

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY SUMMARY

1. PREPARATION & PRAYER

- Have the right attitude (Gal 2:20; John 6:63; 2 Tim 2:15; 3:15-16).
- Have the right conditions (free from distractions).
- Have the right tools (Bible(s); Concordance; Bible Dictionary).
- Have the right purpose & intent. Approach God respectfully & ask for the help of the Holy Spirit.

2. OVERVIEW (What is the “big picture”?)

- Read the whole block of scripture (book, chapter, or block) through several times.
- Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.
- Make an overview chart and/or outline of the block of scripture you are studying.

3. WHAT IS THE CONTEXT? (Who, what, when, where, why?)

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| • Date written (When?) | • Culture | • Cycle of events |
| • Author | • Political events | • What took place before/after? |
| • Reception | • Audience (Who written to?) | • Major divisions |
| • Purpose | • Main characters & personalities | • Pressure point |
| • Type of literature (prose, poetic, discourse, apocalyptic,) | • Contemporaries from secular history | • Location (Where?) |

4. WHAT DOES IT SAY?

- Write out the verses you want to study so that you don't miss words or verb tenses, etc.
- Learn to readily see words (be honest when you don't understand a word or phrase).
- Look for repetition of words, phrases (underline)
- Identify key words, phrases.
- Notice contrasts, commands, promises, cause/effect, problems/solutions, words of

5. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Here is where you learn to ask questions: Who, what, where, when, how, why?
- What does this word mean?
- What does the immediate context suggest?
- What does the broader context suggest?
- What do the cross-references suggest?
- Use your Bible Dictionary, Atlas, and Word Studies. Leave no stone unturned.

6. SUMMARIZE!

Put the parts all back together and see if you can come up with a statement that will summarize all that has been studied. Be able to answer the question “What is the big main idea of this block of scripture?”

7. IDENTIFY THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE(S)!

Scripture is given for our instruction; never read as history or literature. Understand the historical context, then draw out the spiritual principles. For example: 2 Cor 2:14 (NASU) “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ...” *Principles: I should always have a thankful heart because God, who is always in control, will bring triumph even out of an apparent loss.*

8. SO WHAT? (WHAT IS THE APPLICATION?)

- Spiritual truths are never confined to any to any one time or culture.
- Can the spiritual principles can be applied universally, nationally, locally, personally or all of the above?
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the ability to incorporate these truths into your life style.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you might fall short; for forgiveness; and strength to repent.

This is where you purpose to do what God has taught you in your time with Him. It is through applying His Word that God changes our lives. Application does not happen by osmosis, but by intentional submission and the help of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.