

INTRODUCTION TO INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.

1 Peter 2:1-2

Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.



Acts 17:10-11

**Your primary resource is to be God's Word,
and then other secondary resources.**

**The tendency for many Bible students at the
beginning of a study is to lean upon secondary
resources that will do the "observing"
and "interpreting" for the reader.**

**Proper doctrine is always
followed by practical duty**

Three steps of Inductive Bible Study:



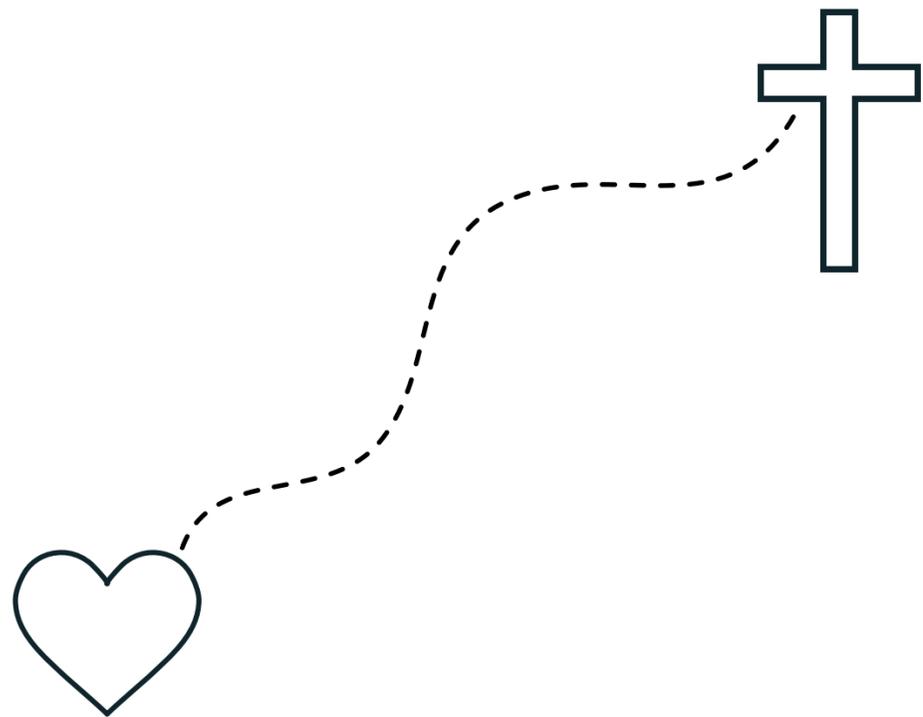
OBSERVATION



INTERPRETATION



APPLICATION



Observation

What does the Bible say?



Observation:

**Objectively and carefully focusing attention
on something in order to gain information**

CONTEXT

Latin

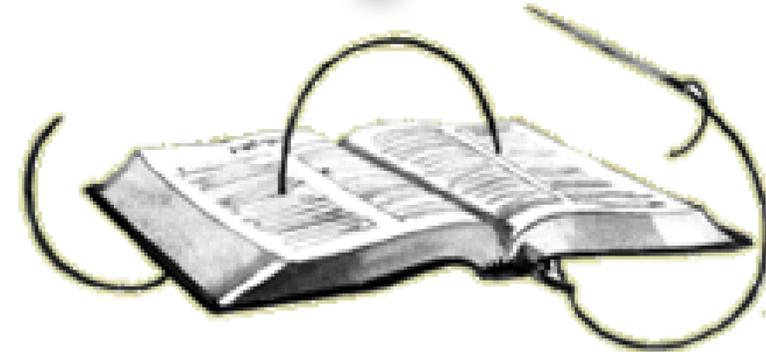
Con-
together

Latin

Texere
to weave

Latin

Contexus
to weave
together



Five steps of Observation:

Read the Text

Observe/Identify the Literary Genre/Features

Compare Translations

Identify Key Words/Phrases & Connecting

Ask the Important Questions

KEY WORDS/PHRASES:

HOW TO IDENTIFY:

REPETITION

Usually identified by the fact that they are repeated

e.g., The word that is repeated in Proverbs – 118 times in the 915 verses that comprise the book. The word occurs at least once in every chapter: wisdom.

REMOVAL

Vital to the understanding of the text and cannot be removed without leaving the passage devoid of meaning.

Applying the “rule of removal” helps determine whether a repeated word is truly a key word.

CONNECTING WORDS

- **Hinge words**
- **Conjunctions**= join clauses, passages, paragraphs, and chapters, linking the writer's train of thought to a cohesive message/theme.
- These small but vital connectors include words and phrases such as:
 - therefore
 - for
 - because
 - since
 - furthermore
 - so
 - at that time
 - then
 - now
 - for this reason

F - FOR

A - AND

N - NOT

B - BUT

O - OR

Y - YET

S - SO

5W/H QUESTIONS:

- **Who** – is speaking? To whom and/or about whom is he speaking?
Who is the main character?
- **What** – is the author doing? **What** are the main events? **What** are the circumstances? **What** is the historical/cultural setting?
What is the main subject of the chapter/book?
- **Where** – did this happen? **Where** is the author? **Where** on the biblical timeline?

5W/H QUESTIONS:

- **When** – is this written? **When** in the author's life? **When** did/will this happen? **When** did he say/do it?
- **Why** – was it written? **Why** is it said? **Why** is he there?
- **How** – will/did something happen? **How** is the truth illustrated?
How will/did it happen?

First thought of familiar text: Jeremiah 17:7-8

Subject: how to receive a blessed life

Object/predicate – the action of the subject.

Attitude (thoughts)

Actions (habits)

Affiliation

The downward propensity of sin – going from bad to worse

Progressive list of verbs – w/ each expression they become more intense

Term of contrast

Auxiliary verb

Contrasting the godly and the ungodly:

- **Ungodly:** heed to the counsel of the world

- **Godly:** heed to the counsel of the Word

The blessing and prosperity is from God, for trees do not plant themselves (Isaiah 61:1-3; Matthew 15:13)

Meditates? filling the mind with God's word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:11)

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man
 Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
 Nor stands in the path of sinners,
 Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the [law of the LORD],
 And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree
 Planted by the rivers of water,
 That brings forth its fruit in its season,
 Whose leaf also shall not wither;
 And whatever he does shall prosper.

[figure of speech: metaphor – emphasis of time; two times a 24 period]

Simile – sinking deep roots this tree has a continual source of water

KEY WORDS/PHRASE



MAIN SUBJECT



THEME