

An Inductive Bible Study Guide

TO HELP YOU STUDY, INTERPRET, AND APPLY SCRIPTURE TO YOUR LIFE.

Heidi
creative

hi friend!

A QUICK NOTE:

This guide will walk you through the process of an inductive bible study. It is a valuable tool in understanding and applying the principles of God's word to your life. It can be done on many levels - a condensed version is good for a brief devotional time, and a more extensive study is a beautiful way to dig deeper into the heart of God and his plan for you. I pray these pages will help you know Him more and equip you to make Him known.

in His love,

Rach

INTERPRETATION

After you have observed a section, you can move into the interpretation phase.

Remember to keep in mind the **context**, including what the author had in mind, and use the whole Bible to interpret the meaning of the text.

Scripture should never contradict its self.

One thing that can be helpful in interpreting is to summarize the whole text or smaller sections such as paragraphs. After you have an interpretation, you may read commentaries to get a deeper understanding and to test your interpretation.

It may help to break it into thought units.

What appears to be the main point that the author is trying to make?

Try to answer the questions raised by your observations.

Some questions you ought to always be asking:

1. Is there anything in this text that isn't making sense to me?
2. What is the vision of God in this text?
3. What implications for belief or action did the author draw from the image?
4. What does the text tell me about the person/work/teaching of Jesus?
5. What was the theological purpose of the original author/Holy Spirit?
6. Is there any foreshadowing of Christ?
7. How does your interpretation fit into the rest of the Bible?

Remember, The Bible will not contradict itself!

APPLICATION

Lastly, don't forget to apply the text to your life.

How does this change how you live for Christ?

Who are we as a result of what God has done?

Growth is a key to the Christian walk.

Guiding Principle: The bible is primarily about God and His work of redemption, not you. (and that's a beautiful thing!)

OBSERVATION

Repetition is the key.

Read your scripture passage as many times as possible.

Start with an overview. This is like doing the edge pieces of a puzzle. You will fill in the detail as you study each chapter or section. Read the whole book noting the type of literature, notice repeated key words and phrases and the possible main theme.

Study each chapter or section more completely.

Remember repetition is key so it is best to do each numbered step on a separate read through of your text.

1) Read while asking yourself questions.

Note any words that you want to look into more.

2) Mark key words and phrases.

If it helps, keep track of your markings on a note card so you can be consistent through the whole book.

3) Note who God is.

What are His characteristics?

What has He done?

What are the promises given in this text?

4) Begin looking for contrasts and comparisons, expressions of time, and lists.

5) **Keep a list of any unanswered questions you have.** Look into these questions by doing a word study on the words you wanted to research more, looking up cross references for those verses, or reading the text in a different version to get clarification.

Things to think about while you're reading and observing:

Voice: who is speaking?
 setting: who, what where, when?
 Repetition
 God's Promises
 God's Commands
 What questions does this text raise for you?
 How does this text feel? Note emotion words.
 Logical Relationships: if, then... therefore...
 so... but... since... because...
 Contrast: instead...rather...but...however...
 Comparison: so...as...even as...just as...like
 Cause and Effect: such...because...since...therefore

Figures of speech
 interrogation (Q+A)
 Points of tension in the narrative
 Movement: General to Particular
 Movement: Particular to General
 Illustration
 Progression to Climax
 Continuity
 Means to End
 Explanation...that is...which... that which...
 Juxtaposition
 Preparation or Introduction

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TODAY'S DATE:

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

OBSERVE:

INTERPRET:

APPLY:

Pray!

Questions for bible study:

OBSERVE

- Who was this written to?
- What do I see happening in this passage?
- When + where did this take place?
- Why did the author write this?

INTERPRET

- What would the original audience have thought?
- How does this fit in with the greater story of the Bible?
- Are there other parts of scripture that help me understand this passage better?

APPLY

- What does this tell me about who God is?
- What does this tell me about my sin and need for a savior?
- How might these truths transform my life today?



THE rachel
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