

Appendix C: Inductive Bible Study Steps: Summary<sup>1</sup>

<p><b>Step #1: Observation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ten Tips to Observant Bible Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Read Thoughtfully</li> <li>○ Read Repeatedly</li> <li>○ Read Patiently</li> <li>○ Read Inquisitively</li> <li>○ Read Prayerfully</li> <li>○ Read Imaginatively</li> <li>○ Read Meditatively</li> <li>○ Read Purposefully</li> <li>○ Read Acquisitively</li> <li>○ Read Telescopically</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Six “Don’t Misses” When You are Observing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Things that are emphasized</li> <li>○ Things that are repeated</li> <li>○ Things that are related</li> <li>○ Things that are alike, and unlike</li> <li>○ Things that are true to life</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Step #2: Interpretation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Errors to avoid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Misreading the text</li> <li>○ Distorting the text</li> <li>○ Subjectivism</li> <li>○ Relativism</li> <li>○ Overconfidence</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Type of Literature (genre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Apocalyptic (Revelation)</li> <li>○ Biography (Gospels, Acts, parts of Genesis, etc.)</li> <li>○ Epistolary (Most of NT: Paul’s letters, 1 &amp; 2 Peter, etc.)</li> <li>○ Narrative (Most of OT)</li> <li>○ Oratory (Large sections of Acts, 1 Corinthians)</li> <li>○ Parable (Gospels)</li> <li>○ Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, etc.)</li> <li>○ Prophecy (Isaiah, Malachi)</li> <li>○ Wisdom (Proverbs)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Step #2: Interpretation (cont.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Five “C’s” of Interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Content</li> <li>○ Context</li> <li>○ Comparison</li> <li>○ Culture</li> <li>○ Consultation</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Interpreting the Figurative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use the literal sense unless there is good reason not to.</li> <li>○ Use the figurative sense when the passage tells you to do so.</li> <li>○ Use the figurative sense when the literal meaning is impossible or absurd.</li> <li>○ Use the figurative sense if the literal meaning would involve something immoral.</li> <li>○ Use the figurative sense if the expression is an obvious figure of speech.</li> <li>○ Use the figurative sense if a literal interpretation is contrary to the context and scope of the passage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Step #3: Application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Know the text (Comes after closely following Steps #1, #2)</li> <li>○ Meditate on the meaning/interpretation of the text</li> <li>○ Relate the text to my life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What does this text teach me about God?</li> <li>○ What does this text teach me about man (i.e. myself)?</li> <li>○ How does this text add to my understanding of the Gospel?</li> <li>○ Is there an example for me to follow?</li> <li>○ Is there a sin to avoid?</li> <li>○ Is there a promise to claim?</li> <li>○ Is there a prayer to repeat?</li> <li>○ Is there a clear command to obey?</li> <li>○ Is there a condition to meet?</li> <li>○ Is there a verse to memorize?</li> <li>○ Is there an error to mark?</li> <li>○ Is there a challenge to face?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Practice what I have learned =&gt; Obey!</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from *Living by the Book: The Art and Science of Reading the Bible* by Howard Hendricks