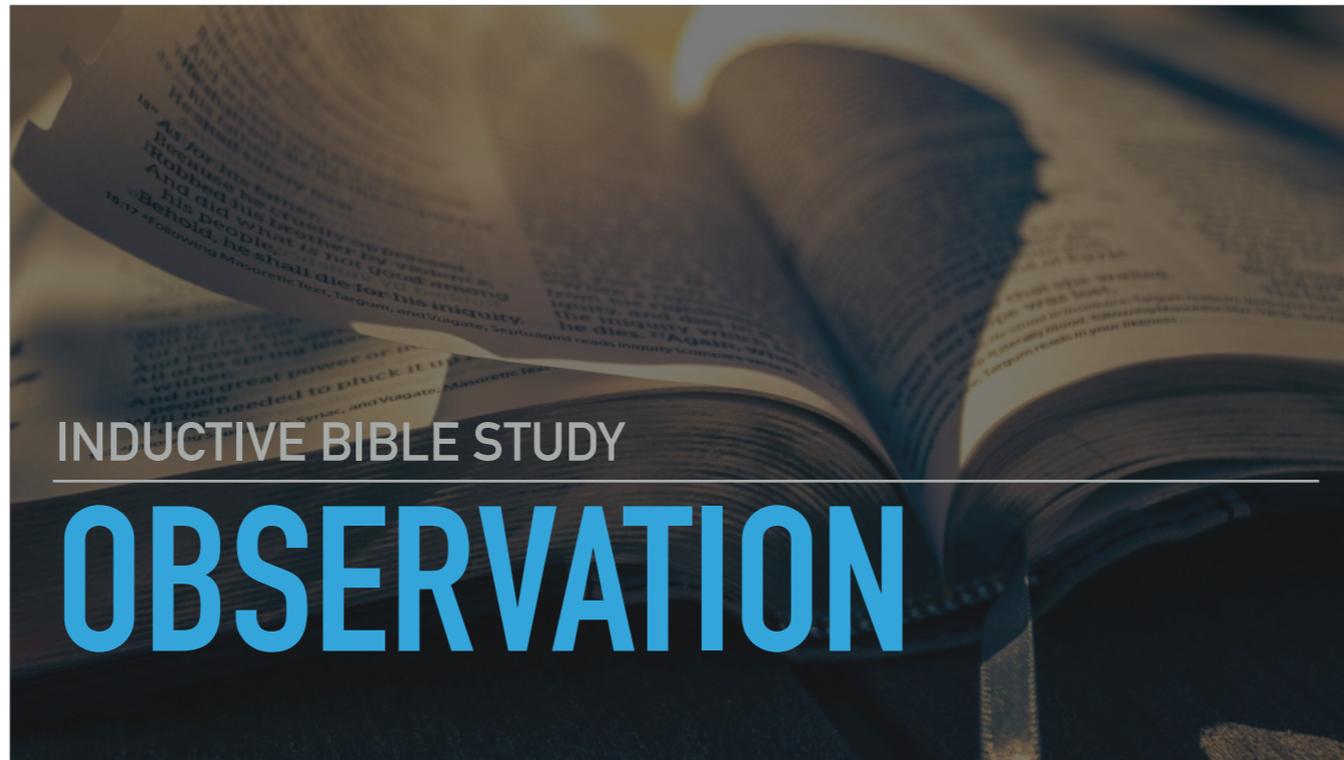




# INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

**DIGGING DEEPER  
INTO GOD'S WORD**



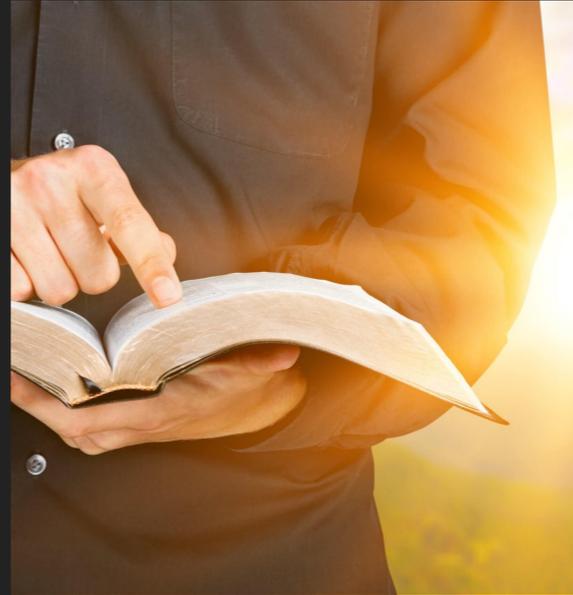


Recap yesterday's lesson... O-I-A

## OBSERVATION

### “What does the text say?”

- ▶ Begin with **prayer**
- ▶ Establish the **context**
- ▶ Interrogate
- ▶ Observe **key** words & phrases
- ▶ Observe **connecting** terms
- ▶ Observe terms of **contrast**
- ▶ Observe terms of **comparison**



(Brief overview of today's lesson)

## OBSERVATION

### BEGIN WITH PRAYER

- ▶ Who is the author of scripture?
  - ▶ *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- ▶ What should we pray for?
  - ▶ *Psalm 119:18*

Who is the author of scripture? **God** (show verse)

X How cool that when we're trying to read and understand scripture, we can actually talk to the Author Himself!

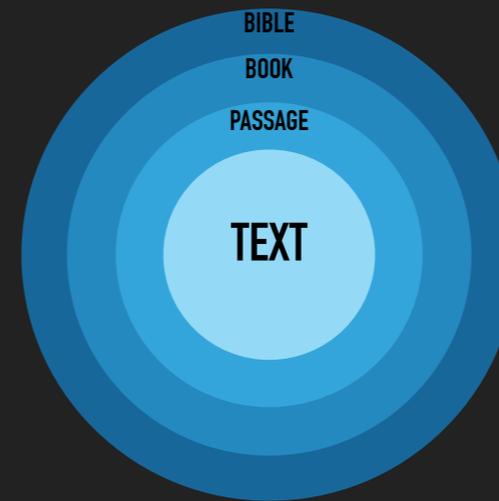
What should we pray for? **For Him to open our eyes** (show verse)

- This is observation!

## OBSERVATION

### ESTABLISH THE CONTEXT

- ▶ Root words... **con** = "with" & **texo** = "to weave"
- ▶ Layers
- ▶ Cultural & historical context
- ▶ **F.O.T.O.** "Focus On The Obvious"
  - ▶ People, places & events



Root words... "to weave with." Proper context weaves the text into a bigger picture, the complete story.

Layers: The text is encompassed within the bigger..l

- 1) Passage (paragraph, or *pericope*)
- 2) Book of the Bible
- 3) Entire Bible

**FOTO** leads into next slide... *Interrogation*

## OBSERVATION

### INTERROGATE

- ▶ Who?
- ▶ Where?
- ▶ When?
- ▶ What?
- ▶ How?



*“Just the facts, ma’am!”* (Explain pic)

## OBSERVATION

### KEY WORDS AND PHRASES

- ▶ Often repeated
- ▶ Cannot be removed without the passage losing its meaning
- ▶ May include pronouns, synonyms, closely related phrases
- ▶ Always answers one or more of the interrogatory questions

- Emphasize “*rule of removal*” on 2nd point
- Encourage marking text

## OBSERVATION

### CONNECTING TERMS

- ▶ Conjunctions
- ▶ "And"
- ▶ Terms of **conclusion**
- ▶ Terms of **explanation**
- ▶ Terms of **purpose**

Conjunctions *"are important gaps-fillers... the cartilage at the joints of speech."*

And (Gk. 'kai') Occurs over 20,000 times!

Webster's... *"signifies that a word or part of a sentence is to be added to what precedes."*

Conclusion: *therefore\*, so, for this reason, so then...*

(\* What's it there for?)

Explanation: *for, because...*

Purpose: *so that, in order that, in order to...*

## OBSERVATION

### TERMS OF CONTRAST

- ▶ *but, rather, however, in spite of, instead of, nevertheless, on the other hand, yet,*
- ▶ Help us understand a concept by contrasting with an opposite concept
  - ▶ *Light vs. Dark, Rich vs. Poor, Good vs. Evil, etc.*
- ▶ **Proverbs 10**

## OBSERVATION

### TERMS OF COMPARISON

- ▶ Help us understand a concept by comparing to a similar concept
- ▶ Figures of speech
  - ▶ **Psalm 1:4**
- ▶ Similes & Mataphors
  - ▶ **Proverbs 25:11-14, 25**
  - ▶ **Psalm 23:1-3**

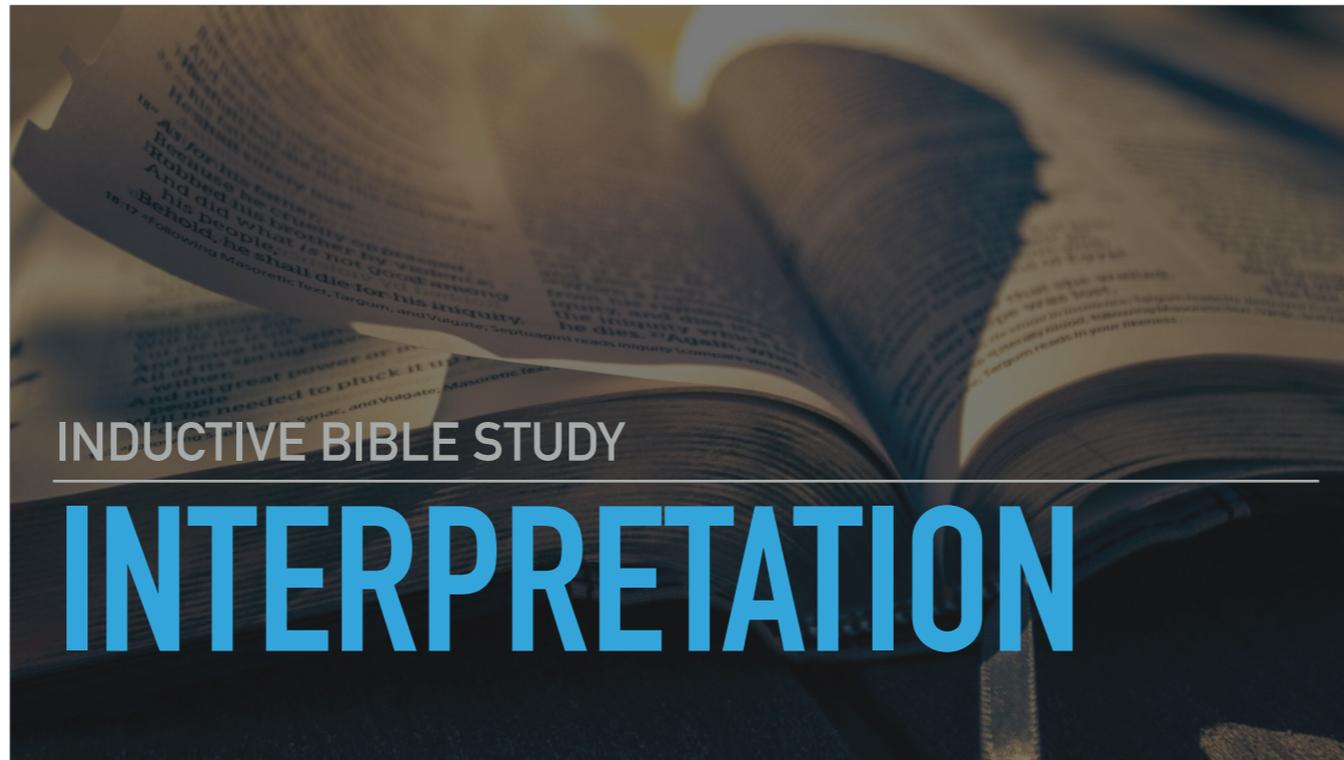
- Figures of speech **Psalm 1:4**
- Similes use “*like*” or “*as*”
- Metaphors use word pictures... What does it mean that, “*The Lord is my Shepherd?*”

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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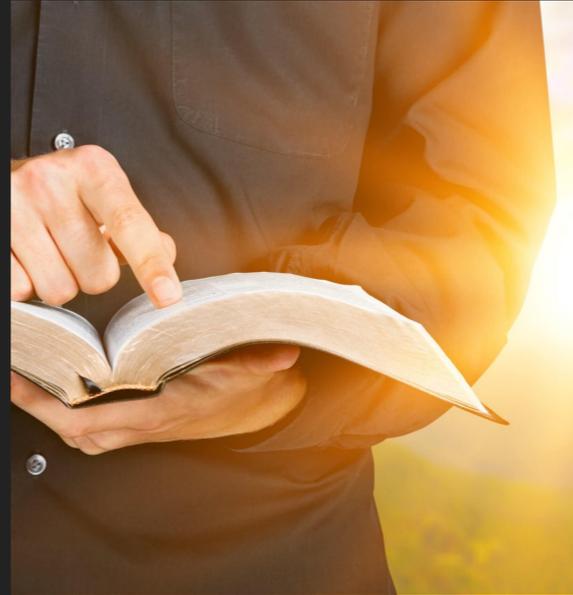


Recap yesterday's lesson... Observation

## INTERPRETATION

“What does the text mean?”

- ▶ Ask questions
- ▶ Interpret **literally**
- ▶ Study in **context**
- ▶ Let scripture interpret scripture
- ▶ Study tools



(Brief overview of today's lesson)

## INTERPRETATION

### ASK QUESTIONS

- ▶ NOT the observational questions... *Who, what, where, when, how*
- ▶ "Why?" is a good start
- ▶ Most questions result from our observations
- ▶ Look beyond the facts to find reasons, motivations, lessons, etc.

We won't find the right answers until we start asking the right questions!  
Dig deeper for meaning.

## INTERPRETATION

### INTERPRET LITERALLY

- ▶ A literal interpretation should be the first choice, if possible
- ▶ Keeps us from going beyond the facts
- ▶ Always interpret by the laws of grammar and facts of history
- ▶ Interpret figuratively only when it's obvious
- ▶ Symbolic interpretation is subject to the interpreter... *Anything goes!*

### DR. DAVID COOPER'S GOLDEN RULE OF INTERPRETATION

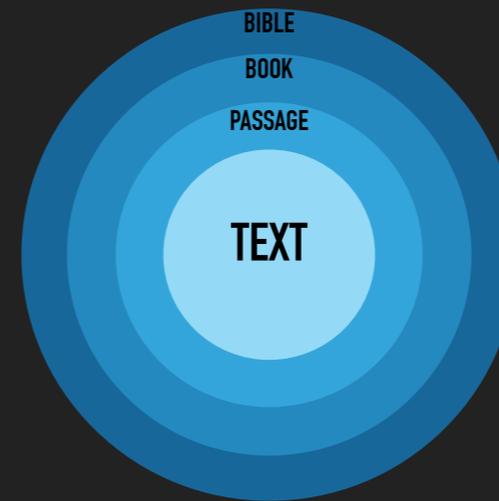
"When the plain sense  
of Scripture makes  
common sense,  
seek no other sense."

- What do I mean by "*literal*?" Read the text for what it is. Don't look for hidden meanings beyond the original author's intent.
- Genesis 2:11-14 "*The four rivers represent body, soul, spirit & mind.*" What?! Where's that in the text?
- Words mean something. Facts are truth and won't conflict with God's word, which is truth.
- **Galatians 4:22-26 / John 6:35**
- Dangerous question... "*What do you think?*" Doesn't matter what I think, what did God say and mean?

## INTERPRETATION

### STUDY IN CONTEXT

- ▶ Always look beyond your text to see the bigger picture.
- ▶ Sometimes, we miss the forest for the trees!



Can you read a page of a book and get the whole story? Of course not!

This leads into... *Let scripture interpret scripture*

## INTERPRETATION

### LET SCRIPTURE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

- ▶ We should not interpret scripture to fit our culture's way of thinking
- ▶ When struggling with a passage, look elsewhere in scripture for clarity
- ▶ Read the passage in multiple translations
- ▶ Don't be dogmatic where scripture is not

- What are some areas that our culture disagrees with God's Word?
- Don't hold others to your standards, look for God's standard. (Some of my old PH rules)
- Scripture does not disagree with itself! All strong doctrine is supported in multiple texts.
- Sometimes, just seeing it phrased a different way can spark understanding.
- *"When is the rapture going to happen? Can women lead worship? Are there still apostles today?"*

## INTERPRETATION

### BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

- ▶ Word studies
  - ▶ Strong's Concordance
  - ▶ Vine's Expository Dictionary
- ▶ Commentaries
  - ▶ Matthew Henry
  - ▶ Adam Clarke
  - ▶ Albert Barnes
  - ▶ David Guzik

## ONLINE RESOURCES

BlueLetterBible.org  
StudyLight.org  
BibleGateway.com

NOT exhaustive lists!

- The Bible was originally written in Hebrew (OT), Aramaic & Greek (NT). Digging into original meaning and usage of a word can be helpful to gain understanding.

Commentaries are not the inspired Word of God. They are the ideas of men about the Word of God. They should only be referenced later in your study process. Hear from the Lord through the text before you hear from Adam Clarke or David Guzik. Also, know your commentators. Matthew Henry is a 5-point Calvinist. That doesn't mean you shouldn't read him or refer to him, but you should be aware of how that will color his thinking on certain passages. Commentaries are good for:

- Help with understanding. If I'm struggling with a passage or phrase, I'll review 3 or 4 commentaries to get additional perspectives and then pray through my own thinking.
- Deeper context. Cultural significance, historical meaning, etc. that can deepen our understanding of or appreciation for the text.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

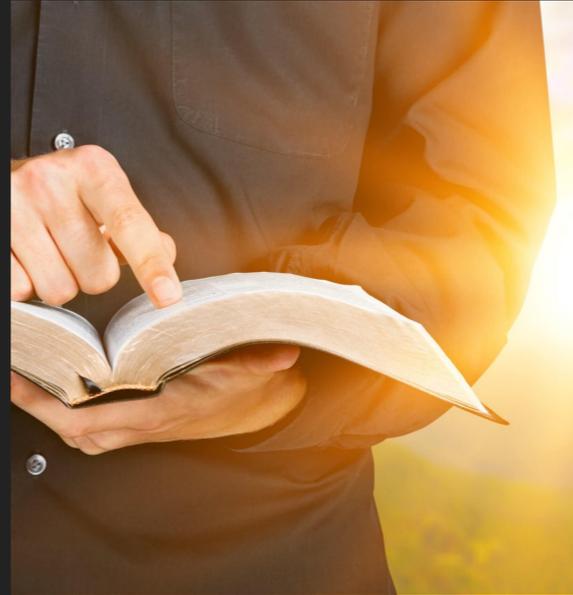


Recap yesterday's lesson... Observation

## APPLICATION

### "How should I respond?"

- ▶ The goal of the entire process
- ▶ Specific applications



(Brief overview of today's lesson)

## APPLICATION

### THE GOAL

- ▶ "How does this text apply to me?" **NOT** "What does this text mean to me?"
- ▶ Inductive bible study is not just for **information**, but for **transformation**.
  - ▶ **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

*Interpretation without application is **abortion!***

## APPLICATION

### SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

- ▶ Examples to follow
- ▶ Sin to forsake
- ▶ Errors to avoid
- ▶ Promises to believe
- ▶ Commands to obey
- ▶ Actions to take

- **Hebrews 6:11-12**
- **Galatians 5:19-21**
- **Luke 18:9-14**
- **1 John 1:9**
- **John 15:17**
- **Matthew 28:19-20**

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