

Inductive Bible Study – Part 1

Observation

What does the passage say?

Begin with prayer. Prayer is often the missing element in Bible study. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth, who takes the things of God and reveals them to us. Always ask God to teach you as you open the Scriptures.

TASK 1 – Mark up the passage

1. **Underline all verbs.** A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action takes place (“God raised us up”) or that a state or condition exists (“you were dead”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.
2. **Circle key words or phrases.** These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “transgressions” in 2:1) or thematically set the theme or main idea for the passage (like “great love” in 2:4).
3. **Box connecting words.** These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:
 - COMPARISON: either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: **and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so** (example)
 - CONTRAST: points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contract words include: **but, rather, yet, however**
 - PURPOSE: indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include: **that, so that, in order that**
 - RESULT: very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include: **that, so that, as a result, with the result that**
 - CAUSE: expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include: **because, since,** and sometimes **for**
 - EXPLANATION: what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word **for**
 - INFERENCE: provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words include: **therefore, for this reason**
 - CONDITION: presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (it could be hypothetical). Key word is **if**
4. **Look for Lists and number them.** Making lists can be one of the most enlightening things you do as you study a section of scripture. Lists reveal truths and highlight important concepts. Identify and number simple lists in the text. This may include a lot of phrases describing one action or instructions regarding how to do something.

TASK 2 – Write 5 observations for each verse.

Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentence, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

Ephesians 2:1-10

1As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2**in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. **3**All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. **4**But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5**made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. **6**And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, **7**in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. **8**For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9**not by works, so that no one can boast. **10**For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Observations:

Verse 1

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 2

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 3

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 4

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 5

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 6

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 7

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 8

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 9

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Verse 10

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.