

## Inductive Study Approach

To facilitate "hearing" God's Word as you study, the Inductive Study Approach employs three basic techniques:

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application

### Observation

Teaches you to see what the passage says and is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. Observation answers the question, "What does the passage say?"

**Step 1: Begin with Prayer**

**Step 2: Ask the "5 W's & an H"**

- **Who** is speaking? Who is this about? Who are the main characters? **To Whom** is he speaking?
- **What** is the subject or event covered in the chapter? What do you learn about the people, event or teaching?
- **When** do/will the events occur or did/will something happen to someone in particular?
- **Where** did or will this happen? Where was it said?
- **Why** is something being said or mentioned? Why would/will this happen? Why at that time/to this person?

**Step 3: Mark Key Words & Phrases**

**Step 4: Look for Lists**

**Step 5: Watch for Contrasts & Comparisons**

**Step 6: Note Expressions of Time**

(Don't forget "until", "then", "when" and "after".)

**Step 7: Identify Terms of Conclusion**

("wherefore", "finally", "for this reason", "therefore", etc.)

**Step 8: Develop Chapter Themes**

Ignore the ones printed in your Bible — write in the margin what YOU think the theme is, centering on the main person, event, teaching or subject of that section of Scripture. (Sometimes themes actually begin in the previous chapter and/or end in the subsequent chapter.)