Inductive Study Approach

To facilitate "hearing" God's Word as you study, the Inductive Study Approach employs three basic techniques:

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application

Teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. Observation answers the question, "What does the passage say?"

**Observation**

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**Step 1: Begin with Prayer**

**Step 2: Ask the "5 W's & an H"**

- **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? To Whom is he speaking?
- **What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about he people, event or teaching?
- **When** do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone in particular?
- **Where** did or will this happen? Where was it said?
- **Why** is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time/to this person/in that place?
- **How** will it happen? How is to be done? How is it illustrated?

**Step 3: Mark Key Words & Phrases**

**Step 4: Look for Lists**

**Step 5: Watch for Contrasts & Comparisons**

**Step 6: Note Expressions of Time**

(Don't forget "until", "then", "when" and "after".)

**Step 7: Identify Terms of Conclusion**

("wherefore", "finally", "so", "for this reason", "therefore", etc.)

**Step 8: Develop Chapter Themes**

Ignore the ones printed in your Bible — write in the margin what YOU think the theme is, centering on the main person, event, teaching or subject of that section of Scripture. (Sometimes themes actually begin in the previous chapter and/or end in the subsequent chapter.)

**Interpretation**

Answers the question, "What does the passage mean?"

**Follow these basic rules:**

1. Remember that context always rules first.
2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God. (Compare and contrast similar passages.)
3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
4. Don't base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.
5. Interpret Scripture literally.
6. Allegories and typology are used to illuminate, never to create.
7. The NT has priority.

**Application**

Answers the question, "What does it mean to me personally? What truths can I put into practice? What changes should I make to my life?"