

How To Do Inductive Bible Study

"Must Have" Tools:

How to Search the Scriptures, by Lloyd Perry and Robert Culver, 1967, Baker Book House

How To Study the Bible For Yourself, Dr. Tim LaHaye, 1976 Harvest House

How To Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur, 1994 Harvest House

How To Read The Bible for All Its Worth (focus on interpretation), by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, 1981, 1993 Zondervan

Applying the Bible, by Jack Kuhatschek, 1990, Zondervan Publishing

Biblical Preaching - The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages, by Dr. Haddon Robinson, 1990 Baker

Definition: Utilizing the details of the text to arrive at the author's intended meaning

Inductive Bible study is a study that begins with the Word of God and not with books about the Word of God. After thorough examination of the Scripture itself, books about the Bible are studied. **Expository teaching / preaching** "explains" and applies the text itself.

These steps must be kept in order as listed below!

1. **Observation** is discovering what the author is saying.

The 6 "w's": who, what, where, when, why, wherefore (so what?)

Terms: routine, non-routine, and **crucial** ("define" the meaning of the passage.)

Structure = **the relationship of terms**, sentences, paragraphs and chapters to each other.

Look for "connecting" words: therefore, since, then, now, but, as, etc.

Atmosphere = the "mood" of the passage. Attempt to get the "feel" of the passage.

Read between the lines to discover the emotions, the tensions, the beauty of the context and setting and circumstances of the people or thoughts being expressed. Look for the underlying tone or mood.

Central idea of the paragraph, chapter, book. Two parts to the central idea:

SUBJECT: what is the writer talking about?

COMPLEMENT: what is the writer saying about what he is talking about?

Type of literature: History, biography, poetry, proverbial, prophecy, didactic, letter

Subject or area of theology: Bible, Christian Living, God Himself, Angels, Man, Christ, Holy Spirit, Church,

Literary composition: Comparison, contrast, repetition, continuity, continuation, climax, cruciality, interchange, particularization & generalization, cause-effect, effect-cause, instrumentation (means to an end), explanation, introduction, summarization, interrogation, proportion or prospective, abstraction, illustration.

2. **Interpretation** is finding out what the writer means. What does God mean? What did the Lord mean? Stick to normal, historical interpretation. Rules for interpretation...

a. Literal: take words in their **normal** meaning.

b. Grammatical: laws of grammar must be observed. An interpretation that can't be justified grammatically is not valid. (tense, mood, voice)

c. Historical: Culture and history must be taken into account. Tradition is not history. But don't discount all tradition. When we have a universal tradition be careful about rejecting it.

d. Literary: What kind of literature are we reading? Also, note the different styles with the same kind of literature and/or authors.

e. Scriptural: Interpret scripture with scripture. The Bible is a unity. Use clear passages to interpret obscure ones.

f. Scholarly-godly: Use other literature. Commentaries-because God has given us teachers, and they often at least help us see the questions even if they don't have the solutions.

g. Systematic: collect, organize, arrange, correlate.

h. Spiritual: This goes around all the rest. We are to allow the Holy Spirit to be our Teacher. Also, look for Jesus! "We would see Jesus."

3. **Application** is applying that truth to your life. What difference does this make to me?
Of what benefit is this passage to my life?
- S.P.A.C.E.: sin / promises/ action/ command/example
 - State the application in the form of a general principle. A principle is a short, terse, universal truth to applied then and now.
 - Life Response: this next week I will...

4. **Correlation** - where does it fit?

What is the context? *A text without a context is a pre-text. Compare scripture with scripture.*

Principle: Context Rules! Like concentric circles:

Outline the passage, chapter, book. Make a chart. Paraphrase the paragraph in your own words.

Begin to develop a systematic understanding of Scripture. This is called "systematic theology".