

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Move from what the text says, to what it means, to what we do.

*Same
Bible.
Deeper
Life.*

PREPARE

Set yourself up for a fruitful time in God's Word.



Print the passage
(with room to mark)
or write it out.



Choose
a passage.



Use a pen
or highlighter.



Work alone,
in pairs, or in a group
(ideally 3–8 people).

1

OBSERVATION

What does the text say?



Look carefully and let the text speak for itself.

- What words or phrases repeat?
- Which verbs carry the sentence? Are any commands?
- What do the tenses, pronouns, or prepositions show?
- Where are the contrasts, lists, or logical connectors (therefore, but, for)?
- How is the passage structured? What hangs on what?
- What images, metaphors, symbols, or figures of speech appear?
- What feels surprising, emphasized, or unusually specific?

MARK THE TEXT

Underline. Circle.
Draw arrows.
Color-code.
Write in the margins.

Whatever helps you see what is actually there.

2

INTERPRETATION

What does the text mean?



Ask good questions and use the text as your evidence.

- What would the original audience have heard or understood?
- What is the author trying to communicate?
- What questions did your observations raise?
- What came before and after? How does the context help?
- How do repeated words, verbs, contrasts, or structure answer the question?
- What explanation best accounts for the details you observed?
- Which questions remain open? Do not force an answer the text has not given.

KEEP THE ORDER

Interpret from what you observed.
The goal is not to import what you already think, but to let the passage lead.

3

APPLICATION

What do we do?



Let God's Word change your life.

- What should I do because this is true?
- Is there a command to obey or a warning to heed?
- Is there an identity or truth I need to remember?
- Is there a promise or completed work of God I need to trust?
- What way of thinking needs to change?
- How should this shape our life together as a community?
- What is one concrete response I can carry into today and tomorrow?

STAY TEXT-ROOTED

Application grows out of interpretation, and not out of observation. Resist generic takeaways that could come from any passage.

A SIMPLE GROUP RHYTHM

A simple O–A method for personal, paired, or group study.



PRAY

Invite God to speak.



READ

Read the passage (about 5 minutes).



OBSERVE

Collect what people notice.



INTERPRET

Ask questions together.



APPLY & PRAY

Name a response and pray again.