



- August 5 – Mission, Love Others (Prepare for community)
- August 12 – Love Yourself (Prepare for leadership), Part 1
- August 19 – Love Yourself (Prepare for leadership), Part 2
- August 26 – Love God (Prepare to prayerfully study His Word), Part 1
- **September 2 – Love God (Prepare to prayerfully study His Word), Part 2**

Tips for Leading a Life-Transforming Bible Study

1. Lead
2. Pray
3. Look Outward
4. Contact members regularly
5. Prepare
6. Be prepared

Deductive and Inductive Reasoning

1. **Deductive method:** A conclusion is drawn that follows necessarily from the premise.
 - *For example, a prosecuting attorney seeks to prove a premise by deduction in arranging the facts & testimonies.*
2. **Inductive method:** A conclusion is drawn that is inferred by the particular observations.
 - *For example, Sherlock Holmes seeks to discover & evaluate the facts by induction to arrive at a conclusion which is usually not immediately evident.*

Inductive Bible Study Method (*background to step 1 on next page*)

I. Observe: “What does it say?”

- A. Read the passage a couple of times, carefully.
- B. Observe the facts and write some of them down.
- Who is there?
 - What is happening?
 - Key words & ideas
 - Descriptions of people
 - Descriptions of places
 - Repeating words & phrases
 - Note grammar
 - Things omitted
 - Cause & effect relationships
 - Contrasts
 - Type of literature

II. Interpret: “What does it mean?”

(*with your observations in hand*)

- A. Find out what the facts mean. Draw conclusions based on the evidence. Remember that you are only interpreting your observations.
- Define key words
 - Put into context
 - Summarize main teachings
 - Examine cultural habits
 - Review sentence structure
 - Ask “why?”
 - Define analogies
 - Explore language
 - Ask “significance?”

III. Apply: “What does it mean for me?”

(*with your observations & interpretations in hand*)

- A. Determine how we are to respond to what God has said.
- ⇒ Does the passage address a specific issue that I am dealing with?
- ⇒ How am I like the characters in this passage?
- ⇒ What seems to be the main thing God is saying to me through this passage?
- ⇒ How am I to respond to Him?
- A command to obey
 - A principle to apply
 - An example to follow/avoid
 - A sin to avoid/confess
 - A challenge to face
 - An action to take
 - A promise to claim
 - A truth about me
 - A truth about God

Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

STEP 1 of an Inductive Bible Study: Personal Study

MAIN POINT:

<p>OBSERVATION</p> <p>"What does it say?"</p> <p>Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?</p>	<p>INTERPRETATION</p> <p>"What does it mean?"</p> <p>What meanings or conclusions come from the facts</p>	<p>APPLICATION</p> <p>"What does it mean for me?"</p> <p>Moves it from being intellectual to practical</p>

Step 2 of an Inductive Bible Study: Planning For The Study

- I. Write down the main point of the passage.
 - A. Think through an introduction that will orient the group to the passage and context.
 - B. Write an Intro Question that will get the group thinking about the main point.
- II. Turn your own O-I-A into questions that build on each other.
 - A. Are the questions...
 - 1. Clear?
 - 2. Brief?
 - 3. Open-ended?
 - B. Do the questions...
 - 1. Cause the group to search the passage?
 - 2. Flow together?
 - 3. Lead the group to a main point or specific application?

MAIN POINT:
INTRO QUESTION:
OBSERVATION QUESTION:
INTERPRETATION QUESTION:
APPLICATION QUESTION:

Tips for Facilitating a Group Discussion

Probably the most important role of a small group leader is managing the flow of the discussion and keeping things pointed in the right direction.

For many small group leaders, one of the more intimidating things we do is facilitating a group discussion. Very few of us feel like we'll have all the right answers, or that we can handle whatever curve balls will be thrown our way (and there will be some!). To make matters worse, it's even challenging to gauge whether we're doing a good job or not.

But here's the good news: that's not what facilitating a group discussion is really about. We don't have to have all of the right answers. We don't have to lead the perfect discussion every time. We don't even have to get through all of the material in each meeting!

When we're facilitating in our small group, our main goal is to create discussion. We want to challenge people to think about the topic at hand, and to create a safe environment for people to share their thoughts – to help everyone feel valued about the input they've offered.

That's all we've got to do. Thankfully, there are some established practices and principles that can help us accomplish those goals.

Asking Good Questions

One of the most important skills in small-group facilitation is not having all of the right answers, but asking the right questions. Here are a few secrets to good question-asking:

- **Ask open-ended questions.** Avoid the yes/no, true/false, multiple-choice questions—"Is Jesus the sheep or the shepherd in this parable?" Similarly, avoid questions that let people off the hook with a simple Sunday School answer – "Why did Jesus die on the cross?" You want to ask questions that require people to share some actual thoughts and feelings.
- **Ask follow-up questions.** Many people default to staying pretty surface-level with their answers to your questions, so get in the habit of not letting them off the hook. Ask more questions that follow up on their response. Here are some examples of good follow-up questions for the short/simple answers that people often give:
 - What makes you say that?
 - How do you feel about that?
 - How do you think that would've affected you if you had been living in the time of Jesus?

- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?

The idea is to get at the core of what people are really trying to say – to understand and be understood.

- **Start an argument.** I like to tell my groups that if we always agree with each other, and with every word that every author we read says, then it makes for a pretty boring group and a somewhat pointless discussion. The point of actually discussing things is to get different perspectives and wrestle with the issues!

Here are some examples of questions that can help create discussion by playing a little "devil's advocate":

- Do you really agree with what the author is saying in that chapter? Why or why not?
 - Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
 - What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
 - Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?
- **Make sure the rubber hits the road – APPLY THE SCRIPTURES!** I often tell my small group that by the end of the night, we need to make sure we apply what we're discussing to our current lives. Otherwise we just leave group a little smarter, rather than with changed lives. So whatever it is you're discussing, make sure to end with some application questions. Here are some examples:
 - So what in the world does that have to do with our lives today?
 - How can you change your perspective from today regarding that issue?
 - What one thing can you do differently in this next week to start living that out? (Some groups will add accountability to this question—recording what members share and asking them to report back the next week.)