

New Life Women's Bible Study: Inductive Bible Study Method

Why study the Bible? 2 Tim 3:16-17 “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the (wo)man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

Ways to study the Bible:

Deductive Process: begins with a premise or preconceived idea and moves to specifics.

Inductive Process: begins with specific facts and moves to conclusions based on observations.

Other Methods: Word Study, Topical, Thematic, Contemplative Practices

Inductive study is not the only “right” way to study. It compliments the other methods and teaches us to use our brains in an active way as we engage with the Word of God.

STEPS FOR INDUCTIVE PROCESS

I. PRAYER FIRST: John 14:26 “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

II. Observation: What does it say? This is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application.

III. Interpretation: What does it mean?

IV. Application: What does it mean for me personally?

I. Observation:

1. Read the passage to get the main theme. What is it?
2. Reread it carefully. (Helpful to use different Bible translations)
3. Is there anything immediately before or after the passage that might be helpful to know?
4. What are the main divisions of the passage? (Paragraphs)
5. Basic Setting: Who is involved? What is happening? When is this taking place? Where does it take place? How? Why?
6. Look for and list the following. (This is the place to mark up the passage in a way that is helpful to you. You can circle, underline, use symbols for certain words.):
 - Repeated words and phrases
 - Connectives or linking words (and, but, for therefore)
 - Contrasts and comparisons
 - Cause and effect
 - Verb tenses
 - Nouns and pronouns (Who is being referred to by the pronouns?) Unknown words
 - Figurative expressions, customs, etc.
 - Logical sequences (General to specific, Specific to General)
 - Anything strange, unusual or unexpected

II. Interpretation:

1. Is there anything significant about the key figures involved? What seems to be motivating them?
2. Does the timing or geography suggest anything special?
3. What did it mean to the original hearers? Historical context.
4. What are the key repeated words or phrases? Define key words with dictionary and try to understand why the author used these words.
5. Of the connective and linking words, are any especially significant? Why?
6. Detail any important contrasts or comparisons by placing them in two columns
7. Define any remaining unknown words
8. Look for the relationships between paragraphs and with passages that came before or that follow.
9. Summarize the central truth of the text. Use short phrases or sentences.

*[During this step, it is okay to check other resources: a dictionary, a Bible study dictionary for background on the subject/theme from the Old or New Testament and Bible culture books that shed light on cultural practices.]

III. Application:

Studying the Bible is meant to be transformational. **NOT JUST informational**. This is the time to make it personal. Your application will arise from the main points/lessons you identified from the passage.

ASK YOURSELF:

1. Is there a command to obey?
2. Is there a sin to confess and repent of?
3. Is there an example to follow?
4. Is there a promise to claim? What are the conditions?
5. Is there a change in thought or behavior to make?
6. Is there a truth about God to believe and rejoice in?
7. How does this truth relate to my profession or calling?
8. What does it have to say about my relationships?
9. What does it have to say about my involvement in church? In society?

MAKE SPECIFIC PLANS

1. When will I begin to respond practically to what I have learned?
2. What will my first step be?
3. Who will pray with me and hold me accountable?

Pray: Take time to talk with your Heavenly Father about what He has taught you.