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.)