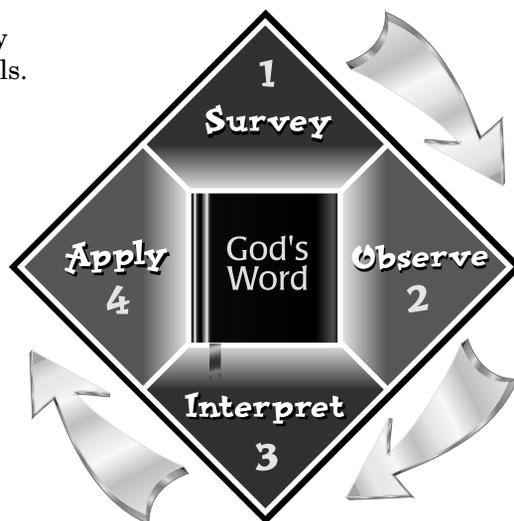


Inductive Bible Study

The inductive method of Bible study is based on inductive reasoning skills.

Here's how it works:

We glean facts as we study the Bible (step 1: Survey + step 2: Observe). Those facts help us understand what the Bible means (step 3: Interpret). Then we respond to the principles from that Bible passage (step 4: Apply).



God's Word must always be elevated over human opinion! The inductive approach to Bible study tends to be impartial and objective. It minimizes subjective personal opinion.

1 Survey *to overview the passage (Psalm 119:97).*

- A** Mentally transport yourself to the scene of the action. You're really there! Read the entire book through (preferably several times) to get the "overview."
- B** Create a simple chart of the book's structure.
- C** Investigate the historical background of the book.

2 Observe *to see wonders (Psalm 119:18).*

- A** Prayerfully read the passage as if you have never seen it before. Make it come alive!
- B** Discover relationships between words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs. Find and mark these items in the text:

key words – highlight important words or phrases

repetition – mark significant words or phrases that are repeated

contrast – note words or phrases that are opposites

comparison – underline similar or synonymous words

purpose – mark phrases that reveal purpose

[*so that, in order that*]

punctuation – circle important punctuation marks

verb tense – note the verb tenses; use brackets [] for important changes

cause/effect – draw an arrow from the cause of the action to the effect or result

summary – note the presence of summary statements

climax – determine the "high point" in the passage

3 Interpret *to understand truth (Luke 24:25).*

- A** Bombard the passage with questions:

"Who?" —which people are involved?

example: "Who are David's enemies?" (See Psalm 23:5.)

"What?" —follow the passage's action

ex: "What is the 'cup' filled with /used for?" (23:5)

"What is the difference between 'rod' and 'staff'?" (23:4)

"When?" —note all time references

ex: "When does 'forever' begin for David?" (23:6)

"Where?" —determine places and geography

ex: "Where is the 'valley of the shadow of death'?" (23:4)

"How?" —what process is revealed?

ex: "How does verse 6 relate to verse 5?" (23:5-6)

"Why?" —learn about motives and reasons

ex: "Why do sheep need a shepherd?" (23:1)

- B** Answer the questions you formulate. (Consult outside resources when necessary such as dictionaries, maps, concordances, Bible handbooks, and commentaries.) Determine the meaning of any obscure words. Know exactly what each word means.
- C** Summarize the passage. Create a diagram to record the main ideas, subject, and purposes.
- D** Identify "Timeless Principles" from the passage. Ask, "What does it mean **today**?"

4 Apply *to be transformed and blessed (James 1:25).*

- A** Explore ways to apply "Timeless Principles" to your life. Ask, "How does this principle apply to me?"
- B** Determine with God how you can act on each truth. Include **what** you will do and **when** you will do it.