

Inductive Bible Study

Source Material:

Inductive Bible Study: A Step-by-Step Guide: <https://biblestudy.tips/inductive-bible-study/>

Precept Bible Study Method:

<https://precept.box.com/shared/static/e8akb6mqvu3d0tktd1645pnli57nsb1d.pdf>

Deduction vs. Induction

▶ Deduction

- ▶ Bring our own assumptions and use the guiding force behind our study.

▶ Induction

- ▶ We begin with our subject and draw any conclusions based on what we learn from our study.

Inductive Bible Study

- ▶ We want to interpret and understand the Scripture based on the evidence presented to us, instead of our preconceived notions of what we want or assume the text says.
- ▶ The inductive Bible study method helps us achieve our goal of understanding Scripture and making application for our lives. It does this by treating the Bible as it should.
- ▶ We first observe what the text says before we interpret and apply it. This means we treat it with respect, as the Word of God, and don't move quickly or haphazardly.

How to Do Inductive Bible Study

- ▶ Observation: What does the Bible say?
- ▶ Interpretation: What does the Bible mean?
- ▶ Application: How do the Bible apply to my life today?

Observation

- ▶ Begin with Prayer
- ▶ Ask the “5 W’s and an H”
- ▶ Mark key words and phrases
- ▶ Make lists
- ▶ Making lists can be one

Observation

- ▶ Watch for contrasts and comparisons
- ▶ Note expressions of time
- ▶ Geographic Locations
- ▶ Mark terms of conclusion
- ▶ Identify chapter themes
- ▶ Compare Translations

Interpretation

- ▶ Remember that context rules.
 - ▶ consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God
- ▶ Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.
 - ▶ When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support their view.
- ▶ Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
 - ▶ Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. Therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't.

Interpretation

- ▶ Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.
 - ▶ An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is unclear or not easily understood should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.
- ▶ Interpret Scripture literally.
 - ▶ God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value—in its natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning.
- ▶ Look for the single meaning of the passage.
 - ▶ Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught.

Interpretation

▶ Consider the Context

- ▶ Historical
- ▶ Literature
- ▶ Theology

▶ Compare Scripture with Scripture

- ▶ Word Studies
- ▶ Topical Studies

▶ Consult Other Resources

- ▶ Commentaries
- ▶ Bible dictionaries
- ▶ Study Bibles
- ▶ Bible handbooks and surveys
- ▶ Bible atlases
- ▶ Concordances

Online Help

- ▶ blueletterbible.org
- ▶ biblehub.com
- ▶ preceptaustin.org
- ▶ gotquestions.org

Application

- ▶ Find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text.
- ▶ Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are then obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.
- ▶ Scripture will always teach what is right, show us where we are wrong, how to correct, and train us in right living; so that we are complete, fully equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17.