

Discover. Go Deeper. Disciple.

Inductive Bible Study Orientation

Have you ever wondered what you were going to do for your class, your students don't have the materials yet, they are new to precept and you want them to experience the same "aha" moment you experience in your daily studies.

Have you ever asked, "How can I properly explain Inductive Bible study to group that has never experienced studying God's Word precept upon precept?"

We have prepared a simple one hour orientation for your first meeting together. In this class you will lead your students through an observation exercise and a lightning study using the inductive method and introduce your study.

OBSERVATION *what do you see?*

🕒 15 Minutes

1 **Begin with Prayer**

Prayer is often the missing element in Bible study. You are about to learn the most effective method of Bible study there is. Yet apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, that's all it will be—a method.

2

Divide your group into teams of two. Hand out one copy of the sheet with the Observation Images to each team, a pen and a piece of blank paper.

Sample Observation Images

Image 1



Image 3



Image 2



Image 4



3

Ask the group to observe the images and create a list of what they see in each image. Give the students 10 minutes to write down as many **observations** as they can for each image. Visit each team while they are doing this exercise and make sure they are not interpreting the picture but only recording what they see.

Example for Image 1:

man sitting man standing boy sitting
open book evergreen tree watch
dark blue shirt eyeglasses

Students will want to jump to interpretation. Someone may write on their list: grandfather, son, grandson, Bible, or that they are in a park. These are interpretations as we do not know the relationship between the people, the type of book or where they are. Remind the students that writing down these answers are interpretations of the picture and to restrict their answers to what they see.

4

Now that the students have completed the list, take 5-7 minutes depending on the group size to **take up the lists from each group**. You can have each group give one or two examples from their list.

5

Wrap up the Observation Exercise.

"Are you surprised at the number of things you saw in the picture and wrote on your list. If we had more time we could list forever all of the details that we see in the pictures."

"What you did with this exercise is the first step of Inductive Bible Study. I had you observe the pictures and create a list. With Inductive Bible Study we will have you observe the text, mark key words and write your list. Did you enjoy doing this exercise? Great! Now let's do it with Scripture."

LIGHTNING STUDY *observe the Scriptures*

20 Minutes

1 Pass out a copy of the **Lightening Study on Psalm 23** to each student. They will also need pen. Tell the students that for this part of the lesson they are going to take this familiar passage from the Book of Psalms and study it inductively.

As the leader you will follow the simple instructions on the lightning study to lead your class through Psalm 23.

2 Write the lists of what the students observe about God and where the Lord is our Shepherd on the board, if you have one in your classroom.

3 Make sure your students take a minute or two to write out their prayer as instructed in the “Apply it” section. At this point, the study is complete. We pray that your students have had their “aha” moment.

CLASS PREPARATION *your study this week*

25 Minutes

1 Hand out the workbooks/study guides. Familiarize the students with the parts of the study guide; the way each lesson is laid out, the materials in the appendix, observation worksheets, etc.

Ask your students to open their books to Week 1, Day 1 and read through the first day’s homework with them. Complete one or two of the questions with them as time permits. Allow time for questions.

Make sure they understand that throughout each lesson they will observe the text first, then move towards interpretation and application. Give your students a copy of the **Inductive Bible Study Overview**. They can take this home and use it as a reference tool.

If you are leading a Precept Upon Precept study, draw the student’s attention to the tools found on the back cover of the P.U.P. book; the Key Word bookmark and the postcard to invite a friend to the study.

2 Give them tips on when to study, where to study, etc. Encourage them to be diligent in the Word and expect God to reward their faithfulness.

3 Encourage students to attend class whether they complete the week’s study or not. They will still benefit from the small group discussion.

4 Close in prayer.

Find others in your area who are studying God’s Word inductively. info@preceptministries.ca

Discover. Go Deeper. Disciple.

Observation

Image 1



Image 3



Image 2



Image 4



The images on this page are copyrighted and used by permission. They may not be reproduced or reused for any purpose other than the educational exercise for which this page has been created.

This page has been left blank intentionally to assist those who are able to print double-sided.

Discover. Go Deeper. Disciple.

Lightning Study

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green
pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul;
He guides me in the paths of
righteousness For His name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort
me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies;
You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will
follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the
Lord forever.

Instructions

Sometimes when we slow down and ask questions in a passage that is very familiar we can find new lessons to encourage us.

Observe

Read through the passage and mark every reference to **God** including the pronouns.

Who are the main people in this Psalm?

What does this Psalm teach about God? List what you learn.

Interpret

What is the change of pronoun halfway through – what does that tell you?

When we describe God we usually use adjectives – describing words. What sort of words does the writer use? What does that teach you?

Observe

Where is the Lord is our shepherd? Can you find all six places? Underline each one.

Interpret

What does each place represent?

Apply

What can we learn about the Lord being our Shepherd?

...continued on the back

Discover. Go Deeper. Disciple.

Lightning Study

Mark 6

34 When Jesus went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things.

Cross References are other passages that speak of the same idea.

Observe

In Mark 6 : 34 how does Jesus describe the crowd?

Interpret

How does this contrast what you learned in Psalm 23?

Apply

Which passage best represents you?

Observe

Read Revelation 7:15-17

For how long will the Lord be our shepherd?

Interpret

Can you describe how these verses relate to Psalm 23:6?

Apply

Use the lessons you have learned to write a prayer expressing to God what it means for you to say "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Revelation 7

15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

16 "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

My Prayer

Precept Ministries International

14 Holiday Drive, Brantford, ON N3R 7J4 | www.preceptministries.ca

1.877.234.2030 | info@preceptministries.ca

Inductive Bible Study Overview

God's eternal, inerrant Word is your guidebook for all of life, and inductive study gives you the key to understanding that guide. 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 *discover what it says*

1 Begin with Prayer

Prayer is often the missing element in Bible study. You are about to learn the most effective method of Bible study there is. Yet apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, that's all it will be—a method.

2 Ask the "5 W's and an H"

As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: **Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?** These questions are the building blocks of precise **observation**, which is essential for accurate **interpretation**.

3 Mark key words and phrases (see figure at left)

A key word is one that is essential to the text. Often key words and phrases are repeated in order to convey the author's point or purpose for writing. For example, notice that some form of the word **suffering** is used three times in 1 Peter 5. Key words can be marked using symbols, colors, or a combination of the two.

4 Look for lists

Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts. 1 Peter 5:2,3, for example, contains a simple list regarding the role of the elder.

5 Watch for contrasts and comparisons

Contrasts and comparisons use highly descriptive language to make it easier to remember what you've learned. For example, Peter says in 1 Peter 5:8: "Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

6 Note expressions of time

The relationship of events in time often sheds light on the true meaning of the text. Marking them will help you see the sequence of events and lead to accurate interpretation of Scripture.

7 Identify chapter themes

The theme of a chapter will center on the main person, event, teaching, or subject of that section of Scripture. Themes are often revealed by reviewing the key words and lists you developed. Try to express the theme as briefly as possible, using words found in the text.

The Inductive Marking Approach

IN THE EPISTLES, MARK EVERY REFERENCE TO THE AUTHOR IN ONE COLOR, AND EVERY REFERENCE TO THE RECIPIENTS IN ANOTHER

IDENTIFY SIMPLE LISTS

MARK KEY WORDS AND SYNONYMS, SUCH AS GOD, CHRIST, DEVIL, SUFFERING

DOUBLE-UNDERLINE IN GREEN ALL GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS

Chapter 5 Theme _____

5 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed.

2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

10 After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard him), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

Suffering:
1. Christ Suffered.
2. Brethren are suffering.
3. You will suffer.
4. But God perfects, confirms, strengthens and establishes those who suffer!

MAKE TOPICAL LISTS FROM KEY WORDS — COMPILER IN THE MARGIN

INTERPRETATION

discover what it means

While **observation** leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God *says*, **interpretation** goes a step further and helps you understand what it *means*. As you seek to interpret the Bible accurately, the following guidelines will be helpful:

1 Remember that context rules.

If you lay the solid foundation of observation, you will be prepared to consider each verse in the light of the surrounding verses, the book in which it is found, and the entire Word of God. As you study, ask yourself: Is my interpretation of a passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found? Is it consistent with other Scripture about the same subject? Am I considering the historic and cultural context? Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what you want it to say. Discover what the author is saying; don't add to his meaning.

2 Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

When you know God's Word thoroughly, you will not accept a teaching simply because someone has used one or two isolated verses to support it. You will be able to discern whether a teaching is biblical or not. Saturate yourself in the Word of God; it is your safeguard against wrong doctrine.

3 Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.

Remember, all Scripture is inspired by God. Therefore, Scripture will never contradict itself. Sometimes, however, you may find it difficult to reconcile two seemingly contradictory truths taught in Scripture, such as the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. Don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't. Simply humble your heart in faith and believe what God says, even if you can't fully understand or reconcile it at the moment.

4 Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.

An obscure passage is one in which the meaning is not easily understood. Because these passages are difficult to understand even when proper principles of interpretation are used, they should not be used as a basis for establishing doctrine.

5 Interpret Scripture literally.

God spoke to us that we might know truth. Therefore, take the Word of God at face value—in its natural, normal sense. Look first for the clear teaching of Scripture, not a hidden meaning. Understand and recognize figures of speech and interpret them accordingly.

Consider what is being said in the light of its literary style. For example, you will find more similes and metaphors in poetical and prophetic literature than in historical or biographical books. Interpret portions of Scripture according to their literary style.

Some literary styles in the Bible are: Historical—Acts; Prophetic—Revelation; Biographical—Luke; Didactic (teaching)—Romans; Poetic—Psalms; Epistle (letter)—2 Timothy; Proverbial—Proverbs

6 Look for the single meaning of the passage.

Always try to understand what the author had in mind when you interpret a portion of the Bible. Don't twist verses to support a meaning that is not clearly taught. Unless the author of a particular book indicates that there is another meaning to what he says, let the passage speak for itself.

APPLICATION

discover how it works

The first step in application is to find out what the Word of God says on any particular subject through accurate observation and correct interpretation of the text. Once you understand what the Word of God teaches, you are then obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it.

Reproof exposes areas in your thinking and behavior that do not align with God's Word. Reproof is finding out where you have thought wrongly or have not been doing what God says is right. The application of reproof is to accept it and agree with God, acknowledging where you are wrong in thought or in behavior.

Correction is the next step in application, and often the most difficult. Many times correction comes by simply confessing and forsaking what is wrong. Other times, God gives very definite steps to take.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. —2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Find others in your area who are studying God's Word inductively. info@preceptministries.ca