

## HOW TO DO INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

- INDUCTIVE STUDY
- = definition: reasoning proceeding from particular facts to a general conclusion
  - = the focus is first and foremost on the Scripture itself
  - = rather than study someone else's study, you study the Scripture for yourself
  - = you utilize tools, techniques and skills to study the Bible confidently on your own

GOD SPEAKS



THROUGH HIS WORD



DIRECTLY TO YOU



YOU ARE READY TO STUDY THE WORKS OF OTHERS

- = key benefit: research shows that you learn more and retain more the more you are personally and actively involved in the learning process
- = you discover truth for yourself
- = therefore be prepared to 1) slow down  
2) discover what a passage is literally saying  
unbiased by previous experience

### THREE COMPONENTS

- 1) **OBSERVATION** → What does the text actually say?
  - taking notice, fixing the mind upon, beholding with attention
  - “the art of seeing things as they really are, impartially, intensely and fearlessly”  
– H T Kuist
  - “it supplies the raw materials upon which the mind may operate in the interpretative process”  
– Robert Traina
- 2) **INTERPRETATION** → What does the text mean?
  1. The search for meaning is based on thorough observation
  2. Remember that context rules
  3. Always seek the full counsel of the entire Word of God
  4. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture
  5. Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture
  6. Interpret Scripture literally (take its natural, normal sense)
  7. Look for the author's intended meaning
  8. Check your conclusions by using reliable commentaries

- 3) **APPLICATION** → How does the meaning of the text apply to me?  
→ How does it work?  
→ What truths can I put into practice?  
→ What changes should I make in my life?
- correct application is based on accurate interpretation
  - once you understand what the Word teaches, you are obligated before God to accept the truth and to live by it
  - you have applied what you have learned when you have
    - adjusted any false teachings you may have believed
    - embraced the truth revealed in God's Word

**INDUCTIVE**  
**BIBLE**  
**STUDY**

- ✱ Inductive Bible study begins and continues with prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit

**Psalm 119:18**

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.

**Ephesians 1:17**

... (*praying*) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

**1 Corinthians 2:12**

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

**John 16:13**

But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

**Luke 24:45**

Then He (*Jesus*) opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

- ✱ The best way to study the Bible is the way that God gave it – **BOOK BY BOOK**

THE  
INDUCTIVE  
METHOD

**STEP 1**  
OVERVIEW THE BOOK – get the big picture = discover the context

	Book Theme (what is talked about the most)				
Key Words	1	2	3	4	Historical Context Setting
	Occasion/Purpose				

1. Read and re-read the book looking for the OBVIOUS → F.O.T.O.
  - facts about people, places and events are always most obvious
  - read – mark the author’s name and pronouns
  - read again – mark the references to the recipients
  - read again for words or ideas that are obvious because they are repeated; these are key words = the topics
  - highlight all the commands in the book
2. As you read and re-read, things that were at first unclear will become obvious in turn – always keep focusing on what is obvious
  - do not be distracted by minute details, by difficult verses or your favourite passages
  - remember: the Word of God will minister to you personally as you handle it objectively and let it speak for itself
3. Read, read and re-read the book – always with a purpose
  - ask the 5 Ws & H questions: who, what, where, when, why, how, the building blocks of precise observation
4. Identify the main topic or theme of the book
5. Complete your “book chart” recording your findings
  - sum up each chapter – how does it contribute to the main subject?
  - note the book’s segments