





Becoming a Student of the Word:

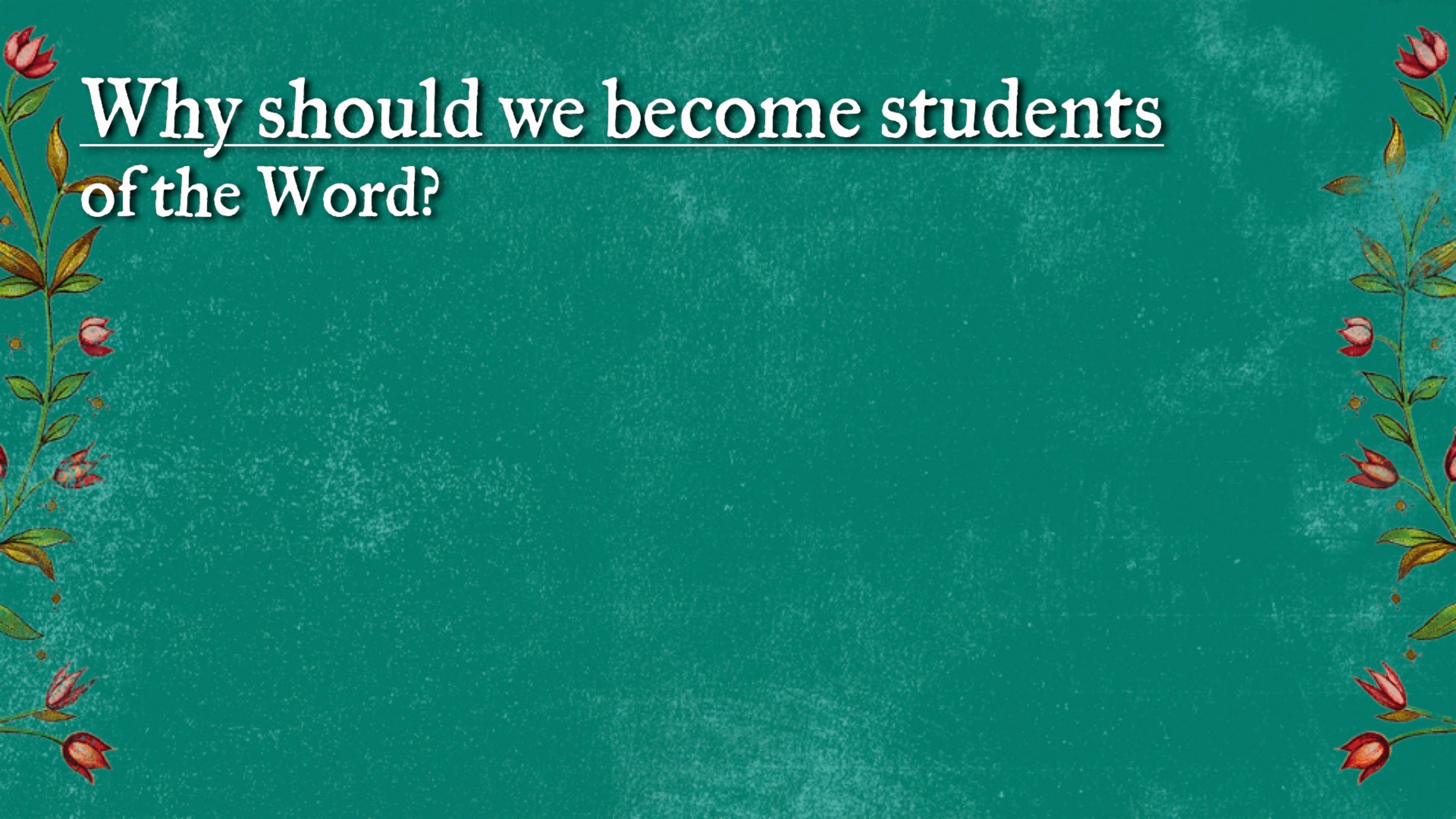
Practical ways to study the Bible verse-by-verse
and uncover truth on your own.



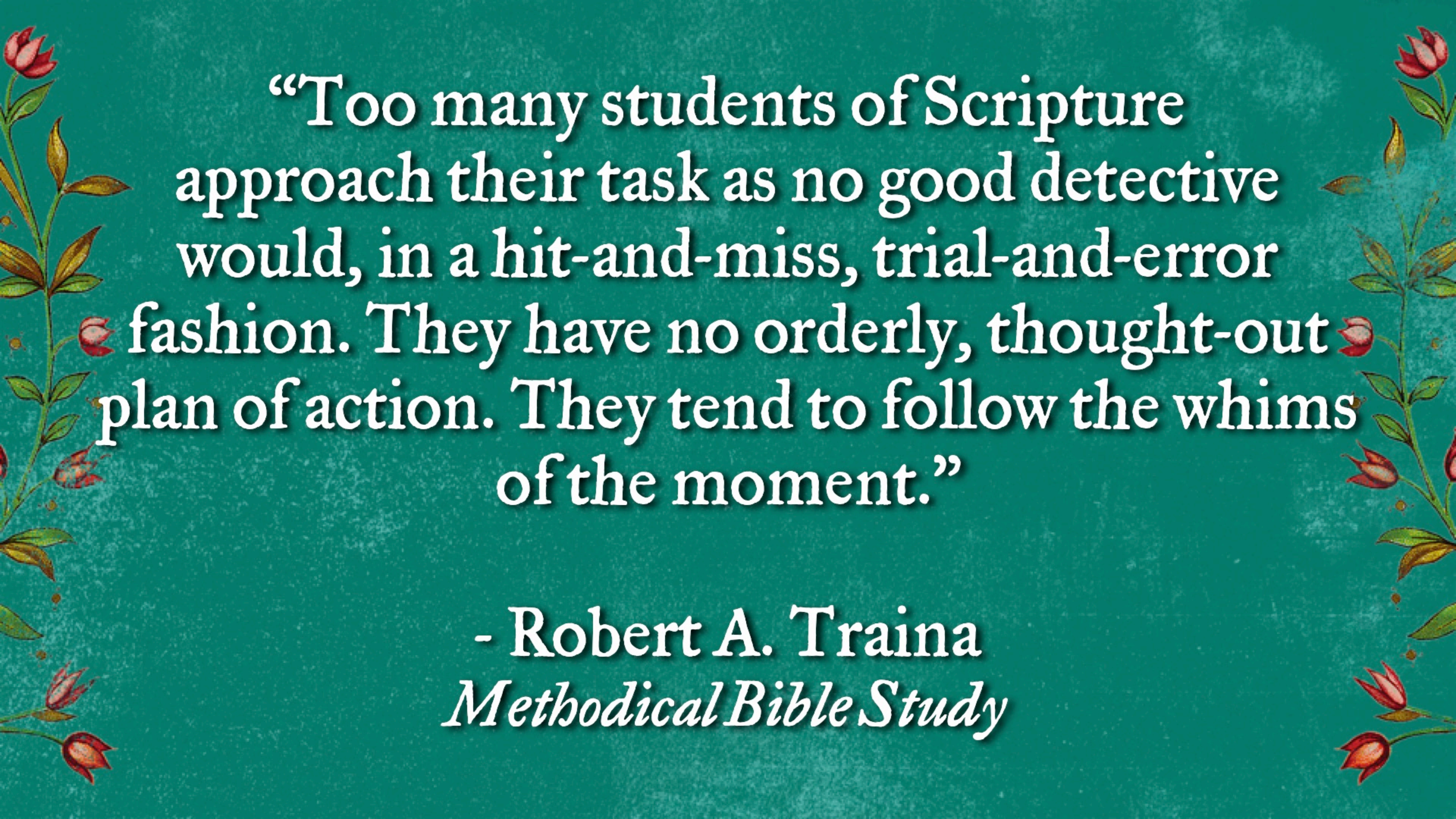


Natalie Walkley

- Wife and mother
 - Began my career at McLean Bible Church
 - Teaching Bible study for about 10 years
 - Co-author of *HIStory: Genesis to Revelation in 30 Weeks*
 - Currently lead Tuesday night study at TVC
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Why should we become students of the Word?



“Too many students of Scripture approach their task as no good detective would, in a hit-and-miss, trial-and-error fashion. They have no orderly, thought-out plan of action. They tend to follow the whims of the moment.”

- Robert A. Traina
Methodical Bible Study




Being a Disciple Means Being a Student

Disciple in Greek → Mathēteuō

- To become a pupil
- To enroll as a scholar


All students have to learn techniques
or methodologies.






Poll:

How many of you feel comfortable opening up your Bible and studying something without a guide?






Agenda

- Overview of Inductive Bible Study
 - Steps of Inductive Bible Study
 - Exercise[s] of each step
 - Q&A
 - Where Can I Get Started?
- 




Inductive Bible Study Method

- Goal is to “pull out” truth versus “put in”
 - Kay Arthur refers to it as the “investigative approach to the Bible”
 - Recommended to “mark up” the text
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Inductive Bible Study Method

- Looks at Scripture in context of the Bible as a whole
 - Can be done individually, with minimal guides and study aids
 - Go at your own pace. Just be consistent.
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Inductive Bible Study [BOIAC]

- Background: What context do I need to understand?
- Observation: What does it say?
- Interpretation: What does it mean?
- Application: How does it apply to my life?
- Correlation: How does it correlate with the rest of the Bible?

Background


- What type of literature is it, and how should that be studied/interpreted? poetry, epistles, historical narrative, gospel account, etc.
- 5 W's: Who, What, When, Where, Why
- Requires secondary resources [study bibles, BLB, commentaries]

Goal → Context!




Observation

What does it say?

- Crucial for uncovering the truth of Scripture.
 - Can seem so elementary, that it can be difficult.
 - Should be able to tie observations to a specific verse
- 



Observation

- What does it say?
 - What facts are present? [dates, times, names, locations, etc.]
 - Key words or important terms
 - Repeating words
 - Metaphors / Comparisons
 - Lists
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Observation

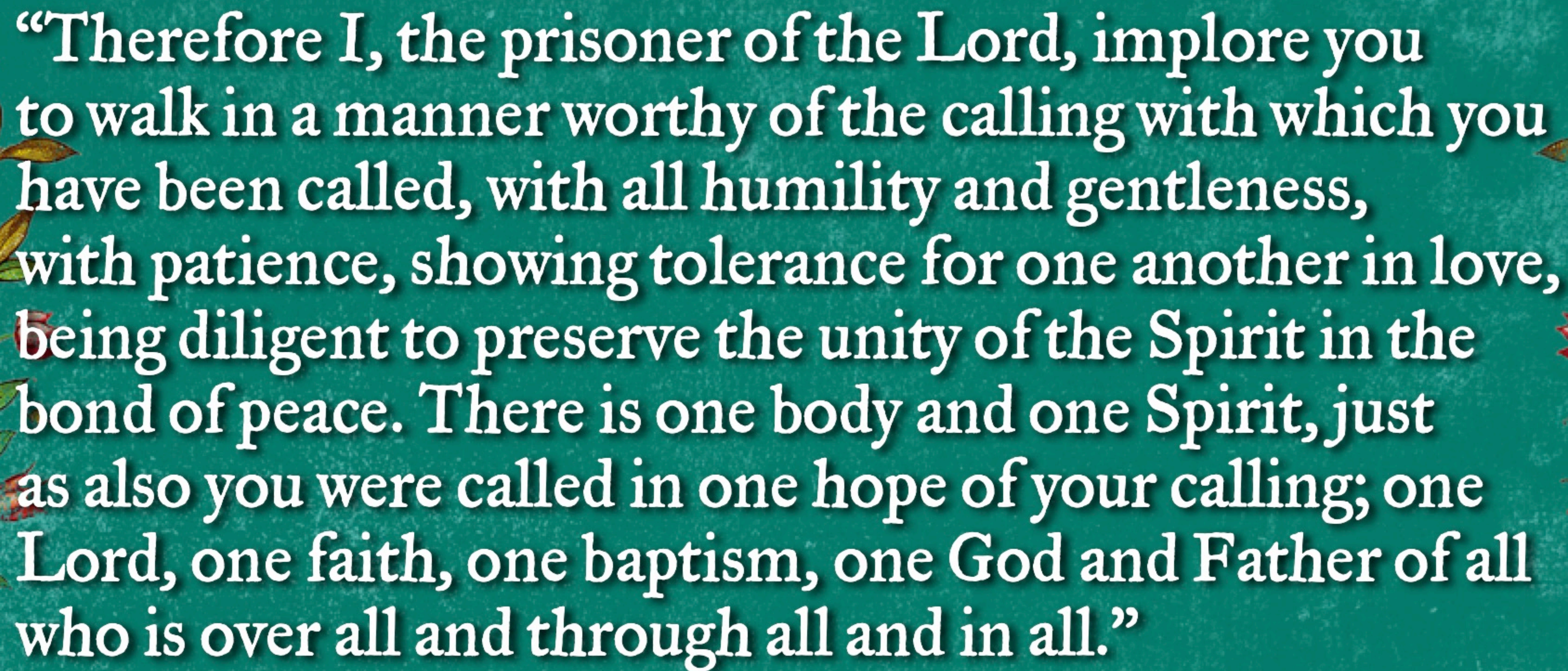
- Connective words [but, yet, therefore, so that]
- Verb tenses - Changes in tense?
- Descriptive or Prescriptive?
- Indicative or Imperative?
- Definition for key terms [using a concordance]

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Observation Exercise

List the observations you see in the text.

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“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

- *Ephesians 4:1-6*

Sample Markup

Ephesians 4

Unity in the Body of Christ

4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says,

→ Prisoner

v1-3 Imperative
v4-6 Indicative


one
(8x)

all (4x)
calling (4x)



Interpretation

What does it mean?

- What is the central message the author [through the Holy Spirit] intended?
 - Should be induced from observations
 - There is a single meaning. Red flag: What does it mean to me/you?
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Interpretation

What does it mean?

- “Is my interpretation of this passage of Scripture consistent with the theme, purpose, and structure of the book in which it is found?” - Precepts
- You can interpret a verse, a passage, or a book of the Bible. [Start small!]
- Use commentaries to validate your interpretation.

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Interpretation


How does this apply to my life? My heart?

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Interpretation

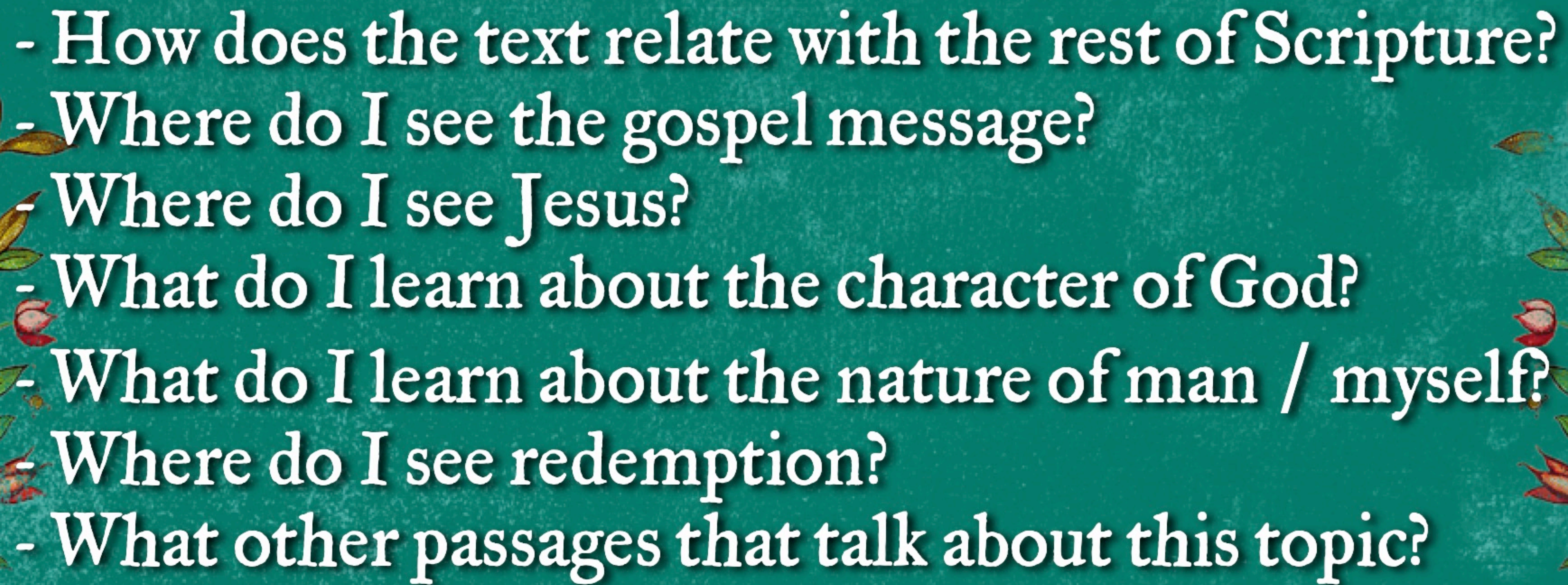
Is there:

- a prayer to pray?
 - an example to follow?
 - a promise to claim?
 - a truth to believe?
 - command to obey?
 - sin to avoid?
 - A behavior to implement?
- 

The background is a solid teal color with a subtle, mottled texture. On the left and right sides, there are decorative floral borders. These borders consist of thin green stems with small, pointed green leaves and several red, tulip-like flowers in various stages of bloom. The flowers have a gradient of red, with some appearing more vibrant than others.

Interpretation

What actions, attitudes and behaviors
do I need to assess and modify based
on this truth?

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- How does the text relate with the rest of Scripture?
 - Where do I see the gospel message?
 - Where do I see Jesus?
 - What do I learn about the character of God?
 - What do I learn about the nature of man / myself?
 - Where do I see redemption?
 - What other passages that talk about this topic?


Questions?





How do I Get Started?

Option 1:

- Pick a book of the Bible you want to study. Start small ;) [Ephesians, Colossians, Galatians, 1-3 John]
 - Read through the book in its entirety several times before starting
 - Decide what amount would help you be most consistent.
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How do I Get Started?

Option 2:

- Pick an inductive study guide
 - Precepts study [precepts.org]
 - *HIStory: Genesis to Revelation in 30 Weeks* [amazon.com]
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