

Lesson #2: Why Discovery/Inductive Bible Study Method

Take attendance & assign Ray to care for students missing a session

Praise and Worship of the day
-- Because HE Lives – **Play video --**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQBBihRwP8o&feature=related>

Our Daily Bread – The Eye That Never Sleeps -- -- **Play audio --**

<http://odb.org/2011/01/09/the-eye-that-never-sleeps/>

Word of the day
-- Psalm 119:9-16

B. “*Cleansing by God’s Word (119:9-16)*”

119:9-16. The psalmist declared that a person **cleanses his way** (conduct) **by obeying God’s Word** (v. 9). The psalmist testified that he had **internalized** and **rejoiced in God’s Word** so that he might be morally pure (vv. 10-14). He continually **meditated** in the Law (vv. 15-16).¹

Lesson of the Day – Different Ways to Study the Bible

1) Attitudes that Hinder²

- The **defeated** – I won’t be able to understand
- The **negative** – I doubt that anything I discover would be any good
- The **closed heart** – I don’t believe everything the Bible teaches
- The **lazy** – I don’t want to invest the energy

2) Attitudes that Help³

- The **Positive** – I want to learn!
- The **reflective** – open heart, open mind
- The **expectant** – let God speak to me
- The **faithful** – I am willing to invest energy and discipline in the study

Approaches to Bible Study⁴

v. verse

vv. verses

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:880). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Summarized from The Joy of Discovery Bible Study.

³ *ibid*

3) *Good and bad?*

- The **Hit-and-miss approach** – read a passage several times, write down some ideas, pray about what you read – no logical pattern.
- **Good** – quick (like fast food), a sense of freedom, reverent to God's Word.
- **Bad** – don't get the big picture, what cannot be understood remains and our ideas and responses to God might be based on incorrect understanding of God's Word.

4) *Good and bad?*

- The **application approach** – quickly read the passage, thinking about ways it might be applied to life.
- **Good** – a sense of doing God's Word.
- **Bad** – what cannot be understood remains and our application of God's Word might be based on incorrect understanding of God's Word.

5) *Good and bad?*

- The **commentary approach** – read the Bible passage and then immediately read some commentaries for further insight.
- **Good** – quick insights from commentaries.
- **Bad** – without objective understanding of what God's Word clearly says and correct way to interpret Scriptures, we cannot critically analyze whether the commentaries' insight are right or wrong. We would also lose the opportunity to interact with God's Word personally. This is less fun or interesting.

6) *Good and bad?*

- The **Holy Spirit approach** – in prayer and meditation. You read the passage and then look to the Holy Spirit to reveal insights.
- **Good** – good/spiritual attitude towards God and realize the power of prayer and meditation.
- **Bad** – what cannot be understood remains and since the Holy Spirit often reveals to us God's will based on correct understanding of God's Word, the revelation from the Holy Spirit because of our lack of preparation might be very limited and we might misinterpret and impose our limited understanding on the Holy Spirit. **Many dedicated Christians in Mainland China use this approach in interpreting Scriptures and have produced a lot of heresies that mislead believers.**

7) *Good and bad?*

- The **methodical/integrative approach** – an orderly and logical pattern, does not discount the validity of the other approaches but incorporates them when appropriate. Gain more insights and greater satisfaction.

⁴ ibid