PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

-white board/chart paper, and markers
-poster or extra copies Gal. 6:1-10
-2 sets of glasses
-colored pencils/ pens/highlighters

-optional room decor
-instrumental music for Apply it to Life

# WORKSHOP: Basics of Inductive Bible Study

**by Madeleine Quick**

## LEADER'S GUIDE

**RELEVANCE:** Studying the Word of God is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, but the process of studying the Word of God can seem like a difficult task if you do not know what you are doing. The Inductive Bible Study Method is a way to study the text, with a "God-centered" lens. The student seeks to dig in the text to find the original meaning and the correct interpretation that leads to proper application of God's Word, in action, in her life.

**CONTEXT:** This workshop would be useful for a Teacher (Care Group Leader) Training or for the whole PWOC body.

**TIME:** 70 minutes

**HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE:** (5 minutes)

Welcome to the Basics of Inductive Bible Study Workshop! I need to warn you up front that I am going to totally "fire-hose" you with information for the next hour. The Inductive Study Method is very time-intensive and the passage we are studying today would normally take several hours to adequately explore. We will only have time to sample bits and pieces, but you will walk away with a complete set of tools in your hands that will enable you to use the Inductive Bible Study Method on your own. To illustrate the need for proper study of the Word of God, let's begin by looking at two pairs of Bible verses. *Have participants read the pairs of verses provided in the Introduction section of their Participant's Guide; give about one minute to read the paired verses:*

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- **Proverbs 12:22** (ESV) *Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD…*
  **I Kings 22:23** *…behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets…*
- **Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
  **Galatians 6:5** *For each will have to bear his own load.*

What strikes you about these pairs *(allow answers).* How can you reconcile these two sets of verses? They seem to contradict one another, but do they? They seem to directly oppose one another, yet they are both included in Scripture, which is inerrant (or "without error") and is the very Word of God. Our God, who, in His nature, is the ultimate source of Truth, cannot contradict Himself.

We won't take the time to explore the first set of seemingly contradictory verses, but a quick read of I Kings 22 will clear the air. The second pair of seemingly contradictory verses come from the passage in Galatians that we will study today. Let's dig in, let's learn the basics of Inductive Study together, and use these two sets of verses as a jumping-off point to answer the question, "How do I begin to study the Word of God?

Before we begin the process of Inductive Study, I want to make sure that I state the premise on which this workshop is based- that the Bible, every word, from cover to cover, is true, inerrant, eternal, and *God-breathed* - the very Word of God, penned by the hands of men. In **Appendix A** of your Participant's Guide, you'll find Bible verses that state this premise, along with quotes from reputable sources. Ultimately, it is your choice to believe or disbelieve Scripture. Since you're in this workshop, I assume you have a high regard for the Word of God, as do I. Let's pause for a word of prayer.

> *Note to trainer: As part of your prayer, you may want to include praise for God for who He is and for His true, inerrant, and infallible Word. You may want pray for wisdom, for teachable hearts, and "eyes to see" as your group studies the Word of God together.*

## MAKE YOUR POINT 1: CONTEXT- Who? What? Where? When? Why?

(5 minutes)

The Inductive Bible Study Method can be packaged in several different ways. This workshop will break the process into four different steps, each step addressing a specific question or questions. The four steps with their questions are as follows:

1- **Context**: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
2- **Observations**: What does the text say?
3- **Interpretation(s)**: What does the text mean?
4- **Application(s)**: How does the text change me?

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Step one is **Context**. If you and I were hanging out one day and I told you about how I was confused by something I had just read, and I explained to you that I had gone to the library, picked out a book off the shelf, opened it to a random page, read the page and then left the library frustrated because I did not understand what the text meant, nor did I know what the book was talking about, what would you think? What would you tell me? *(Go ahead and pause for a few seconds and let people give you their knee-jerk reactions.)*

How in the world could I know what the book was about?! I did not know anything specific about the book nor did I even know the type of book I was reading, when it was written, why it was written, etc. I did not have ***context*** for the book.

*Note to trainer: This workshop is very informationally dense. Your participants will have the tendency to begin to tune you out. To help keep their attention focused, enlist their help whenever possible to read (for example, having someone read the Oxford English Dictionary definition below). The more you can enlist their participation, the more they will retain from your workshop. You can also vary your voice- make it louder and softer- to create interest. Walking around while you're reading will help draw your participants' focus to you, which may help them focus on your words. Know what's on their Participant's Guide and let them be in charge of that information as much as possible.*

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "**context**" as: *The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.*

As we begin the Inductive Bible Study process, I want us to think about going on a journey that begins back in the time period and place in which our text was written. We will be looking at a passage from the book of Galatians, so we'll begin our journey in Galatia, a Roman province, circa 49 AD (present-day Turkey). As we begin our journey, we will want to survey the area around us- the time period, the surroundings, the people, the history, and the culture. As we survey, we will begin to answer the five w's: Who? What? Where? When? and Why? for our text from Galatians.

*Note to trainer: Since you are asking your participants to imagine going back to Bible times with you, specifically to the province of Galatia, you may want to decorate, even transform, your room to help set this tone. Good teaching involves engaging the senses as well as the imagination. The more you can engage your learners in this way, the more memorable your workshop will be.*

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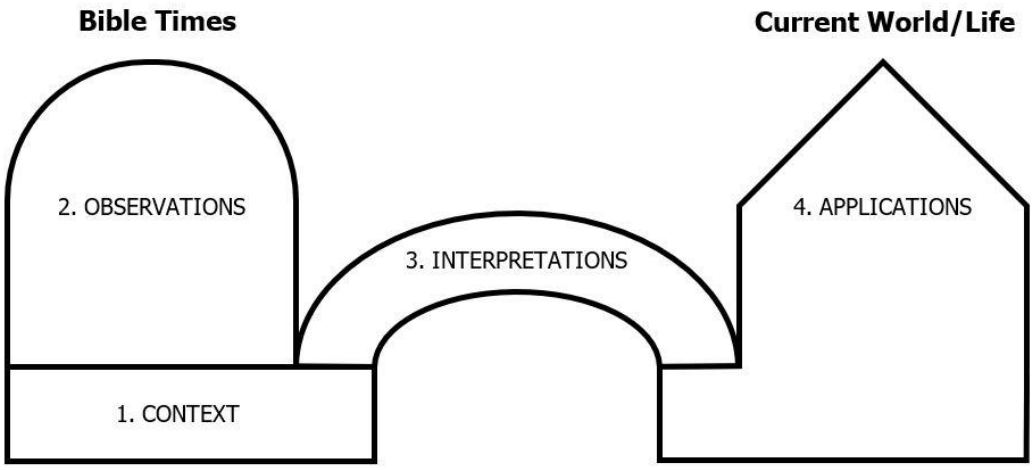
On the diagram labeled "**The Inductive Journey**" in your notes, I want you write "**Context**" next to number 1. *(Facilitator will draw the first part of the diagram on the whiteboard or chart paper, or you may choose to draw the whole diagram ahead of time. This could also be another great way to engage one or more of your participants- have them draw/write for you.)*

**THE INDUCTIVE JOURNEY**




Here are the questions you can answer as you gather **Context**:

- **Who**: The author- Who wrote the book and who is the audience?
- **What**: What type of text is the book? (History, Wisdom, Poetry, Gospel, Epistle, Prophesy)
- **When**: When was the book written?
- **Where**: In what location was the book/letter written? What was going on at the time?
- **Why**: Why was the book written? What's its purpose?

Many times, study Bibles will have this information on the first page of the book as part of the introduction. A commentary can also provide this information. A link for online commentaries is listed in the Resources section (**Appendix D**).

I highly suggest that when you study the Word of God that you study a book as a whole, for example, the book/letter of Galatians. In reading a book as a whole and studying it from beginning to end, you will be able to gather a clearer picture of what God's Word is saying. Exploring **Context** is important before digging into the text since it provides the setting and the circumstances- the "backdrop" of the story.

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## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 1: **CONTEXT** (5 minutes)

**Partners:** Turn to someone near you and introduce yourself; you will be partners for the remainder of the workshop. Tell them **WHO** you are ☺.

After you've introduced yourselves, look at Galatians 1:1-2 to answer the first "w" question. **Who** wrote Galatians? **Who** is the audience? *(Give partners the chance to meet each other and to answer the questions.)*

- Galatians 1:1-3 (ESV) *Paul, an apostle- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead- and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:*

**Who** wrote Galatians? *Paul*

**Who** is the audience? *Churches of Galatia*

After you've answered the "Who," look at **Appendix B: Basic Context Notes for the Book of Galatians** in your Participant's Guide for answers to the other four "w" questions. Take a minute to look it over with your partner.

## MAKE YOUR POINT 2: **OBSERVATIONS- What does the text say?**

(5 minutes)

Once you have Context for the book or section, it is time to make **Observations** of the text. When you think of making **Observations**, think of answering the question, "What does the text say?"

Going back to the journey analogy and **The Inductive Journey** diagram, now that we have generally surveyed the land around us, we can begin to make pointed **Observations** of what we see in the "land" around us- looking for landmarks, points of interest, or other notable things. Write the word "**Observations**" next to number 2 on your diagram. *(Facilitator/volunteer will go back to whiteboard/chart paper and fill in the **Observations** section of The Inductive Journey diagram.)*

Through step one, Context, we have the basic setting for the story. Now in step two, **Observations**, we are making note of what stands out within that setting- the "landmarks" that are present. Today we will be going through Galatians 6:1-10. It is helpful to just read the text section through one time before making the **Observations**. Let's go ahead and read our passage together. *(Have volunteers read)*

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**Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)**

**6** Brothers [and sisters], if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.**5** For each will have to bear his own load.

**6** Let the one who is taught the Word share all good things with the one who teaches. **7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Once you have read the entire section, using the Inductive Bible Study Method, you would go back to the top and slowly work your way through the text, making **Observations** of the following:

- **Key Words** – Names of God, repeated words, theme words, words that seem to hold the most meaning in the passage. *Note: Lists of keywords for each book of the Bible are available for download from the Precepts Website (Link in Resources, **Appendix D**).*
- **Time**, **Locations** and **People**
- **Repeated Ideas and Phrases**
- **Transition Words**- *but, therefore, for, if, let us, so then, because, likewise, if/then...*
- **Lists**- Make a note when the author makes several points in a row
- **Commands**
- **Dialog**, **Declaration**, or when a person addresses a crowd

As you make **Observations**, it can be helpful to mark down what you see with different colors, symbols, etc. You may be familiar with a Bible study process called, "Precepts" that emphasizes the marking of text as you work through the study of a passage of Scripture. The end goal of making **Observations**, whether using the Precepts study method or a less formalized Inductive Study method, is, of course, not the markings themselves, though marking the text can help to slow a person down in study and may keep the reader from missing important pieces of information. Use whatever markings or color-coding works for you; make it your own. Not everyone is comfortable writing directly in their Bible; using a notebook for **Observations** is perfectly fine. Let's practice two of the **Observations** steps together.

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## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 2: **OBSERVATIONS** (10 minutes)

*Note to trainer: You'll want to have a variety of colors available for you participants- colored pencils or pens and highlighters would work nicely.*

**Whole group:** Go back to the Galatians 6:1-10 passage. First let's look for **key words** together. Put a box around all the names of God in this passage: *(Christ v.2, God v.7, Spirit v.8).* Circle the word "bear" *(v.2, v.5).* Draw a line between the words "sow" and "reap" *(v. 7, v. 8)*. What other key words do you see? *Allow your participants to give you answers as well as instructions for how they would like their word(s) to be marked.*

**Partners:** Now work with your partner. Go through and mark any **commands** that you see in the text. Mark them however you think is best- you're welcome to use different colors. *(Possible commands: Keep watch; Bear one another's burdens; Test his own work; Share all good things; Do not be deceived; Let us not grow weary; Let us do good to everyone). Depending on time, you can choose to have partners share their findings or you can move into Point 3 when partners seem to be done working.*

## MAKE YOUR POINT 3: **INTERPRETATION(S)- What does the text mean?** (10 minutes)

*Note to trainer: See **Appendix C** for **Interpretation Helps**, which may help to address questions that will arise as your participants begin digging in the text of Galatians 6:1-10.*

Once you have spent time making Observations (take the time to do it well, proper Observations will help you with **Interpretation** and Application), you can work on the **Interpretation** section. When you think of **Interpretation** section, think of answering the questions, "What does the text mean?" or "Why does the text say what it says?"

When you think of this step in the Inductive Bible Study process, I want you to think of crossing a large bridge on your journey. This bridge starts in the time period and place of the book you are studying (Context) and ends where you are today. Go ahead and label your bridge "**Interpretations**" next to number 3 on **The Inductive Journey** diagram. *(Draw the **Interpretations** section on your white board/chart paper.)* You'll notice that your **Interpretation** bridge connects the past and the present, from Bible times to your times.

Let's take a few moments to talk about why correct **Interpretation** is so important. *(Have someone read the following quote.)*

Kay Arthur says, *If you rush into interpretation without laying the vital foundation of accurate observation, your understanding will be colored by your presuppositions—what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.* (Kay Arthur, How to Study the Bible)

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If I skip the step of Observation or jump into a part of text without Context I can easily put on glasses *(put on glasses labeled "ME-centered" on the top, or choose a volunteer to model them for you)* that have lenses that are focused on myself. When I wear these glasses, the study of God's Word becomes about ME and I can easily misinterpret the text. Let's look at an example of misinterpretation in Galatians 6.

- *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* -Galatians 6:9

When we look at this verse with "ME-centered" glasses, we can make this verse about our works. It can give a false picture that if I work hard and don't give up that I will reap a harvest. It puts the emphasis on ME. **I** work hard, **I** reap a harvest, for **ME**. When we do the work of proper Observation of the text we can pull back and see that in this section of text Paul is giving instruction of the responsibilities of the Christian life and in verses 6-9, his direction is about how we should treat those who are teachers. Paul has just finished instructing the readers that they should provide well for those who are instructing them, that God knows their heart in giving, and that those who spend time focusing on pleasing their flesh will reap what they sow, while those who spend their time abiding in Christ through the Spirit will also reap what they sow. Only after making all of these Observations do we see correct setting for verse 9. Paul is encouraging His readers to stay anchored to the Spirit, to abide in the Spirit and to continue with the spiritual disciplines that would keep them grounded in the Spirit. It is the Spirit of God that holds all of it together, not our works.

Anytime we come to the Bible, we need to stop and take off any "ME-centered" glasses we may have on. *(Take off glasses and put on glasses that say "God-centered")* We need to put on God-centered glasses, remembering that the Bible is the very Word of God- it is precious and holy, just like He is. God's Word is true and without error. We need to have a reverence for His Word, studying it with a posture that seeks to see what God is saying, not what we want Scripture to say or what we think it should say.

A very good, God-centered starting place for making **Interpretation** in the text is to look for the gospel in every section of text that you study. You may be wondering, what is the gospel or how do I find the gospel in the text if it is not explicitly stated? A concise definition of the gospel is:

- ***The gospel is the <u>good news</u> that sinful man can be made <u>right</u> with a holy God through <u>faith</u> in Jesus Christ.*** (Eric Johns, Bethel Church, Fairbanks, Alaska, Sermon: "God is Holy; We are Sinners") *Have participants fill in the blanks of the gospel statement in their handout. Then read the definition together as a group.*

Let's look in verse 8 of our passage. Where do you see the gospel?

- *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.* -Galatians 6:8

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The gospel is woven throughout the whole Bible and is the thread that ties it all together. The Old Testament states the gospel implicitly, like in the story of Noah's ark, where salvation from the flood (from the wrath of a holy God against sin) was given to Noah and His family by faith in God's promise to Noah. The New Testament states the gospel much more directly- this is especially true in the epistles (the letters- like the letter of Galatians- to the early Church). Because the gospel is the main theme of the entire Bible, the ability to see gospel statements in the text is a skill that is worth acquiring. *(Take off the God-centered glasses.)*

Here are the main questions you can answer for this section:

- Based on the Context and Observations made, **What would this text have meant to the original readers?**
- **How is the gospel stated in this section of text?** Either directly stated or seen in the text.
- **What are some whole-Bible connections that can be seen in this section of text?** How does this text fit into the whole of Scripture? Where does it fit within the salvation story of humanity? David Nelson calls this "The Grand Biblical Narrative," made up of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration.
- **Can I summarize what I just read or re-write it in my own words?** This can be challenging at first, but very beneficial for helping one remember and process what was read.
- **What are questions I have as I read the text?** You can mark these or write them down to look up in commentaries. A list of reputable commentaries is in the Resources section (**Appendix D**).

It is important to note that some of the work for this step of **Interpreting**, "What does the text mean?" cannot be done by just looking at the text. For this step it can be helpful to utilize commentaries, dictionaries of the original language, or other resources to gather information on questions you have in the text. An example of a way this can be helpful is seen in Galatians 6, verses 2 and 5. If you remember back to the beginning of the workshop, I showed how these two verses seem to contradict one another.

- **Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
  **Galatians 6:5** *For each will have to bear his own load.*

In digging deeper with resources, we find that the word *burdens* (v. 2) and *load* (v. 5), which are synonyms in English, have significant differences in the original Greek. "Burdens" in verse 2 refers to the weight, physical or spiritual, of everyday living. We are called to be of support to one another, in the daily-ness of life, loving each other as Christ loves us. "Load" in verse 5 refers to our personal responsibility to God for our own spiritual work. Ultimately, I have to answer to the Righteous Judge for my life and actions. (Strongs Comprehensive Concordance of the Bible; Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words; Holman Christian Standard Study Bible)

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Again, this is not something that we would be able to see by just looking at the text alone. It is important to do the work of proper Observation first to get a handle on the text. Now in this section of **Interpretation** we have the opportunity to glean from other sources to answer questions that arise as we study the text and to answer the main question of this section of the Inductive process, "What does the text mean?"

## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 3: **INTERPRETATION(S)** (10 minutes)

**Partners:** Now I'd like you to rewrite part of our passage in your own words. In about 5 minutes, we will come back as a whole group and will piece our summaries together. *(Facilitator can divide up the verses among the group, giving 1-2 verses to each set of partners depending on the size of the group. Note: You may want to post Galatians 6:1-10 in the room or have extra printouts of Gal. 6:1-10, since it will be difficult for your participants to keep flipping back to the passage while trying to write down their interpretation).*

*After about 5 minutes, have the group come back together. Start with verse 1 and piece the passage together, having each set of partners share their portion.*

## MAKE YOUR POINT 4: **APPLICATION(S)- How does the text change me?**

(5 minutes)

Now that we have put in the work of Context, Observation and Interpretation of the text, we can properly, with a God-centered view of Scripture, make proper **Application** of the text.

Going back to the journey analogy, we have surveyed the land (Context and Observations), we have crossed the bridge (Interpretations), and now we are walking off of the bridge into our current world/life. We now want to take what we have observed and the answers to the connecting (Interpretation) questions to **Apply** the timeless truths we have seen in the text to our own lives. Write the word "**Applications**" next to number 4 on your **Inductive Journey** diagram *(Facilitator will fill in **Applications** in the last blank on the whiteboard/chart paper diagram).*

As you spend time in the text and look at your Observations and Interpretations, **Application(s)** should flow. Here are some questions you can answer as you look to make proper **Application**:

- **What does this text say about who God is?** Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- **What does this text reveal to me about my sin?** What does it stir in my heart to confess and repent of?

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- Based on these answers, **What does this look like in my life?** What needs to shift in response to the truth presented in this passage? Or, in other words, **How does the text change me?**

It can be hard to look at the text and to see our flaws, our sin, and our error. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that *the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* The step of making proper **Applications** takes the act of submission- submitting to the Word of God as the authority over our lives and when we see how we fall short, having a tender heart, ready to repent of our sin and ask for forgiveness, that the Lord would grow us to be more like Christ.

## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 4: **APPLICATION(S)** (10 minutes)

**Whole Group:** Let's take a look at one of the **Application** questions. First, **What does this text say about who God is? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?** *(Allow your participants to respond.)*

**Partners:** Now turn to your partner and answer the second question. You can be as general or as specific as you'd like. **What does this text reveal to me about my sin?** Use one of the guiding questions below if you need a starting point. Take about 5 minutes to discuss with your partner. Are there areas in my life where I have "given up" in doing good either in heart or deed?

- Am I sowing in the flesh or the Spirit? In what way? What is my motivation?
- Do I love my brother or sister in Christ enough to restore them gently and/or bear their burdens?
- Do I consider myself above other people? Which people? Why?
- Do I seek to "share all good things" with my teachers? What would that look like today?

The answers to these questions cause my heart to repent, confess, and ask for forgiveness and to look to Christ's work on the cross to cover my shortcomings, failures, and faults (1 John 1:9- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*).

> *Note to trainer: Once partners seem to be wrapping up, direct your participants to move into an individual response time in the Apply it to Life section. You may want to choose an instrumental song to play while they are thinking and responding. This will give a sense of privacy and will provide a set time limit for their response- you can tell them exactly how long the song is so they know what to expect.*

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## APPLY IT TO LIFE: (5 minutes)

**Individual:** How would God have me respond today? **What does this look like in my life? How does the text change me?** How does Galatians 6:1-10 apply to my life? What do I need to do in response to the truth presented in the passage?

**Closing thoughts:** *(After the set time for the individual response, end the workshop with these closing thoughts. The "Homework" portion can be mentioned but does not need to be read.)* We will never master the Word of God- no matter how many years we study, the Word of God will always master us. Good theology will lead to doxology or "giving glory" to God, as He is revealed in Scripture, and who He is will lead us to respond to Him. If our study ends with head-knowledge and not a heart-response, we have missed the mark. Let's pray.

**HOMEWORK:**

In the space below, write down how you want to approach God's Word, making note of any new tools you found helpful from this workshop to study Scripture.

Write out a prayer or take the next few minutes to pray. First, take time to praise God for who He is and specifically praise Him for the attributes you saw in the Galatians text during your study today. Then stop and confess the areas that the Word of God has shown you- areas where you fall short, areas where sin has crept in, and ask for forgiveness. Take time to thank God for His Word and thank Him for who He is. Thank Him for the good news of the gospel and other responses of thankfulness that the text has stirred in your heart. Finally, ask God for wisdom as you walk forward and leave your time of study today. Ask Him for help and guidance as you walk out the Application points you have made about Galatians 6:1-10 and ask Him for eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to respond, as you continue your study of His Word from this day forward.

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## APPENDIX A: INFALLIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE

- **Numbers 23:19 (NIV)**- *God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?*

- **Psalm 19:7**- *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

- **Psalm 119:142**- *Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.*

- **Isaiah 40:8**- *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*

**Quotes backing the infallibility of scripture:**

- *The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.* (Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem)

- *Scripture is therefore the perfect and only standard of spiritual truth, revealing infallibly all that we must believe in order to be saved and all that we must do in order to glorify God.* (John MacArthur, "What does Sola Scriptura mean?")

- *It is most profitable for us to study God's word as written in the Bible. It is God's written Word that he commands us to study. The man is 'blessed' who 'meditates' on God's law 'day and night' (Psalm 1:1-2). God's words to Joshua are also applicable to us: 'This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success' (Joshua 1:8). It is the word of God in the form of written scripture that is 'God-breathed' and 'useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16).* (Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem)

- *The heart cannot love what the mind does not know. (Jen Wilkin, Women in the Word)*

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## APPENDIX B: BASIC CONTEXT NOTES FOR THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

**Who:** The author of Galatians is believed to be Paul the apostle of Christ (Gal 1:1). Theologically, everything written in Galatians lines up with Paul's view elsewhere in his writings.

There are differing opinions as to who the "Galatians" are as the recipient of Paul's letter. The first opinion takes the Galatians to be the churches in the region of Galatia, the Northern part of the Roman province and the second opinion, and more widely accepted, is that the letter is written to the churches in the southern part of the region of Galatia. There is a list of reasons as to why the "Southern Galatia Opinion" is more widely accepted, these include: there is no text evidence that Paul made a trip to Northern Galatia, the name "Galatians" is appropriate for those in the southern province, and the influence of Judaizers was extensive in Southern Galatia. Much of Paul's rebuke in the book of Galatians was correction against those in Galatian church who were believing false gospel affected by the Judaizers.

**What (Type of Literature):** Letter (Epistle)

**When:** It is believed that Paul wrote the letter shortly after his first missionary journey but before the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), before or in 49 AD.

**Where:** Written in Antioch of Syria shortly before the Jerusalem Council.

**Why:** It was written to clarify and defend the truth of the gospel (2:5,16) in the face of a false gospel. Paul wrote to correct those in the Galatian churches who were believing and/or acting in a false gospel. Paul did this by:

- Defending his message and his authority as an apostle
- Considering the Old Testament basis of the gospel message
- Demonstrating how the gospel message Paul preached worked practically in daily Christian living.

**Outline of Galatians Chapters 5 & 6:**

IV. Practical application to Christian living 5:1—6:10

A. Balance in the Christian life ch. 5
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2. Living without license 5:13-15
3. Living by the Holy Spirit 5:16-26

B. Responsibilities of the Christian life 6:1-10
1. Toward sinning Christians 6:1
2. Toward burdened Christians 6:2-5
3. Toward teachers 6:6-9
4. Toward all people 6:10

*Source: SonicLight http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/galatians.pdf*

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## APPENDIX C: INTERPRETATION HELPS

### Outline of what Paul was saying to the Church in Galatia (Galatians 6:1-10):

Specific instruction for the responsibilities of Christians toward others in a variety of situations: sinning Christians (v. 1), toward burdened Christians (vv. 2-5), toward teachers (vv. 6-9), and toward all (v. 10).

### How is the gospel stated in the text?

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ." Support one another, especially in burdensome times, and you will "love your neighbor as yourself." As you love others and consider them as more important than yourself, you reflect the love that Christ has for the Church. God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, His Son, to die on the cross for the penalty of our sins.

### What are some whole-Bible connections we can make in the text?

*Fulfill the law of Christ*: Galatians 5:14, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 9:21. This instruction is for believers or those who have been redeemed and are in the process of growing in the likeness of Christ, so this section would fall in the "Restoration" section of David Nelson's "Grand Biblical Narrative" (Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration).

**Maddie's summarization example (Try on your own**): "All friends, if there is a sinning believer, you who are walking in the Spirit, call them out of their sin, but do it gently. Be careful that you do not fall into sin in the process. Help support one another's faults, tensions and grief and in this way you will 'love your neighbor as yourself.' If anyone thinks that they are above others when they are not, they have deceived themselves. Each believer should test their own actions then they can know their own heart without comparing themselves to others for each person has their own 'cross' to bear. Those who are taught by a teacher should provide all good things for their teachers. Do not be fooled, God cannot be mocked. If you withhold giving, it will be withheld from you. Whoever works hard to please their flesh, they will receive destruction. Whoever works hard to please the Spirit that dwells within them, from the Spirit they will receive a quality of life that is great because the person is abiding in Christ through the Spirit. Do not stop doing good in the Spirit for at the time God designates, we will reap a harvest if we do not become like an unstrung bowstring and give up. Because of all of these things, as we can, let us do good things to all people we meet and especially do good to those who are part of the family of God."

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**Possible questions that participants may have from the text:**

**What does "law of Christ" mean in verse 2?**

Read Galatians 5:14, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 9:21- "love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul and with all of your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

**What do "all good things" mean in verse 6?**

This section is referring to believers who learn from teachers. Paul is saying that those who benefit from teachers should give good things (good physical provision) to their teachers.

**What does it mean that "God cannot be mocked" in verse 7?**

Paul is giving a sharp warning to those who think that they are above giving to their teachers. If you withhold from giving, it will be withheld from you.

**What does "eternal life" mean in verse 8?**

Eternal life can refer to the gift given to believers through faith. Paul is referring to eternal life in verse 8 as a quality of life that depends on the extent to which he or she walks with God.

(Source: Holman Christian Standard Study Bible)

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## APPENDIX D: RESOURCES

**Books:**

*Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Minds*, Jen Wilkin

*How to Study your Bible*, Kay Arthur

*Lord, Teach me to Study the Bible in 28 Days*, Kay Arthur

*Grasping God's Word*, J. Scott DuVall & J. Daniel Hay

*Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem

*Sola Scriptura, the Protestant Position on the Bible*, John MacArthur

*Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*, David Nelson's Chapter "The Story of Mission: The Grand Biblical Narrative"

**Articles & Websites:**

https://www.gotquestions.org/inductive-Bible-study.html

https://www.risenmotherhood.com/inductive-bible-study-method/

https://www.precept.org/

https://www.precept.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HowToStudytheBibleInductively.pdf?utm_source=PMI_Training-Team&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=DOWNLOAD_How-To-Study-the-Bible-Inductively

https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/the-inductive-method-of-bible-study-the-basics-11628183.html

**Commentaries and Original Language Helps:**

https://www.soniclight.org

*Strongs Comprehensive Concordance of the Bible*

*Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*

**Printable Resources:**

https://www.risenmotherhood.com/blog/freeworksheets

*This workshop was a team effort. Many thanks to a special lady whose impact on my life reaches farther than she will ever know. Julie McCammon, your eyes that see the details, and reverence for the very Word of God, have made this workshop one that will reach beyond what just my words alone could ever do. I am forever thankful for the time you took to refine and revise. Thank you, dear friend!*

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PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

# WORKSHOP: Basics of Inductive Bible Study

**by Madeleine Quick**

## PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

**RELEVANCE:** Studying the Word of God is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, but the process of studying the Word of God can seem like a difficult task if you do not know what you are doing. The Inductive Bible Study Method is a way to study the text, with a "God-centered" lens. The student seeks to dig in the text to find the original meaning and the correct interpretation that leads to proper application of God's Word, in action, in her life.

## INTRODUCTION:

- **Proverbs 12:22** (ESV) *Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD…*
  **I Kings 22:23** *…behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets…*

- **Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*
  **Galatians 6:5** *For each will have to bear his own load.*

## POINT 1: CONTEXT- Who? What? Where? When? Why?

The Inductive Bible Study Method can be packaged in several different ways. This workshop will break the process into four different steps, each step addressing a specific question or questions. The four steps with their questions are as follows:

1- **Context**: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
2- **Observations**: What does the text say?
3- **Interpretation(s)**: What does the text mean?
4- **Application(s)**: How does the text change me?

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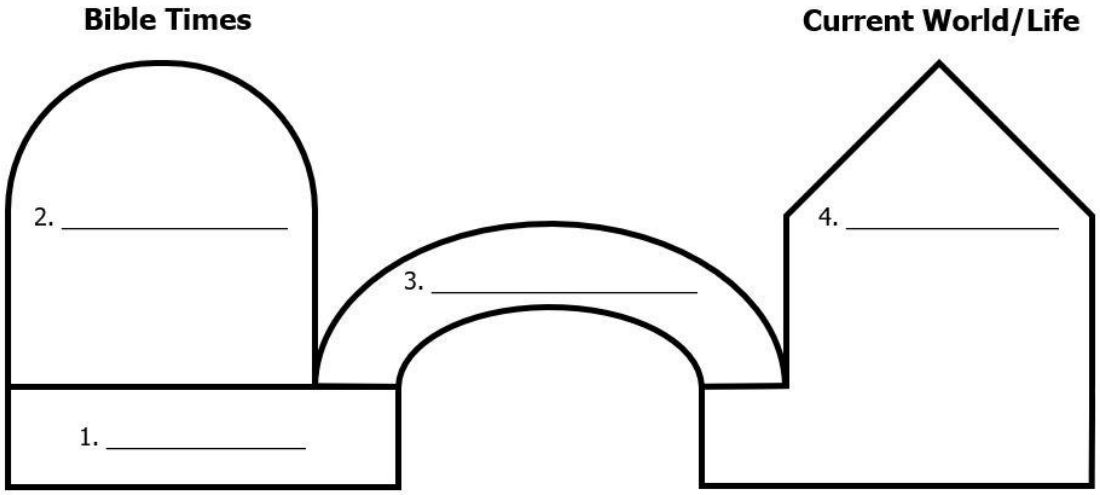
- The Oxford English Dictionary defines "context" as: *The circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.*

**THE INDUCTIVE JOURNEY**




Here are the questions you can answer as you gather Context:

- **Who**: The author- Who wrote the book and who is the audience?
- **What**: What type of text is the book? (History, Wisdom, Poetry, Gospel, Epistle, Prophesy)
- **When**: When was the book written?
- **Where**: In what location was the book/letter written? What was going on at the time?
- **Why**: Why was the book written? What's its purpose?

*Study Bibles will often have this information as part of the introduction for a book. A commentary can also provide this information. A link for online commentaries is listed in the Resources section (**Appendix D**).*

## ACTIVITY 1: CONTEXT

Turn to someone near you and introduce yourself; you will be partners for the remainder of the workshop. Tell them **WHO** you are ☺.

After you've introduced yourselves, look at Galatians 1:1-2 to answer the first "w" question. **Who** wrote Galatians? **Who** is the audience? *(Give partners the chance to meet each other and to answer the questions.)*

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- Galatians 1:1-3 (ESV) *Paul, an apostle- not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead- and all the brothers who are with me, To the churches of Galatia:*

**Who** wrote Galatians?

**Who** is the audience?

In your Participant's Guide, **Appendix B**, you have **Basic Context Notes for the Book of Galatians**, which address the Who, What, When, Where, Why questions. Take a minute to look it over with your partner.

## POINT 2: OBSERVATIONS- What does the text say?

Through step one, Context, we have the basic setting for the story. Now in step two, Observations, we are making note of what stands out within that setting- the "landmarks" that are present.

**Galatians 6:1-10 (ESV)**

**6** Brothers [and sisters], if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **4** But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.**5** For each will have to bear his own load.

**6** Let the one who is taught the Word share all good things with the one who teaches. **7** Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. **8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. **9** And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. **10** So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

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Once you have read the entire section, go back to the top and slowly work your way through the text, making Observations of the following:

- **Key Words** - You can mark **theme** words- these may have been identified in the Context step. Lists of keywords for each book of the Bible are available for download from the Precepts Website (Link in Resources, **Appendix D**).
- **Time**, **Locations** and **People**
- **Repeated Words, Ideas and Phrases**
- **Transition Words**- *but, therefore, because, likewise, if/then ...*
- **Lists**- Make a note when the author makes several points in a row
- **Commands**
- **Dialog**, **Declaration**, or when a person addresses a crowd

*As you make observations, it can be helpful to mark down what you see with different colors, symbols, etc. Use whatever markings or color-coding works for you; make it your own. Not everyone is comfortable writing directly in their Bible; using a notebook for Observations is perfectly fine.*

## ACTIVITY 2: OBSERVATIONS

**Whole group:** Go back to the Galatians 6:1-10 passage. We are going to find **keywords** in our passage.

**Partners:** Now go back and mark any **commands** that you see in the text. Mark them however you think is best- you're welcome to use different colors.

## POINT 3: INTERPRETATION(S)- What does the text mean?

Once you have spent time making Observations (take the time to do it well, proper Observations will help you with Interpretation and Application), you can work on the **Interpretation** section. When you think of Interpretation section, think of answering the questions, "What does the text mean?" or "Why does the text say what it says?"

- *If you rush into interpretation without laying the vital foundation of accurate observation, your understanding will be colored by your presuppositions—what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.* (Kay Arthur, How to Study the Bible)

- *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* -Galatians 6:9

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A very good, God-centered starting place for making Interpretation in the text is to look for the gospel in every section of text that you study.

- A concise definition of the gospel: ***The gospel is the _____ that sinful man can be made _____with a holy God through _____ in Jesus Christ.*** (Eric Johns, Bethel Church, Fairbanks, Alaska, Sermon: "God is Holy; We are Sinners")

- **Where do you see the gospel in this verse?** *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.* -Galatians 6:8

Here are the main questions you can answer for this section:

- Based on the Context and Observations made, **What would this text have meant to the original readers?**
- **How is the gospel stated in this section of text?** Either directly stated or seen in the text.
- **What are some whole-Bible connections that can be seen in this section of text?** How does this text fit into the whole of Scripture? Where does it fit within the salvation story of humanity? David Nelson calls this "The Grand Biblical Narrative," made up of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration.
- **Can I summarize what I just read or re-write it in my own words?** This can be challenging at first, but very beneficial for helping one remember and process what was read.
- **What are questions I have as I read the text?** You can mark these or write them down to look up in commentaries. A list of reputable commentaries is in the Resources section (**Appendix D**).

It is important to note that some of the work for this step of Interpreting, "What does the text mean?" cannot be done by just looking at the text. For this step it can be helpful to utilize commentaries or other resources to gather information on questions you have in the text.

- **Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens* [weight, physical or spiritual, of everyday living] *and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

  **Galatians 6:5** *For each will have to bear his own load* [personal responsibility to God for one's own spiritual work/walk].

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## ACTIVITY 3: INTERPRETATION(S)

**Partners:** Work with your partner to rewrite part of our passage in your own words (your workshop leader will assign a portion of Galatians 6:1-10 to you). In about 5 minutes, we will come back together and piece our summaries together.

**Assigned verse(s) from Galatians 6:1-10**: Galatians 6:_____

**Rewritten in my/our own words:**

## POINT 4: APPLICATION(S)- How does the text change me?

As you spend time in the text and look at your Observations and Interpretations, Application(s) should flow. Here are some questions you can answer as you look to make proper Application:

- **What does this text say about who God is?** Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- **What does this text reveal to me about my sin?** What does it stir in my heart to confess and repent of?
- Based on these answers, **What does this look like in my life?** What needs to shift in response to the truth presented in this passage? Or, in other words, **How does the text change me?**

Hebrews 4:12 *For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

## ACTIVITY 4: APPLICATION(S)

**Whole Group:** Let's take a look at one of those Application questions. **What does this text say about who God is? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?**

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**Partners:** Now turn to your partner and answer the second question. You can be as general or as specific as you'd like. **What does this text reveal to me about my sin?** Use one of the guiding questions below if you need a starting point. Take about 5 minutes to discuss with your partner.

- Are there areas in my life where I have "given up" in doing good either in heart or deed?
- Am I sowing in the flesh or the Spirit? In what way? What is my motivation?
- Do I love my brother or sister in Christ enough to restore them gently and/or bear their burdens?
- Do I consider myself above other people? Which people? Why?
- Do I seek to "share all good things" with my teachers? What would that look like today?

The answers to these questions cause my heart to repent, confess, and ask for forgiveness and to look to Christ's work on the cross to cover my shortcomings, failures, and faults (1 John 1:9- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness*).

**What does this text reveal to me about my sin?**

## APPLY IT TO LIFE:

**Individual:** How would God have me respond today? **What does this look like in my life? How does the text change me?** How does Galatians 6:1-10 apply to my life? What do I need to do in response to the truth presented in the passage?

**Closing thought:** If my study of God's Word ends with head-knowledge and not a heart-response, I have missed the mark.

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**HOMEWORK:**

In the space below, write down how you want to approach God's Word, making note of any new tools you found helpful from this workshop to study Scripture.

Write out a prayer or take the next few minutes to pray. First, take time to praise God for who He is and specifically praise Him for the attributes you saw in the Galatians text during your study today. Then stop and confess the areas that the Word of God has shown you- areas where you fall short, areas where sin has crept in, and ask for forgiveness. Take time to thank God for His Word and thank Him for who He is. Thank Him for the good news of the gospel and other responses of thankfulness that the text has stirred in your heart. Finally, ask God for wisdom as you walk forward and leave your time of study today. Ask Him for help and guidance as you walk out the Application points you have made about Galatians 6:1-10 and ask Him for eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to respond, as you continue your study of His Word from this day forward.

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- **Psalm 19:7**- *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*

- **Psalm 119:142**- *Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.*

- **Isaiah 40:8**- *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.*

**Quotes backing the infallibility of scripture:**

- *The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.* (Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem)

- *Scripture is therefore the perfect and only standard of spiritual truth, revealing infallibly all that we must believe in order to be saved and all that we must do in order to glorify God.* (John MacArthur, "What does Sola Scriptura mean?")

- *It is most profitable for us to study God's word as written in the Bible. It is God's written Word that he commands us to study. The man is 'blessed' who 'meditates' on God's law 'day and night' (Psalm 1:1-2). God's words to Joshua are also applicable to us: 'This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success' (Joshua 1:8). It is the word of God in the form of written scripture that is 'God-breathed' and 'useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16).* (Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem)

- *The heart cannot love what the mind does not know. (Jen Wilkin, Women in the Word)*

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**Who:** The author of Galatians is believed to be Paul the apostle of Christ (Gal 1:1). Theologically, everything written in Galatians lines up with Paul's view elsewhere in his writings.

There are differing opinions as to who the "Galatians" are as the recipient of Paul's letter. The first opinion takes the Galatians to be the churches in the region of Galatia, the Northern part of the Roman province and the second opinion, and more widely accepted, is that the letter is written to the churches in the southern part of the region of Galatia. There is a list of reasons as to why the "Southern Galatia Opinion" is more widely accepted, these include: there is no text evidence that Paul made a trip to Northern Galatia, the name "Galatians" is appropriate for those in the southern province, and the influence of Judaizers was extensive in Southern Galatia. Much of Paul's rebuke in the book of Galatians was correction against those in Galatian church who were believing false gospel affected by the Judaizers.

**What (Type of Literature):** Letter (Epistle)

**When:** It is believed that Paul wrote the letter shortly after his first missionary journey but before the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), before or in 49 AD.

**Where:** Written in Antioch of Syria shortly before the Jerusalem Council.

**Why:** It was written to clarify and defend the truth of the gospel (2:5,16) in the face of a false gospel. Paul wrote to correct those in the Galatian churches who were believing and/or acting in a false gospel. Paul did this by:

- Defending his message and his authority as an apostle
- Considering the Old Testament basis of the gospel message
- Demonstrating how the gospel message Paul preached worked practically in daily Christian living.

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*Source: SonicLight http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/galatians.pdf*

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## APPENDIX C: INTERPRETATION HELPS

### Outline of what Paul was saying to the Church in Galatia (Galatians 6:1-10):

Specific instruction for the responsibilities of Christians toward others in a variety of situations: sinning Christians (v. 1), toward burdened Christians (vv. 2-5), toward teachers (vv. 6-9), and toward all (v. 10).

### How is the gospel stated in the text?

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ." Support one another, especially in burdensome times, and you will "love your neighbor as yourself." As you love others and consider them as more important than yourself, you reflect the love that Christ has for the Church. God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, His Son, to die on the cross for the penalty of our sins.

### What are some whole-Bible connections we can make in the text?

*Fulfill the law of Christ*: Galatians 5:14, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 9:21. This instruction is for believers or those who have been redeemed and are in the process of growing in the likeness of Christ, so this section would fall in the "Restoration" section of David Nelson's "Grand Biblical Narrative" (Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration).

**Maddie's summarization example (Try on your own**): "All friends, if there is a sinning believer, you who are walking in the Spirit, call them out of their sin, but do it gently. Be careful that you do not fall into sin in the process. Help support one another's faults, tensions and grief and in this way you will 'love your neighbor as yourself.' If anyone thinks that they are above others when they are not, they have deceived themselves. Each believer should test their own actions then they can know their own heart without comparing themselves to others for each person has their own 'cross' to bear. Those who are taught by a teacher should provide all good things for their teachers. Do not be fooled, God cannot be mocked. If you withhold giving, it will be withheld from you. Whoever works hard to please their flesh, they will receive destruction. Whoever works hard to please the Spirit that dwells within them, from the Spirit they will receive a quality of life that is great because the person is abiding in Christ through the Spirit. Do not stop doing good in the Spirit for at the time God designates, we will reap a harvest if we do not become like an unstrung bowstring and give up. Because of all of these things, as we can, let us do good things to all people we meet and especially do good to those who are part of the family of God."

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**Possible questions that participants may have from the text:**

**What does "law of Christ" mean in verse 2?**

Read Galatians 5:14, John 13:34, 1 Corinthians 9:21- "love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul and with all of your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself."

**What do "all good things" mean in verse 6?**

This section is referring to believers who learn from teachers. Paul is saying that those who benefit from teachers should give good things (good physical provision) to their teachers.

**What does it mean that "God cannot be mocked" in verse 7?**

Paul is giving a sharp warning to those who think that they are above giving to their teachers. If you withhold from giving, it will be withheld from you.

**What does "eternal life" mean in verse 8?**

Eternal life can refer to the gift given to believers through faith. Paul is referring to eternal life in verse 8 as a quality of life that depends on the extent to which he or she walks with God.

(Source: Holman Christian Standard Study Bible)

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# APPENDIX D: RESOURCES

**Books:**

*Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Minds*, Jen Wilkin

*How to Study your Bible*, Kay Arthur

*Lord, Teach me to Study the Bible in 28 Days*, Kay Arthur

*Grasping God's Word*, J. Scott DuVall & J. Daniel Hay

*Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem

*Sola Scriptura, the Protestant Position on the Bible*, John MacArthur

*Theology and Practice of Mission: God, the Church, and the Nations*, David Nelson's Chapter "The Story of Mission: The Grand Biblical Narrative"

**Articles & Websites:**

https://www.gotquestions.org/inductive-Bible-study.html

https://www.risenmotherhood.com/inductive-bible-study-method/

https://www.precept.org/

https://www.precept.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/HowToStudytheBibleInductively.pdf?utm_source=PMI_Training-Team&utm_medium=Link&utm_campaign=DOWNLOAD_How-To-Study-the-Bible-Inductively

https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/tips/the-inductive-method-of-bible-study-the-basics-11628183.html

**Commentaries and Original Language Helps:**

https://www.soniclight.org

*Strongs Comprehensive Concordance of the Bible*

*Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*

**Printable Resources:**

https://www.risenmotherhood.com/blog/freeworksheets

*This workshop was a team effort. Many thanks to a special lady whose impact on my life reaches farther than she will ever know. Julie McCammon, your eyes that see the details, and reverence for the very Word of God, have made this workshop one that will reach beyond what just my words alone could ever do. I am forever thankful for the time you took to refine and revise. Thank you, dear friend!*

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