

How to Study the Bible Pt. 2

Inductive Bible Study

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You will need a clipboard and a paper to write on. Today I will be demonstrating to you inductive Bible Study and you will be participating. This is a way of studying the Bible that you could also do alone, with a pair, and with a small group.

Caveat: This is not the only or best way to study the Bible, nor is it the only way to do inductive study. But it is one I like and that works well in groups of 3-8 people.

Why is this study called *inductive*? It's similar to empirical science. If you want to know, for example, the flow of water in a local wash around us, you would have observations in July during the monsoons than you would have now. To conduct this study, you would want to have a wide variety of data points for your study throughout the year. Once you collect a large amount of data, you could make general statements about what is true about the water flow in a particular wash. This is like what we will do with inductive Bible study: we will look at the text of Scripture and its order and structure. We will collect our data and then come to a general idea of what it means.

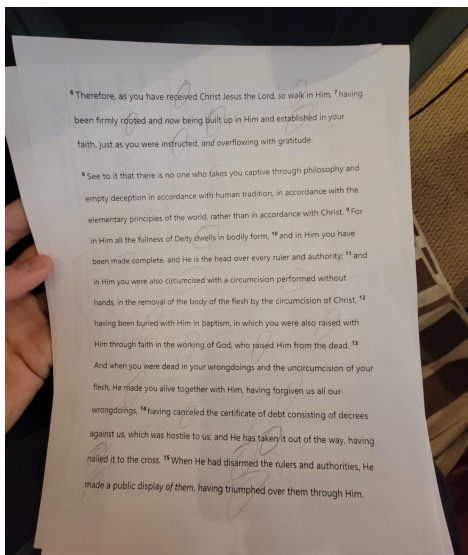
To do this, I want you to divide your paper into thirds for each of the three essential parts of inductive bible study: observations, interpretations, and applications.

- In the top third, write O (for Observations)
 - **Guiding question: what does the text say?**
 - Look for repeated words phrases
 - Look for similar grammar structures (you could diagram the sentences!)
You could color code all of these!
 - Look for logical connectives: *therefore, although, premise indicator words like for or in conclusion*
 - Look for verbs: which are primary verbs?
 - If you have a poetic passage, look for literature analysis: metaphors, similar, allusions, symbolism, imagery and other figurative language

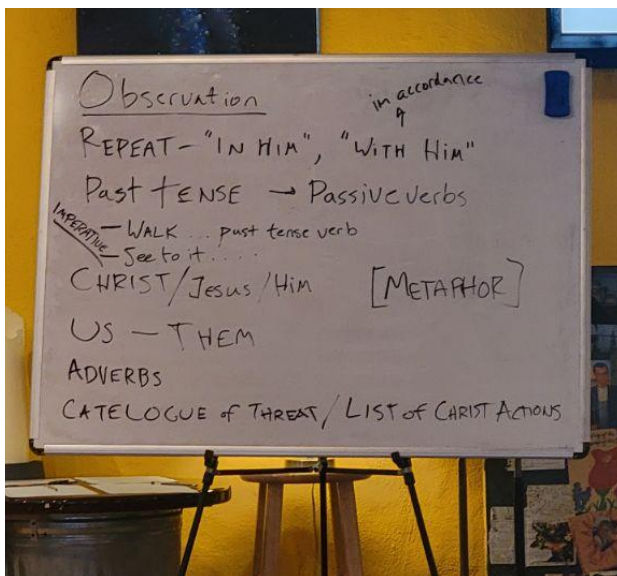
- in the middle write I (INTERPRETATIONS)
 - **Guiding questions:**
 - **What does the text mean?**
 - **What would it have meant to the original audience?**
 - **What did the author intend to convey?**
 - Freely ask questions: what is it about this text that you would really like to know?
(I cannot promise we will answer these)

- We want to use our observations (the data that we collected in the observations) to answer our questions.
 - and A (APPLICATION) for the bottom third.
 - **Guiding Questions:**
 - **What do we do?**
 - **How should we live? What does this mean for us now? For me now?**
 - **What should we be doing now that we know this?**
- Base your applications on your observations and interpretations.

Exercise:

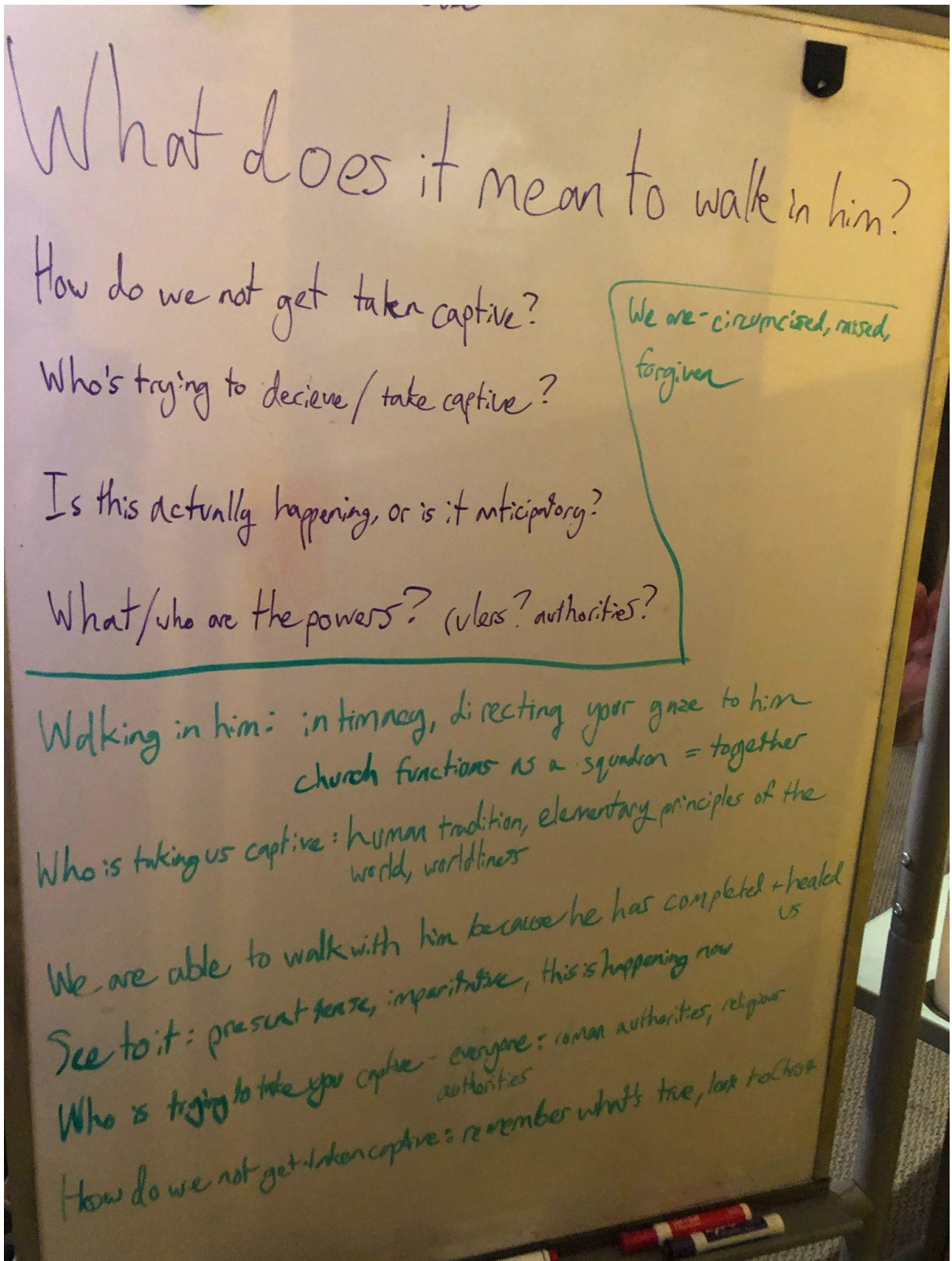


1. Take a passage (preferably from a translation you don't normally read so it's fresh like you're reading it for the first time) and practice the observation portion of this. Take 5 minutes for notes, underlines, circles, doodles, arrows, and anything that will help you.



Let's collaborate together and write what we observed in this passage: (To the right is the whiteboard when we finished:

2. Transition to interpretation when you run out of time or patience. This is the time to freely ask questions about this text. Use the observation data to answer the questions. You may not be able to answer all the questions.



3. Move to Applications: These should not be vague: (let's all give generously and love each other). It should reflect what the passage is saying.

Application - How do we live?

- Should come from Bible, not us: What is the passage saying

Enlist in the "squadron" rooted in him, ~~re~~established in him

Overflowing with gratitude walk in the identify you've been given

ponder: how have I been taken captive?

See to it be IN Jesus
be WITH Jesus

We are often not doing these, but doing them causes a better attitude

remember see to it that no one takes you captive

experiencing Christ's leadership

walk by grace, through faith, with repentance, after realizing the truth

embrace the gospel

get instruction
read and pay attention to the instruction you have already been given

not later - today and going forward