

Deductive Bible Study

by James Stuart Bell and Tracy Sumner



The deductive method of studying the Bible means picking a certain subject as your starting point, then going through the Bible and finding Scriptures that address it. In short, it is a topical approach to studying the Scriptures.

Many preachers and Bible teachers prepare their materials using the deductive method of study. For example, if a preacher or teacher wanted to give a sermon or teach on the subject of “sin”, he'd look throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament to find passages or verses that best fit the point he wanted to make.

One of the advantages of the deductive approach to Bible study is that it gives the reader a good Biblical overview of a particular topic as well as more personal applications. That's because it takes the different things that are said in the Bible on a particular word or topic — all of which you'll find are in amazing harmony — and gives you the bigger picture look at what God has to say about those topics.

When you begin your study of the Bible — no matter what method you use — it is important that you ask God to speak to you through what you are reading and meditating on. So go to the source of all Scripture and ask Him to open your heart, your ears, and your eyes to what it is really saying.

Also, remember, in reading the Bible transformationally, one of the primary purposes is to allow the text to have control over us and become a place of encounter with God. It's a discipline of openness to God's control of our lives for God's purposes through the writings of Scripture. It's a discipline that allows the Scriptures to “come alive” in our hearts and transforms us from the inside out.

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