**How to Study the Bible Inductively?**

**(All excerpts below are taken from Kay Arthur’s New Inductive Bible, pp. NISB-15 to NISB-30)**

Inductive study, a method that brings you directly to the Word of God apart from another’s understanding or interpretation of the text, involves three skills: *observation, interpretation, and application.*

**Observation**: teaches you to see precisely what the passage says. It is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. Observation answers the question: What does the passage say?

**Interpretation**: answers the question: What does the passage mean?

1. Remember that context (that which goes with the text) rules. Look at surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. Is my interpretation consistent with the theme of the book I am reading and consistent with all other Scripture verses about the same subject?
2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God before believing what others say that God’s Word says. Saturate yourself in God’s Word.
3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture. The best interpretation of Scripture is Scripture. Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God; it is God-breathed and is truth. It will never contradict itself.

**Application**: answers the question: What does it mean to me personally? What truths can I put into practice? What changes should I make in my life?

God’s Word is given for: (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

1. Teaching
2. Reproof
3. Correction
4. Training in righteousness

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life. Ultimately, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

As you take these steps of observation, interpretation, and application will sometimes happen simultaneously. God can give you insight at any point in your study, so be sensitive to His leading. When words or passages make an impression on you, stop for a moment and meditate on what God has shown you.

The following ten steps provide the basis for inductive study.

1. Begin with prayer. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who guides us into truth, who takes the things of God and reveals them to us. Always ask God to teach you as you open the Scriptures.
2. Ask the “5 W’s and an H” – who, what, when, where, why, and how for any passage of Scripture you study.
3. Mark key words and passages. A key word is one that is essential to the text and, without it, leaves the passage devoid of meaning.
4. Look for lists.
5. Watch for contrasts and comparisons.
6. Note expressions of time
7. Identify terms of conclusions, e.g., wherefore, therefore, for this reason, finally
8. Develop chapter themes
9. Discover lessons for life
10. Write down a summary of your study – author of the book, date book was written, key words, chapter themes, lessons for life to apply