

ERIN RICHER

dive

EXPLORING *new* DEPTHS *of* DEVOTION

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"...some gathered much, some little.
And when they measured it by the
omer, the one who gathered much
did not have too much, and the one
who gathered little did not have too
little. Everyone had gathered just
as much as they needed."

Exodus 16:17-18

INTRODUCTION

Studying the Bible can feel so intimidating. You open the Bible, you read the words. They are all there in black and white. You hear your friends talk about the Bible with a depth of understanding and insight you have never experienced. When you're done reading Scripture, the words are pretty much still just phonics on a page. You sense life beyond the simple decoding of the sounds, but accessing that life has proven challenging.

This workbook is an invitation to an honest peek into my devotional time that has proven to be the most life-giving of all of the disciplines God's growing in me. This is not meant to be a weight on your neck to make you feel like you should be doing more than you already are. When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God provided their sustenance by leaving manna on the ground each morning. He commanded the Israelites to gather a portion that would yield enough for the day. This is a perfect picture of what it's like for each of us going about the beginning of our days, gathering our "daily bread" to give our spirits sustenance. That story explicitly says that some of the Israelites went out and gathered much, while others gathered much less, but everyone gathered a portion and no matter what was gathered it was enough for *all* for *that* day, and tomorrow they had to gather again... some a lot, and some a little. This workbook is a look at how I gather my portion, which might be much less or much more than yours. But whatever yours is, trust me, it is enough because God says so.

With that said, when you're done peeking into my gathering process, your process shouldn't look exactly like mine. Your time with God is your time and will obviously be unique to you. This study method has emerged from bits and pieces I've adapted from those I admire. It's a system that has brought unexpected richness to my time with Jesus in the mornings, so if one or two things can be gleaned from my process to enrich your relationship with Jesus, then I'm so happy to take the time to share it.

Before we go any further, you might as well highlight this next sentence. *You cannot effectively study God's Word without the Holy Spirit.* I'm not joking. Find a highlighter. It's that important. God is a triune God; the Holy Spirit is equally God and His job is to reveal the Father and the Son. When you go to Scripture you are looking to know God the Father and God the Son, and you can only do this as the Holy Spirit enlightens your mind to do so. So, don't bother implementing any of these methods if you do not first invite the Holy Spirit to join you.

*You cannot effectively study God's Word
without the Holy Spirit*

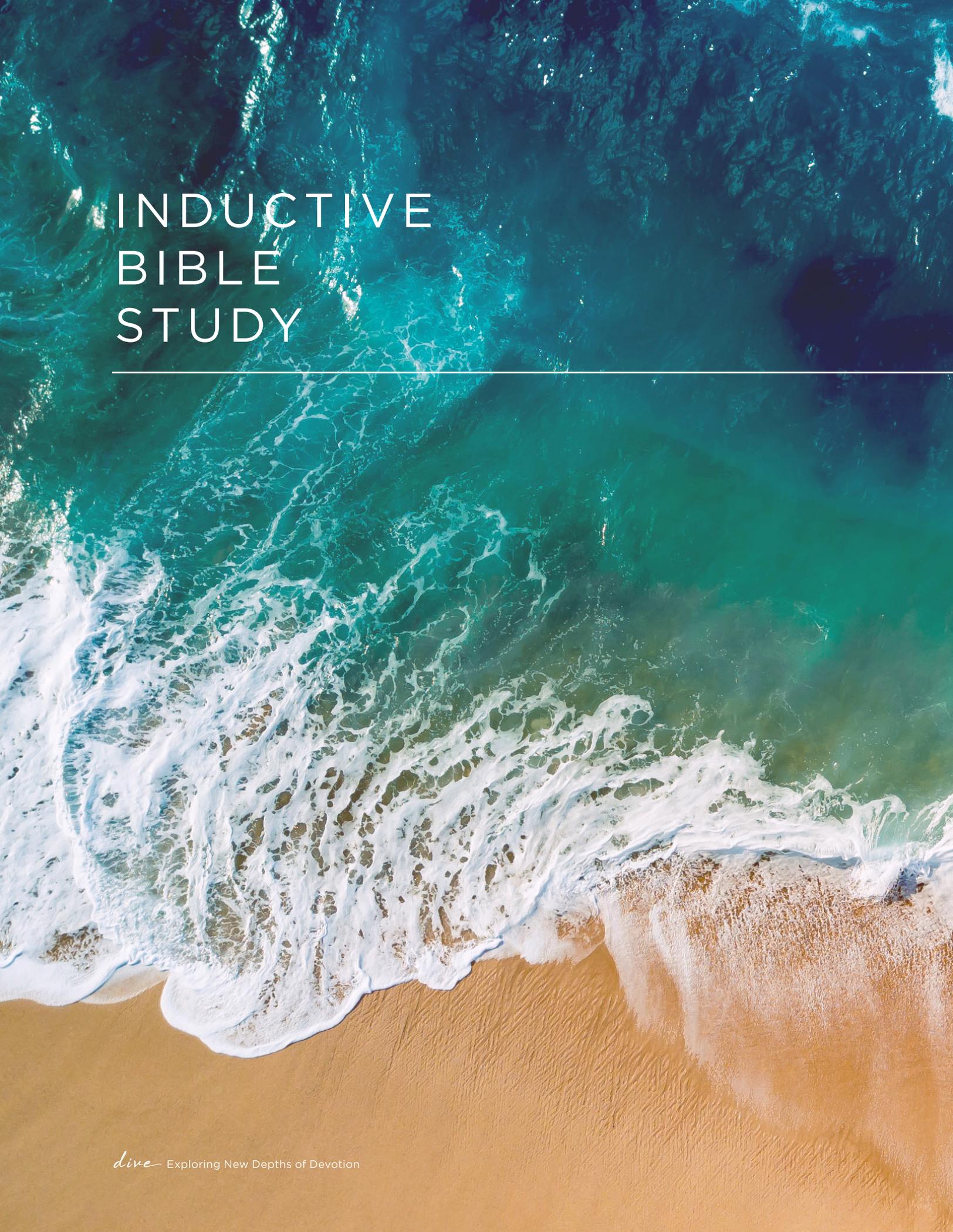
An aerial photograph of a beach with vibrant turquoise and deep blue waves crashing onto the golden sand. The text 'DAILY BIBLE READING' is overlaid in white, uppercase letters on the left side of the image.

DAILY BIBLE READING

The first Bible study tool I want to share is the M'Cheyne Bible reading plan found at duranno.com/livinglife/. I printed both front and back, laminated it and all of the daily readings stay hung behind my desk where I can easily find it every morning. I read the four daily passages from that day's reading and cross off the ones I've completed like this:



I read them just to read them. This time is simply to allow myself to be surprised by passages that I haven't truly seen before, to enjoy the story of love God has written across eternity, and to allow God to make connections in my mind to other stories He has me reading. Sometimes the passages line up perfectly. For instance, one day the passage in 1 Kings will refer to the same obscure man who isn't named again until the book of Hosea, and we will be assigned both passages on the same day. Those days I just shake my head in disbelief and feel extra specially loved. Lately I have also been craving the Gospels which are not on the reading plan this month. This desire has led to a second stage of my gathering process that has blown my devotions and my writing material wide open. This is my inductive Bible study time.



INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY



If you enjoy reading the Bible, and maybe even doing other authors' Bible studies, but you're ready to start diving deeper into Scripture on your own, then inductive Bible study is where it's at. This type of Scripture study provides meat that you will chew on throughout the day following your devotions. This detailed work in Scripture drives meditation throughout the rest of the day. That being said, this is not an overwhelmingly complicated method. You will not be underlining every word in a different color. This is simply reading a passage of Scripture and then coming back to that passage with a series of questions.

There are several ways to approach inductive Bible study. This relatively simple three-step process will help you carefully assess, first through observation, the surface waters of the black and white words. Next, through interpretation, you'll dive deep beneath into new understanding and perspective, and finally, through application, you will surface again with a renewed outlook on the world. It's become my favorite part of devotions.

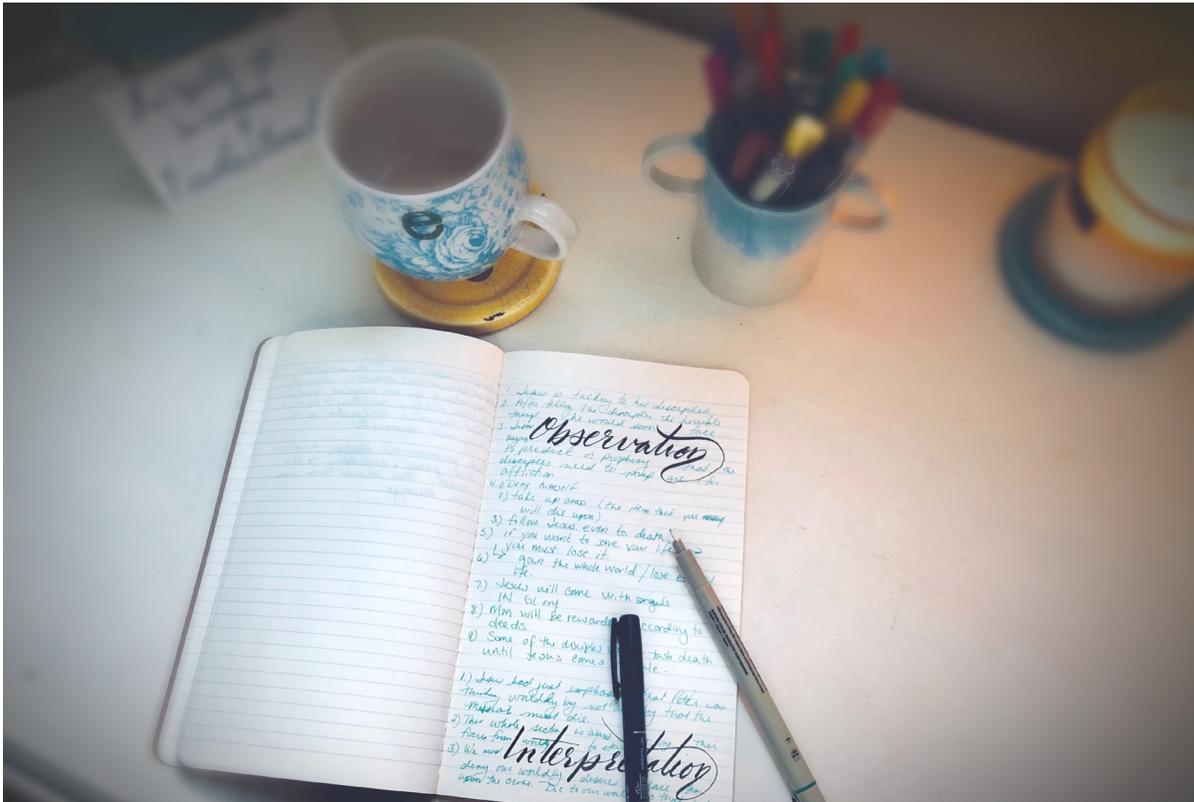
Here is what I do: After I have chosen what New Testament book I'm going to read, I begin my study by choosing a relatively short passage. Currently I'm doing my passages in order through the book of Matthew, so I started with Matthew 1:1. I rarely do an inductive study on an entire chapter, so I will pick a subheading or two from my Bible and usually work through those verses. Once I pick my passage, I start by reading through the passage before beginning the three-step process.

STEP 1: Observe the Scripture. Here we will go back to the passage and make basic observations. I call this part "baby jail" because you're asking questions with obvious answers and picking apart the passage in a way that feels frustratingly silly, but it's the foundation for *everything* that comes next, so it's imperative to spend some time on this step. Try to write down at least 10-12 observations. In this section you're answering the questions Who? What? Where? When? That's it. Do NOT move on to How? or Why? yet. You'll get there. You'll answer questions like this: Who is talking? To whom are they talking? What are they saying? When are they doing what they're doing? (If you're not reading your passages in order you might have to go back to a previous section to make sure you understand the context.) Where is it occurring? Are there a lot of people around? Is it intimate or public? You'll be surprised by how many observations can be made in one short passage.

STEP 2: Interpret the Scripture. Here we answer those questions we were dying to jump ahead to when we were making observations. You will answer the questions How? and Why? But you will also answer the questions What was it like? What might they have felt? Was the message received? This section is tricky because you will be inferring from your observations. Don't let your fear of being wrong keep you from asking the questions you really want to ask; you get to let the Scriptures *and the Holy Spirit* teach you from the *very careful* reading you've done of the Scripture during the observation phase. Here you'll answer no more than two to four of these questions. They will often be the ones that jumped out at you in the observation phase, the ones you just couldn't keep bottled up until the interpretation phase and you jotted those suckers down in the margin. I'm going to give you some examples I have done of all three steps in a bit, and then I'm going to walk you through a passage of your own. But! We still have one more step. All of those observations and interpretations that we just made mean nothing if we don't walk away with what God has for us to apply to our lives today.

STEP 3: Apply the Scripture. We now take the interpretations we have made from the passage and we answer questions like, How does this apply to me? What should I be doing differently based on what I'm seeing in this passage? What does this passage say about what God has done or will do for us? What new truths about God's character can be applied to my situation? Here's an example of how this

can get interesting. I have often heard the parable of the different types of soil preached on but from the perspective of me being the soil. When I went through this passage, the Holy Spirit led me to apply this passage as the sower. Now, as a ministry leader, this makes sense. I am sowing seeds as I minister the Word to others and the application of the passage this way completely changed the way I approach my ministry.



My point is this: take the interpretations you made and apply them however the Holy Spirit leads you. Sometimes it may be in completely unexpected ways. This phase is when we stop and think about our interpretations of how the hearers felt, or how the speakers felt and imagine ourselves in their shoes. Or we might ask why the people in the passage did what they did and how we can make similar decisions today. Since I brought it up, let's dig into that sower passage I was telling you about.

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then He told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Jesus left a house to go sit by a lake. (Who/Where?)
2. This was after rebuking Pharisees for attributing the Holy Spirit’s work to Beelzebub. (When?)
3. A crowd ended up surrounding Him at the lake. (Who? Where?)
4. He got into a boat by Himself and pushed off. (What?)
5. He sat down in the boat. (What?)
6. The people stood on shore. (What?)
7. He told them many things in parables. (What?)
8. Four kinds of seeds. (What?)
9. Some fell along a path, birds came and ate them. (What?)
10. Some fell on rocky places, sprang up and sun burned them. (What?)
11. Some fell among thorns, plants choked. (What?)
12. Some fell on good soil and multiplied fruit. (What?)
13. Some have ears to hear and some do not. (Who?)

INTERPRETATIONS:

1. Maybe Jesus pushed out on the boat because sound travels so much better over water than it would carry through a crowd. Choosing to preach over water would have allowed Him to sow much more seed with the message that day than if He had preached on the ground trying to yell through the crowd. By preaching on the water He cast the widest net to reach the greatest amount of people.
2. Jesus sitting on the boat indicates a couple of things. First: He probably didn’t have to shout, as I imagine it would be easier to shout standing than sitting.

Second: He wasn't worried about the delivery—where He stood, how He moved, His hand motions and pitch, speed and volume. He cared only that He shared the message, which is further indicated by His last statement, “whoever has ears, let them hear.”

3. Jesus had one purpose, and that was to sow seeds. The conditions onto and under which the seed fell and how it grew was not His purpose or concern. Even as He was sowing, some seed was dying and some seed was growing. He did not grow discouraged in His purpose as He went along fulfilling it. He just made sure He maximized His efforts in extremely wise ways.
4. When He prayed for those who had ears to let them hear, He primed the conditions onto which His seeds fell.

APPLICATIONS:

1. When I share messages I believe God calls me to share, I should be wise about the medium through which I do it to help ensure it reaches the maximum number of ears. I want to sow the most amount of seeds possible.
2. Smooth delivery is not the concern, nor is the condition of the hearts of those who hear my message. A solid and accurate message speaks for itself and I simply need to be faithful in delivering that message.
3. Praying for the hearers to hear should not be overlooked.

Do you see how digging into that passage in this way made pieces of it come alive and have far more meaning than simply reading it? Simply reading passages is certainly valuable. But if and when you're looking for meat, zooming in on a passage of Scripture and taking a really close look at what it says can be invaluable. Did you ever notice before that Jesus was sitting in the boat preaching to a large crowd? Did you notice that it's backwards to how we usually do church? In this case the congregation is standing and the preacher is seated. Did you notice that Jesus was illustrating the very parable He was preaching even as He preached it? Or think about how ingenious it was to preach over sound carrying water. Brilliant!

Let's do another one for those of you who are still unsure. For the rest of you, I have included a set of worksheets for you to begin to implement this on your own. For this next study passage in Matthew I'm going to skip ahead a bit. Some of the passages in between weren't necessarily as striking to me this time through as they have been in the past. Guess what? That happens. I have more earth shattering days in Bible study than I don't lately, and I'm praying that this continues. However, not every inductive study is going to rock your world. Keep at it.

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus heard what had happened, He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed Him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them and healed their sick.

As evening approached, the disciples came to Him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

“Bring them here to me,” He said. And He directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Jesus heard what had happened, and withdrew from Nazareth. (You can’t read the beginning of this passage and continue with observations without looking back to see what Jesus heard that made Him move on. So, we make further observations from the previous text.) (Who? What?)
2. Herod had John the Baptist beheaded. (Who?)
3. Jesus found out that Herod thinks He is John the Baptist raised from the dead. (Who? What?)
4. Jesus withdrew by boat to be alone. (What? Why?)*
5. Crowds heard He left and followed Him. (Who? What?)
6. By the time He reached shore there was a large crowd already gathered. (When?)
7. He had compassion and healed their sick. (What?)
8. Disciples wanted to send crowds away to eat. (Who? What?)
9. Jesus instructs disciples to give what they have. (Who? What?)
10. Jesus looks to heaven and blesses what they have. (Who? What?)
11. Disciples pass out the fishes and loaves. (Who? What?)
12. Five loaves and two fishes were enough leaving 12 baskets filled with leftovers. (What?)

* I underlined the “to be alone” part when I did this study because I was in a season of really wanting alone time and this was speaking my language. Also, this observation answers a why question in the observation portion which is typically off limits, but we can put it here because it is directly from the text. It is not an inference or interpretation.

INTERPRETATIONS:

1. Jesus’ withdrawal is probably a response to one of two things: grieving over what happened to John the Baptist, or to the fact that Herod thinks He is John the Baptist raised from the dead, so His life is in danger.
2. Jesus wanted to be alone when He heard the news, but crowds followed Him and He couldn’t get time away from the crowds; yet He found compassion for them rather than resentment.
3. How fast the word about Jesus’ whereabouts must have spread that by the time Jesus got to shore a large crowd had already formed. Or maybe He took the boat because it was the only way to get a break from the crowds and it ensured that He would.
4. Evening is coming and everyone is getting hungry, including the disciples. Jesus takes the only thing the disciples have (and they offer Him everything they have, trusting their only food to Jesus) and He lifts His eyes to His Father and the Holy Spirit as if to say, “let’s do this.” He blesses those offerings and sure enough, there is enough of the disciples’ measly, freely given offering to satisfy every hungry person present as the disciples passed it out. Jesus didn’t pass it, He had the disciples pass out their own blessed offering. The disciples gave what they had and it was returned back to them one hundredfold.

APPLICATION:

1. Sometimes we want to be alone to rest. But when we feel more peopled out than we can imagine, and people show up for more of Jesus, perhaps, with the little we have left of ourselves, that’s when God and the Holy Spirit are about to do some of their most memorable work.
2. What if, when we see a crowd with needs—and our needs are just as many—we take our gifts and abilities to God, allow Him to multiply them and hand them back to us; then we give them out freely and confidently, knowing that with God’s blessing and Jesus’ intercession and the Holy Spirit’s power we will have enough to sustain and satisfy everyone we serve because it will be straight from the Living God—and there will be infinite blessings leftover for us when we’re done.

Isn’t that so fun? I’m just as excited about His Word the second time as I was the first time! That’s how I do the inductive Bible study portion of my devotions. I usually feel overwhelmed by what I have just learned and it compels me to pick up my pen and begin to prayer journal. So, let’s hit that next.



MY PRAYER JOURNAL

dive - Exploring New Depths of Devotion

When I'm done with my daily reading and inductive Bible study in the mornings, what God is desiring to address with me is often very obvious. When that happens I either fall straight to my knees and dump it all on Him, or I jump straight to my prayer journal and write it all out. There is no script for this; I simply respond to what God showed me in my studies. If I'm convicted by something, I go straight to confession of that sin. If I'm amazed by how wonderful God's love is compared to the world's, I spend time in worship and adoration. If I'm overwhelmed by a need for something, I just come right out and ask. In fact, my study yesterday was about James' and John's mother asking if they could have a special seat next to Jesus when He reigns on His throne. I was moved by the fact that Jesus didn't reprimand her for her audacious request. It moved me to make some audacious requests in my prayers. The most important part of prayer is authenticity. From what I've studied, the more child-like our prayers, the better; just talk to Him.



I use different colored pens for different portions of my prayer journal. I pull each color out and place them in order for how they enter the journal. I use black to write a prayer in response to my scripture reading/studying for the day. This part takes up the greatest amount of space. Next, I pick up

my brown pen and I pray for my husband, followed by pink for my kids, orange for my extended family, blue for my friends, purple for my ministry, and green for my nation.

Sometimes I just list names for the people because the prayers are the same today as they were yesterday, but they're named... written in my journal, tossed up to God again today because they remain burdened on my heart. Sometimes I have a whole new set of words for that same person and they get a longer paragraph. There is space for everyone in that journal; it's a good reminder that I don't live in a vacuum. A prayer journal becomes an historical document in which you can see God's faithfulness revealed over time, and proves that "the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." (James 5:16 NASB)

CONCLUSION

As you can imagine, these three things take up a lot of time. Sometimes I get to two but not three. Sometimes I could do all three, but I choose to only do two because I also want to spend some time in a devotional. Speaking of devotionals, one that I'm particularly loving right now is Beth Moore's *Portraits of Devotion*. I highly recommend it—sometimes it's a temptation to skip the whole Bible study thing and just read her devotion. But you know what's even more fun and has been happening more and more? I'll do the inductive studies, then I'll read her devotion for the same passage and many times I will have already pulled out much of what she says. You may or may not know who Beth Moore is, but she's my Bible Teacher hero and when I find that I can pull out some of the same insights as she does, it reminds me that we all have equal access to the meat in Scripture when we decide to go after it.

*We all have equal access to the meat in
Scripture when we decide to go after it*

A couple of thoughts in closing: Remember that this is not a blue print to a relationship with Jesus. This is merely a peek into what I do to foster mine. I hope some things I've outlined here will be a blessing to you. Try the parts that seem appealing and ditch the ones that don't. The mere act of gathering your "daily bread" at the beginning of your day, trusting that the little or much you collect will be enough is an act of faith. Coming to the Father to simply fellowship with Him in *any way* will enhance your relationship with Him, and a deep relationship with Him is the only way to fully live. Period.

*A deep relationship with God
is the only way to fully live*

WORKSHEET EXAMPLES

On the following pages, you'll find tools to help implement the inductive Bible study strategy. A list of helpful questions for each step of the process has been provided as well. Example worksheets are pulled directly from the Matthew passage we have already covered. Please use the blank worksheets that follow for your own practice.

I pray that, as you practice opening your Bible, the Holy Spirit will open your heart and mind to a new awareness of the breadth of His love for you. May the black and white phonics on the page become radiant stories, quickening your heart to a new love relationship with your Father.

HERE IS A LIST OF QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT FIND HELPFUL FOR EACH STEP OF THE INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY PROCESS.

OBSERVATION:

- Who is talking?
- To whom are they talking?
- What is being said?
- Who is performing the action?
- Who is receiving the action?
- What is the response?
- Are there a lot of people present?
- Is it private or public?
- What are the characters doing/saying? (Are they sitting? standing? walking? talking?)
- What are the weather conditions?
- What is the context?
- What comparisons are being made?
- Where are the characters going?
- Where are the characters coming from?
- When is it happening?

You can only answer why or how questions here if it directly states the answer in the text. For example: Matthew 14:13 "...When Jesus heard about it, He withdrew from there by boat to a remote place to be alone."

- Why did He withdraw? He withdrew to be alone. It's directly in the text, so it goes in the observation section.
- How did He withdraw? He withdrew by boat.

INTERPRETATION:

- Why is the person saying or doing these things?
- What is the person feeling?
- How are the words or actions being received?
- Why are they being received this way?
- Why is the story being told in this order?
- Why might the characters be doing/saying what they're doing/saying at this point in time?
- How are the characters doing/saying what they are?

An example of an interpretation question from the above example would be: Why did He withdraw by boat? That answer is not in the text, so it is an interpretation question. In this case I have no answer, so I just wrote a wondering statement in my journal... "I wonder if He went by boat to ensure He would have at least some time alone."

APPLICATION:

- How does this apply to me?
- What should I be doing differently based on what I'm seeing in this passage?
- What does this passage say about what God has done or will do for me? And therefore how He feels about me?
- What new truths about God's character can be applied to the situation I'm dealing with?
- How can God's love and feelings toward His people change my perspective toward His people?

inductive BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Matthew 14:13-21

DATE

September 30, 2018

OBSERVATION

Who?/What?/When?/Where?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is happening? | 7. What did Jesus do with the crowd? |
| 2. What happened before this passage to lead to it? | 8. What did the disciples do with the crowd? |
| 3. What did Jesus just learn that caused Him to leave? | 9. What did Jesus have the disciples do? |
| 4. What did Jesus do in response? | 10. What did Jesus do with the bread? |
| 5. What did the crowds do? | 11. What did the disciples do? |
| 6. Who else is present? | 12. What was the end result? |

INTERPRETATION

How? (Might they have felt?) Why? (Might they have done that?) Answer 2-4 How or Why questions from your observations

1. Why do you think Jesus withdrew after He heard the news of John the Baptist?
2. How do you think Jesus felt when He saw another crowd, after being surrounded by crowds and performing miracles for days?
3. What must it have been like to be the disciples, handing over all of their few provisions?
4. And then, to be able to use those tiny provisions to supply an entire crowd with a basketful left for each of them?

APPLICATION

How does this apply to me? Referring to your interpretation answers, discern 1-2 applications

1. What could potentially happen to us when we are completely poured out and want to rest, but find compassion for the next needy person in our lives?
2. How much do we have to offer God to allow Him to do amazing things? And how amazing is it that He allows us to hand out our own provisions and watch them multiply? What does this say about how God works through His disciples?

inductive BIBLE STUDY

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Matthew 14:13-21

DATE

September 30, 2018

OBSERVATION

Who?/What?/When?/Where?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Jesus heard what had happened, and withdrew from Nazareth.</i> | 7. <i>He had compassion and healed their sick.</i> |
| 2. <i>Herod had John the Baptist beheaded.</i> | 8. <i>Disciples wanted to send crowds away to eat.</i> |
| 3. <i>Jesus found out that Herod thinks He is John the Baptist raised from the dead.</i> | 9. <i>Jesus instructs disciples to give what they have.</i> |
| 4. <i>Jesus withdrew alone by boat.</i> | 10. <i>Jesus looks to heaven and blesses what they have.</i> |
| 5. <i>Crowds heard He left and followed Him.</i> | 11. <i>Disciples pass out the fishes and loaves.</i> |
| 6. <i>By the time He reached shore there was a large crowd already gathered.</i> | 12. <i>Five loaves and two fishes were enough leaving 12 baskets filled with leftovers.</i> |

INTERPRETATION

How? (Might they have felt?) Why? (Might they have done that?) Answer 2-4 How or Why questions from your observations

1. *Jesus' withdrawal is probably a response to one of two things: grieving over what happened to John the Baptist, or to the fact that Herod thinks He is John the Baptist raised from the dead, so His life is in danger.*
2. *Jesus wanted to be alone when He heard the news, but crowds followed Him and He couldn't get time away from the crowds; yet He found compassion for them rather than resentment.*
3. *Jesus takes the only thing the disciples have (and they offer Him everything they have, trusting their only food to Jesus) and He lifts His eyes to His Father and the Holy Spirit as if to say, "let's do this." He blesses those offerings and sure enough, there is enough of the disciples' measly, freely given offering to satisfy every hungry person present as the disciples passed it out. Jesus didn't pass it, He had the disciples pass out their own blessed offering. The disciples gave what they had and it was returned back to them one hundredfold.*

APPLICATION

How does this apply to me? Referring to your interpretation answers, discern 1-2 applications

1. *Sometimes we want to be alone to rest. But when we feel more peopled out than we can imagine, and people show up for more of Jesus, perhaps, with the little we have left of ourselves, that's when God and the Holy Spirit are about to do some of their most memorable work.*
2. *What if, when we see a crowd with needs—and our needs are just as many—we take our gifts and abilities to God, allow Him to multiply them and hand them back to us; then we give them out freely and confidently, knowing that with God's blessing and Jesus' intercession and the Holy Spirit's power we will have enough to sustain and satisfy everyone we serve because it will be straight from the Living God—and there will be infinite blessings leftover for us when we're done.*

inductive BIBLE STUDY

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Who?/What?/When?/Where?

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How? (Might they have felt?) Why? (Might they have done that?) Answer 2-4 How or Why questions from your observations

APPLICATION

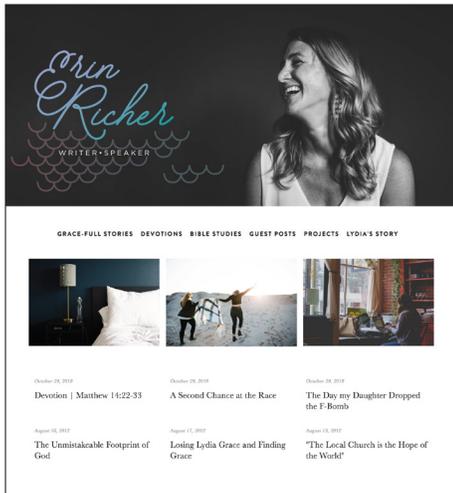
How does this apply to me? Referring to your interpretation answers, discern 1-2 applications



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Erin Richer is a writer, speaker and storyteller. Recognizing herself as a small character in an eternal story written by a trustworthy Author, Erin loves to retell the stories into which she's been written as a relatable way for others to see themselves as valuable characters within the same infinite story. God's woven plot lines have had her playing a truly ridiculous array of roles, ranging from telemarketer and canyoneering outfitter in her younger years, to currently leading a large interdenominational women's fellowship, teaching quilting and piano lessons, and squeezing in scuba diving and a little beach time in her free moments.

Her vast experiences provide ample access to stories that are relevant across diverse backgrounds. Erin got her B.A. from The George Washington University and her M.S. from Fuller Theological Seminary, and has worked off and on as a marriage and family therapist. Above all else, child of God, wife to a Navy diver and part-time homeschooling mother of three are the enduring roles that propel the plot and keep the pages of her story rapidly turning.



MORE FROM THE AUTHOR

For more resources and weekly blog posts, visit Erin's blog:

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Have you been longing for a closer walk with the Lord but have no idea how to even start?

Have you ever wanted to be a fly on the wall, watching while someone who walks closely with the Father spends time with him?

Within these pages, Erin Richer shares the intimate details of her daily devotional time. Here you'll find helpful insights to spark ideas for your own unique time with the Lord.

RESOURCES INCLUDE

- A daily reading plan
- Simple instructions for inductive Bible study
- Helpful insights into effective prayer strategy
- Worksheets for practicing inductive Bible study



Like the disciples who brought the few fishes and loaves they had to sustain themselves, I see this booklet as a small offering—a simple gift God has given me. Perhaps when offered to the hands of Jesus—with the blessing of The Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, this will feed five thousand more.

Erin Richer