



ZION

FAITH FELLOWSHIP

MOUNTAIN TOP LIVING

INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDY

10 W. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH 44310

Zionmedia1@gmail.com

Ziononline.net

Facebook: ZION

Phone: 330-253-3650



WORD #2 READ & MEDITATE!

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY S.O.I.L. METHOD

Psalms 1, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Romans 10:17, Matthew 4:4

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 1 King James Version (KJV)

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

⁴ The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

⁵ Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2 Timothy 3:16 - All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Romans 10:17 - So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Full Definition of MEDITATE

1. to engage in contemplation or reflection
2. to engage in mental exercise (as concentration on one's breathing or repetition of a mantra) for the purpose of reaching a heightened level of spiritual awareness

WHY IS READING AND MEDITATING IN GOD'S WORD SO IMPORTANT

Is it not remarkable how often **Jesus** settled great issues with a reference to reading?

- For example, in the issue of the Sabbath he said, "Have you not *read* what David did?" (**Matthew 12:3**).
- In the issue of **divorce and remarriage** he said, "Have you not *read* that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female?" (Matthew 19:4).
- In the issue of **true worship and praise** he said, "Have you never *read*, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babes you have prepared praise for yourself?'" (**Matthew 21:16**).
- In the issue of the **resurrection** he said, "Did you never *read* in the Scriptures, 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone?'" (**Matthew 21:42**).
- And to the lawyer who queried him about **eternal life** he said, "What is written in the Law? How does it *read* to you?" (**Luke 10:26**).

The apostle Paul also gave reading a great place in the life of the church.

- For example, he said to the Corinthians, "We write nothing else to you than what you *read and understand*, and I hope you will understand until the end" (**1 Corinthians 1:13**).
- To the Ephesians he said, "When you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ" (**Ephesians 3:3**).
- To the Colossians he said, "When this letter is *read* among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter that is coming from Laodicea" (**Colossians 4:16**).
- Reading the letters of Paul was so important that he commands it with an oath: "I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter *read* to all the brethren" (**1 Thessalonians 5:27**).

LEARNING TO READ THE WORD

The ability to read does not come intuitively. It must be taught. And learning to read with understanding is a life-long labor. The implications for Christians are immense. Education of the mind in the rigorous discipline of thoughtful reading is a primary goal of school. The church of Jesus is debilitated when his people are lulled into thinking that it is humble or democratic or relevant to give a merely practical education that does not involve the rigorous training of the mind to think hard and to construe meaning from difficult texts.

My goal is to read The Bible all the way through this year...not just to say I did, but for greater understanding and revelation.

I want to challenge you to make Bible reading a priority in your life. Regular, systematic Bible reading is the best way to jump start your spiritual growth. When you read the Bible, you are allowing the God of the universe to speak directly into your life.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

The Inductive Bible study method is applicable to every level from individual study, to leading a small group, to every level of Bible teaching from children's Sunday School to the main message coming from the pulpit.

Its goal is to provide a framework by which you can hear God speaking through His Word and make personal application to your life. It's how one becomes a doer of the Word and not just a listener.

This brief introduction is essential to understanding Walk with the Word's perspective and approach to providing Bible studies and related materials to all levels of ministry. There are many books and web sites devoted to this topic that will provide much more detail. This discussion is provided as an overview.

At its simplest, the Inductive method employs four basic techniques:

1. **Scripture Selection**
2. **Observation**
3. **Interpretation**
4. **Life Application**

Selection, observation, interpretation, and application lead to transformation. This is the goal at every level of Bible teaching whether in an individual's daily devotions or the Sunday morning sermon. And the ultimate proof of whether or not your Bible study method is working is the degree to which your personal relationships are becoming more loving.

SCRIPTURE SELECTION

What should I read?

1. **Follow from Pastor's messages and Interactive Bible Studies**

Many times, I'll have notes or bullet points sent out. If I don't please feel free to email or text me with specific questions that you can use to research.

2. **Bible Reading Plans**

Bible reading plans walk you through the entire Bible over the course of a year. Reading through the Bible is a rewarding experience, and these plans can help you do it!

To use a reading plan, just visit the daily reading page to see your daily reading. (You may want to bookmark that page in your web browser.)

Most of the reading plans start on January 1, but you're free to join in at any time! So, choose a reading plan and get ready for the incredible journey of reading through the entire Bible, one day at a time!

- A. **Old/New Testament** - Each day includes a passage from both the Old Testament and New Testament.
- B. **Chronological** - Read the Bible in the chronological order in which its stories and events occurred.
- C. **Beginning to End** - Read the Bible from start to finish, from Genesis to Revelation.

- D. **Historical** - Read the books of the Bible as they were written historically, according to the estimated date of their writing.
- E. **Bible in 90 Days** - An intensive Bible reading plan that walks through the entire Bible in 90 days.
- F. **Read the Gospels in 40 Days** - Read through the four Gospels--Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John--in 40 days.
- G. **The Daily Audio Bible** - This reading plan is provided by Brian Hardin from **Daily Audio Bible**.

3. Devotionals

Quiet time and fellowship with God—the most important part of each day. Use these free devotionals from Bible Gateway to help you focus on God each day. You can read them online at the link below; many of them are also available as daily or weekly emails, which you can sign up for.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/>

4. Topical Index Study

Nave's Topical Bible, the best known of all topical bibles, has been a valuable Bible-study reference and a best-seller for more than 75 years. It is a comprehensive digest of over 20,000 topics and subtopics with more than 100,000 associated Scripture references. The most significant references for each topic actually include the full text of the verse cited—saving the need to separately look up each verse.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/topical/>

OBSERVATION

Observation teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. It is vitally important to understand the context of the Scripture being studied and to not pull the words or sentences away from their true meaning. Observation answers the question, “What does the passage say?”

You don't have to earn a degree in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic to figure out the correct context of any portion of Scripture. (It can't hurt, either.) But it's essential that you keep in mind that language changes over time, and that speech patterns,

writing styles, communication methods differ during the course of our own lifetime, much less over 2,000 years and many, many cultural hand-offs. The observation techniques that follow allow you to glean what is being said in the proper context as you study.

1. Begin with Prayer

If you want to “hear” what God has to say to you personally, you really need to enter into 2-way communication. Prayer begins the “conversation” and places your mind, heart and soul in the right relationship with Him.

2. Ask the 5 W's and an H

The hardest thing to do is ridding ourselves of assumptions when we approach God's Word, whether it's a book (“Revelation is nothing but symbols and allegories.”) or a familiar passage (“1 Corinthians 13 is all I need to know about ‘love.’”). Presuppositions are the most common culprits leading to wrong interpretation and mis-application. Carefully observing who, what, when, where, why and how are the best assurances leading to correct interpretation. **DON'T RUSH PAST THIS**. Doing this on a chapter-by-chapter basis consistently places the paragraphs, sentences, and words in their proper context.

- A. **WHO** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? **To whom** is he speaking?
- B. **WHAT** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event, or teaching?
- C. **WHEN** do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone in particular?
- D. **WHERE** did or will this happen? Where was it said?
- E. **WHY** is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time and/or to this person/people?
- F. **HOW** will it happen? How is it to be done? How is it illustrated?

3. Mark Key Words and Phrases

A key word or phrase is one which, when removed, leaves the passage void of meaning. They are often repeated by the author throughout a chapter or book in order to reveal the point or purpose of the writing.

However you decide to mark such things in your Bible, determine to be consistent in your use of colors, symbols, or a combination of both throughout in order to capture important themes that transcend just a single passage of Scripture. (e.g. “love”, “covenant”, “sin”, “grace”, etc.)

4. Look for Lists

Trivia Time: In movies, books and everyday speech people often refer to “The Seven Deadly Sins” – where did that come from? One of Paul’s epistles. (Looking it up would be good for you.)

- A. Lists are often additional words used to describe a key word, but are also what is said about someone or something or related thoughts/instructions grouped together.
- B. Lists are something you should develop as you study a particular topic throughout the Bible such as “grace”.
- C. Listing the characteristics of grace as provided by each use throughout Scripture will provide you with a much broader view of the whole meaning of grace.
- D. Such a list allows you see the bigger picture and avoid incorrectly interpreting it on the basis of just one Scripture in and of itself.

5. Watch for Contrasts and Comparisons

- A. A *contrast* is a comparison of things that are different or opposite, such as light/darkness, proud/humble, good/evil. The word but often indicates a contrast to something just stated.
- B. A *comparison* points out similarities and is most often indicated in the use of words such as like, as, as it were.
- C. These small words are great eye-openers in the process of observation as they set the words on either side of them into their proper context.

6. Identify Terms of Conclusion

Wherefore, therefore, for this reason, and finally are terms of conclusion that usually follow an important thought in order to tell you how to personally apply the teaching. They’re a bridge between the “teaching” and the “application” and often clearly spell out the proper meaning and context of the passage with no guesswork as to what it means.

7. Develop Your Own Chapter Themes

The printed chapter themes in most Bibles are more of an aid for finding a specific story or passage such as “Jesus Heals a Blind Man”; they’re not very descriptive of the spiritual topic or theme that reveal the lessons God is directing to your heart.

8. Note Expressions of Time

This is often the most-overlooked part of observation. A crucial part of attaining the correct context is understanding when something has/is/will happen.

- A. Time is often directly indicated such as “during the reign of”, “on the tenth day”, “at the feast of”, etc., etc. Sometimes the context is as much about when, or its relationship to a past or present event, as it is the person, place, or thing mentioned.
- B. Pay attention to words such as *until, then, when, and after* as they reveal the relationship of one event to another. This is of particular importance when studying the Gospels as you will begin to see that Jesus’ acts and miracles are often an extension of the teaching He gave just before or after them.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation answers the question, “What does the passage mean?” Tons of books and web sites are available on this topic—not to mention hundreds of institutions providing degrees in related fields—so these are the basic rules. But don’t let anyone intimidate you in following their steps; God makes His knowledge and will known to **ANYONE** who

seeks. (There's a good topic for you to keep track of throughout your studies.)

1. **Context ALWAYS rules first.** Never take a Scripture out of its context to make it say what **you** want it to say. Look at context first from the perspective of the book being studied, the overall chapter, the paragraph, and the sentence. Try to stay away from giving individual words meanings that reinterpret sentences, paragraphs, and onward up.
2. **Always seek the FULL counsel of God's Word.** Always cross reference; ensure that the scriptures not taken out of context as they're employed throughout the whole Bible.
3. **Scripture never contradicts Scripture.** It's amazing how the best interpreter of Scripture is other Scripture. One of the best study aids is a good Bible dictionary which will show words and concepts as they're presented throughout **ALL** of Scripture. This is often the best use of footnotes in your Bible that indicate other verses utilizing the same words or phrases in other places so you can compare and contrast how it's used in many passages.
4. **Never base a belief or conviction on an obscure passage of Scripture.** You can always ask other Believers, go to Bible dictionaries or commentaries, or submit it to God in prayer and await His direction.
5. **Interpret Scripture literally.** Obviously there are no dragons and the Bible uses it and other symbols. But these are far and away the exceptions in the Bible as the vast majority are very, very literal.
6. **Begin with the primary meaning of the passage.** Let the passage speak for itself. Seek to understand what the author had in mind. Flee from those that teach about things such as "Bible codes" or try to twist Scripture to support a meaning it never had in the first place. Making something complicated is usually an outward sign of someone that is going to great lengths to justify some kind of sin in their life or the choices they've made. Keep in mind that allegories and typology always **illuminate** what is already present in Scripture – they are never used as the basis for doctrine but to support

and explain it in harmony with the rest of God's Word.

7. **The NT has priority.** A long-time rule of interpretation is expressed in the saying, "The 'New' is in the 'Old' concealed, the 'Old' is in the 'New' revealed". In other words, what was initially set forth in the Old Testament is brought to light and fulfillment in the New Testament.

LIFE APPLICATION

Application answers the question, "What does it mean to me personally? What truths can I put into practice? What changes should I make to my life?" Paul states in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*" Paul provides the activities involved in application: Teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness.

- A. **Teaching** is what the Word of God has to say on any topic or subject and is always true. Once you discover what the Word of God teaches, you are obligated before God to accept that truth and to live by it, dropping any false beliefs or teachings you may have previously held.
- B. **Reproof** is finding out where you have thought or behaved wrongly or have not been doing what God says is right according to His Word. It's your personal acknowledgment that you were wrong in thought or behavior and now accept and agree with God's truth, setting you free from sin and unbelief.
- C. **Correction** is the step wherein the knowledge gained from teaching and reproof are placed into action resulting in changed behavior. It's converting knowledge into obedience.
- D. **Training in righteousness** can be thought of in terms of God's Word as a handbook for living, for how we conduct ourselves. It's continually returning to the source and consistently putting into practice the reproofs and corrections of His Word to build our character in Him.

- In seeking to apply Scripture to your life, ask the following questions in light of your observation and interpretation:
- What does the passage teach?
- As I've studied this passage, do any errors in my belief or problems with my behavior come to mind?
- Remembering that God is my Father and I am His child, what instruction is my Father trying to pass to me, His child?
- Finally, in the process of applying Scripture, take note to beware of the following:
- Applying cultural standards rather than biblical standards
- Attempting to strengthen a legitimate truth by using Scripture incorrectly
- Applying Scripture out of prejudice from past training or teaching.

Conclusion

Selection, observation, interpretation, and application lead to transformation. This is the goal at every level of Bible teaching whether in an individual's daily devotions or the Sunday morning sermon. This is the process of becoming more and more like the image of Christ that we might not only enjoy a deeper personal relationship with our Savior but reflect His image to the world rather than our own.

Or as Christ described it, becoming doers of the Law.

Ultimately, if you want to measure whether or not your Bible study time and method is effective or not, there is one measurement which conclusively proves it for you personally regardless of the techniques or methodology you employ. Remember two things Jesus taught: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love

for one another."

John 13:34-35

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

John 14:15

The whole Law is fulfilled in Christ's commandment to love others and the proof of our love for Him is found in the quality of our obedience to His Word. Therefore, if we are putting His Word into practice in our life and being obedient to Him, the proof that our Bible study method is working will be revealed in our relationships with other people. If we are becoming more loving, the Word is taking root as it should and therefore our Bible study method is working. But if we are the most intellectual Bible scholar on the planet yet continue to struggle in our love for others, our Bible study method is an utter failure. The proof is the degree that our relationships begin to change over time. ☀

