

# Training & Equipping

Inductive Bible Study

## Ground Rules

1. Be Humble – We will not agree on everything
2. Be Teachable – We all need to grow and no one is right on everything
3. Be Reasonable – Not everything is worth dying over
4. Be Worshipful – Every truth is meant to cultivate deep affections for God

## Announcement

We will not meet again until July 20. You will only have one lesson video to watch (Lesson 6: Gaps Related to Literature). I will give you a few more things to watch from YouTube.

## Sizing up the Task

There's a difference between a wall and a gap

Reading the Bible takes work

“...the Bible is not an easy book to study. In its pages we are confronted with a history that is not our own, cultural norms that are often different from contemporary practices, literature that communicates through a complex array of genres and subgenres, and theology that defies simplistic categorization. And while it's proper to speak of the Bible as a unified work, we nonetheless find ourselves challenged by a collection of sixty-six books, each reflecting its own unique history, literature, and theology. If the Bible were just any collection of books from antiquity, its study most likely would be the exclusive domain of scholars, its mysteries researched and unraveled for a select community in the halls of academia. Yet the Bible is anything but exclusive in reach, its pages open to all who seek to know the truth in faith.”<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Jr. Fuhr Richard Alan and Andreas J. Köstenberger, *Inductive Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation, and Application through the Lenses of History, Literature, and Theology* (Nashville, TN: B&H, 2016), 2-3.

Though gaps exist, we are capable of learning how to interact with Scripture

“This is the challenge of Bible study: its particulars are often complex but never vexing; its message is simple but not simplistic; the study of Scripture requires hard work—in fact, it entails a lifelong journey—and yet along that pathway of discovery you’ll find enrichment and growth from day one. God uses his Word wherever you and I may be in our journey of biblical literacy, often in spite of our ignorance and limitations. At the same time, Scripture encourages us to move to maturity in many different realms of spiritual experience, not p 4 the least of which involves developing greater skills in handling God’s Word ([Heb 5:11–14](#); [2 Tim 2:15](#)).”<sup>2</sup>

## Three Gaps Related to History

1. The Time Gap - The events depicted in Scripture occurred in a historical context far removed from the twenty-first century.
2. The Geographical Gap - The events recorded in the Bible took place in lands far removed from that of most Bible students.
3. The Cultural Gap - The cultures reflected in the Bible are drastically different than our own.

## The Time Gap

The Time Gap is the most general aspect of the historical gap because it includes everything that is different between 1000 BC and 2025 AD.

What are some differences between 1000 BC and 2025 AD?

---

---

---

-Consider modern medicine

---

-Consider politics (The Gospel Project: Summer, Lesson 1, 1 Samuel 8)

---

---

---

<sup>2</sup> Fuhr and Köstenberger, *Inductive Bible Study: Observation, Interpretation, and Application through the Lenses of History, Literature, and Theology*, 3–4.

## The Geographical Gap

Possibly the simplest to observe, but most often overlooked.

“Learning biblical history without the land of the Bible is as difficult as playing chess without a chess board or telling someone how to drive through Boston without a map. Each biblical passage may teach a lesson, but the reader is often left with a myriad of unconnected events which do not fit into a meaningful whole. Learning the regional architecture of the land of the Bible (the ‘playing board’ of biblical history) remedies this situation by providing a gateway into the real world of the Bible. There are many benefits of such a study to us as readers and interpreters of Scripture. Here are some.

- a. We discover the motives of those we meet on the pages of the Bible while participating in their decisions, for better or for worse.
- b. We see events in the Bible fitting into a larger context as pieces of a puzzle fit into a larger picture.
- c. We more fully appreciate the message of the biblical writer as a prelude for translating that message into our lives in the 21st century.

Why do geographical markers exist in the Bible?

- to explain the setting (includes location names, elevation, direction)
  - to create intensity
  - to reveal motives
  - to develop theological emphasis
  - to create type scenes
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

## The Cultural Gap

Two dangers exist:

1. To completely overlook cultural realities that impact the narrative
2. To force everything into a cultural reality that we do not understand

## Notes

---

---

---

---

## Homework

1. Watch Lesson 6: Gaps Related to Literature.
2. Read “Gaps Related to Literature” [pp. 11-14]
3. Watch part of the series, “How to Read the Bible” (videos 1-9).

- How to Read the Bible Overview
- What is the Bible?
- The Story of the Bible
- Writing Styles of the Bible & Why They’re Important to Understand
- How the Bible is Unique as Literature”
- Plot in Biblical Narrative
- Character in Biblical Narrative
- Setting in Biblical Narrative
- Design Patterns in Biblical Narrative

Be ready to A) Share two new things you learned:

---

---

---

B) Share 1 thing that was the most important thing you learned:

---

---

---

C) A question you have:

---

---

4. Do some background study on the book you are teaching through this fall. Use your Faithlife Study Bible that's free in Logos. Look for potential historical gaps and categorize them (time, geography, culture). Make a list so that you can bridge the gaps (over the next few months) and determine the significance these gaps bring to your passage.

---

---

---

---

---