

The Inductive Bible Study Method

I. Read the text multiple times

II. **Observation** – What do I see in the text?

- The 5 W's (Who, What, Where, When, Why)
- Other key observations:
 - Repeated words or phrases
 - Anything that can be put into a list
 - Words that indicate a change in topic or theme
 - Contrasts
 - Cause and effect words
- **You are simply making observations of the text. Don't add anything that isn't there.**

III. **Interpretation** – What does this text mean in its context? What is the author's intended meaning?

- Questions to ask:
 - What is the cultural and/or historical context of this passage?
 - What else do I know about the book, author, and broader context of the passage?
 - Are there other Scripture that might help me interpret this?
 - Have I overlooked anything or made any assumptions?
 - What is the clearest meaning of this text?
- Rules to keep in mind:
 - Look for the plainest interpretation first. Don't try to overcomplicate things
 - Scripture interprets Scripture
 - The Bible has 1 storyline: The Gospel and God's redemptive plan for humanity

IV. **Application** – What can I take away from this passage today?

- Questions to ask:
 - What does this passage show me about my own life?
 - How does the truth of this passage help me grow closer to Christ?
 - What does this show me about God?
- Things to keep in mind:
 - The Bible is not primarily about you
 - Not every passage/section will have something that is a direct command or action steps
 - Sometimes there may be nothing to apply to your life, but instead shows you more about God

The Temptation of Jesus

4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,¹¹ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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