

Psalm 119

Inductive Study Approach

To facilitate “hearing” God’s Word as you study, the Inductive Study Approach employs three basic, sequential techniques:

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application

Observation

Teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation & correct application. Observation answers the question, “What does the passage say?”

Step 1: Begin with Prayer

Step 2: Ask the “5 W’s & an H”

- Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? To whom are they speaking?
- What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event or teaching?
- When** do/will the events occur or do/will something happen to someone in particular?
- Where** did or will this happen? Where was it said? Does the location have a relevant past or future mention elsewhere in Scripture?
- Why** is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time/to this person/in that place?
- How** will it happen? How is it illustrated?

Step 3: Mark Keywords & Phrases

Step 4: Look for Lists

Step 5: Watch for Contrasts & Comparisons

Step 6: Note Expressions of Time

(Don’t forget “until”, “then”, “when”, etc.)

Step 7: Identify Terms of Conclusion

(“wherefore”, “finally”, “for this reason”, “therefore”, “so”, etc.)

Step 8: Develop Chapter Themes

Ignore the ones printed in your Bible and instead write in the margin the theme YOU see, centering on the main person, event, teaching or subject of Scripture. (Sometimes themes span chapters.)

There are 8 different words used throughout Psalm 119 to describe God’s Word. Make sure of their definition each time they are used, & the correct context in which they are employed. These are **NOT** synonyms with the same meaning, but each communicate something very specific.

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| Command-ment (“Mitsvah”) Used 22 Times | Requirements for living in a covenant relationship with God. | Law (“Torah”) Used 25 Times | “Torah” is not only the name of the Law, but also means “teaching” or “instruction”. | Ordinance/Judgment (“Mishpat”) Used 20 Times | What we might call “case law”, the application of God’s Word in situations not specifically addressed in Scripture word-for-word. | Precept (“Piquud”) Used 21 Times | From Hebrew word for “inspect”. The requirements of God’s people ATEEN entering into a covenant relationship with Him. | Statute (“Choq”/ “Chugqah”) Used 22 Times | Prescribed tasks and boundaries of a permanent nature, such as rules for holy days, sacrifices, marriage, etc. | Testimony (“Edah”/ “Eduth”) Used 25 Times | “Eye witness” testimony. God’s personal corroboration of the benefits and/or consequences where His Word is concerned. | Ways (“Derek”/ “Orach”) Used 7 Times | Refers to a well-traveled road. The course which God reveals as right & which humans stick to or stray from. | Word (“Dabar”/ “Imrah”) Used 25 Times | A matter or cause spoken directly by God. Whether a matter in the past or present, it is always continuously active. |
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Interpretation

Answers the question, “What does the passage mean?”

Follow these basic rules:

1. Remember that context always rules first.
2. Always seek the full counsel of the Word of God. (Compare and contrast similar passages.)
3. Remember that Scripture will never contradict Scripture.
4. Don’t base your convictions on an obscure passage of Scripture.
5. Interpret Scripture literally.
6. Allegories and typology are used to illustrate & confirm, never the basis to replace and/or create.
7. The NT has priority.

Application

Answers the question, “What does it mean to me personally? What truths can I put into practice? What changes should I make to my life?”

*“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*