*Session Eight*

*Inductive Bible Study*

**Deductive** starts with a topic and looks support, answers specific questions, more topical

**Inductive** meaning is determined by observation

Involves listening

Minimum outside sources

Trust in the Holy Spirit

Ask questions

Observations leading to application

Steps:

1. Seeking God in prayer.

2. Making observations of a passage.

3. Exploring the contexts of the passage (the outside).

4. Examining the details within the text (the inside).

5. Interpreting and drawing inferences, leading to determining the message.

6. Making application to contemporary situations.

1. **Prayer**

Begin with prayer and worship

End with prayer and worship

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

This is how you can pray:

Quiet, comfortable, calm, clear mind, focus on God

Ask God to cleanse your heart and open your mind.

Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Read the passage in this attitude of prayer.

Ask God for the willingness, ability, and courage to obey what you find in the Bible.

Close by thanking God for his revelation and help throughout the process.

1. **Reading**
2. Informational Reading
3. Fast, cover a lot
4. Goal: to understand the key idea
5. Formational Reading
   * + - 1. Slow, listen carefully
         2. Goal: to hear the message.
6. How to Read:
   1. Read passage once, pause and pray, read again.
   2. Read the passages before, after, chapter
   3. Read entire book
   4. Read passage slowly, listening to God
   5. Read passage out loud
7. **Ask Good Questions**
8. Questions of Definition: what?
9. Rational Questions: reason, why?
10. Questions of Implication: what if?
11. Other types of questions:

* Who (identification)? How (mode/manner)? When (time)? Where (place)?
* Focus questions on the text

1. Ask good questions, avoid questions that cannot be answered
2. How to Proceed:
3. Create list of questions
4. Determine type of question
5. Organize your questions and determine the most important questions
6. **Initial impressions and insights**
7. Brainstorm possible answers to your question.
8. Begin to look for evidence from the passage or context to answer your questions.
9. Determine if you need to do outside research
10. Organize your evidence, re-examine your question, and see if there is anything you have missed.
11. Draw inferences from your evidence.
12. Be careful to explain how your inference flows from your evidence.
13. Some evidence may have a variety of possible inferences (perhaps even some that are in tension with one another). Be sure to note all possible inferences.
14. Characterize your inferences as “certain,” “probable,” or “possible.”
15. Pause throughout the process to summarize your inferences thus far.
16. Summarize the main possible answers that emerge and list the evidence that supports each.
17. Choose an answer that is supported by the closest evidence (from the immediate context), the most significant evidence (the weightiest, most certain, or most decisive), and the amount of evidence.
18. Synthesize your evidence and answer your question.

1. **Note Taking or Journaling**
2. **Review**

Determine what is best for follow up.

**Big Ideas**

* 1. Inductive Bible study makes observations of a passage to arrive at the key ideas and themes.
  2. With this method, it is important to make your own observations first.
  3. We should begin our study of the Bible with prayer.
  4. The key to this method is asking good questions and then finding the answers to these questions.
  5. Take good notes of your observations and insights. Do not rush to outside resources like commentaries.