

**Encountering God In His Word
Indiana Women's Conference 2017**

I want to thank Lorna for the opportunity and privilege to teach Inductive Bible Study. I want to thank you for your participation in this conference. I pray and believe you and your congregation will reap great rewards in spiritual growth because of this conference.

I love to teach people to study the Bible and to lead people to study God's Word.

Inductive Bible Study is a mission is to hear from God and encounter Him. We will learn to use the Inductive Bible Study Method, but **never lose track of our primary mission, to hear from God and know Him. Therefore, I pray for the Holy Spirit, Who is our Teacher, to lead us into all truth and bring transformation in our lives. I believe He will lead us and we will encounter Him through His Word. As we study the Word of God, please depend on the Holy Spirit to lead you personally into God's Word to bring transformation and spiritual growth.**

My prayer for you is that through your personal study of God's Word, your confidence will grow and you will develop a habit of daily Bible study.

Bible study is more than a search for mere facts. It is the primary way my Heavenly Father communicates with me. Bible Study is the foundation to knowing our Heavenly Father and growing in relationship with Him.

Bill Bright told the story of a woman who purchased a book she had heard was very good. She started reading it but quickly lost interest.

She said, she just didn't understand parts of it. Then one day, she was introduced to the author. After getting acquainted with the author, she read the book and found it fascinating. The Bible is about knowing the Author. The better you know Him, the more fascinated you will be with His Word.

This study is about knowing God. This study is about discovering God's plan for you before the foundation of the world and walking with Him daily to fulfill your destiny. This study will be a discovery of spiritual riches that will bring transformation and blessings to you and your family for generations to come.

Introduction to the Inductive Process

It is important to begin with a clear understanding that the *Bible* is God's Word. When we study God's Word, we should expect to encounter Him. **To begin this study, it will be helpful to provide a few explanations regarding the Word of God and Inductive Bible Study process.**

- **Deductive Bible Study**
Start with a principle or thought and prove that thought.
- **Inductive**
 - Go to God with an open mind. Read the Word and discover what God is saying.

Inductive Bible Study is the direct study of God's Word. In other words, we are not trying to discover what someone's opinion about the Scripture is. We want to discover what God says in His Word. You can find many good books about books of the bible, along with commentaries and other Bible Studies that lead us on a clear journey

to a specific conclusion. Inductive Bible Study is not about my opinion or the opinion of great scholars. It is about you and me reading and discovering God's Word personally. Trust me, it is a different and empowering journey when we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us through His Word.

Inductive Bible Study is personal. I will never forget an Inductive Bible Study class I attended many years ago. The teacher taught principles of the Inductive Bible Study Method and gave us the assignment to read the Book of Mark and be prepared to share with the class what the central theme or overall impression of the Gospel of Mark was. I did the assignment. I read Mark's Gospel each day for seven days. I knew what the theme was. When class started, the instructor asked, "What is the theme of Mark's Gospel." My hand was the first one up but of course the instructor called on someone else. The person she called on said, the Gospel of Mark is about healing." His voice began to crack as he shared his personal testimony. His wife had been diagnosed with cancer and while reading Mark's Gospel, he discovered that Jesus was the healer. God spoke to his need through His word.

The instructor called on another person to share their theme of Mark's Gospel. She said, "The theme of Mark's Gospel is miracles." She told of the crisis her family was going through since her husband lost his job and the challenges her family was facing. She said, through the Holy Spirit in Mark's Gospel, she saw that Jesus cared about her family in the storm and that Jesus healed the sick and delivered the possessed and even multiplied the loaves and fishes. God spoke to her need through His Word.

I had the opportunity to share what I believed the theme of Mark's Gospel was. It is discipleship. The discipleship process in Mark is

meticulous. Jesus called His disciples to follow Him. He called them to Himself and revealed Himself to them. He modeled ministry. He taught them. He sent them out to minister two by two. He empowered them. He was with them when they returned and debriefed them. He died and rose for them. He appointed them to fulfill a vital mission, he gave them clear instructions, empowered them with the Holy Spirit, and sent them together into all the world with a promise that He will come again.

Who was right? We all read the same Words. We were all right. God's Word speaks to you where you are. It is the living Word of God. It is relevant to where you are.

God knows what you are going through. He understands the struggles and questions you have. He sent His Word to heal you. Where are you in your spiritual journey? It is a personal journey with God through His Word. I was in a Bible study class once when the instructor read Genesis 17:1-2, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly." The teacher paused, sighed and said, "Can you imagine God speaking to someone today?" YES! As we study, we expect God to speak to us daily.

The Word of God is Relational. Discipleship is about your relationship with the Lord. The Word of God and prayer are intertwined. When we pray, we tell God what He already knows. It is important to pray because He taught us to pray in His Word. When we read His Word, He is speaking directly with us.

The Word of God is Powerful. It brings transformation in our lives. The Word of God convicts. The Word of God convinces. The Word of God builds faith. The greatest single action you can participate in to build your faith and change your attitude is to study the Word of God.

The Word of God creates change. When we study the Word of God, we grow. We grow in knowledge of Him. We grow in Love for Him. He reveals Himself through His Word.

The Word of God is essential. We must have the Word of God to grow and mature in God's grace.

The Bible is the Word of God.

It is my prayer that this Bible study will speak to you where you are on your spiritual journey.

SLIDE 10

Please slow down. Treasure every moment in God's Word. Our desire is to enter into the presence of the Lord and hear from Him. The Creator of the universe, our Maker, our Father will spend time with us daily as we listen to His voice through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

We are going on a journey together to discover God in His Word. This is a very personal journey for me and I pray that it will be for you as well. I pray it will be a lifetime journey. This is not a commentary. It is called a Bible Study but Self Study might be a more accurate description. As we study the Scripture, the Holy Spirit will help us see ourselves in a deeper way than we have ever known before. God will reveal Himself, His plans, His will, and His power, that we might be

the men and women of God that He intended for us before the foundation of the world. I will share my journey through this study but if you only see and hear what God is doing in my life, you will miss the real beauty of the journey. Please see and hear God's plan for your life.

I hope you will discover the basics of Inductive Bible Study; God's transforming power in His Word and how to grow in His grace and peace through your daily walk with God.

Instructions for this study come from *A Pentecostal Approach to Bible Study* by Bill Simmons. It is an excellent presentation of the basics of Inductive Bible Study. I recommend it for every believer but especially for leaders who will be teaching and leading groups. Please do not go to a commentary or other study helps to begin with. Our mission is to go directly to the Bible. The Holy Spirit will guide us and give us revelation as we study God's Word.

The Scripture says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good!" That is a true to life picture of your personal time with God in His Word.

Illustration - Apple

I. **Foundational Facts**

A. The Bible is the Word of God

Is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Psalms 119:10

The Bible is a sword against sin and evil.

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

A Fire

***Is not My word like a fire?*” says the LORD? Jeremiah 23:29.**

A Hammer

“And like a hammer *that* breaks the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:29.

Bread to the Hungry – Deuteronomy 8:11

Milk – Nourishment for our Spiritual lives. Isaiah 55:11

Meat – Hebrews 5:12, 13

Honey – Psalm 119:103

Water – Ephesians 5:26

A Mirror – James 1:23, 24

A Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Word of God is THE Living Word

Hide it in your heart and faith soars

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

It is eternal – Heaven and earth will pass away but My words will by no means pass away. (Matthew 24:35 NKJV)

Thy Word is settled forever. (Psalm 119:89, KJV)

The Word of God is timeless. It is relevant for today.

The Bible is a love letter to the Bride of Christ from the One Who loved us so much that He died for us. How do you read a love letter from the one you love the most?

According to Brad Waggoner, author of *The Shape of Faith to Come*, “The number one factor or characteristic, most correlated to spiritual growth and maturity is reading the Bible.”

Thom Rainer in his article, *A Missing Element in Church Discipleship* said, “If I were a pastor again, I would do everything in God’s strength to get the church members in the Word of God each day. If you do, you will likely raise an army of devoted disciples who will transform your church and, ultimately, transform the world.”

2 Timothy 2:15, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

B. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher

- 1. “These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring**

to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:25-26

2. “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; John 16:12-13

Prepare yourself – Expect God to speak to you.

- C. Prayer is essential – Ask God to help you know Him and His Word.

II. Discover What The Bible Says - Observation

PUT VIDEO HERE: WHO DONE IT

* Illustration – Video

Stop Video at the point after the woman is arrested and the inspector turns and begins to speak into the camera.

Start video again at my instruction and stop when the inspector turns and begins to speak into the camera again.

We will play the rest of the video from there at my instruction.

- A. Read the Bible. Read the Bible. Read the Bible. Meditate on the Word of God.

1. To know the Lord
2. To know what the Bible says
3. Expect to encounter the presence of God as you study His Word.
4. Expect the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself to you.
5. Expect the Holy Spirit to reveal your heart and bring change to your life through the Word of God.
6. Expect the Holy Spirit to teach you.
7. Expect the Holy Spirit to lead you.
8. Expect the Holy Spirit to use you.

B. What does the Bible Say. Just the Facts. We are learning to see as we read God's Word.

C. Ask Questions

Who? The "Who" question has several dimensions. First, Who wrote this particular book? Is there internal evidence of authorship? The second dimension is *audience*: to whom is the book addressed? At times the audience is clearly stated, such as

the case in many of Paul's epistles. In other books the intended audience is not so clearly defined. The third dimension of the "who" question involves the people mentioned in a particular text. Ask yourself "who are the people (characters) mentioned in this text?" Don't overlook character groups.

What? The "what" question focuses attention on the main theme of a text as well as the supporting theme(s). Ask yourself, "what is the author trying to say?" What is the author's main point and how is that point supported? What is happening? Healing? Teaching? Conflict?

When? The "when" question is twofold. First look for the dating of the text. Sometimes you can see internal evidence for dating. For instance, the book of Amos begins with "The words of Amos, who was among the shepherders from Tekoa, which he envisioned in visions concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake." (1:1 NASV) Notice that there is a great deal of internal evidence in regards to dating. He notes both the king of Judah and Israel and places his oracle two years after a major earthquake.

Other books, however, do not have internal evidence as to dating. In these cases it is helpful to consult outside resources.

Where? The “where” question looks at location. First, note the location of the writing of the book. Sometimes the location is mentioned, but in most books this is not the case. Also, ask the question “where” is this book being sent? This question relates to audience, but it is also helpful to note the location of the recipients books like the epistles. Next, ask “where are the events occurring in this book?”

Why? The “why” question looks at the rationale behind the writing of a book. It is another way of addressing the main theme. Sometimes the “why” is explicitly stated. For instance, the writer of the gospel of John writes that “these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (20:31 NASV) At other times you may deduce the intentions of the writer by taking note of what he or she is stressing as important.

How? The “how” question deals with the literary style of the book. Is the book poetry? Is it narrative? Is it visionary? Sometimes one book may have several forms of literary structure. For instance, the gospel of Luke is

primarily story-narrative. However, in the first part of the book, Luke narrates the beautiful poetic songs of Mary (1:46-56), Zechariah (1:67-79).

2. As you study any passage of Scripture, train yourself to constantly ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? These questions are the building blocks of precise observation, which are essential for accurate interpretation.

D. Identify themes: book, chapter, sections

E. Mark key words and phrases.

F. Make list

G. Watch for contrast and comparisons

H. Identify words that refer to time

I. Note places or locations

J. Mark terms of conclusion

K. Pay attention to conjunctions

III. Understand What The Bible Text means

Keys to Understanding

- A. Content – What does it say. Discovery**
- B. Context – What did it mean then and what does it mean now?**
- C. Scripture will not contradict Scripture**
- D. Interpret Scripture with Scripture**
- E. Interpret Scripture Literally**
- F. Look for a single meaning of passage**

IV. Devote Yourself to Do The Book. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

- A. Ask the following Questions:**
 - 1. Is there an example for me to follow?**
 - 2. Is there a sin to avoid?**
 - 3. Is there a promise to claim?**
 - 4. Is there a prayer to repeat?**
 - 5. Is there a command to obey?**
 - 6. Is there a condition to meet?**
 - 7. Is there a verse to memorize?**

8. Is there an error to mark?

9. Is there a challenge to face?

B. As a disciple, a follower of Christ, we are obligated to obey the Word of God.

We cannot be hearers of the Word only. We must “Do The Book.”

V. Disciple Others

A. Encounter God in His Word – Do it

B. **Testify** – Share God’s blessings in your life and the power of His Word.

C. Teach others to encounter God in His Word

VII. Document – Write it down. Journal