

## Home Group – Inductive Bible Study #3

### STEP # 2 = INTERPRETATION

**Observation** leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God *says*.

**Interpretation** goes a step further – what does the passage *mean*??

1. Always pray for God's help as you begin interpreting Scripture
2. Remember that context rules! - Look for meaning within the immediate context, the context of the entire book, and try to include historical context as well.
3. Scripture will never contradict Scripture - believe what the passage says. If there is apparent contradiction, don't take a teaching to an extreme that God doesn't.
4. Interpret the passage literally (allow for figures of speech & remember the literary style of book)
  - a. Simile = a comparison between 2 ideas
  - b. Metaphor = an implied comparison
  - c. Exaggeration = an obvious overstatement
  - d. Personification = inanimate objects take on human attributes
  - e. Irony = sarcasm, the opposite is true
5. Look for the single meaning of the passage = While there may be many ideas, try to find the most important truth of the passage.

**ASSIGNMENT** - Using our passage in 2 Timothy 1:1-11, start to make statements about what Paul means.

Are there any figures of speech? What is the context? What does that passage literally say? What is the over-riding theme of the passage? Other key points?

#### 2 Timothy 1:1-11 New International Version

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. <sup>8</sup>So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

**ASSIGNMENT # 2** - Practice your observation skills on the next passage –  
2 Timothy 1:12-18

<sup>12</sup>That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

<sup>13</sup>What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

<sup>15</sup>You know that everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.

<sup>16</sup>May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup>On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. <sup>18</sup>May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.