

How To Study Your Bible 1

Do you realize that you are about to learn a method of Bible study that could be your launching pad to a life of new vision and renewed hope? Throughout the ages, God has raised up men and women, ordinary people like you and me, and used them to accomplish great works for His kingdom. As you begin, my prayer for you is that through the study of His Word, God will let you see the vital significance of your life. I pray that you will persevere and not lose heart. Greatness is never achieved nor dreams realized apart from great discipline.

Who is This Teaching For:

Those who long to know God

Those who yearn for a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ

Those who want to live the Christian life faithfully and know what God requires of you

If this describes you, then you must do more than merely read the Bible and study what someone else has said about it.

Studying God's Word correctly will allow you to:

interact with God's Word personally,

absorb its message by letting God engrave His truth on your heart and mind and life.

The purpose of this teaching is for you to: see truth for yourself, discerning what it means, and apply that truth to your life.

Pray Against the Spirit of Discouragement

The accuser of the brethren, the devil, will seek to _____ you on every hand (John 8:44; Revelation 12:10), especially if you have tried studying the Bible before and failed.

He will attempt to _____ you that it is just too hard for you, that you will never get it, that it is useless to try.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!

The Joy and Value of Inductive Study

The Bible was written so that anyone who wants to know _____ God is and _____ they are to live in a way that _____ Him can read it and find out.

God wants to bring us into _____ with Himself He wants to be a Father to us.

In order to have that relationship, however, God has to _____ to us.

He wants to explain to us who He is and how we can be brought into a close, wonderful _____ with Him.

He also wants us to _____ the blessings of a life of _____ to His Word and the _____ of disobeying Him.

And He wants us to know the _____ about life and what is going to happen in the future.

One of the best way to do this is through the process called _____.

Inductive study _____ tell you what the Bible means or what you should believe.

Inductive study teaches you a _____ of studying God's Word that can be applied to any portion of Scripture at any time for the rest of your life.

The main requirement in learning to study the Bible inductively is the willingness to _____ and _____ at what the Scripture is saying.

Inductive Bible study uses the Bible itself as the _____ source of information about the Bible.

In inductive study you _____ explore the Scriptures apart from conclusions Bible scholars and other people have drawn from their study of the Word.

Research has shown time and time again that people _____ more and _____ better when they enter into the process of discovery for themselves.

Inductive Bible study draws you into personal _____ with the Scripture and thus with the God of the Scriptures so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful _____ and legitimate _____ of Scripture—truth that transforms you when you live by it.

The Benefits of Using Inductive Study

be equipped to study God's Word on your own

be independent of relying only on another's interpretation

increase your knowledge of God and His ways

be greatly strengthened in your personal faith

recognize the authority of the inerrant Word of God in your daily walk

Let's Get Started

Inductive Bible study consists of three component parts, which we will look at separately, but which frequently overlap in practice.

These three parts are _____, _____, and _____.

OBSERVATION

Observation answers the question: What does the passage _____?

It is the _____ which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word.

Through observation, you are going to learn what to _____ for when you read your Bible.

Because observation is discovering what the passage is saying, it requires _____ and _____.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation answers the question: What does the passage _____?

And the basis for accurate interpretation is always careful _____.

Interpretation is the _____ of discovering what the _____ means.

As you carefully observe Scripture, the meaning will become apparent.

However, if you _____ into interpretation without laying the vital _____ of accurate observation, your understanding will be _____ by what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.

Interpretation is _____ necessarily a _____ step from observation, for often, as you carefully observe the text, at that very moment you begin to see what it means. Thus, interpretation _____ out of observation.

APPLICATION

Application answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage _____ _____?

Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into _____ in your own life, but _____ if you don't!

Ultimately, then, the goal of personal Bible study is a _____ life and a deep and _____ relationship with Jesus Christ.

Application is _____ a third step in the inductive process.

Rather, application takes place as you are _____ with truth and _____ to respond in _____ to that truth.

The basis for application is 2 Timothy 3:16-17: "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

SUMMARY

Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations.

Studying inductively is a learning process that does not happen overnight.

It happens by doing it over and over again, until the doing becomes almost a habit, and a wonderful one at that.

Inductive study teaches you a _____ of studying God's Word that can be applied to any portion of Scripture at any time for the rest of your life.

In inductive study you _____ explore the Scriptures apart from conclusions Bible scholars and other people have drawn from their study of the Word.

Inductive Bible study consists of three component parts, _____, _____, and _____.

Observation answers the question: What does the passage _____?

Interpretation answers the question: What does the passage _____?

Application answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage _____
_____ _____?

Resources

Living By The Book, by Howard Hendricks

How to Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur

How to Read A Book, by Mortimer Adler

How to Read Better and Faster, by Norman Lewis

How To Study Your Bible 2

You are about to learn the most effective method of Bible study there is. Yet apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, that's all it will be, a method.

The Rule of Context

We Begin the process of observation by observing the _____ as a whole.

By the text we mean whatever _____ of Scripture you want to study.

So choose your text (a book of the Bible) and then keep the following principles before you.

Step One

Began with _____.

John 16:13-15 tells us that the One who guides us into all truth, the One who takes the things of God and reveals them to us, is the _____, our resident _____.

So ask God, by His Spirit, to _____ you into all truth and to open your _____ that you may behold wondrous things out of His Word (see Psalm 119:18 KJV).

Begin with prayer, and _____ with an attitude of prayer.

Step Two

Identify the _____

One of the most important principles of handling the Word properly and studying the Bible inductively is to _____ Scripture in the light of its context.

Why? Because context always _____ in interpretation.

The word context means "that which goes with the text." In general, then, context is the _____ in which something dwells, the _____ in which something exists or occurs.

Remember the tadpole in the creek? Context is the creek!

In Bible study, context is the words, phrases, and sentences _____ a particular word, phrase, or sentence.

This context gives meaning to the particular word, phrase, or sentence and helps you _____ what the author is saying.

Because context rules in, or determines, the interpretation of the passage, it is important for you to know the context of any passage that you're studying.

In inductive study, context is determined or identified in the same way, by carefully observing what is _____ in the text and seeing how it all relates.

Step Three

Observe the _____

When you observe the text, begin by looking for things that are obvious, in other words, things that are _____ to see.

_____ about people, places, and events always capture our attention; therefore, people, places, and events are easy to see.

If you keep your focus on the obvious, you will discover significant or repeated _____; these will, in turn, show you the context of “the book, chapter, passage, or verse you are studying.”

Step Four

Deal with the Text _____

In other words, let the text _____ for itself.

Observing the text in order to establish context must be your _____ objective, so let the text itself show you its repeated emphasis.

Therefore, our primary goal, our driving passion, should be to know _____ and then _____ our beliefs and our lives accordingly.

Step Five

Read with a _____

Reading with a purpose is accomplished by asking _____ of the text. You must interrogate the text as a detective would a witness.

To get the **whole** story, all the details, journalists are taught to ask the “_____’s and an _____” (who, what, when, where, why, and how) in their reporting.

If you are going to read the Bible with purpose, to get all the details, you must ask the 5 W’s and an H. Therefore, as you read, ask...

5W’s and an H

_____ wrote it? Who said it? Who are the major characters? Who are the people mentioned? To whom is the author speaking? About whom is he speaking?

_____ are the main events? What are the major ideas? What are the major teachings? What are these people like? What does he talk about the most? What is his purpose in saying that?

_____ was it written? When did this event take place? When will it happen? When did he say it? When did he do it?

_____ was this done? Where was this said? Where will it happen?

_____ was there a need for this to be written? Why was this mentioned? Why was so much or so little space devoted to this particular event or teaching? Why was this reference mentioned? Why should they do such and such?

_____ is it done? How did it happen? How is this truth illustrated?

Let's illustrate this by simply using one verse:

"After these things Jesus was walking in Galilee; for He was unwilling to walk in Judea because the Jews were seeking to kill Him" (John 7:1)."

"Jesus" answers the question, "_____ is this about?"

"Was walking" answers the question, "_____ was He doing?"

"In Galilee, not Judea" answers the question, "_____ was He walking?"

"Because the Jews were seeking to kill Him" tells us, "_____ was He not in Judea?"

"After these things" tells us, "_____ was this action taking place?"

"What things?" The things that took place in the _____ verses."

And the more you do it, the more it will become a habit, until asking these questions becomes _____ to you as you study God's awesome book.

Don't think you have to find _____ 5 W's and an H every time you question a passage, because they're _____ always going to be there.

For example, the verse above, John 7:1, did not answer an "H" question.

Simply read the text and answer all the 5 W's and an H questions you _____.

Review

Step One

Began with _____

Step Two

Identify the _____

Step Three

Observe the _____

Step Four

Deal with the Text _____

Step Five

Read with a _____

Home Work

Using the Five Step Process, apply the inductive method to the following passages:

Acts 8:30-31 (KJV)

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Psalm 34:19-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

²⁰ He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Began with **Prayer**

Identify the **Context**

Observe the **Obvious**

Deal with the Text **Objectively**

Read with a **Purpose**

Get all the details, ask the 5 W's and an H.

You may use a different Bible translation but not a commentary to assist you.