

1. **Why** we study?

a. *I don't know if that is what the Bible says, but that is what I believe...* does this work in Bible Study?

i. Can everyone just believe what they want about what the Bible says? Or does the Bible have some power because it is the Word of God? I think it does and should, so we will begin with the assumption that we study so we can...

1. See, understand and apply the ways of God to our lives.

b. Why just one book?

i. We will mostly stay within the Gospel of Mark

ii. Sometimes the best way to deal with a tough passage is to use the immediate context of the book, in this case Mark

2. **How** will we study?

a. A thought block or section a week which is close to one chapter a week (sometimes a bit more, or a bit less) -- and there will be homework

b. Our goal is not only to learn about Jesus, in the book of Mark, but also about *how* to study the Bible

c. Recordings -- not for sure where or how I will post them, but I will - if this is helpful, if not I will not post them?

d. Inductive Method

1. **"Inductive" simply means** to use logical induction and reasoning to examine the particulars, facts, and essence of a Scripture, such as context, word meanings and trajectory of the passage/section/book first before making any conclusions about application.

2. Our goal in using this method first establish what the text meant to the original hearers by exploring words, historical factors, the people involved so that we can extract the principle and apply it to our lives today...

3. We want to make observations, ask/answer questions, **before** we interpret

4. This will be participatory -- the more you read on your own, the more you will get out of it, but if you do nothing in between you will still get something out of it

5. We want to use the text we have in Mark

a) *Mark* it up - get it, Mark it up....

b) This process is like Scooby Doo

(1) Observation stage - a crime has been committed, what are the facts

(a) Look for repeated words, repeated themes, main characters

(b) Look for transitions -- thought blocks

i) Do you realize that it was not until the 13th century that we got the first chapter and verse divisions of the Bible?

ii) The divisions of the in the book of Mark were not originally there. There we are searching for thought blocks where stories/scenes end and the next begin. (Example of 5 stories with Pharisees and 4 stories of Jesus' authority over different elements)

(c) Jot down anything you see

(2) Question stage - put your heads together, and find out what questions need to be answered

(a) Ask very specific questions about the text?

i) Why did Jesus say _____?

ii) What would a Pharisee believe about _____?

iii) Who was Jesus talking to?

iv) All questions need to help you open doors to interpretation.

(b) Hold off on the interpretation - it will be very hard

(c) See the text with new eyes -- pretend you do not know how the story ends. At some level you are suspending judgement and experience it again.

(3) Interpretation stage -- confirm your answers with the Velma - the expert - and see if you are on the right track, if not make adjustments

(a) Take questions and find the answers

(b) Go first to the surrounding text

(c) Consult the 'experts' -- find a commentary that you are comfortable with and use it as a resource. p

(4) Application - unmask the real criminal, and live with the implications

(a) Now that you have the truth before you, it demands you do something with it.

(b) It is not to be tampered with or ignored

(c) You must live into it

3. *What we will study: The Gospel of Mark*

a. It is the shortest of the Gospels

b. Most likely written first

c. It is not as polished in it's language as Matthew, Luke or John

d. More than likely a Gentile audience in Rome

e. Mark is connected with Peter

f. Written around 63-64 AD

i. Mark chapter 1

1. We will make observations in class today

2. Your work: Re-read Mark 1 as much as possible and make more observations and record questions you need answered to make a proper interpretation.