

1. There are some truths and principles that need to be understood and followed when studying the Word of God.
 - A. **Inspiration** – the act of God moving upon human authors causing them to record His intended words.
 - B. **Plenary verbal inspiration** – means the entire Bible is inspired and the very words, not just ideas, of Scripture are inspired. (2 Timothy 3:16 and Matthew 22:32)
 - C. **Revelation** – refers to God’s initial giving of Scripture to the original authors or the act of “pulling back our veils” enabling us to understand Scripture. (Galatians 1:12 and Ephesians 1:17)
 - D. **Illumination** – spiritual light of the Holy Spirit given to us to understand the Bible. (Ephesians 1:18)
 - E. **Hermeneutics** – the set of historical, grammatical, and literary principles used to discern the meaning of a biblical passage.
 - F. **Exegesis** – the application of sound hermeneutical principles to a biblical passage in order to discern the author’s original intended meaning.
 - G. **Exposition** – the communication of the meaning of a biblical passage, discerned through sound exegesis, along with its application.
 - H. **Historical – Grammatical – Literary Principle** – states the meaning of a biblical passage discerned in light of its historical, grammatical, and literary contexts.
2. The first step in the inductive process is reading the text or “observation.”
3. You’ve heard the expression “You can’t see the forest for the trees.” Sometimes we’re tempted to study a passage by jumping right into the details.
4. Observation teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application.
5. It is very important to understand the context of the Scripture being studied and not to pull the words or sentences away from their true meaning.
6. Observation answers the question, “What does the passage say?”
7. Also - it is not necessary to have a degree in Greek, Hebrew, or Aramaic to determine the correct context of a portion of Scripture.
8. However – it is important to understand that language changes over time – such as word meanings, speech patterns, writing styles, and communication methods.

9. Step 1 – begin with prayer. This is often the missing element in Bible study. Nothing will be gained apart from the Holy Spirit.

10. Step 2 – ask the questions:
 - *Who is speaking?*
 - *What is the subject or event covered in the chapter?*
 - *When do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone in particular?*
 - *Where did or will this happen?*
 - *Where was the writer when he wrote it?*
 - *Why is something being said or mentioned?*
 - *How will it happen?*

11. Step 3 – mark the key words and phrases. Key words and phrases are often repeated in order to convey the author’s point or purpose for writing.

12. Step 4 – make lists. They will reveal truths and highlight important concepts.

13. Step 5 – pay close attention to contrasts and comparisons.

14. Step 6 – watch for expressions of time. The relationship of events in time often sheds light on the true meaning of the text.

15. Step 7 – look for geographical locations. These will tell you where an event took place.

16. Step 8 – mark terms of conclusion. They often provide a summary of the text.

17. Step 9 – identify chapter themes. The theme will be derived from the main character, event, teaching, or subject of the passage.