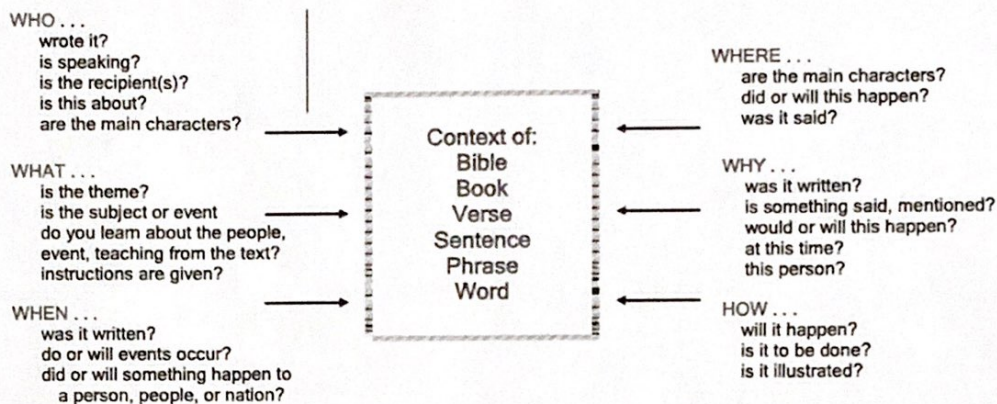


HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE INDUCTIVELY ¹

There are three keys to studying the Bible: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. Homework assignments from the workbook are broken up into five one-hour sessions per lesson. Always begin and end your study with prayer, because "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of Christ." -Romans 10:17.

OBSERVATION - DISCOVER WHAT IT SAYS**2 PETER 3:16**

1. Read the book (or assigned material) once to get a general impression of it.
2. Read again and begin to establish context (that which goes with the text).
3. Ask the "Five W's and an H" in relationship to the context:



4. Read again, look for, and mark: people, places, events, and repeated (key) words. See reverse for sample marking symbols. Marking slows down the observation process to enable discovery.
5. Mark expressions of time words ("then", "after this", "until", "when", "now", "soon", "as soon as").
6. Mark terms of conclusion words ("wherefore", "therefore", "so", "for", "for this reason", "finally").
7. Mark contrast words ("but", "however", "yet", "nevertheless", "on the other hand").
8. Mark comparison words ("like", "as", "such as"; also, metaphors)
9. Mark warnings ("beware", "heed")
10. Mark exhortations ("let us")
11. Mark instructions ("do", "do not", "shall", "shall not").
12. Look for lists, which reveal truths and highlight important concepts. What gave you an "aha!"
13. Develop chapter themes.

INTERPRETATION - DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS

1. Context rules. Consider each verse in light of surrounding verses, its book, entire Word of God.
2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God; never take it out of context; interpret literally.
3. Remember that scripture is God-inspired and never contradicts other scripture.
4. Look for the single meaning of the passage.
5. Use tools, such as word studies, cross-references, but leave commentaries for last.

APPLICATION - DISCOVER HOW IT WORKS**2 TIMOTHY 3:16, 17**

1. What are life lessons: What does the passage teach me? Mean to me? Require of me?
2. Does this section of scripture expose any error in my beliefs or in my behavior?
3. What is God's instruction to me as His child?

¹ Some paraphrased materials from *The New Inductive Study Bible*. Precept Ministries International. Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, Oregon. 2000. pp 13-31.

The Into Thy Word Ministries Inductive Bible Study "Cheat Sheet"

THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON'T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!

STEP I: Pray: "KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:" BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!

ATTITUDE is crucial!!! (Gal. 2:20)

- ◆ REMEMBER TO ALWAYS: BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.
- ◆ DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!
- ◆ BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

STEP II: Read: "HOW:" THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

STEP III: "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?! Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

- ◆ Give the Book the "Looks:" Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, "once, then, now, will be, etc." Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So, Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?
- ◆ Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in "Bible Dictionaries."
- ◆ Consider repeated words & phrases.
- ◆ Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. "Scripture interprets scripture." Use a "Concordance."
- ◆ Notice what is being taught
- ◆ Notice the promises
- ◆ Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ Look out for types of "literary style;" history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.
- ◆ Look at different translations

STEP IV: "SCRUTINIZE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?

Let God have His way with you! Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

Q: What is God telling me?

- ◆ We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!
- ◆ We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.
- ◆ Be focused on Christ not ourselves.
- ◆ Be aware of the **CONTEXT!!!!** The "historical" and "literary" settings?" What is going on?
- ◆ What is the point and train of thought?
- ◆ **ANALYZE** by gathering facts and all the information available to you.
- ◆ Paraphrase the passage yourself.
- ◆ What is supported?
- ◆ What are the conclusions?

Q: How am I encouraged and strengthened?

Make an emotional identification into the text. Place yourself into the text as if it is your story as if you are there!

THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:

- ◆ Ask what is actually being said?
- ◆ Try reading aloud!
- ◆ Consider nothing insignificant!
- ◆ Have a mentor to ask questions.
- ◆ Look for stuff to carry out in your life.
- ◆ Write down your questions
- ◆ What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ How can I model His Character?
- ◆ What is our duty?
- ◆ What is God's character?
- ◆ Make a commitment to the meaning.
- ◆ Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!
- ◆ Accept what It says: This is God's Word!

Q: Is there a sin in my life for which confession and repentance is needed?

STEP V: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!!

Q: How can I be changed so I can learn and grow?

THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!

- ◆ **WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?
- ◆ **WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?
- ◆ **WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?
- ◆ **WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?
- ◆ **HOW:** did it happen? How can it happen? How was something done?
- ◆ **WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Are there any commands?
- ◆ Are there any contrasts?
- ◆ Are there things repeated?
- ◆ Is there cause and effect?
- ◆ Is there a problem and solution?
- ◆ Are there any promises?
- ◆ Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?
- ◆ Notice the setting!

STEP VI: "KNOW IT"!!!

START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS

Q: What is in the way of these precepts affecting me? What is in the way of my listening to God?

- ◆ **WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?**
- ◆ Be sure your information is correct!!!
- ◆ Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

Digging Personally:

- ◆ How are you encouraged & strengthened?
- ◆ Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?
- ◆ What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?
- ◆ We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!

- ◆ We must allow God's Word to break our will and desires over to His!
- ◆ What did God say to you today?
- ◆ Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?
- ◆ Are you appreciating it?
- ◆ Are you receiving and practicing the great benefits to others around you?
- ◆ Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

STEP VII: "APPLICATION!!!" (Gal 5:21-26)

Q: How does this apply to me? What will I do about it?

- ◆ Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!
- ◆ What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?
- ◆ When will it end up in my day planner?
- ◆ Mediate over the passage

ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What illustration can I use to remember?
- ◆ How does the truth apply to my life?
- ◆ What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?
- ◆ What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?
- ◆ How should I carry out these changes?
- ◆ **Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others. Accountability.

Q: What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?

STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART

- ◆ Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

"You can do it!"

Keep this guide "tucked" in your Bible for reference and guidance.

From: "Into Thy Word" © 1978, 1988, 2000
R.J. Krejcir www.intothyword.org

The Into Thy Word Ministries Inductive Bible Study "Cheat Sheet"

THE MAIN GOAL OF BIBLE STUDY: DON'T JUST INTERPRET IT, BUT APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!!!

STEP I: Pray: "KNOWING THE KNOWABLE:" BRINGING OUR MIND TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD!

ATTITUDE is crucial!!! (Gal. 2:20)

- ◆ REMEMBER TO ALWAYS BEGIN and END YOUR STUDY IN PRAYER and in the meantime be in prayer.
- ◆ DIRECT YOUR WILL AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!! BE CONSISTENT!!!
- ◆ BE OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

STEP II: Read: "HOW:" THE METHOD OF GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

LOOK AT THE WHOLE BOOK at least three times in an easy to read translation. Then read each chapter you are studying in a good translation at least three times. Then read the verses, verse by verse in order.

STEP III: "OBSERVE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?! Before you ask what does it mean and how to apply it to your life!

- ◆ Give the Book the "Looks:" Purpose; Repeated Phrases; The Point; Who is involved; The time & sequence of events, "once, then, now, will be, etc." Look for persons, places, ideas; Logical Connectives, i.e. Therefore, But, Since, So, Thus, Because, For, That, etc. What is actually being said?
- ◆ Verbs are crucial! Check out **NOUNS** in "Bible Dictionaries."
- ◆ Consider repeated words & phrases.
- ◆ Compare passage/verse to similar verses i.e. "Scripture interprets scripture." Use a "Concordance."
- ◆ Notice what is being taught
- ◆ Notice the promises
- ◆ Notice carefully the underlining principle(s) & implications
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ Look out for types of "literary style;" history, philosophy, drama, poetry, wisdom and law.
- ◆ Look at different translations

STEP IV: "SCRUTINIZE IT:" ASK WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?

Let God have His way with you! Ask our Lord to open you before Him, to allow yourself to go beyond your culture, education and experience! Then the meaning will come alive!

Q: What is God telling me?

- ◆ We must know our weaknesses and limitations because of sin!
- ◆ We must be aware of our nature and the nature of Scripture and the Divine Authors intent.
- ◆ Be focused on Christ not ourselves.
- ◆ Be aware of the **CONTEXT!!!!** The "historical" and "literary" settings? What is going on?
- ◆ What is the point and train of thought?
- ◆ **ANALYZE** by gathering facts and all the information available to you.
- ◆ Paraphrase the passage yourself.
- ◆ What is supported?
- ◆ What are the conclusions?

Q: How am I encouraged and strengthened?

Make an emotional identification into the text. Place yourself into the text as if it is your story as if you are there!

THINGS TO ASK AND TO APPLY:

- ◆ Ask what is actually being said?
- ◆ Try reading aloud!
- ◆ Consider nothing insignificant!
- ◆ Have a mentor to ask questions.
- ◆ Look for stuff to carry out in your life.
- ◆ Write down your questions
- ◆ What are the implications & promises to be applied to transformed us?
- ◆ What about the life, work, teaching, and presence of Jesus Christ?
- ◆ How can I model His Character?
- ◆ What is our duty?
- ◆ What is God's character?
- ◆ Make a commitment to the meaning.
- ◆ Try to write the verse or entire passage in your own words!
- ◆ Accept what It says: This is God's Word!

Q: Is there a sin in my life for which confession and repentance is needed?

STEP V: "QUESTIONS:" ASK AND LEARN!!!

Q: How can I be changed so I can learn and grow?

THE SIX BIG Q'S WE MUST ALWAYS ASK!

- ◆ **WHO:** are the people? Who did it? Who can do it? Who is it talking about?
- ◆ **WHAT:** is it saying? What is happening? What is it talking about? What did they do?
- ◆ **WHERE:** are they going? Where did it happen? Where will it take place?
- ◆ **WHEN:** did it happen? When will it happen? When can it happen?
- ◆ **HOW:** did it happen? How can it happen? How was something done?
- ◆ **WHY:** did he say that? Why did he do that? Why did they go there?

ASK THESE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- ◆ Are there any commands?
- ◆ Are there any contrasts?
- ◆ Are there things repeated?
- ◆ Is there cause and effect?
- ◆ Is there a problem and solution?
- ◆ Are there any promises?
- ◆ Are there any connections to other parts of the Bible?
- ◆ Notice the setting!

STEP VI: "KNOW IT"!!!

START LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS

Q: What is in the way of these precepts affecting me? What is in the way of my listening to God?

- ◆ **WHAT DOES SOMETHING MEAN AND WHY IS IT THERE?**
- ◆ Be sure your information is correct!!!
- ◆ Use good commentaries, Study Bibles, and Bible dictionaries.

Digging Personally:

- ◆ How are you encouraged & strengthened?
- ◆ Where have you fallen short, and how can you improve?
- ◆ What do you now intend to do with the information given to you?
- ◆ We must have the confidence that the Bible is truth! This is knowing It!

- ◆ We must allow God's Word to break our will and desires over to His!
- ◆ What did God say to you today?
- ◆ Is there a sin in your life that needs to be confessed and repented?
- ◆ Are you appreciating it?
- ◆ Are you receiving and practicing the great benefits to others around you?
- ◆ Are you a changed person as a result of receiving the Word?

STEP VII: "APPLICATION!!!" (Gal 5:21-26)

Q: How does this apply to me? What will I do about it?

- ◆ Application comes out of a Changed life. And leads to a life transformed!
- ◆ What must I do to make God's Word real in me? What is my response?
- ◆ When will it end up in my day planner?
- ◆ Mediate over the passage

ASK YOURSELF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:

- ◆ What illustration can I use to remember?
- ◆ How does the truth apply to my life?
- ◆ What is my personal prayer regarding these truths?
- ◆ What changes/improvements could I make in light of the truth?
- ◆ How should I carry out these changes?
- ◆ **Pray** to ask God how to implement His truth to you. Tell Others. Accountability.

Q: What can I model and teach? What does God want me to share with someone?

STEP VII: MAKE USE OF THE BOOK CHART

- ◆ Write down what God is saying to you and what you have discovered and learned. By doing this, it will allow you to apply it to your life better!

"You can do it!"

Keep this guide "tucked" in your Bible for reference and guidance.

From: "Into Thy Word" © 1978, 1988, 2000
R.J. Krejcir www.intothyword.org