

## Inductive Bible Study Introduction Notes

### I. PRAY

### II. Observation: What does the text say?

- A. Read the text 2-3 times. Out loud helps.
- B. Read the verses before and after what it is your studying to get a feel for the whole section. CONTEXT
- C. Who, What, Where, When,
  - 1. Look at what's right in front of you.
  - 2. People (pronouns), places, events, words repeated, words you don't know (look them up)
  - 3. Lists, commands, contrasts or comparisons
- D. Mark up the text!
  - 1. Circle words that stand out.
  - 2. Underline words or phrases repeated
- E. Any major themes you can see jumping out at you?
- F. Anything interesting or confusing or what seems important, write these things down.

### III. Interpretation: What does the text mean?

- A. Who is the author? Who is the original audience?
- B. What's the idea or problem being addressed?
  - 1. Remember CONTEXT! Verses around it, book it is found in, Bible as a whole
    - a) Bible will never contradict Bible.
    - b) Genre matters. You don't read poems the same way you read history.
- C. Does this verse make you think of another verse similar to it? Go look at that one. Or any cross-references your Bible may have in it.
- D. Address any of the questions you came up with in the Observation section
- E. Go verse by verse and try to write a summary of what the text says in your own words.
- F. Use commentaries to help with the understanding. Don't just take what they say, how does it connect with the work you've already done?
- G. What is the truth this passage is communicating?

### IV. Application: What does the text mean for my life?

- A. Is there something in my own life I need to address?
- B. How does this affect my relationship with God?
- C. A sin to confess or action to correct?
- D. How does this affect my relationship with other people?
- E. How can I respond right now?
- F. What does this change right now?