

Next Steps with the Bible

Going Deeper and Growing Stronger

Week 4: Understanding Basic Steps of Bible Study

For my thoughts,
are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the Lord.

For as the heavens are
higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher

than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

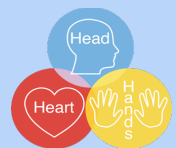




Understanding the Basic Steps of Bible Study

1. Review of Week 3

- Reading the Bible **contextually** rather than **haphazardly** . . .
- **The Bible is full of itself!**
- What **part(s)** of the Bible is Jude interested in?
- Does Jude **quote** the OT, **allude** to it less clearly, or **echo** it more subtly?





Understanding the Big Story

Creation (Gen 1-2; Ps 8; Heb 11:3)

Anticipation

Consummation

Fall in the first Adam (Gen 3)

Redemption in the second Adam (Rom 5:12-21)

New Creation (John 1:1-5; 2 Cor 4:3-6; 5:17; Rev 21-22)

BEST PRACTICES

FOR BIBLE READING

1. Read as Conversation
2. Be Intentional – time, place, plan, journal
3. Saturate with Prayer
4. Answer Two Questions:
 1. Who is God?
 2. What should I do?
5. Share What you Discover

WHO IS GOD?

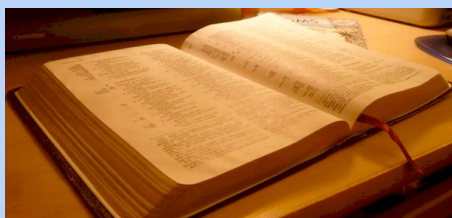
Character
Names
Works
Persons (*Father, Son, Holy Spirit*)

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Command to Obey
Promise to Claim
Prayer to Pray
Blessing to Celebrate
Example to Follow
Sin to Avoid
Teaching to Believe
Wisdom to Use
Warning to Heed

Memory Tool: (C, 2P's, BEST, 2W's,)



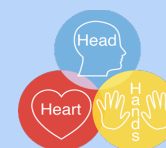


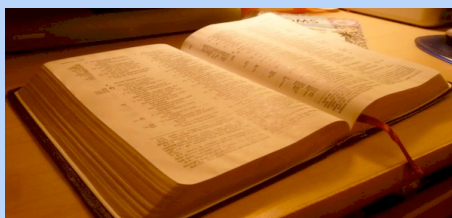
Understanding the Basic Steps of Bible Study

2. Aspects of Inductive Bible Study

▪ Preliminary tips

- **Set aside a time** when you will be less likely to be interrupted.
- **Pray** for guidance and receptivity.
- **Choose** a passage for study based on its contextual flow
- **Don't study merely to confirm what you already think.**
- **Take notes** and **mark** your Bible.
- **Ask questions:** Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- **Use a study Bible** and/or basic Bible study tools to help answer your questions.

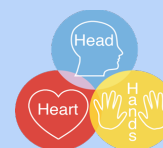


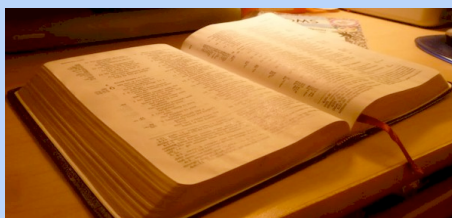


Understanding the Basic Steps of Bible Study

2. Aspects of Inductive Bible Study

- **Observation:** *What does it **say**?*
 - Your comments on the basic facts and features of the passage
- **Interpretation:** *What does it **mean**?*
 - Your questions that arise from observing the passage
- **Correlation:** *How does it **fit** into the whole Bible?*
 - Related passages (parallels) that come to your mind
- **Application:** *What does it mean **to me**?*
 - Specific responses you need to make to the passage's teaching





Understanding the Basic Steps of Bible Study

3. Case Study: Jude 1-4

Verse	Observations	Interpretive Questions	Correlation	Application

ESV Study Bible, p. 2449

1–2 Initial Greeting. Although he is the brother of Jesus, Jude identifies himself as his **servant** (Gk. *doulos*), acknowledging Jesus as Lord. He is also the **brother of James**, who plays a major role in the NT (Matt. 13:55; Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7; Gal. 1:19; 2:9, 12; by this time, the only “James” who could be identified by name only without further description was James the Lord’s brother—see note on Acts 12:17). **called.** See note on Rom. 8:30. **Beloved** (Gk. participle of *agapaō*) shows the intimate relationship between **God the Father** and the readers. It also shows that God has set his special love on them for salvation. At the outset of his letter to Christians who are threatened by false teachers, Jude reminds them that they will be **kept** and preserved by God’s power from falling away. The introduction thus anticipates the confident and joyful conclusion in Jude 24–25.

3–4 Jude’s Appeal: Contend for the Faith. Jude strongly urges his readers to contend for the faith against the subversive false teachers.

3 The Urgency of the Defense. **Beloved** (Gk. *agapētos*). Jude, like Peter, writes in this way to emphasize his strong personal concern (cf. vv. 17, 20; 1 Pet. 2:11; 4:12; 2 Pet. 3:1, 8, 14, 17). Though Jude had wanted to write about **our common salvation**, the urgent need to **contend for the faith** took precedence over even the exalted theme of salvation. “The faith” (i.e., the known and received body of truth about Jesus and salvation through him) had been **once for all delivered to the saints** (i.e., Christians). In other words, by the time that Jude wrote his letter, “the faith” had already been fixed and established in the apostolic teaching of the early church, and therefore could not be changed, but was under attack and in need of defense. Although the NT documents had not yet been collected into a complete canon of Scripture, by this time the foundational NT teachings were circulating in

**NIV Zondervan Study Bible,
p. 2577**

1–2 Greeting. By addressing his readers as “those who have been called,” Jude sets them apart from the false teachers who have “secretly slipped in among” them (v. 4) and against whom his readers must “contend” (v. 3).

1 Jude. See Introduction: Author. **servant.** Slave or bondservant—an honorable and authoritative position when representing Christ (cf. Rom 1:1; 2 Pet 1:1). This relationship is similar to OT figures like Moses, Joshua, David, and Elijah, who were called servants of the Lord (Deut 34:5; Josh 24:29; 2 Sam 7:5,8; 2 Kgs 10:10). **called.** Effectively summoned (see notes on Rom 1:6; 8:28; Gal 1:6; Eph 4:1). **kept.** Preserved spiritually intact (cf. John 6:37–40; 17:11–12; 1 Thess 5:23; 1 Pet 1:3–5; 1 John 5:18). God’s keeping (also v. 24) gives Christians assurance in the context of false teaching.

2 This is the only greeting in a NT letter that does not mention “grace” (though God’s “mercy” and grace are related since both express his goodness), and it is the only one that mentions “love.” See “Love and Grace,” p. 2684.

3–16 The Sin and Doom of Ungodly People. Jude is writing because false teachers have infiltrated the church (vv. 3–4). He exposes and condemns the false teachers in three stages (vv. 5–10, 11–13, 14–16) by identifying them with notorious sinners from the OT and from other Jewish writings. See “Wrath,” p. 2681.

3 Jude would rather write a positive letter about “the salvation we share,” but like a good shepherd he focuses on the wolves that are threatening the flock. **contend.** Exert intense effort. This word was applied to athletic contests, such as wrestling matches (the same Greek word is translated “competes” in 1 Cor 9:25); the ancient world was as keen about sports as ours is, so an athletic image was natural. **the faith.** The content of Christian belief as handed down from Christ and

NLT Study Bible, p. 2331

1:1-2 In a typical letter opening, Jude identifies himself and his audience and prays for them. • *keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ*: This description introduces an important emphasis (see also 1:21, 24) and gives assurance in the context of false teaching.

1:1 *Jude* (or *Judas*) is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name “Judah.” It was a common name; this Jude was *a brother of James*, who was a brother of Jesus (see Jude Introduction, “Author”).

• *a slave of Jesus Christ*: Jude acknowledges that he is under Jesus’ lordship in every area of life. The title also carries honor: The great OT leaders of God’s people were also called *slaves* or *servants* of God (see Josh 14:7; 2 Kgs 18:12; Ezek 34:23). • *to all who have been called*: It is unclear who the specific recipients of Jude’s letter were.

1:3-4 In place of the thanksgiving that usually comes at this point in a NT letter (see Rom 1:8-14; 1 Cor 1:4-9), Jude explains his central purpose. False teaching was a potent danger to the faith of his readers (see Jude 1:22-23).

1:3 In the NT, “faith” usually refers to the act of believing, while *the faith* refers to the content of Christian belief.

1:4 Abusing *God’s marvelous grace* by

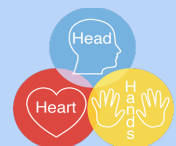


Understanding the Big Story

4. So What? How does all this impact us?



- We are richly blessed to have the Bible in our language, along with the freedom and opportunity to study and teach it.
 - **Are we faithful stewards of this blessing?**
- Jude saw his church's situation in continuity with Israel's history as the ongoing one people of God.
 - **Do we read the OT like Jude did?**
- Jude speaks frankly and clearly about dangerous teaching and its judgment.
 - **Are we following Jude's example?**





Next Steps with the Bible

Luke 24

²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he explained to them** what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. . . . ³² They asked each other, “**Were not our hearts burning within us while he . . . opened the Scriptures to us?**” . . .

⁴⁴ He said to them, “. . . **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me** in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ **Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.** ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ **You are witnesses of these things.**



James Tissot (1836-1902)