

Inductive Bible Study Sample

Passage: Ps. 51:1-19

Title: From Wickedness to Wisdom

Principle #1: Study the Context

The setting for Psalms is David's adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:1-5), and his murder of Uriah (2 Sam. 11:6-25). Nathan then rebuked David, stating that he has "despised" the word of the Lord as well as the Lord Himself (2 Sam. 12:5-10), and the consequence would be painful, resulting in the harm of many people. David went into a period of mourning and may have written Psalm 32 during this time also.

Principle #2: Discover the Central Idea of the Passage

The central idea of this Psalm is David's plea for a cleaning from evil which he deserved judgment for (v. 1-9) and the building of truth and wisdom into his heart so that he might not commit this sin again (v.5-9)

Principle #3: study the Details of the Passage

Key Words:

Gracious (v.1)—To bend, to stoop in kindness to an inferior

Transgression (v.1)—To break away from just authority, result in rebellion

Blot (v.1)—To stroke or rub; erase

Wash(v.2)—To trample with feet as in doing laundry

Cleanse (v.2)—acquit, be blameless, cut off, to desolate, to free

Wisdom (v.6)—There are 5 OT words translated "wisdom". This one means, "to be wise in mind, word or action."

Contrite (v.17)—Crushed, injured, bruised, collapsed

Key Ideas

v.1,2: David is asking God to change his life that he will be completely clean from this sort of sin.

v.4: David realized that God was the one he was ultimately accountable to.

v.6: Rather than "transgression," "iniquity" and "sin" dominating our through tans actions, God wants "truth and wisdom." Wisdom is far more than head knowledge, rather it is the practical insight into how to think and act in any situation.

v.17: God doesn't expect me to "fix" my life before I come to Him. He wants me to be broken and helpless, relying on Him o make me what I ought to be.

Principle #4: Other Related Biblical Passages

1 John 1:9 God is faithful to not only forgive us of our sin, but then to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 8:31-32 If we wholeheartedly know and apply the words of Jesus we will know the Truth "in the innermost being."

Principle # 5: Putting the Passage into Practice

Application:

1. I must never have the hidden intention. "Lord, forgive me of this until I do it again." Instead, I will make my prayer an earnest one, "wash me thoroughly from my iniquity."
2. I will give special attention to my quiet times and scripture memory to make sure I am getting God's truth deep within my "innermost being," rather than just through the motions. I'll ask my leaders to hold me accountable for this.
3. I will set aside an evening this week to pray over my life and see if I am hiding my sins. Galatians 5:13-26 and Colossians 3:1-17 will provide a beginning point in my evolution of my life. I will ask my leader to hold me accountable to this since my schedule is so busy.