

## INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Inductive Bible study allows the Bible to explain the Bible.

Inductive Bible study is studying the Bible to discover for yourself what it says, rather than starting with commentaries or the opinions of other people.

Inductive Bible study has four steps.

1. PRAYER
2. OBSERVATION: What does it say?
3. INTERPRETATION: What does it mean?
4. APPLICATION: How do I apply this to my own life?

### PRAYER

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.  
(John 16:13 NASB)*

Start by **praying**, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you his truth from the Bible, and how it applies to your life.

### OBSERVATION: What does it say?

Read and reread the Bible text several times.

Ask **WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? HOW?** and **WHY?**

Mark the **key words** and phrases with symbols or colors. Key words are often repeated, and show the author's main points or his purpose. Look also for times or dates, and for geographic locations.

Take note of **comparisons** and **contrasts**. What is similar? What is different?

Look for **conclusions**. Conclusions often begin with words and phrases like "therefore" or "thus" or "for this reason".

Make **lists**.

**Thorough observation leads to correct interpretation.**

## INTERPRETATION: What does it mean?

**Scripture always interprets Scripture.** Compare this passage to other parts of this book or to other parts of the Bible. Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

**Context** is key! Knowing the context or surrounding of a verse is the key to correct interpretation.

Look for the single or main meaning of a passage.

What is the main **theme** or the chapter or paragraph?

Don't base your conclusions on an obscure passage of Scripture. Look for what is repeated.

Look for **cross references**. What is said in other passages about this?

Do **word studies**.

As a last step, check **commentaries**.

Correct interpretation leads to application.

## APPLICATION: How do I apply this?

*And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
so that you may prove what the will of God is,  
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.  
Romans 12:2*

Ask, How do I **apply** this to my life?

What do I need to **change**?

How is my life being **transformed** into the image of Christ?

How can I **obey** this?

What **practical steps** do I need to take?