

Inductive Study: A Note to Leaders

Purpose:

As an FSM staff one of our core desires is that every student would walk away with the right tools and confidence to approach, study and understand the word of God. We chose the Inductive study method because it will help your cell group grow in their ability to open God's word and find not only application, but truly get a bigger picture of the context of the Bible. We hope this adds a deeper understanding and passion for God's Word in your cell group!

Structure:

The first week will focus on two things: the "why" behind studying Scripture and the explanation of what the Inductive Study is and each component of Inductive (observation, interpretation, application). To some of your students, this Bible study method may be very familiar or this may be their first time using it. No matter where they're at, we want our students to be equipped with tools that help them better understand and study God's Word.

Communicate to Your Students:

As your students approach Inductive Study it can set an intimidating precedent. Some students may believe that this is the only "right way" to approach scripture, and we feel it's very important that they understand that Inductive is only one method. Please communicate to your students that you don't expect them to be spending an hour daily working Inductively through scripture, but instead that we would much rather see them simply getting into God's word on their own. Inductive Study is a great tool for cell group, but as they leave group and head into their weeks, we want to see them simply encouraged to spend time in the word – be it 5 minutes or 5 hours. Take time as you go through this study to share with your students what your personal rhythms look like and encourage them to pursue their own.

There is a resource attached to this lesson that will help explain observation, interpretation, application, and themes to look for as you study the Bible. We made this resource so you could use it as reference during cell group or discipleship.

At the end of this lesson, you will pick what book of the Bible your group wants to study over the next four weeks. There is an attached page that you or your students could print off each week to use as a notes page.

Our goal was to make this as simple and fruitful for your group as possible. Based on what your group needs, tailor this lesson to what best fits your group!

- Lesson 1 -

Ice breaker: What are the main things that discourage you or hold you back from reading/studying your Bible?

Why:

- Ask: "So, why do I even need to do this?". Have you ever thought that before about studying the Bible?
 - o Leader tip: great opportunity to share when you have felt that way (because we all have!) and why you still choose to read the Bible even when you don't feel like it or see "results".

- What do these verses say about why we read and study the Bible?
 - o 2 Timothy 3:16 | We read it because it is **God's Word to us**
 - o Psalm 119:86,160 | We read it because it is **reliable and constant.**
 - o Psalm 119:24, 105 | We read it because **it teaches us and helps follow God.**
 - o Psalm 119:174-175 | We read it because **God's Word restores us and strengthens us.**
 - o Psalm 119: 2, 105 | We read it because it **deepens our relationship with God**
 - o Luke 24:27 | We read it because **God's Word points us to Jesus, our Savior**

Observations:

Optional Activity: Take an object and ask them to give you 10 descriptions or facts about it.

- Ask: What is an observation? Are you always aware that you are making observations about things? Why or why not?
- Use the handout to explain observations.

Practice It:

- o Have your students read alone and make 5 observations about Romans 5:1-5
- o Have them come back together to share some of their observations.
 - o Leader tip: This is a good time to help them not jump to interpretations because that is easy to do without realizing it.

Ask: Was that easy or hard? Why?

Interpretations:

- Ask: What is an interpretation? How is it different than an observation? Why does interpretation come after observation?

- Use the handout to explain interpretations.

Practice It:

- Have your students read alone again and then take 2 of their observations and have them ask and answer 2 interpretation questions for each one.
- Have them come back together and share their questions and answers
 - Leader tip: This is a good time to remind them it's okay if they don't have the exact answer; the goal is to get them to think deeply about the truths of the passage. They can ask you or they can use a bible resource.

Ask: Was that easy or hard? Why?

Applications:

- Ask: What is an application? What have you been taught before about how to apply the Bible to your life?
- Use the handout to explain applications.

Practice It:

- Have your students read the passage alone again. Then have them answer 1-2 questions under the "Application" section.
- Have them come back together to share.

Themes in Scripture:

- Use the handout to explain the different themes we can find in scripture.
 - Leader Tip: If you don't have time to go over all of them, focus on the "Gospel Truths" or "Truths of Jesus".
- Ask: How does this passage connect to Jesus and the story of the gospel? How did Jesus reflect this passage in His own life?
 - Leader Tip: This is a question we encourage to ask every week to get students thinking about how this connects to Jesus. An example of answer for Romans 5:1-5 could be, "Jesus endured tribulation in His life in order to for us to have peace with Him."

Next Steps:

- As a group, choose a book of the Bible to study inductively over the next 4 cell groups. Here are some options:
 - Colossians
 - Philippians
 - Ephesians
 - 1 Peter
 - 1 Timothy
- Using the Inductive principles start studying chapter 1 of the book your group decides. Maybe one day they only do observations and that's okay!
- Write down your notes and questions and come ready to share next week at cell.