

Inductive Bible Study

For Evergreen Baptist Adult Class

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. READING

Handouts

2. LECTURE

Classroom participation.

3. RESEARCH

Each student will be given homework weekly ,Hand out and or reading assignment.

BOOKS NEEDED

A Bible dictionary or a good Bible study software program (like e-sword – it's free!)

- I. We are commanded to “rightly divide the Word” What does that mean?
- II. How do you study the Bible now?
- III. What do you expect to get out of this class?

I. The Process of Inductive Bible Study

Pray

It is the Holy Spirit that enlightens our mind and moves our heart to the truth contained in scripture - this step is essential!

II Read the text in context several times - until you can tell the story by memory.

As you read, take note of natural breaks in main thoughts. Also single out words or phrases that you don't understand or that are important to rightly interpret the passage.

III Outline the Text

Most of the Bible is outlined thought to thought. The only exception is Epistles, which have an introduction, a summary statement, and a closing in addition to the thought for thought outline.

IV Make Observations

This is where you begin to 'chart' the text. The observation column is where you record key words and phrases, and words you do not understand that need further study.

Most people are *naturally bad observers*. It takes practice to learn how to pick out the 'diamonds' in passages of scripture.

We want only the facts here - do not try to interpret - record the 'who, what, when, where, key words, etc.'

V Cross Reference

Remember, we interpret scripture with scripture. Find relevant scriptures that assist you in understanding, defining, or interpreting the text, word, or phrase you are addressing.

VI Interpret the Text

In the next column, you now interpret the word or phrase you observed and cross referenced. Always take the most literal, simple, natural meaning of the word or phrase you are considering.

-If there is a concept in the OT and NT, the NT takes precedence.

-Remember, use the natural, common, most basic meaning of words and phrases.

-This is God's Holy and sacred Word - it is more important than our interpretation of it.

-The more you do inductive study, the easier this will become.

VII Apply the Text

Not just hearers, but effectual doers of the Word!

How does this affect me or those in my realm of influence?

Ask the following key questions beginning with 'are there':

- examples to follow
- sin to forsake
- errors to avoid
- promises to believe
- commands to obey
- actions to take
- theological truths to proclaim

This step give your study depth and meaning - it make the Word of God come alive, as you change your life to conform to God's truth!

It also encourages others as you share these truths with others.

VIII Proclaim the Gospel!

As you share God's truth with others, you solidify that truth in your heart and mind, and you encourage them!

have you ever been having a bad day, and a Christian brother or sister calls you and shares a scripture with you? It changes your whole perspective!

Lets encourage one another!

In this class, you are expected to find someone or even a small group you can share what you are studying with.

Outlining the Text

Charting the Text

Why are there so many Interpretations of the Bible?

How do false doctrines arise? By people who do not know the Bible interpreting it by their limited knowledge and in light of their own experience.

“When all else fails, read the instructions.”

This applies to the Bible also! We must read it and study it to rightly interpret it!

A basic principle of reading the Bible more effectively lies in this simple fact: