Date: \_\_\_ Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study Method(s): Inductive ( 1 or 2 ) / Associative / Devotional

Step I: What does this text mean?

Step II: What does this text mean to me?

Step III. How can I apply this text to my life?

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**1. Inductive Bible Study**

Our understanding of everything we read, including the Bible, is influenced by the lens, or perspective, through which we read. As readers, we are never neutral. Our culture, education, experience, and many other factors shape our understanding of scripture. It is important for Christians to adopt a reading perspective that is itself shaped by God’s Word. *The inductive method* of Bible study provides three lenses or steps through which we can view the Bible text.

**Step 1. What does this text mean?**

We want to notice the factual content of the Bible passage. We ask questions to clarify meaning (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?). The accumulated information gives us insight into the meaning of words and the context of culture and time. For example, the text found in Acts 3:1-10 yields a large amount of information when this method of reading is applied. Peter and John *(who?)* went to the temple *(where?)* about the ninth hour *(when?)* to pray *(why?).* At the gate of the temple *(another where*?) a lame man *(another who?)* received healing *(what?)* in the name of Jesus *(how?).*

**Step 2.** **What does this text mean to me?**

We don’t want the text to simply remain information on the page. It has something to do with us and our spiritual lives. God wants to speak to us. If we dig deeper, we may be surprised or excited, perhaps even inspired to make important changes in our lives. Personal change is the ultimate goal of personal Bible study.

**Step 3. How can I apply this text to my life?**

With some texts, it is enough simply to understand what the Bible says about a matter. At other times, we need to apply to our own lives the principles contained in a passage. In this way, we shape our lives to conform to God’s will (Romans 12:2). This is the essential difference between Bible reading and Bible study.

**Note:** The inductive study method is a fundamental approach to Bible study. It may be used independently with any book or topic in the Bible and can be combined with all other Bible study methods.

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