

Inductive Bible Study

1. Talk to God

Ask him to open your heart and mind to understand his word. Then be ready to listen.

2. Observation

Read through passage 3 times:

- **First reading:** Slow down and read aloud if possible. Get a feel for the big picture of the passage. Break up complex sentences. Note main topics. What is Paul's tone? How does he feel about these people and about this subject?
- **Second reading:** Ask: **Who** is involved? **What** is happening? **Where and When** is it happening? **How** is it happening? **Why** is it happening?
- **Third reading:** Make notes. Here are some ideas...
 - Circle repeated words/phrases
 - Notice question marks, connecting words and words of contrast (light/dark, life/death) or cause and effect (for, but, if, so)
 - Use symbols to make critical words pop off the page (R on Righteousness; Triangle over God; Megaphone over Gospel, etc.). Use colors if that helps. See sample symbols for Romans at the following link: <https://karikingdent.files.wordpress.com/2016/07/romans-kws-sheet-marked.pdf> (also on the back of this handout)
 - Draw arrows to connect thoughts.
 - Note representative people in margins (ie: Adam, Moses, Abraham, Pharaoh, Esau, Jacob, etc.)

3. Interpretation

Note any questions you have about the passage. Look for answers within the passage itself or in other parts of scripture. Use other resources to answer questions about historical context and the meaning of words/terms. (The ESV Study Bible, Tim Keller's *Romans for You*, or John Stott's *The Message of Romans* are good resources). Answer passage questions in your Bible study workbook.

4. Application

Paraphrase the passage in your own words. What's the gist of the passage in one sentence? What is the overall theme? What is God telling you? What specific action will you take in response to what God has shown you? Thank God for what he showed you, and ask him to help you live this out.

ROMANS

KEY WORD SYMBOLS

Adam
alive
all
Author
authority
baptized
believe
bless
children of God
circumcision
commandment
compassion
conquer
covenant
creation
credited
descendants
die
eternal life
exchanged
exult
faith
firstborn
flesh
freed
Geographical locations
gift
gifts (spiritual)

glory/glorified
gospel
grace
Greek
groan
hear
heart
hope
imputed
Instructions from Paul
Jew
judgment
just
justification
justified
know
law (God's)
law (man's)
law (of sin)
life/live
love
members (Ch. 12)
mercy
much more (Ch. 5)
not credited
not hear
obedience
persecution
power
practice

pray
present/presented
promise
propitiation
Recipients
reconciled/reconciliation
redemption
remnant
righteousness
salvation
second coming of Christ
sin
slave
sons of God
Spirit of God
strong
suffering
Time phrases
transgression
tribulation
uncircumcision
unrighteousness
walk
weak/without strength
wicked men
with Christ
wrath