

Inductive Bible Study

Objective: To Understand the Author's Intended Meaning and Apply It in Life-Changing Ways

I. Study:



II. Observation:

The Six Big Questions	The Six Structural Clues
1. Who? (characters, significant meanings, pronoun references)	1. Repetition (repeated words and phrases—is it coincidence or significant?)
2. What? (context, cultural issues, Bible dictionary, map)	2. Comparison/Contrast (similes, metaphors, “but,” “however,” “instead”)
3. When? (time-oriented words: “before,” “formerly,” “now,” “after”; significance of time)	3. Commands (application, positive principles behind negative commands)
4. Where? (cities, countries, geography, place words: “under,” “over,” “in,” “at”)	4. Questions (explicit or implicit answers, rhetorical questions)
5. Why? (purpose, rationale, reason)	5. Cause/Effect (conditional or unconditional, “in order that,” “if...then,” “for this reason”)
6. How? (directives, adverbs, importance of actions)	6. Connectives (relationship between two thoughts, “finally,” “therefore,” “also”)

III. Interpretation:

A. Context Analysis
Grasp the “big picture.”

Consider:

- Genre
- Historical background
- Literary context

B. Content Analysis
Determine the meaning of the passage in its original setting with special attention to the author’s “big idea.”

- Analyze the structure.
- Examine the grammar.
- Compare translations.
- Define key words.
- Study the historical/cultural background.

C. Correlation
Evaluate your interpretation in light of the whole Bible.

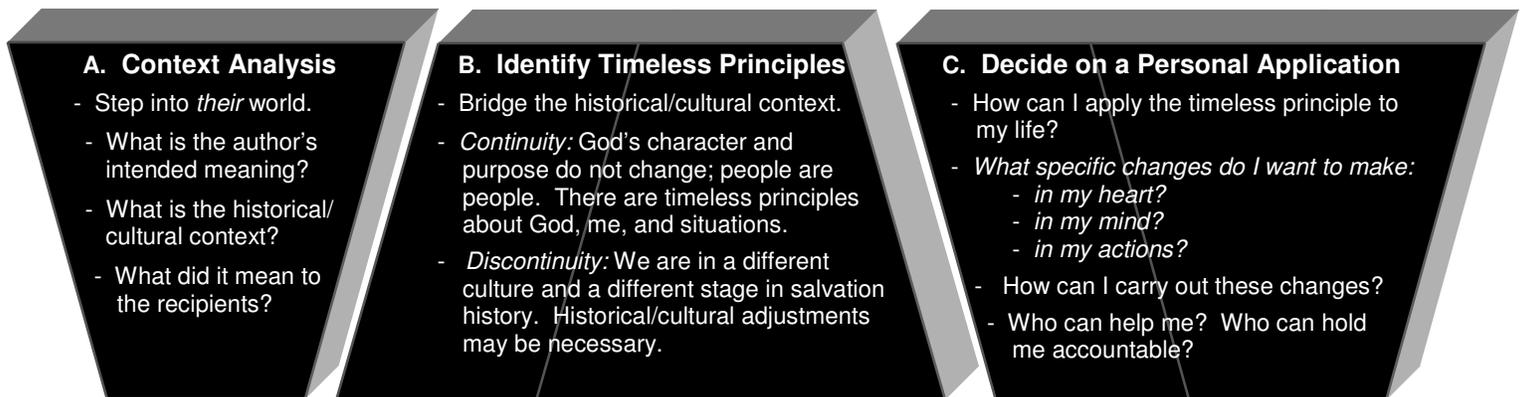
- Do other passages speak to this topic?
- Do they temper or confirm your understanding of this passage?
- How have other Bible scholars interpreted this passage?

D. Conclusions
Describe the “big idea” along with sub-points, and paraphrase the passage in your own words.

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IV. Application:



V. Presentation:

