

Simplified – How to do inductive bible study.

1. Pray & Read through a larger portion of text to review context.
 2. Outline or Breakdown passage into segments/phrases.
 3. Identify the main point of the text.
 4. Observe details & Ask Questions
 5. Summarize, Meditate, Cross References
 6. Apply main point and important subpoints.
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1. **Read** through a larger portion of text.
 - a. *Goal is to keep the general context & the flow of thought of the author.*
 - b. *What is the occasion or purpose of the letter?*
 - c. *What is the general tone / sentiment of the letter?*
2. **Break passage down into segments:**
 - a. Example Phrase: Using grammatical notes, you can break at each phrase by preposition or conjunction. [Philemon 7-9]
3. **Identify / summarize the main point(s) of the text.**

#1 (Paul is encouraged by Philemon's love)

7 **For** I have come to have much joy and comfort
 in your love,
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed
 through you, brother.

#2 (Paul's appeal for love's sake)

8 **Therefore**, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,
 9 **yet** for love's sake I rather appeal to you —
 since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus —

4. *Observations and Questions*

Spend time slowly walking through each phrase and each term. Seek to identify, define, observe as much as you can.

- a. What?
 - i. Any major emphasis or repeats?
 - ii. Can I define X? (i.e. What is meant by “**appeal**?”)
 - iii. What do you observe about his appeal?
 1. **Paul's appeal comes a lot of his own character & sacrifice**
- b. Why?
 - i. Why does Paul appeal rather than simply instruct? Clearly, he is emphasizing his appeal by contrasting it to what he could have done.
 - ii. Why would it be difficult for Philemon to forgive?
- c. How?
 - i. How is Paul persuading Philemon?
- d. Who?
 - i. (at the start of a study through a book, you should find out details about key figures)

- ii. Who is Philemon to Paul? Etc. What was Philemon's character like that he refreshed the brothers?
- iii. What significance, is Paul's age?

(Paul's encouragement from Philemon's love)

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- **because** the hearts of the saints have been **refreshed**
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(Paul's appeal for love's sake)

- 8 **Therefore**, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,
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- **since** I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—

5. Meditate on Summary principles or conclusions -> toward application.

- a. What convictions does it bring me as I reflect on my life?
- b. What does it tell me about God?
- c. What does it tell me about the **main context of reconciliation?**
- d. Any principles or wisdom for life?
 - i. **In wisdom, love and forgiveness does not have to be “commanded” especially if the brother is full of love and willing.**
- e. Cross references that expand on point?
- f. Anything practical I can do this week?
- g. What do I need to pray about?
- h. Etc.0020