

Follow Jesus.

Our **pursuit** is guided by God’s Spirit through community, prayer, and the Bible.

“Bible study” can carry a mixed bag of preconceptions. For some Bible study is an academic exercise that results in little personal change. For others, it amounts to finding a random Bible verse that seems to address a felt need or preconceived idea, with little or no consideration of whether or not the verse is interpreted correctly.

1) What frustrations have you experienced studying the Bible? Do you ever seem to lack focus or direction when you study the Bible? Do you read the Bible and it just seems like there’s all these words that pass by your eyes and leave little impact on your life when your done?

2) Why (or how) should we be intentional about studying the Bible?

2 Timothy 3.14-17

Hebrews 4.12

Mark 12.30

Matthew 7.24-29

Luke 24.45, Psalm 119.18

3) Ideally, Bible study should:

- make productive use of precious time in God’s Word.
- arrive at the intended meaning of a passage.
- lead to application and spiritual transformation.
- use your optimal method of learning.

<u>Inductive Learning</u>	<u>Deductive Learning</u>
• specific facts –(induce)→ general principles	• general principles –(deduce) → consequences
• slower	• faster
• nearly impossible to reach false conclusions	• can reach false conclusions if deductions are built upon inaccurate general principles
• requires no prior knowledge (natural process, anyone can do it)	• requires a preexisting base of knowledge (for deductions to be built upon)
• <i>introductory</i> : more effective for learning new material or building a knowledge base	• <i>progressive</i> : more effective for applying or expanding an existing knowledge base

Most individuals tend to prefer or are better at one type of learning or the other. All people of at least adolescent intelligence are capable of learning by either. Thus, preference of neither type makes any person "superior" to another. However, a balanced study of scripture should use both. Think about this in the context of third part of the Great Commission (Matthew 28.20). We must *induce* what Jesus has commanded us *directly* from the *specific facts* of scripture. Otherwise our human nature may be inclined to neglect those commands we don't like or even make-up things we aren't commanded. And if we are to *obey* these commands, with the help of the Spirit we must *deduce* the *consequences* or *application* they have in our everyday lives. Otherwise, we will just have empty head knowledge.

The Bible study outline below and the attached worksheets can be useful tools for providing structure and guidance during the inductive/deductive learning process. The "detailed" outline and worksheet is designed to provide a comprehensive framework requiring at least 30-60 minutes of thought. The "abbreviated" outline and worksheet is designed to provide a "bare bones" framework for a short study (less than 30 minutes) or those who absolutely loathe too much structure. Both outlines are designed to be generic; therefore, some sections may not apply to some Bible passages. Finally, remember that all man's study guides and learning theories are useless unless God first opens our minds to understand scripture (see Luke 24.45, Psalm 119.18).

Pray for God, through the Spirit, to open our minds to understand the Bible.

Homework: Use the detailed worksheet to study the book of Jonah.

Inductive/Deductive Bible Study Outline

I. Inquire for *Facts*

- A. People/Things Involved: [Who?]
- B. Location/Geography: [Where?]
- C. Context/Chronology: [When?]
 - 1. Events Before:
 - 2. Events Afterward:
- D. Events/Plot/Storyline/Outline: [What?]
- E. Main Event in This Passage:

II. *Induce* the Meaning (or General Principles) [Why?]

- A. Meaning/Definition of Words and Phrases:
- B. Significance/Meaning of Relationships Between People, Things, Places, Timing and Events:
- C. Motives Behind Actions Taken:
- D. Cross-References of Related Scripture for Understanding Important Principles/Ideas/Truths:
- E. Main Theme or Thought Taught by This Passage, Explaining Meaning:

III. *Deduce* the Application (or Consequences) [How? or Now What?]

- A. Application of the Truths (or Teachings) in This Passage to...
 - 1. My Relationship with God:
 - 2. My Relationship with Others:
 - 3. Me Personally:
 - 4. The Church/World:
- B. Action Point: Most Important Action for Me to Take in Obedience to This Passage: