

Community Group Guide

Sermon Series: PERFECT PT 2

This template for your group will serve as the CG guide each week. We have provided a list of each week's passage for the series for you to study using this template. Our goal is to help you develop stronger, in-depth Bible study methods. The method we have been learning is an inductive bible study method. We have made a few changes to help us understand the process better. Each week should not be the same; although the questions are the same, the passage changes every week, and so should the discussion.

What is Inductive Bible Study?

Before we can talk about the how-to of the inductive Bible study method, we must first define what it is. At its simplest, inductive Bible study is a simple and effective step-by-step approach to interpreting and studying the Bible. It is time-tested and generally regarded by Bible-believing Christians as the best way to study Scripture. The goal is to walk you through the steps of reading and to interpret Scripture to apply it to your life.

Deduction vs. Induction

When it comes to learning, we generally approach it from one of two directions. Either we: 1) bring our own assumptions and use the guiding force behind our study, or 2) we begin with our subject and draw any conclusions based on what we learn from our study. The first method is called deduction and the second is called induction. In the realm of the general sciences, neither approach is better or worse than the other. Each has its pros and cons, and can be useful in different scenarios.

In the sciences, deduction is a method we find ourselves using quite often. We come to science with general principles guiding our study and we make specific hypotheses based on those principles. The work then tests those principles and assumptions to make conclusions. The idea is to move from a general understanding to a more precise and specific understanding. We're moving from the broad to the specific. We know generalities about something and our study allows us to know things more precisely.

Induction, on the other hand, moves in the opposite direction. If deduction begins with assumptions, induction starts with the evidence at hand. It looks at the evidence and makes conclusions based on what we can learn from that evidence. For example, in a court of law, jurors are asked to reach a verdict based on the evidence presented to them. They are to leave behind their assumptions and make a ruling based on the facts alone.

Inductive Bible study draws its conclusions from the text, not our assumptions.

Inductive Bible Study

When it comes to the Word of God, inductive Bible study is the best way to study. We want to interpret and understand the Scripture based on the evidence presented to us, instead of our preconceived notions of what we want or assume the text says.

The inductive Bible study method helps us achieve our goal of understanding Scripture and making applications for our lives. It does this by treating the Bible as it should. We first observe what the text says before we interpret and apply it. This means we treat it with respect, as the Word of God, and don't move quickly or haphazardly.

We will end each week with an I WILL commitment in response to God's word. You may not have a new response every week, but it is important to follow up as a group on your I will statement in order to encourage each other as we grow in the Lord.

Matthew 7:24 NIV - "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."

Your CG is a key part of the 2023 BLESS Initiative; you will be checking in weekly with the members of your group who have joined the initiative. Each week we will ask you to get updates on the people they are praying for, provide encouragement, and share any praises.

CG Guide - For group members and leaders

Getting Started:

Welcome and introduce any new group members

Share and Prayer:

Ask the group to share (in the interest of hearing from everyone, please brief)

One thing they are thankful for this week

One thing they want prayer for.

B.L.E.S.S. UPDATE: Who are you praying for, and how is it going?

Read this week's passage in several translations: (you can use a bible app).

Observation:

1. What Does it Say?
2. What is the passage talking about?
3. Are there any repeated words or phrases?
4. Who is the text written to? What's the context (who, what, where, why, how)
5. What can we learn about God's character based on what's said in the text?

Interpretation:

1. What does it Mean?
2. What stands out the most to you?
3. How does this passage connect with the bigger story of the Bible or Gospel?
4. What does it mean for you?
5. Does it help you understand your identity in Christ more?

Application:

1. Do you struggle to believe this? Explain (ask God to help you in your disbelief)
2. How would your life be different if you lived out what this passage teaches?
3. Is there a sin to confess, a promise to claim
4. How will I apply it to my life today? Write a short "I will statement" Or share the progress of last week's "I WILL" statement

*It is **important not to skip this step**. You may not have a new "I will" statement every week, but it is important to write them down and follow up. Ask how the group can help support them

Community Group Passages

PERFECT Part 2: God's plan for us

From Creation to Christ God has a plan and purpose.

Any plan that is not God's plan is not a perfect plan.

Feb 12	Perfect Moment	Matthew 3:13-17
Feb 19	Perfect Trial	Matthew 4:1-11
Feb 26	Perfect Solution	John 3:1-21
March 5	Perfect Water	John 4:1-26; 39-42
March 12	Perfect Healer	Luke 5:17-26
Mar 19	Perfect Storm	Mark 4:35-41
Mar 26	Perfect Friend	John 11:1-44
April 2	Perfect Cup	Matthew 26:36-46
April 9	Perfect Sunday	Luke 24:1-49