

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

Observation . . . Interpretation . . . Application

Phase One - Observation

Read: *Repeatedly, Thoughtfully, Patiently, Carefully,
Prayerfully, Reflectively, Intentionally*

Look for: *Background and Context (www.biblestudytools.com)
Unfamiliar or Difficult Terms
People Involved
Emphasized Words: indeed, therefore, only, verily,
truly, behold, etc.
Repeated Words
Purpose Words: for, in order that, according to,*

Phase Two - Interpretation

Content: *Trying to make sense of what you observed in the
“Observation” phase*

Context: *You want to be aware of what was going on when the
letter or book was written, again, use
www.biblestudytools.com to help you here,
particularly the “Easton’s Bible Dictionary.”
Be aware of the **literary** context (where does your
passage fit into the whole of Scripture, i.e. OT,
NT, Narrative, Epistles, Prophecy, History)
Be aware of the **cultural** context: how would the
original readers have read the passage? Were
they city folk? Were they farmers? e.g. major
difference in Corinthian church and Galatian
church.*

Comparison: *Rule of Interpretation: Scripture Interprets Scripture
Scripture does not contradict itself, it confirms
itself. e.g. Romans = FAITH, James = WORK*

Consultation: *Ask others how they understand your passage, (a
pastor, a friend/family member who studies
scripture, etc)*

*This can confirm thoughts and conclusions that
you’ve made about your passage.*

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Phase Three - Application

Ask Yourself:

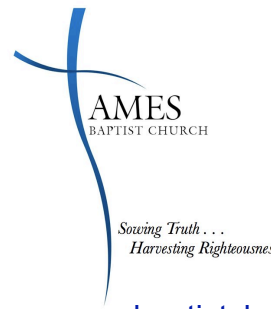
*Is there an example for me to follow here?
Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?
Is there a prayer I need to repeat?
Is there a command to obey?
Is there a condition to meet?
Is there a verse to memorize?
Is there an error to mark and avoid?
Is there a challenge to face?*

Four Steps of Application:

Know the text, examine yourself, make the change
Relate what you’ve learned to your life
Meditate on what you’ve learned; Quality vs. Quantity
Practice what you’ve learned,
“Knowledge without change is **useless**”

Key Scriptures to Remember

Romans 10:9-10
Mark 8:34-38
Psalm 119:9-11
James 1:22
Romans 2:13
Romans 8:1-11
Colossians 3:1-17



www.amesbaptistchurch.org