



Carrollton Christian Fellowship

Matthew 4:12-25: Inductive Bible Study Guide

Inductive Bible Study Method Overview

The inductive Bible study method consists of three main steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. This method helps you delve deeper into the Scriptures by asking questions of the text, understanding its context, and applying its truths to your life. Our goal in being good Bible students is to get to the core of the text where the Holy Spirit then has God's Word to bring back for us to meditate on throughout our day, then He offers to apply God's Word to our life. The Inductive Bible Study method is not a list of steps on how to be a better person or how, but it is a method for getting to know and understanding who God is better, then having this truth imprinted on our hearts and minds, for the Holy Spirit to then apply to our lives.

I. Observation

Begin by carefully observing the text. Ask questions like who, what, when, where, why, and how.

1. Who are the main characters involved?

- a Jesus
- b John the Baptist
- c Peter and Andrew
- d James and John

2. What events are taking place?

- a Jesus hears of John's imprisonment
- b Jesus moves from Nazareth to Capernaum
- c Jesus begins His public ministry
- d Jesus calls His first disciples
- e Jesus teaches, preaches, and heals in Galilee

3. When does this passage take place?

- a After Jesus' temptation in the wilderness
- b After John the Baptist is imprisoned

4. Where do these events occur?
 - a Jesus moves to Capernaum in Galilee
 - b The regions of Zebulun and Naphtali
 - c Throughout all of Galilee

5. Why does Jesus relocate to Galilee and begin His ministry there?
 - a Fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy
 - b Strategic location for reaching a diverse audience

6. How do people respond to Jesus' ministry?
 - a Peter, Andrew, James, and John immediately follow Him
 - b Jesus' fame spreads, and multitudes follow Him

II. Interpretation

Seek to understand the meaning of the text. Use cross-referencing scriptures to help with interpretation.

1. Context and Timing

Compare with John 3:22, Luke 4:13-30 for context on John's imprisonment and Jesus' movement to Galilee

2. Fulfillment of Prophecy

Isaiah 9:1-2: Understand the significance of this prophecy and its fulfillment in Jesus

3. Message of Repentance

Look at Mark 1:15 and Acts 2:38 to understand the importance of repentance in Jesus' message and early church teaching

4. Calling of the Disciples

a John 1:40-42 provides background on Peter's and Andrew's initial encounter with Jesus

- b Consider the cost of discipleship and their immediate response

5. Jesus' Ministry Strategy

John 4:1-2 and Mark 1:14: Insights on Jesus' movement to Galilee and the timing of His public ministry.

6. Teaching, Preaching, Healing

- a Explore Mark 1:39, Luke 4:43-44 for parallels in Jesus' ministry approach
- b Detailed accounts of healings in Matthew 9:35, Mark 1:28, Luke 6:17-19

7. Impact and Response

- a Consider why Jesus' fame spreads and why multitudes follow Him
- b Reflect on the diversity of the crowds: sick, demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics — Mark 3:7-10, Luke 7:21-22

III. Application

Apply the text's lessons to your life. Consider how its truths can shape your actions, thoughts, and attitudes.

1. Reliance on the Holy Spirit

Reflect on Jesus' dependence on the Holy Spirit and how you can follow His example in your daily life and decisions.

2. Embrace Repentance

Examine areas in your life where you need to "turn around" and realign with God's will.

3. Respond to God's Call

Consider God's calling in your life and how you can respond with the same immediacy as the first disciples.

4. Balanced Ministry Approach

Think about how you can incorporate teaching, preaching, and acts of service in your ministry or daily interactions.

5. Inclusive Love

Reflect on how you respond to those in need, the marginalized, and those different from you. How can you better reflect Jesus' inclusive ministry?

6. Live a Living Epistle

Envision how you can be a "living epistle" as suggested in 2 Corinthians 3:3. How can you make your life an open book that reflects Jesus?

IV. Study Guide Questions

1. Observation

- a What significant event causes Jesus to move to Galilee?
- b Describe the geographic and cultural context of Galilee mentioned in the passage.
- c Who are the disciples that Jesus calls in this passage, and what are they doing when He calls them?
- d List the various groups of people who come to Jesus for healing.

2. Interpretation

- a Why is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy significant in this passage?
- b How does Jesus' message of repentance in verse 17 shape His ministry?
- c Compare and contrast the calling of the disciples in Matthew 4 and John 1:40-42.
- d What does Jesus' method of teaching, preaching, and healing reveal about His approach to ministry?

3. Application

- a How can you rely on the Holy Spirit more in your everyday life and decisions?
- b What does repentance look like in your current spiritual walk?

- c In what ways can you respond to God's call with the same immediacy as Peter, Andrew, James, and John?
- d Identify opportunities in your community where you can serve and reflect Jesus' balanced ministry approach.

V. Cross-References for Deep Study

1. Context and Timing: John 3:22, Luke 4:13-30, John 4:1-2, Mark 1:14
2. Fulfillment of Prophecy: Isaiah 9:1-2
3. Message of Repentance: Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38
4. Calling of the Disciples: John 1:40-42, Mark 1:16-22, Luke 5:1-11
5. Teaching, Preaching, Healing: Mark 1:39, Luke 4:43-44, Matthew 9:35, Mark 1:28, Luke 6:17-19
6. Impact and Response: Mark 3:7-10, Luke 7:21-22

VI. Conclusion and Prayer

Conclude your study with a reflection on how Jesus' Galilean ministry inspires and challenges you in your walk with God. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in applying these truths to your life.

Closing Prayer Example:

"Lord, thank You for Your Word and for the example of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Help me to understand and apply these truths in my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit, and guide me in repentance, faith, and service. May I reflect Your love and light to others, just as Jesus did. In Jesus' name, Amen."

VII. Further Resources

- a Bible with cross-references
- b Blue Letter Bible for trusted commentaries on Matthew 4
- c Bible dictionaries for cultural and geographical contexts