HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE INDUCTIVELY

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**

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:
   - **WHO** . . .
     - wrote it?
     - is speaking?
     - is the recipient(s)?
     - is this about?
     - are the main characters?
   - **WHERE** . . .
     - are the main characters?
     - did or will this happen?
     - was it said?
   - **WHAT** . . .
     - is the theme?
     - is the subject or event
     - do you learn about the people, event, teaching from the text?
     - instructions are given?
   - **WHEN** . . .
     - was it written?
     - do or will events occur?
     - did or will something happen to a person, people, or nation?
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”)
12. Look for lists, which reveal truths and highlight important concepts. What gave you an “aha!”

**Interpretation – Discover What it Means**

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**

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?

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### Orientation to Inductive Bible Study

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<td>Eternal life</td>
<td>Curse, Satan, Devil, Evil Spirits, demons, Mediums, Serpents</td>
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<td>Locations, Cities, Countries, Parts of buildings</td>
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<td>Suffer</td>
<td>Time (&quot;until&quot;, &quot;then&quot;, &quot;when&quot;, &quot;after&quot;, etc.) Feasts</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Un-&quot;, &quot;Dis-&quot; before a word</td>
<td>Terms of Conclusion (therefore, so, for, finally, wherefore)</td>
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<td>Wrath</td>
<td>Wrath, Anger</td>
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