

FUEL: PRACTICES FOR RENEWING YOUR SOUL INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Objective: to discover the author's intended meaning

Process:

1. **Observation**—What does it say?
2. **Interpretation**—What does it mean?
3. **Application**—How does it work?

Observation—The process of uncovering all of the facts about a Bible passage.

Questions:

1. Who—Author, characters, who is written to, who is speaking. Look for nouns and pronouns.
2. What—What is the author talking about? Key truths or events. Cultural issues, context. This is the hardest to do without jumping ahead to interpretation.
3. When—Questions of time. When was it written? When did the events described happen in relation to other events?
4. Where—Location and geography. Where is the author? Where are the recipients?
5. Why—What's the purpose of the book or passage? Is it directly stated?
6. How—Are there any instructions given? Commands? Steps for obedience?

Other observations: Repeated words or phrases, Important words or phrases, Commands, Questions, Cause/Effect, Key verse in a paragraph or section of scripture, Key verse in a chapter or book communicating the "big idea."

Interpretation—The process of determining the author's meaning.

Questions:

1. What is the author's intended meaning in its original setting? (Paying attention to the author's "big idea").
2. How does this meaning fit in with the rest of Scripture? (Study Bibles, commentaries, concordances are helpful here).

Application—The process of applying God's word to your life.

Questions:

1. *Teaching.* What did I learn?
2. *Reproof.* Where do I fall short? Why do I fall short?
3. *Correction.* What will I do about it?
4. *Training in righteousness.* How can I make this principle a consistent part of my life?

Other application questions: Sins to confess or avoid, Promises to claim, Examples to imitate/avoid, Commands to obey, Scriptures to memorize.