

Inductive Bible Study

One of the most common ways to study the Bible is through inductive Bible study. Inductive Bible study leads you to make observations of Scripture and then to draw conclusions through observation, interpretation and application. The following is taken from Adele Ahlberg Calhoun's, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, which provides four different inductive Bible study approaches.

"SEVERAL WAYS TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Artist method

Read a passage of Scripture, considering three questions as you read:

1. What speaks to my heart? Draw a heart beside the word that speaks to your heart.
2. What new thought or idea comes to me? Draw a light bulb beside the new thought or idea.
3. What does Scripture move me to do? Draw a hand beside the action you want to take.

Consider how you can apply one of your insights today. Share your insights with a friend.

"Detective method.

Read a short narrative passage from one of the Gospels. Let the story take shape in your mind's eye. Imagine the scene. Observe all the facts. Ask the who, when, where, what questions. Once you have the facts, interpret the facts. Ask the why and wherefore questions. What meaning did the actions have for the characters? What meaning do the actions have for you? Then apply your study to your own life. Ask how will this change my life? What do you take away from the story?

"Treasure-seeking method.

When reading Scripture consider the following application questions: Is there an example here for me to follow? Is there a promise to claim or a command to obey? Is there a truth to be applied? Is there a prayer for me to pray? Is there a sin to be confessed? Is there a question God is asking me?

"Jesus' apprentice method.

If you are unfamiliar with Scripture and don't know where to begin, choose one of the Gospels (Mark or Luke) and study to discover all you can about Jesus. Ask yourself the following questions: What seems important to Jesus? What sort of questions does he ask people? What sort of questions do people ask him? What is Jesus inviting me to be and do?¹

If inductive Bible study appeals to you, experiment with these different approaches to see which method works best for you.

¹ Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. 2015. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*. InterVarsity Press. Downers Grove, IL. 185-186