

Inductive Bible Study

1. Background

Questions to answer: who is the author? Who is the audience? What is the historical context? What was the purpose of writing the book?

2. Paraphrase

In your own words, rewrite the passage verse-by-verse or section-by-section to help you get a better understanding of the text.

3. Questions and Answers

Write down any questions you have about the text, either theologically, culturally/historically, or even words that you do not understand. Ask at least 10 questions. Then, find the answers to those questions by asking others, thinking through them, or searching online.

4. Cross Reference

Write down any other verses or passages that sound familiar or seem related to the text while you're reading or asking questions. Pay attention to special words or phrases like "wilderness" or "Son of Man."

5. Insights

At any point, you may make some connection between passages, an observation in the text, or have some inspiration from the Holy Spirit as you read. Write it down so that you do not forget it.

6. Application

Here is where you synthesize all of the work you've done and distill it into something that applies into your personal life, whether it is a truth that you need to believe and act on, or something that you know but need to embody to a greater degree. How does this apply to you?

Remember: you are in Christ. That means you read Scripture through the lens of the gospel and live by grace because of the gospel—not out of any requirement to work for approval or love. You apply God's word to your life for your benefit.

Bonus:

Dwight Hill, from *The Navigators*, finishes this study with a seventh action: title and summarize. You assign this whole study a title, key verse, and a short summary (he suggested a full chapter).

