

Synthetic Bible Study – Part 2

Howard Hendricks

I. Introduction.

A. Two things to keep in mind in regards to life.

1. Action.

2. Attitude.

B. You begin where your problem is; a change in one aspect will change the other.

C. You need to develop a balanced lifestyle incorporating rest.

D. You minister on the basis of your weaknesses.

1. Do a study of Peter's epistles - you see exactly the opposite of what you see in the Gospels.

II. Overview.

A. Observation.

1. What do I see? Better Bible students see more.

B. Interpretation.

1. This is often a weak spot.

2. What does it mean to the man who wrote it?

C. Application.

1. You need to be able to take the stuff and put it into your life.

2. Too much Bible study begins here when it should end here.

III. Detailed view of the Inductive Bible study.

A. Observation.

1. Steps.

a. Learning to read.

1) Eleven times in the gospels Jesus said to the most well read people, "Have you never read?"

2) Reading suggestion: *How to Read a Book*.

a) Personal example of study challenges in college.

3) You are going to have to learn to study the Bible for the first time.

a) Familiarity breeds contempt *and* ignorance.

b) Personal example of a translator who saw a convert catch the fire.

4) Learn to read the Bible like a love letter.

b. Learn what to look for.

1) What is said?

a) What people say?

i. Peter puts his foot in his mouth at the mount of transfiguration.

b) What is said about these people?

2) What is happening?

3) Where is it at?

4) When?

a) Mark 1:35. What morning?

5) Why was it included and why was it included there?

6) Wherefore? What difference would it make?

B. Interpretation.

1. Five determinates.

a. Content.

1) Chasing words, grammar, arguments, translations.

b. Context.

1) What goes before and what goes after.

2) Good for texts with ambiguous meaning.

3) Comparison.

- a. The value of a concordance.
- b. The greatest commentary on the Scriptures is the Scriptures.
- c. Cultural / Historical background.
 - 1) Throws light on interpretation and application.
- d. Consultation.
 - 1) Commentaries, Bible dictionaries, books on Archaeology.
 - 2) The average Christian ought to have a good library.
 - 3) This is not a substitute for personal Bible study - it is a tool.

C. Application.

1. How does it work?

a. Know.

1) The interpretation.

2) Yourself.

a. You have liabilities.

b. But you also have assets.

b. Relate.

1) Christianity is best understood as a series of relationships. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

2) It is a failure to relate the Word of God to every area of your life.

c. Meditate.

1) You have to recondition you mind.

2) You must feed your mind with more appropriate things.

d. Practice.

1) You cannot consciously apply everything, but you can consciously apply some things.

2) You need two things to grow spiritually: food and exercise.

IV. Assignment.

- A. Read the book of Jonah three times. Read the whole book once each sitting.
- B. Write down impressions after each reading.
- C. Put time in between each reading.

Application questions:

1. What are the three steps to an inductive Bible study? How can you rephrase these in your own words?

2. At what point are you at in the process of implementing these steps? Where could you use improvement?

3. Develop a plan to implement daily personal Bible studies. How will you keep yourself accountable in the process?
