

Inductive Bible Study

Using the Bible as the primary source of information and reading with a purpose by asking relevant questions, so that through complete observation, one can accurately interpret, determine eternal principles, and then apply Scripture to all circumstances of life.

- God spoke through the prophets, recorded in Scripture
- God gave the word for us so that He might reveal Himself to us
- God speaks through Jesus, as He is the word who came in the flesh
- The Holy Spirit gives all believers the ability to understand the word of God

Four Components to Inductive Bible Study

1. Observation: Seeing what the text says, to gain facts and information.

The process of observation is foundational to inductive Bible study. Asking the “5Ws & an H questions” helps student focus on the obvious.

Who	What	Where	When	Why	How
People	Events	Place	Time	Reason, purpose	Means or method

2. Interpretation: Determining what the text means to gain understanding.

Looking for the relationship of information and how it correlates in the context of Scripture.

Context: Looking at the surrounding words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, chapters, and book in which something exists, occurs, or is placed. The author’s use of the repetition of ideas or thoughts will also help you discover meaning within the context.

3. Principlization: What eternal truths are being taught?

Stating the author’s propositions, arguments, narration and illustrations in abiding timeless truths

4. Application: Conviction as to how the truth applies personally, leads to transformation.

Component	Holy Spirit’s Ministry	Man’s Response	Product of Component
Observation <i>-Focus on the obvious</i>	Illumination	Reasoning	Facts & Information
Interpretation <i>-In light of context</i>	Teaching	Evaluation	Understanding
Principlization <i>-Focus on Learning</i>	Conviction	Summarization	Eternal Principles
Application <i>-Begins with individual</i>	Guidance	Accountability	Transformation

Step 1 The Overview**Discovering the Context (Big Picture)**

Scope :	The whole book
Purpose:	Identify the author's reason for writing Identify the flow of thoughts which ties it together
Process:	Begin with prayer, identify people, ask questions

A. Author: Ask Questions

- Who is writing?
- What are his circumstances?
- Where is he?
- Why is he there?
- When in his life is he writing?
- What does he say about himself?
- What does he talk about most?
- Why is he writing?

B. Recipient: Ask Questions

- Who is it written to?
- How is the recipient described?
- What does it say about the recipient?
- What is the recipients relationship to the author?
- Where is the recipient? Where not?
- Why is the author writing to the recipient?

C. Other People (By name, generalization or implication)

- Who are the other people?
- What does the text say about them?
- What do you learn about their relationship to the author or recipient?
- What is their relationship to the key message (thoughts)?

D. Key words

- Generally repeated throughout the text
- When removed the text is left without meaning

E. Instructions

- Describes a specific action or command or imperative

F. Exhortations

- Describes calling or urging someone forward

G. Admonitions

- Confronting the behavior of the recipient/s that has not honored God

H. Warnings

- Describes just recompense for sins or sinning

I. Develop a Book Chart

- A collection of summary statements; one for the entire book and each chapter.
 1. Use five words or less
 2. Use at least one word from the chapter
 3. Each title should be distinctive from the other titles
 4. Each title should be descriptive of what is in the chapter

Step 2 Comprehensive Chapter Study

Scope: The whole chapter

Purpose: Examine the details of the chapter
 How the chapter details relate to the overall book.

A. Marking Key Words

1. Mark so your eye can see on the page the occurrence of the word
2. Typically done with colored pencils
3. Always keywords: God; Jesus Christ; Holy Spirit and their pronouns
4. Become a basis for developing a list

B. Making lists of information (facts) from the key words**C. Reasoning through the Lists****D. Contrasts - Reasoning from another perspective**

Contrasts are "comparisons" of ideas or bodies of truth that the author uses to convey some point.

- point out differences
- usually opposites
- most contrasts are identified by the words: but, however, never the less

E. Comparisons

Deals with ideas or bodies of truth that are similar to make some point

- identified by the words: like, as

F. Terms of Expression

Time - Helps us answer 'when'

- Words like: now, then, later, future

Conclusion or Results or purpose

- Words like: for, for this reason, so that, because

G. Developing the Chapter Theme

- Verify from previous work

H. Paragraph Analysis

- Determine the paragraph themes

Step 3 Word Study

Purpose: Deepen the understanding of the text
Clarify our understanding of the text

Steps:

A. Pick a Word

key words
words with unclear meanings
verbs

B. Look up the definition in the word study tool

Exhaustive concordance (translation specific)

Contains three (3) sections

1. Alphabetical list of all words used in the text of Scripture that are then ordered in biblical occurrence
2. Dictionary of Hebrew words arranged numerically
3. Dictionary of Greek words arranged numerically

Expository Dictionary

Old Testament: *Theological Word Book of the Old Testament*

Vine's Dictionary of the New Testament: keyed to the KJV

Zodhiates, *Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament*

C. Read the definition back into the text where you found the word

Step 4 Cross Referencing of Scripture

Purpose: Establish the context within the broader context of scripture
Amplify or clarify the understanding of the text

- Scripture never contradicts scripture; it always interprets scripture

How to determine cross-references:

1. Look up the word in a concordance
2. Look up the word in a topical Bible
3. Look up verses identified by marginal references

Book Study Methodology Summary and Review of Process

	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
What?	The Overview: Discovering the context (the big picture)	Comprehensive Chapter Study	Word Study	Cross Referencing of Scripture
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the author's reason for writing Identify the flow of thoughts which ties it together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine the details of the chapter How the chapter details relate to the overall book. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepen the understanding of the text Clarify our understanding of the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the context within the broader context of Scripture Amplify or clarify the understanding of the text
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Author B. Recipient C. Other people D. Key words E. Instructions F. Exhortations G. Admonitions H. Warnings I. Develop a book chart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Marking key words B. Making lists of (facts) C. Reasoning the lists D. Contrasts E. Comparisons F. Terms of Expression, Time, conclusion or results G. Develop chapter theme H. Paragraph analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Pick a word B. Look up the definition in exhaustive concordance or expository dictionary C. Read the definition back into the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Look up the word • concordance • topical Bible • marginal references B. Read the cross reference C. Evaluate the message in the light of the cross reference