

## Inductive Bible Study Overview

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Goal: Deepening love of Jesus and a transformed life

Part 1- Observation

Answers the question: What does the passage say?

Part 2- Interpretation

Answers the question: What does the passage mean?

Part 3- Application

Answers the question: What does this mean to me personally?

What truths can I put into practice?

What changes should I make in my life?

Ground rules:

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

THIS TAKES TIME, IT'S NOT A RACE!

GO AS THE SPIRIT LEADS

USE YOUR MARGINS OR A NOTEBOOK

Not every passage will answer every question

### **PART 1- OBSERVATION**

STEP 1- PRAYER

Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you

STEP 2- ASK THE "5 W'S AND AN H"

This builds proper observation (which is needed for correct application, etc)

Who?

Who is speaking?

Who is this about?

Who are the main characters?

Who is being spoken to?

What?

Is the subject or event covered in the chapter?

What do you learn about the people, event, or teaching from the text?

What instructions are given?

When?

When do or will these event occur? Present or future?

When did or will something happen to a particular person, people, nation?

When is key in determining the progression of events

Where?

Where did or will this happen?

Where was it said?

Why?

Why is something said or mentioned?

Why would or will this happen?

Why at this time?

Why this person?

How?

How will it happen?

How is it to be done?  
How is it illustrated?

### STEP 3- MARK KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

A key word is one that is essential to the text

It plays an active part in getting out the message of the author.

A key word is one that when left out leaves the passage missing something important.

Often the key word answers why the author is writing.

Example- if a key word is walk, ask who is this in reference to? How are they to walk?

When are they to walk? etc

Mark them in a consistent way, throughout the chapter, book, Bible

## **WEEK 2**

### **STEP 4- LOOK FOR LISTS**

Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts.

Do this by observing how a key word is described, note what is said about someone or something.

For example- In Ephesians 5, what is listed how Christ loved the believers?

### **STEP 5- WATCH FOR CONTRASTS AND COMPARISONS**

A contrast is a comparison of things that are different or opposite, such as light/darkness, proud/humble.

The word BUT often identifies a contrast

A comparison points out similarities and is indicated by words like like, as, and as it were.

### **STEP 6- NOTE EXPRESSIONS OF TIME**

Timing is crucial in observing what is going on in the passage.

These help you see the order of events.

### **STEP 7- IDENTIFY TERMS OF CONCLUSION**

These usually follow an important part or section of Scripture

Words such as wherefore, therefore, for this reason, finally.

### **STEP 8- DEVELOP CHAPTER THEMES**

Will center on the main person, event, teaching, or subject.

As the point of observation is: What does the passage mean? the theme answers this question.

### **STEP 9- DISCOVER LESSONS FOR LIFE**

What is God teaching you? What lessons are you learning about life? God? Etc

## **WEEK 3**

### **PART 2- INTERPRETATION**

This part helps you understand what the passage means.

This answers what is the author getting at?

When you confidently know what the passage means, you can apply it confidently to your life today!

Reminders:

1. Remember that context rules (means “that which goes with the text).

Does this fit with what you already know about the Bible and its teachings?

Does this fit with the rest of the book you are studying? theme? purpose? etc

What is the cultural/historical context of what’s going on in the passage?

**NEVER TAKE A SCRIPTURE OUT OF CONTEXT AND MAKE IT SAY WHAT YOU WANT IT TO SAY!**

Discover what the author is saying; don’t add to what he is saying

2. Always seek the full counsel of God.

Does this contradict other Scripture?

3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture

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

5. Interpret Scripture literally

Keep in mind genres (history, poetry, prophesy, letters, teaching, proverbs, parables).

6. Let the passage speak for itself.

## PART 3- APPLICATION

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Teaching- what the Word of God says about a particular subject is Truth

Then you know that Truth, you are obligated to live by that truth.

When you have adjusted any false concepts and accepted that truth you have applied it to life.

Reproof- exposes areas in your thinking and behavior that do not align with God's Word.

This is finding out what you were doing was against God's will

The application of reproof is accepting it and agree with God, repenting follows.

Correction

This is the seeing what is wrong and taking ACTIVE steps to correct it.

Could be repentance, or steps to take

Training in righteousness

This is equipping us for everyday, righteous living through every aspect of Scripture.

### INSIGHTS ON APPLYING SCRIPTURE

1. What does the passage teach?

Is it general or specific?

Does it apply only to specific people?

To a cultural problem of the day?

To a certain time in history?

Has it been made obsolete by a newer teaching? (meat sacrificed to idols)

2. Does this section of Scripture expose any error in my beliefs or in my behavior?

I have obeyed all the commandments?

Are there wrong motives or attitudes that this Scripture has brought to light?

3. What is God's instruction to me as His child?

Are there any truths to be believed?

Are there any new commandments to be acted upon?

Are there any new insights I am to pursue?

Are there any promises I am to embrace?

4. When applying Scripture, beware of the following:

Applying cultural standards rather than biblical standards

Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using a Scripture incorrectly

Applying Scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching

## Ephesians 5:1-15

1 Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children;

2 And walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

3 But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

14 For this reason it says,

“Awake, sleeper,

And arise from the dead,

And Christ will shine on you.”

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

## **WEEK 1**

### **STEP 2- 5 W's and 1H**

#### **Who:**

Speaking

Paul

Receptients

to the faithful (1:1) believers in Ephesus

To God's beloved children

Main characters:

Paul (apostle & missionary)

Ephesians

#### **What:**

Subject covered

Being imitators of God, as His beloved children

How to live in the newness of life in Christ

Learn about the people or teaching from the text

They are beloved children of God

Loved by Christ and sacrificed and offered up for them

Knowing and doing seem to be an issue (follow-through)

Are being corrected for inappropriate behavior (see context, why would an author put that in a letter if it isn't going on?)

Need direction and teaching

Used to live one way but now are living another (and are now torn)

Daily living is at issue here for them

Instructions given

be imitators of God

walk in love

immorality, impurity, greed must not even be named among them

no filthiness or silly talk or coarse jesting

give thanks

do not be partakers with sons of disobedience

walk as children of Light

do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness

rather, expose them

be careful how you walk (not as unwise by as wise)

make the most of your time (because the days are evil)

#### **When:**

They are to be living this way NOW

Not as they lived before

Their present action(s) determine future consequences (wrath, inheritance)

#### **Where:**

In every area of life (careful how you walk, use the most of your time)

Paul writes to the church he planted after he has moved on from the church

He is presently in prison (presumably in Rome) waiting trial and death

**Why:**

Said

- They need to differentiate themselves from the (sinful) culture around them
- They were struggling/being reminded to live in newness of life
- They were not living/being reminded to live a life worthy of Christ's calling

At this time

- Paul was in prison, waiting trial (and death)- getting things ready to carry on after him
- He had just heard news of their behavior/wavering (possibly)
- Sending it with a buddy that visited or was just released from prison, sent to them

This church

- They are strategic as a cosmopolitan and economic center
- They are being "pulled"/tempted in old living styles
- They are the only Christians the unbelieving Ephesians will see

**How:**

Be imitators of God (and knowing their identity- children of God)

- By walking in love and thanksgiving
- By living in the light
- By not partaking in darkness

**STEP 3- KEY WORDS, PHRASES**

Imitators- from Greek word meaning to mimic, to follow an example, follow example of someone.

Therefore-

Walk- behave, conduct ourselves, leading a life, lifestyle

Immorality/sinful actions- fornication, sexual immorality, uncleanness, impurity, one desiring to have more, shameful, disgraceful, dull & stupid charges/claims/commands/meanings/saying/telling image worshiper, worthless/unfruitful work

Light- to shine (a voice)

Darkness-

Christ- anointing, the Messiah, the Christ

**WEEK 2**

**STEP 4- LISTS/COMPARE CONTRAST**

Sons of Disobedience

- immoral
- impure
- greedy
- filthy
- silly talk
- coarse jesting
- idolater
- covetous
- unfruitful deeds
- walk unwisely

Imitators of God

- Walk in love
- Pure, proper living
- Givers of thanks
- Not partakers in evil
- Live as children of God
- Good
- Righteous
- Truthful
- Careful living
- Wise use of time

How Jesus Loves

- Gave Himself as an offering
- Gave Himself as a sacrifice
- Gives inheritance in kingdom
- Shines glory on His children

### **STEP 5- COMPARE/CONTRAST**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Light</u>     | <u>Darkness</u>     |
| Goodness         | Unfruitful          |
| Righteous        | Disgraceful         |
| Exposes          | Secret/hidden       |
| Pleases the Lord | Displeases the Lord |

### **STEP 6- EXPRESSIONS OF TIME**

Be imitators- present action

Walk in love- present action based on past action (gave Himself up for us)

Wrath and inheritance- present and future consequence based on present and past action

### **STEP 7- TERMS OF CONCLUSION**

Therefore (three tiems)

### **STEP 8- CHAPTER THEMES**

How to be like Christ in an un-Christ-like world

The importance of living for Christ

The State of the Believer Address

### **STEP 9- LESSONS FOR LIFE**

1. This life is a hard life, full of pit falls and temptations. The believer imitates Christ by walking in love and purity and not partaking in sin and evil.
2. My present actions determine my future consequences
3. God is wrathful about sin and darkness

### **PART 2- INTERPRETATION (WEEK 3)**

### **PART 3- APPLICATION (WEEK 3)**