

Simplified Inductive Bible Study Steps

Preparation – (Stay humble, stay teachable, and ask God for help.)

- Pray that God will prepare your heart to learn from Him.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to clear you of wrong ideas and show you the truth of His Word.

Observation – (What's the simple meaning on the surface?)

- Read the verse lots of times, and also read what's before and after it.
- What are the most important words and what do they mean?
 - > You can use other Bible translations, dictionaries, and thesauruses for help.
- If you can, list the "who, what, where, when, why, and how" of what you're studying.
- Re-write the verse in your own words using only what you've learned so far.
 - > Don't try to explain the overall meaning yet.
 - > What is the verse saying on the surface?

Interpretation – (What's the whole meaning and how does it fit with all of God's Word?)

- Look for cross-references. Other parts of God's Word that help us better understand.
- God's Word is true. If two verses seem against each other our understanding is wrong.
- Write the overall meaning, making sure it's what God really means.
 - > The true meaning will match God's whole Word and who He really is.
 - > Jesus perfectly explains much through the New Testament, so don't go against Him.
 - > Reading commentaries, and learning culture and history can also help us understand.
 - > Our English language isn't perfect, so looking at the original language can help too.
- Sometimes writing about what the verse DOESN'T say helps explain what it DOES say.
 - > Especially if someone who hasn't studied it like you have might easily misunderstand.
- Differentiate – Learn, understand, and explain if the verse is about:
 - > Justification or Sanctification. Love or Acceptance. The Church or Israel.
 - > Jesus' 1st coming or 2nd Coming. Great White Throne or Judgment Seat of Christ.

Application – (How should our hearts, thoughts, motives, and choices be affected?)

- What are ways to change and things to do because of the meaning of the passage?
- What are specific command to obey and sins to stop because of these truths?
- Make it personal by using "I", "We", and "You" with real life examples that fit.
- HOW does the Bible say to make the changes the passage challenges us to make?
- Application is more than how we act. It is why we act. Why we do what we do:
 - > It's the condition of our heart and our motivation.
 - > It's what inspires and what we offer others for motivation.