaning.**

— Mark each **KEY WORD** as well as **SYNONYMS.**

— The more a word is **repeated**, the more obvious it becomes that the word represents a **SUBJECT**. The more that subject is repeated, the more obvious it becomes that the subject represents a **THEME** in the book.

— Key words are Who, What, When, Where, Why or How words. Therefore, they will answer the '5W & H' line of questioning.

**8. IDENTIFY THE MAIN THEME THAT BEST SUMMARIZES THE BOOK.**

- Identify what best summarizes the **THEME** of the book.
- Allow the book to reveal its theme. **This will be the result of an objective evaluation of the recurring emphasis within the text.**
- Write a **STATEMENT** of the book that **best summarizes the book as a whole**. Use as many of the key words from the text as possible.
- Identify a verse that best expresses the theme: This will become the **KEY VERSE** for the book.

**9. DEVELOP AN AT A GLANCE CHART.**

- This serves as a future reference and gives a quick synopsis of the book. It provides a **VISUAL OVERVIEW** of the book and enables us to see how the parts of the book relate to the whole.

**10. DISCOVER CHAPTER THEMES.**

- Similar to determining the book theme, **CHAPTER THEMES** ask:  
    *“What is the main subject dealt with in the chapter?”*  
    *“Does the theme relate to the overall book theme?”*

**11. IDENTIFY CLEARLY DEFINED SEGMENTS**

- Segment divisions are **MAJOR DIVISIONS** in a book, such as a group of chapters dealing with the **same subject, doctrine, person, place or event**.
- Not every book has clearly defined segments, but if it does it will vary according to the type of literature being studied as well as the size of the book. A book may be segmented according to:

*dates*  
*places*  
*topics*  
*doctrines*  
*reigns of kings*  
*major events*  
*major characters*