# Inductive Study

of

# "The Gospel of John"

Devotional Worksheets

Women's Bible Study 2006-2007 Calvary Chapel of the Finger Lakes

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- truly study the Word of God inductively
- listen to the voice of God devotionally
- properly apply the Word to our lives practically, and
- respond in loving obedience daily.

The only book we will be using this year is our King James Bible, though you will be taught how to use several fundamental tools to study the Word more fully, i.e. a Strong's Concordance, Halley's Bible handbook, Biblical encyclopedia, commentaries, etc. We have also provided you with a small journal this year to further encourage you to write down more intimate revelations that the Lord speaks to your heart. I have found that over the years, it has been a great encouragement to go back and read old journal entries and look over the promises that God has given me and faithfully fulfilled, to remember His instructions and the guidance that was given through His Word, to recall areas where the Lord asked for greater obedience as well as areas where He implored me to greater trust in His love and His goodness...all of the numerous kinds of treasures that we each can experience in a rich, intimate relationship with Him.

May the Lord bless you during your time of fellowship with your sisters and your individual study through the amazing Gospel of John. My personal prayer for you is that as you study His Word, listen to His voice, and understand His heart, then you would "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Col.1:10)

By grace in much love,

Shannon Gallatin

## Basic Instructions for Inductive Bible Study

<u>John 8:2</u> "... early in the morning *Jesus* came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them."

As the scripture in Hebrews 13:8 tells us, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and His desire is to teach us His Word. So, as you read through the details for learning how to study and examine the scriptures in an "inductive style", *please* remember that in essence, there are

#### only 4 things you need to remember:

- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- What does it mean to me?
  - Live it out

STEP #1: To com

To complete the worksheets, begin everything in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you into all truth (John 16:13). Then read the designated passage of scripture several times. This will be printed out for you on the worksheet in column #1.

**STEP #2**:

When you have finished reading the passage, move to step #2 and begin to write down your observations strictly about the text. Your primary goal is to answer the question "What does the passage say?" Ask yourself the basic "w" questions, such as who, what, where, when, and how. Then list all of the observable facts. Sometimes, retelling the event in your own words or placing yourself in the person's shoes will help you to "see" better. Observe the relationship between different characters.

**STEP #3**:

After reading the passage and listing your observations, move to step #3, which is where you want to answer the question "What does this passage mean?" This is where we will interpret the meaning of the scriptures, oftentimes allowing "scripture to interpret scripture." From the facts listed, you are now beginning to think about them in their correct context to better understand what is being said. In some areas of John, you will want to understand the cultural context better, i.e. what may have been occurring during a particular feast or Jewish holiday. There may be parables where Jesus brings in a reference to "the wheat and the tare" and you would need to know what a "tare" is. Therefore, it is helpful to use some Bible study tools and reference books, i.e. dictionaries or encyclopedias, Bible maps, a concordance for the original meaning and cross-references in other places of scripture. You do not have to have extra books or materials for this step, they only are there as an additional resource.

**STEP #4**:

The most meaningful step is #4, "What does this mean to me?" but you cannot do this until the first 3 steps have been completed. The key to our studying the Word of God is not for increased knowledge, but to hear His voice and properly apply the Word to our lives practically. One way to hear is to take the lessons you learned in #3 and put them in the form of a question to yourself. For example, Jesus said in John 4:34, "My meat is

to do the will of him that sent me." The interpretation (step #3) may be "Meat is food. It is necessary for life. It brings strength, health, etc." Then a practical application might be "Am I doing the Father's will in my life?" Or I might write down, that I am very weak spiritually and emotionally and the Lord may be showing me that I am actually doing MY own will, rather than my Father's will. My spiritual life may not be strong and healthy. Or... is there a promise I need to believe in or a warning which I need to listen to? All of the things listed previously can now come straight into your own life practically in one way or another. Please don't rush... and understand that there are some challenging passages in the book of John. It may take prayerful waiting on the Lord in order to discover the meaningful lessons in His Word and hear Him speaking to you. The object of these devotional studies is not to get through the worksheets, but to further develop your personal relationship with Jesus Christ as you learn to communicate with Him, hear His voice and experience His joy and life as you respond to Him out of loving obedience.

**STEP #5**:

At the end of the week, read over your passage prayerfully, objectively, thoughtfully, and attentively as you listen for God to speak to you. In this last step, this is where we want to walk out and live the truths that we have meditated on for the week. <u>James 1:22</u> "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. But whoso looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

You may want to write down on your worksheet something specific that the Lord has spoken to you about this week that requires some kind of response on your part. Feel free to use your journal and write down a personal prayer of response asking for the Lord to do in you and through you that good work He has begun.

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

-Romans 8:29

Observation = What does it say?
Interpretation = What does it mean?
Application = What does it mean to me?
Transformation = Live it out....

## **Inductive Bible Study Example**

## PHILIPPIANS 1:1-6

(This is an example only)

OBSERVATION (O) (State facts of text; important words and ideas)	INTERPRETATION (I) (Explain meaning here)	APPLICATION (A) (Make general & specific application)
1.) Idea Vs. 1 - 2 These verses are the introductions to the book.	Almost all epistles have an introduction	NOTE: make application by showing how to put what you have learned into action -
Vs. 1 Paul & Timothy	Paul is the writer of this text, but includes Timothy's name.	- WHAT will you do? - HOW will you do it?
Servant of Jesus Christ	Paul recognizes that he is alive to serve Jesus	I/We want to be a servant of Jesus Christ. How? 1. Develop a servant's attitude 2. Teach Sunday School 3. Volunteer to help in Church.
To saints in Christ Jesus	Paul is writing to believers. A saint is not a statue but someone born-again.	I am a saint because of Jesus in my life. So I will live in a holy, Christ- like style.
Vs. 2 Grace and Peace	Terms used for greeting one another and are trademarks of Paul's letters.  Grace - favor from God  Peace - freedom from fear and anxiety in our hearts.	I have the grace and peace of God in my life. I do not have to live in fear. His grace and peace mark my life.
2.) Idea Vs. 3 - 6 These are summarizing verses telling <u>purpose of letter.</u>	•	
Vs. 4 Prayer and Joy	Paul has great joy not because of his circumstances but because of the work of Christ in his life.	I can have joy regardless of my circumstances because Christ is at work in me.

## **Suggestions for Study**

These worksheets are designed to be used as a companion to the study of the Gospel of John. Believing that God speaks to the individual through His Word, we have designed these worksheets to lead the Bible student through a series of questions concerning the Scripture passage. The exercises enable the reader to not only discover for himself or herself the eternal truths revealed by God in the Bible, but also to hear God speaking personally through His Word.

- Set aside a regular place for your Bible study. (Someplace where distractions are minimized)
- Set aside a regular time for your Bible study.
- Prayer before beginning the day's lesson is the most important element before opening up His Word.
- Write out your answers for each step of the worksheets in sequence- try not to skip a step.
- Make the time to be still and listen, reflecting thoughtfully on your response in step #5 at the end of the week.
- Use a journal to write further revelations and discoveries that are made as you hear your Lord's voice.

Spiritual discipline is an essential part of an individual's ability to grow in his or her personal relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of His Word. We sincerely pray that these worksheets will provide you with an easy, meaningful format for growth to occur.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15