

The Inductive Bible Study Method

The Inductive Bible Study Method is a systematic approach to studying Scripture that seeks to understand the original meaning of the text and apply it to life. This method involves three key steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

1. Observation: What Does the Text Say?

Observation is the foundation of inductive Bible study. It requires careful reading to understand what is actually written. Slow down and notice what it says, even if you are simply repeating what is written in the text. Don't ask what it means yet, simply notice what it says.

Key Questions to Ask:

- Who is speaking? Who are the main characters?
- What is happening? What are the key words and themes?
- When and where is this taking place?
- How is the passage structured? Are there repeated words, contrasts, or commands?

Write Your Observations Below:

2. Interpretation: What Does the Text Mean?

Once you have observed what the text says, the next step is to determine its meaning. You are wanting to find one or more truths that are true in every generation and every culture.

Key Questions to Ask:

- What is the main point of this passage?
- What was the author's intent in writing this?
- How would the original audience have understood this?
- How does this passage fit into the larger context of the book and the Bible as a whole?
- What does this passage teach about God, man, and/or the world?

Write Your Interpretation Below:

3. Application: How Should I Respond?

The final step is applying the truth of the passage to your own life.

Key Questions to Ask:

- What does this instruct me to do, believe, or feel?
- Is there a command to obey, a sin to avoid, or a promise to trust?
- How can I live out this truth in my daily life?
- What sin can I confess and repent of?
- What can I worship God for?

Write Your Application Below:

Conclusion

The Inductive Bible Study Method is a powerful way to engage with Scripture personally and deeply. By carefully observing, interpreting, and applying God's Word, we grow in our understanding of the Bible and our relationship with Him.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." – 2 Timothy 3:16