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," "ifthen," "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

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?

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.

D. Conclusions

Describe the "big idea" along with sub-points, and paraphrase the passage in your own words.

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IV. Application:

A. Context Analysis

- Step into their world.
- What is the author's intended meaning?
- What is the historical/ cultural context?
- What did it mean to the recipients?

B. Identify Timeless Principles

- Bridge the historical/cultural context.
- Continuity: God's character and purpose do not change; people are people. There are timeless principles about God, me, and situations.
- Discontinuity: We are in a different culture and a different stage in salvation history. Historical/cultural adjustments may be necessary.

C. Decide on a Personal Application

- How can I apply the timeless principle to my life?
- What specific changes do I want to make:
 - in my heart?
 - in my mind?
 - in my actions?
 - How can I carry out these changes?
 - Who can help me? Who can hold me accountable?

V. Presentation:

