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?