

"The wise don't just read their Bible; they let their Bible read them."

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. Consider the Context

- Who is writing or speaking and to whom?
- What is the passage about?
- When does this take place?
- Where does this take place?
- Why does the author write what he does?
- What problems were the recipients facing? How does the text help?
- How does this passage fit in with the context? (What goes before and after?)

2. Observe the passage by asking questions

- What are the commands?
- What are the promises?
- What are the cause/effect relationships?
- What are the repeated words and ideas?
- What do I learn about God?
- What do I learn about Jesus?
- What do I learn about the Holy Spirit?
- What do I learn about myself (or mankind)?
- Write out any additional observations including contrasts, lists, comparisons, etc.

3. What is the 'big idea' of the passage?

This can most readily be identified from the commands and the repeated words and ideas. Often there will be one instruction in the passage from which the rest flows. Try to sum up the main thought of the passage in a single phrase. What's the key verse?

4. Application

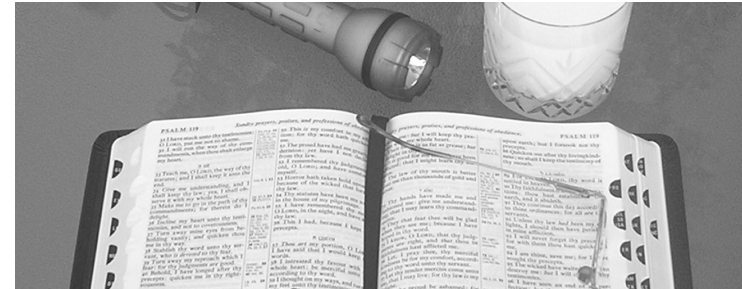
2 Timothy 3:16: *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for ..."*

- Teaching: What did I learn?
- Reproof: Where do I fall short? Why do I fall short?
- Correction: What will I do about it?
- Training in righteousness: How can I make this principle a consistent part of my life?

(Adapted from <http://www.godsquad.com/discipleship/inductive.htm> from Campus Crusade for Christ)

BIBLE READING PLAN July 2016

theBarn



Psalm 119:130 (AMP)

The entrance and unfolding of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding (discernment and comprehension) to the simple.

Dear Church

Our commitment to you, as expressed in our Mission Statement is to help you 'Meet with God, Walk with God and Serve God.'

Walking with God is your weekly journey with the Lord ... as you build on what He's doing in your life, feed on His Word in your personal devotions and dialogue with the Holy Spirit through the affairs and challenges of life.

This Bible Reading Plan is designed to provide direction and inspiration for that personal walk. We are well-aware that some structure really helps. And one of the things we can easily do is provide that for you ... if you choose you use it.

Dave Charlton and I have put together this latest collection of readings. This month features two Old Testament books, perhaps not always first on your reading list, but nevertheless full of beauty, significance and wisdom.

I hope you find them stimulating, helpful and faith-building.

Happy reading!

James Gx

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS:

ESTHER: Note: There is a film called 'One Night with the King,' based on a writing of the book of Esther by well-known Christian author Tommy Tenney

SONG OF SONGS (Bible Project): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KC7xE4fgOw>

BIBLE HUB SUMMARIES

ESTHER (<http://biblehub.com/summary/esther/1.htm>)

The genre of the book of Esther is Narrative History. Its author is anonymous however; some believe Mordecai, (Esther's cousin and guardian), wrote it. It was written approximately 470 B.C. in Persia. Esther became queen in 479 B.C. The key personalities are Esther, Mordecai, King Ahasuerus (or Xerxes), and Haman.

Its purpose is to demonstrate God's love and sovereignty in all circumstances. It is a post-exile story about Jews who stayed behind after most returned to Jerusalem after captivity. Babylon was conquered by Persia and Esther miraculously becomes the queen of the land, and saves her people.

- In chapter 1-2, Esther becomes the queen to Ahasuerus of Persia. She was personally chosen by the King. *"The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found favour and kindness with him"* (2:17), probably because of her beauty and intelligence.
- Chapters 3-4, Mordecai (Esther's guardian) refused to bow down and pay homage to Haman a high official of the king. Haman becomes infuriated and plots to destroy all the Jews in the kingdom because of his pride. Mordecai hears of the plot and reports it to his Esther. *"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"* (4:14).
- From chapters 5-10, Esther outwits Haman and takes her petition to the king and pleas for the protection of her Jewish people from Haman's wicked stratagem. The king out of anger, has Haman hung on the gallows, which he had built to destroy all the Jews. Esther's faith and courage saves her people.

SONG OF SONGS (<http://biblehub.com/summary/songs/1.htm>)

The book of Song of Solomon is a large love poem filled with smaller poems of different kinds. Solomon is the author and he wrote it sometime during his reign 970-930 B.C. It is a story of a bridegroom who is in love with his bride. Key personalities are King Solomon, the Shulammite girl, and friends.

The story greatly emphasizes the sanctity of marriage and that it is designed, blessed and consecrated in the eyes of the Lord. The purpose of "Song of Songs", as it is also called, is a picture of God's love for His people. Although there is explicit sexual content, it is a book in which we can learn the depths of God's authentic love for us and what should be in the sacredness of marriage.

- In chapters 1-3, Solomon writes of the courtship and engagement of the Beloved (Solomon) and the Lover (Shulammite girl), *"My beloved responded and said to me, 'Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along'"* (2:10).
- Chapters 3-4, we read of the marriage ceremony of the bride to the bridegroom, *"Go forth, O daughters of Zion, and gaze on King Solomon with the crown with which his mother has crowned him on the day of his wedding"* (3:11).
- Chapters 5-8, are the relationship between the husband and wife and the power of their love, *"Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised"* (8:7).

Fri Jul 1	<i>The King's Banquet</i>	Esther 1:1-9
Sat Jul 2		
Sun Jul 3		

Mon Jul 4	<i>Queen Vashti Deposed</i>	Esther 1:10-22
Tue Jul 5	<i>Esther Becomes Queen</i>	Esther 2:1-23
Wed Jul 6	<i>Haman's Plot against the Jews</i>	Esther 3
Thu Jul 7	<i>Mordecai Requests Esther's Help</i>	Esther 4
Fri Jul 8	<i>Esther's Request to the King</i>	Esther 5:1-8
Sat Jul 9		
Sun Jul 10		

Mon Jul 11	<i>Haman's Plot to Kill Mordecai</i>	Esther 5:9-14
Tue Jul 12	<i>The King Honours Mordecai</i>	Esther 6
Wed Jul 13	<i>The King Executes Haman</i>	Esther 7
Thu Jul 14	<i>A Decree to Help the Jews</i>	Esther 8
Fri Jul 15	<i>The Victory of the Jews</i>	Esther 9:1-19
Sat Jul 16		
Sun Jul 17		

Mon Jul 18	<i>The Festival of Purim</i>	Esther 9:20-32
Tue Jul 19	<i>The Greatness of Xerxes and Mordecai</i>	Esther 10
Wed Jul 20	<i>Let him kiss me! I am dark and lovely. Tell me, where do you pasture your flock? Follow the tracks, my love. Behold, you are beautiful.</i>	Song of Songs 1
Thu Jul 21	<i>She is a lily among thorns. He is an apple tree in the wood. Here he comes, leaping on the mountains. My beloved is mine and I am his.</i>	Song of Songs 2
Fri Jul 22	<i>By night I sought the one whom I love. I brought him into my mother's house. Behold, O daughters of Zion, the carriage of King Solomon!</i>	Song of Songs 3
Sat Jul 23		
Sun Jul 24		

Mon Jul 25	<i>You are beautiful, my love! Your eyes are doves, your breasts are like fawns. My bride is a garden. Let my beloved come to his garden.</i>	Song of Songs 4
Tue Jul 26	<i>My beloved is knocking! I opened to him but he had gone. The guards found me and wounded me. My beloved is ruddy, his body is ivory.</i>	Song of Songs 5
Wed Jul 27	<i>Where has your beloved gone? He has gone to his garden. You are beautiful, my love. Fair as the moon, awesome as an army with banners.</i>	Song of Songs 6
Thu Jul 28	<i>Your thighs are like jewels, your breasts like the fruit of a palm. May your kisses be like wine! Beloved, let us go into the fields.</i>	Song of Songs 7
Fri Jul 29	<i>Do not awaken love until it pleases. Love is as strong as death. Solomon had a vineyard, but mine is my own. Make haste, my beloved!</i>	Song of Songs 8
Sat Jul 30		
Sun Jul 31		

The one sentence summaries are taken from www.biblesummary.org.