

Inductive Bible Study

Introduction

Using Traina's *Methodical Bible Study*

Traina "attempts to dissect the study process to discover its component parts." (p.21)

Not a checklist, but an approach to scripture.

Not a formula, but a mindset every time you read a verse or passage.

Inductive Approach

Start with specific facts, move toward general conclusions.

Contrast with deductive approach, starting with general principle and finding support in specific facts.

Detective work involves both. First find clues to point to suspect, then look for further evidence implicating that suspect.

Inductive Bible study starts with specific facts in a verse or a passage to build understanding.

Biblically Driven

Trying to start with a clean slate, set aside doctrinal filters. ("We know it can't mean that.")

How would a person who had never read the Bible before understand this passage?

Avoid danger of only re-confirming our existing beliefs.

"The familiar is made to disclose undreamed treasure." Traina, p. 32

Methodical

Distinct phases of study as a discipline, like piano scales or sports drills.

Text-driven, focused on the text, controlled by the text. "Where do you see that in this passage?"

- Observation – What does it say?
- Interpretation – What does it mean?
- Application – What does it mean to me?

"At times observation and interpretation are almost inseparable." Traina, p. 48

"If there is ever a blurring of the process to the extent that the various phases of study become indistinguishable, then eisegesis will inevitably result." Traina, p. 49

Intensive

Don't give up too soon – 50% observation

Questions; pounding on the passage like Luther

If you can answer all the questions you ask, you are not asking enough questions.

Fearless; nothing is off-limits

Suspending judgment; What if it means this?

Reproducible

Asking good questions for my personal study

Asking good questions in a group study to model the method

Two levels:

Group members leave understanding the passage

Group members leave thinking, "I can do that"