

How to Study the Bible
Class 2: Inductive Bible
Study, Part 1



"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17.17)

How To Study the Bible Schedule

- I. Section One: First Things
 - a. What Is the Bible and Is It Reliable?
 - b. The Inductive Study Method, Part 1
 - c. The Inductive Study Method, Part 2
- II. Section Two: Anatomy of the Bible
 - a. Interpreting the Old and New Testaments
 - b. Genres I: Poetic and Wisdom Writings
 - c. Genre II: Gospels/Epistles & Prophetic/Apocalyptic Literature
 - d. Genres III: Narratives and Histories
- III. Section III: Interpretive Tools
 - a. Purpose and Context
 - b. Linking Words and Repetition
 - c. Using Extra-Biblical Resources / Difficult and Familiar Passages

Further Questions?

I. The Inductive Bible Study Method?

A. Deductive Study

B. Inductive Study

II. How to Do Inductive Bible Study

A. Prayer

B. Phases of Inductive Bible Study

1. Observation

- 1) Observe as you write
- 2) It can help to print out your text
- 3) Observe patterns in the text (comparisons, contrasts, parallelism)
- 4) Mark linking words (and, but, etc.)

- 5) Write down connections (quotations or allusions) to other passages
- 6) Note allusions to time or place
- 7) Mark terms of conclusion (therefore, thus, etc.)
- 8) Write down questions you have
- 9) Memorize

2. Interpretation

- 1) Context rules
- 2) Let Scripture interpret scripture
- 3) Never base convictions on an obscure passage
- 4) Interpret Scripture according to the author's intent
- 5) Look for the main message of the passage
- 6) Study the Old Testament in view of Jesus and the New Testament
- 7) Adopt the New Testament's attitude toward the Old Testament

Example: Nehemiah 1:1-3 (ESV)

¹The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah.

Now it happened in the month of Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."