



# Inductive Bible study guide

During our Acts series will be using an *inductive* style Bible study guide. The inductive method simply means coming to a passage of scripture without preconceptions and trying to understand what it is saying both in its original context, and then to us today. It contains three steps: Observation, Interpretation and Application. It is different from a *deductive* method in which we look for passages of scripture to support an argument that we are trying to make for example. The inductive method is helpful as it leads us to a deeper reflection on Scripture and look at how God is inviting us to live it out today.

Here is a suggested outline of how to lead from the study guides, and a description of each step.

## 1. Icebreaker Question

It can be helpful to begin with an intro question each week. This is a question that is easy for everyone to answer, and might be in keeping with the theme of the study. Generally it is easier for people to participate in a group discussion if they've already said something.

## 2. Observation Questions - *What does the text say?*

This key in this section is to get people to closely observe what they are reading. This may simply be asking people what stands out to them, or having them look for particular elements in the passage. These might include:

- *Repeating words and phrases*
- *Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?*
- *Contrasts and comparisons, similes and metaphors,*
- *Cause and effect,*
- *Details regarding time, geography, place, people.*

Ask people to note any questions that the text raises for them.

## 3. Interpretation Questions - *What does the text mean?*

The goal here is to answer questions raised and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

- What did the text mean for the original audience?
- How might you summarize the central point of this passage?

## 4. Application Questions - *How does the text apply to my life?*

These questions look at how the text applies to our lives today.

## 5. Prayer

Take time to close in prayer. This may include praying for each other, but also for our neighbourhoods, the church and our city.