
Purpose

The purpose of Inductive Bible Study is to understand the Word of God by observing the text (**discovering what the the passage says**) interpreting it (**figuring out what it means**), and applying the scripture to our lives (**determining how it can change us and obediently walking in light of the truth we've learned**). It seeks to help us understand the Word for ourselves rather than relying on another's ideas and interpretation.

Begin in prayer and ask God to open your eyes and heart to the Truth of His Word, then dive in, and read your selected passage of scripture. May the Lord bless you richly as you persevere and commit to studying His Word. It's not easy, but always profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Observe

- Who is the author? Who is the audience?
- Why was this particular passage/book/letter written?
- What is happening in the passage?
- When and where does this passage take place?
- What is the context of this passage? (What happens before/after?)

Other strategies you can try:

- Mark key words and repeated phrases. Look for comparisons and contrasts. These usually begin with 'but', 'like', and 'or'.
- Mark terms and phrases of finality or cause, such as 'therefore', 'thus', or 'so'. These often summarize previous verses and reveal the author's purpose in writing. Pay particular attention to "if-then" statements.

Interpret

- What do the key words mean? (Consider checking a dictionary, thesaurus, or the Blue Letter Bible)
- What do the immediate and broader contexts suggest?
- What is the cultural meaning of the passage? (That is, what did it mean to the original audience?)
- How does it fit within the greater story of the Bible?
- What does it tell you about who God is?
- What does it tell you about your relationship with God?

Other strategies you can try:

- Look at any cross-references. What do they tell you?
 - Read existing commentaries on this passage.
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Apply

This is where you **respond to the things God has taught you in your time with Him**. (Ref: James 1:21-25, Matthew 7:24-27) It is when we apply the Word that God changes our lives. Application does not happen by osmosis but by **intent**. God enlightens us through the Word, we choose to apply what we've learned, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to carry out these choices. It is usually best to concentrate on applying one principle at a time. **The goal of all application is to glorify God by becoming more like Jesus.**

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for..."

- Teaching: What did I learn?
 - Reproof: Where do I fall short? Why do I fall short?
 - Correction: What will I do about it?
 - Training in righteousness: How can I make this principle a consistent part of my life?
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The Right Attitude

As in any relationship, there is no single formula for spending time with God. Activities may vary, but the goal of deepening your relationship with God remains the same.

Relationships take time. When can you regularly spend time with God?