

Inductive Bible Study Method Worksheet

Surveying a book of the Bible: When studying a book of the Bible, it is always wise to do a quick read of the whole book. This gives you a big-picture or bird's-eye view that will help you better understand smaller units such as verses, paragraphs, and chapters in the context of the book as a whole.

After doing a quick read of the book, it can be helpful to read an introduction to the book. Consult a good study Bible like the ESV Study Bible or the NIV Study Bible for introductions to the book you are studying. As you study the Bible, you want to understand the parts in light of the whole and the whole in light of the parts.

Inductive Bible Study Method helps you in understanding the parts. It **involves three steps: Observation** (What does the text say?), **Interpretation** (What does the text mean?), and **Application** (So what? And now what?). Bible Study is about more than satisfying our curiosity. It is about following Jesus so that we become more like him in our thinking, affections, attitudes, and actions. (Luke 6:40)

Prayer: Always begin and end your study asking God to bend your will to his word so that you do not bend his word to your will. Ask God to help you open your heart and mind as you open the Scriptures.

Step One: Observation

What does the text say?

What do you see in the text? Look for answers to questions like: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

What you should look for as you read the text: Key persons, key words, key phrases, key places, key events, key ideas/concepts, etc.

Don't be afraid to markup your Bible when you see something that you think is "key." Some people like to use highlighters or to circle key words or underline key phrases. You might put a checkmark or arrow in the margin pointing to key names, places, or events. Marking up your Bible, writing in the margins, and/or using a journal are not necessary, but they can be very helpful in your study.

Looking for keys help to unlock the meaning of the text. And we discover the keys through prayer, diligent study, and careful observation. You might also want to list questions you need answers for to correctly understand the text.

<p>TEXT: Write out the text in the space below or cut and paste the text here if you have an electronic copy of this worksheet. This may be a verse, paragraph, story, or chapter. If you have limited time, choose a shorter text.</p>	<p>WHO: List key people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">••••• <p>WHAT: List key words, phrases, events, etc. or simply make marks in the text you have written down or copied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">••
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • • • • • <p>WHEN/WHERE: List key dates, times, places, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • <p>WHY/HOW: List anything that helps you understand the purpose behind the teaching of the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • •
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Step Two: Interpretation

What does the text mean?

What did God and the human author of the text want the original people reading this text to understand/do? Why?

Write a short summary of what the text is about or write out a key verse in your own words:

How to find answers to your questions:

- Sometimes, after you read the text two or three times, you will see the answers in the text you're reading. Sometimes it can help to read the text in two or three translations. Sometimes you need to read the larger context of the verses before and after or as you read through the book as a whole to find the answer. If you have tried all of these and your questions are still unanswered, look at a

good study Bible like the ESV Study Bible or the NIV Study Bible or a Bible commentary like the Bible Knowledge Commentary two volume set.

Step three: Application

So what? And now what?

What are the implications of this text for us today?

What does God want me to understand/to do today? Why?

How do I need to change in my thinking, my affections, my attitudes, and/or my actions?

PRAYER: Take what you have learned and turn it into prayer for yourself and others you love.