

KNOW YOUR SOURCE – STEPS FOR THE DAILY STUDY OF GOD’S WORD

OVERVIEW OF STEPS FOR BIBLE STUDY

1. MAKE A PLAN
 2. SECURE THE NECESSARY TOOLS
 3. USE A SOUND BIBLE STUDY METHOD
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3. USE A SOUND BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The Inductive Bible Study Method

1. Observation
2. Interpretation
3. Application

Prerequisite: Begin With Prayer

Begin every Bible Study time with intentional prayer.

- Once you have your plan, your tools, and are ready to Study - before you open your Bible – slow down and spend time in intentional prayer.
- Confess your sins and your natural tendency towards deception and error.
- Invite the Lord to guide and direct your time of Study – away from error and into truth.

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Martin Luther on Prayer and Bible Study: *“You should completely despair of your own sense and reason, for by these you will not attain the goal...Rather kneel down in your private little room and with sincere humility and earnestness pray God through His dear Son, graciously to grant you His Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide you and give you understanding...Since the Holy Writ wants to be dealt with in fear and humility and penetrated more by studying with pious prayer than with keenness of intellect, therefore it is impossible for those who rely only on their intellect and rush into Scripture with dirty feet, like pigs, as though Scripture were merely a sort of human knowledge not to harm themselves and others whom they instruct.”*

1. Observation

The goal of observation is to note exactly what the text says. Observation asks, **“What does the text say?”**

To do this well you must:

1. Slowdown.
2. Carefully observe what the passage is literally saying – unbiased by prior experience.
3. Consciously resist the impulse to search for or find meaning in the text.

“Observation describes the act of taking notice, fixing the mind upon, beholding with attention, and as used in science, includes the idea of making and recording one's findings, a skill certainly applicable to fruitful inductive study of the Scriptures.

Observation is not just seeing but perceiving what one sees, so that one becomes mentally aware of what one observes. We live in a fast-paced society and honing the vital skill of observation is not the natural inclination for most of us. We want answers fast (How many times have you heard someone say, "Just Google it"?) and are loathe to linger too long observing a section of Scripture.

But frankly, what better object to linger upon lovingly and long, than the eternal Word of Truth, the very revelation from the Creator to His creatures!” (Preceptaustin.org/observation)

Helpful Observation Tips:

Think of yourself as a detective at a crime scene. Your only goal is to observe and collect all the evidence available. To do this:

A. Remember to take a F.O.T.O: Focus on the Obvious!

B. Ask: Who – What – Where – When - Why – How?

- You won't be able to answer every question in every text. That is OK.

C. Take note of the following:

- What words or phrase are repeated multiple times?
- Are there any lists?
- Where do I see cause and effect (*Examples: if, then*)
- What figures of speech, metaphors or illustrations do you I see?
- Are there any Conjunctions (*Examples: But / Therefore*)
- Look for verbs – where is the action?