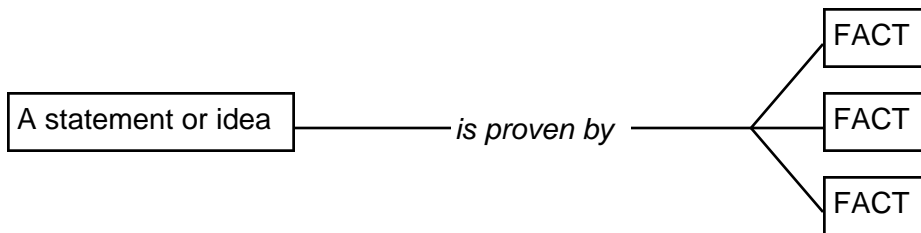




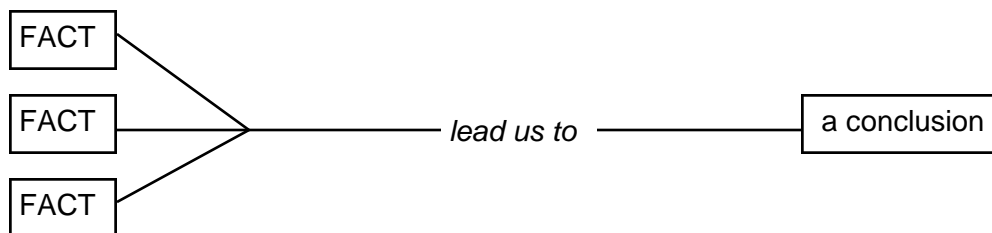
STUDYING SCRIPTURE INDUCTIVELY

The purpose of studying scripture is to allow the Holy Spirit to use God's word to transform our lives. The mere accumulation of knowledge without transformation surely leads to pride and emptiness. James tells us that those who hear the word of God and do not live it out deceive themselves.

There are two broad ways to look at learning: deductively and inductively. In a deductive learning process the learner is often led by a more knowledgeable other to the conclusion rather than engaging in self-discovery. Deduction is starting with a statement and then working to find the information that will prove the statement to be true.



In an inductive learning process the learner works to draw out the knowledge through discovery-oriented tasks. Inductive means to examine various facts and draw a logical conclusion from them. Inductive learning has a much deeper impact on the learner.



The inductive method of Bible study asks three important questions:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | What do I see? | OBSERVATION |
| 2. | What does it mean? | INTERPRETATION |
| 3. | How does it apply to me? | APPLICATION |



OBSERVATION

Good observations come from carefully reading scripture over and over. The point is to become so saturated with scripture that its themes emerge. Carefully recorded observations will become clearer as you write them out and compare them with other observations.

As you make observations within a passage of scripture it is useful to ask these kinds of questions.

Who: *Who are the people involved?*

What: *What happened?*
 What ideas are expressed?
 What are the results?

Where: *Where does this take place?*

When: *When did it take place?*
 How are the actions related?

Why: *Why did it happen?*
 What is the purpose?

How: *How are things accomplished?*
 What are the methods used?

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation focuses on determining what the passage means. It is not asking, what does the passage mean to me, but what does it mean to the original author. Interpretation involves understanding the context, the vocabulary, and the grammar. It is often helpful to consult a dictionary or other sources for background information at this step. The best interpreter of scripture is other passages in the Bible. Cross-references shed a broader light on the passages we are studying.

APPLICATION

The purpose of Bible study is to be transformed by God's word. We do this by choosing to obey His word in every area of our lives. Application involves asking ourselves, "What about this passage speaks to me about changes I need to make in my life?"

S Is there a *sin* for me to avoid?

P Is there a *promise* from God for me to claim?

- E** Is there an *example* for me to follow?
- C** Is there a *command* for me to obey?
- K** How can this passage increase my *knowledge* about God?

The Inductive Study Chart will help you to look closely at individual verses, making observations, interpretations, and applications and recording them for use in identifying themes across the passage. You will learn to ask questions of the text, to make observations, to explore cross-references and word meanings. You will learn to generate possible applications of the verses to your own life. This chart functions like a worksheet for your notes as you study the text verse-by-verse.