

Inductive Bible Study



Pray. The Holy Spirit is your teacher.
Think for yourself. Don't rely on other people.
Let the text speak for itself.
Conclusions come from what you have observed.

How to study through a Book:

Read through the book.

Read through the entire book aloud, in one sitting.

Context & Big Picture.

Write down the main idea or big picture of the book. Write out the main idea of each paragraph in a concise phrase. Write an outline for the book. Consider the type of literature.

Observe the text.

Go through the Observation Questions. Observe all those that are relevant to the text. *Remember: It is essential to lay a thorough foundation in Observation if you are going to have good Interpretation and Application.*

Historical Background.

Study the historical context. Travel back in time. Find out as much as you can about the Original Audience. The more you can find out about the situation of the Original Audience, the better able you will be to interpret.

Interpret the text.

Bombard the text with WHY questions!

Start with an Observation you have made, and ask an Interpretation Question:

- Repeated Word, Phrase, Idea ⇒ *Why repeated?*
- Key Words ⇒ *Why key? What do they mean?*
- Who ⇒ *Why is this person or group mentioned?*
- Contrasts, Comparisons ⇒ *What is the significance? Why is the contrast or comparison made?*
- Commands ⇒ *Why given? What do they imply?*

Apply what you have learned.

Spend time reflecting and meditating on what you have learned. Ask God to speak into your life. Ask God to change you through His Word. Go through the Application Questions and apply the truths you have learned personally in your life.

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1. Observation: What does the text say?



Look, Look, Look!

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Repeated Words, Phrases, Ideas, Themes | 7. Contrasts | 14. Figures of Speech |
| 2. Key Words | 8. Comparisons | 15. Lists |
| 3. Trinity | 9. Commands | 16. Illustrations |
| 4. Who | 10. Conditional Statements | 17. Emphasis |
| 5. When | 11. Connectives | 18. Question/Answer |
| 6. Where | 12. Promises or Predictions | 19. Progressions |
| | 13. Atmosphere, Mood, Emotion | 20. Structure |

2. Interpretation: What does it mean to the original audience?



Why? Why? Why?

Historical Context:

1. Who is the Original Audience?
2. What is the cultural, political, social, and geographical situation of the Original Audience?
3. What did the Original Audience think or believe? What is their religious background?
4. What is happening in history or in their church at this time?
5. Is the audience facing any problems? Are they struggling with something? What are their strong points?
6. Why was the book written?

Interpretation Questions:

1. Author's Concerns.
2. Original Audience's Concerns, Questions, Struggles, Strengths, and Weaknesses.
3. Ask: WHY?
4. Ask: What does this mean?
5. Ask: What does this imply?
6. Ask: What is the significance?

3. Application: How do the timeless truths apply today?

GOAL

Do. Do. Do.

1. What are the basic timeless truths in this book or passage?
2. How do these truth apply to my life?
3. What specific steps or actions can I take to carry this application out?

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