

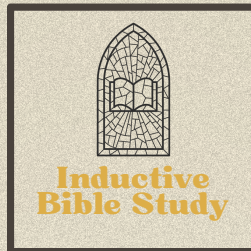
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INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY
PASTOR AMY SWANSON



Foundation Verse

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."



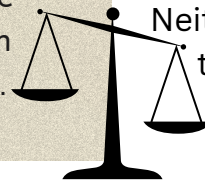
FRAME Questions:

- 1. What is the difference between reading the bible deductively and inductively?**
- 2. What are the advantages of studying the bible inductively vs deductively?**
- 3. What is a process I can use to do an inductive study?**



Opening Image

A brilliant obsessive-compulsive detective snooping around a crime scene, collecting information. He observes countless details about the scene and the victim and then, from that information, arrives at a conclusion that is not certainly true but probable based on the information available. This is a kind of Inductive reasoning that allows Sherlock to extrapolate from the information observed in order to arrive at conclusions about events that have not been observed. He has no pre-supposed ideas about what may have taken place, but examines the evidence for clues.



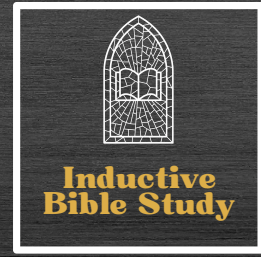
Point 1

The words "inductive" and "deductive" can be applied to many things. In terms of Bible study, an inductive approach generally starts with a passage of scripture and attempts to infer or find a principle or meaning. A deductive approach, by contrast, begins with a premise and then looks for evidence in the supporting passages that verify the initial principle.

Inductive emphasizes discovery. One of the best ways to study the bible is through inductive study. This method observes a passage of Scripture and then draws conclusions based on those observations. Inductive studies are passage-oriented. An inductive approach is vital. But we must also intentionally build a solid theological framework and test every insight or interpretation by core Bible teachings. In this way, a Deductive approach is also important. Neither method by itself is safe. Together, they balance and reinforce each other.



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Question #1

What are some of the different ways you have experienced studying the bible? How do you like to read and understand complex passages in the bible?

Point 2

An inductive bible study can be very in-depth and time-consuming and involve reading, studying and comparing word origins and commentaries. We will start today with a straightforward explanation of the standard components of an inductive study. These include:

Observation - Reading the passage and observing what you see. Gathering the facts of what is happening or being said. Asking yourself the five W's and an H: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

Interpretation - What does the text mean? Try to discover what the author is trying to communicate. What was the author's intended meaning to the original audience? Use the context to ensure you fully understand what is happening and what is being said.

Application - How do you apply what you just learned to everyday life? What does this mean for your life, priorities, and decisions?

Step #1 1 Peter chapter 5: 1-10

Background: Read the passage twice.

Then answer some of the following Q's about the background of the passage.

- Who is the author?
- Why was it written?
- What is the historical background?
- Examine dates and key people. Some *Bibles have summaries at the beginning of each book that will provide some of this information.*
- What comes immediately before or after the text?
- Is it a part of something larger?
- Who wrote it?
- Are there any cultural references?

Step 2 Paraphrase the passage in your own words.

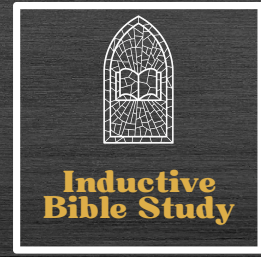
Write out each verse or section of verses in your own words. This helps you understand each verse in wording that makes more sense to you.

Example: Original Verse: "I exhort the elders who are among you, as one who is also an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Personal Paraphrase: [Paul] As a fellow elder and someone who witnessed Christ's sufferings, I want to encourage all of you who are also elders like me because we will all share in the glory of Christ when He comes.



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Step 3

The third step in an inductive study is to write down and then answer any questions you have about the passage or any confusing terms.

Example: What does the word “elder” mean? What does it mean to be one?

- Aim for about 5-8 questions.
- Focus on questions that deal with the core characters and elements
- Put them in order (top down)

Step 4

There are many other ways to approach interpreting the passage to glean meaning. Here are a few ideas.

- Are there words that are significant or that stand out within the context?
- Do we find words that are repeated or are synonyms?
- Are there words that may have theological significance?
- Does the text mention places or things we need to look up to understand better?
- Are there figures of speech or symbols that need to be understood?
- Are there any similar or related passages that come to mind?

Step 5

All of the steps in an inductive bible study are for the purpose of helping you make **PERSONAL APPLICATION** from the Scripture. God spoke to his people when the Bible was written. And God continues to speak to his people today through those same words. Therefore, it is important to know how we should apply what the Bible says and teaches us for today.

Now review the relevant application you can make after all of your observations about the background, word structure, and context of the passage in 1 Peter. Share your application with a friend.

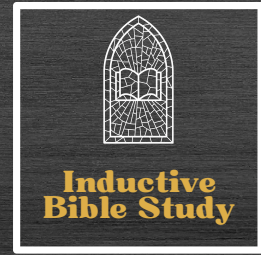
After completing a verse-by-verse chapter analysis, one idea is to give it a **title** and identify a key **verse or verses**. This helps solidify the chapter’s message in your mind.

Activity:

Choose another passage to read with a friend and try applying an inductive approach. Write your notes and ideas in your journal.



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Conclusion

One idea after completing a verse-by-verse analysis of a chapter, is to give it a **title** and identify a **key verse or verses**. This helps solidify the chapter's message in your mind.

You can try using this type of inductive study with any passage of scripture of book of the bible.

If you have time to really go more in depth in your inductive study, you might also consult other bible study tools to further your interpretation.

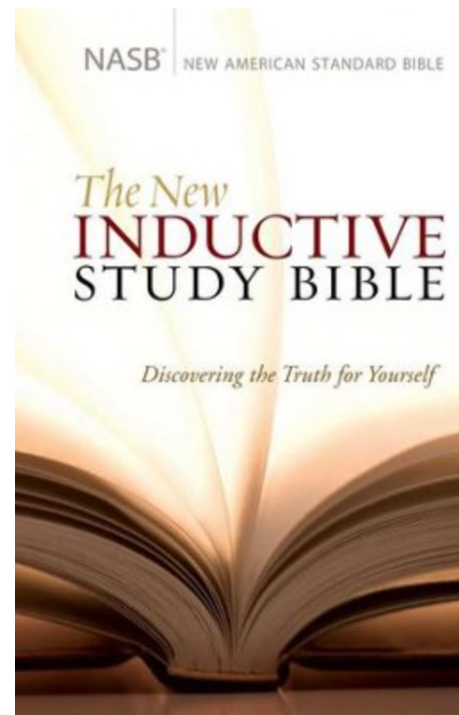
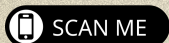


Resources:

Some Bible study tools you might want to consider referencing in this step include:

- *Sparkling Gems from the Greek* by Rick Renner
- *Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps, and Time Lines*
- *Holman Illustrated Bible Handbook*
- *Halley's Bible Handbook*

Check out the Navigators website for more information on inductive Bible study.



INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY RESOURCE

www.christianbook.com

Product Description

The NASB New Inductive Study Bible is designed to encourage you to study the Bible for yourself, rather than relying on the interpretation of commentaries. It presents an inductive method of study and Bible marking which leads you directly back to the source, allowing God's Word to become its own commentary.