

Inductive Bible Study----How To Do Interpretation

Interpretation Worksheet

1. Questions and Answers

This is the first of three interpretation techniques you will learn. Questions play a valuable role in the interpretation phase by causing you to look at the various facets of meaning of a word, phrase, or passage. Questions that are very helpful are summed up in the following poem.

I have six faithful men
Who taught me all I knew
Their names are What and Where and When
And How and Why and Who.

Rudyard Kipling

Who----are the people involved?
is speaking, or being spoken to, or about?

What----is taking place?
information is being conveyed?
is the atmosphere in which it is written?
is the attitude of the writer?

When----was it written?
will these things happen?
did these things happen?

Where---is the writer; his recipients?
will these things take place?

Why-----was it written?
presented in this way or sequence?
so much or so little attention given to this subject?
this illustration is used?

How-----will it be accomplished?
does it relate to other events or statements

Note: It is important to ask good, penetrating questions during the interpretation phase of the Bible study. Good questions will help you to discover the meaning the Holy Spirit intended when the book was written. Ask question that cause you to discover the thinking of the author. The "why" question is good in this instance. Just as a young child uses the question "why" to cause you to think deeper into an area, so you, too, should use