

As we study the Bible, it is very helpful to know the context of what is happening in the history of God’s people. For example, what was happening in Israel when the prophet Jonah was called to go to Nineveh? Begin by reading through the whole book to get the big picture. Then spend some time each day in the book (i.e. Jonah) to get the most out of our study together.

A Bible Study Primer:

When reading or studying a passage of Scripture, always consider the following three steps of inductive Bible study:

STEP 1: Observe the text. *What do you see?*

As you observe things in the text, ask some deeper questions. For example, you might make a small chart as follows. (an example from Luke 5:1-11)

OBSERVATIONS	QUESTIONS
Peter was a fisherman. Peter called Jesus “Master.” (v. 5)	Was this hard work? What was public opinion of fishermen? Why did he call Jesus’ “Master”? Was this typical? What types of people were called “Master”?

STEP 2: Interpret the text. *What does the text mean?*

The Scriptures were written as communications from an author to a group of people. Therefore, the rules of language apply. What did the author mean to communicate to his audience? You will need to consider the author’s context and purpose for writing.

STEP 3: Apply the text. *How am I supposed to respond?*

While there is only one correct interpretation of Scripture, there can be multiple applications depending on your circumstances, your age, and your season of life. What is God saying to YOU today?

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock”.

- **Matthew 7:24-25**

For further Bible study help visit <http://www.discoverychristianchurch.org/main/ministries/resources> and download the notes and audio from our recent Bible Class. (Week 3 may be particularly helpful).