

HELP! This is my first PRECEPT Bible study...

What Do I Need to Know When I'm Just Starting Out?

RELAX. Precept inductive Bible studies may be a little different from other kinds of Bible studies you've done before. Sometimes they take a little "getting used to" as you practice and grow in your skills of in-depth study. Here are some tips that "old-timers" have discovered that may be helpful to you as you begin.



1. Before each study period, **PRAY** for God to open your eyes to HIS marvelous truth! After all, the Holy Spirit promises to guide you into all truth.

2. Then, **READ** the workbook's **BOLD** print at the beginning of the lesson (IMPORTANT: this paragraph tells you what the whole lesson is going to be about.)

3. The **INDUCTIVE STUDY** process includes:

OBSERVATION (What do I "see" in Scripture?)

INTERPRETATION (What did the author intend for this to "mean" ?)

APPLICATION (What does this mean for my life or How do I live this out?)

The first couple of lessons in each course usually just involve "observing". When the lesson tells you to work with your "observation worksheets", go to the back of the book (**Appendix**) to find them. The whole book of the Bible or special Scriptures are printed out for you in the New American Standard Version (NASV), an excellent "word-for-word" translation. These "observation worksheets" give you wide margins in which to write notes and mark repeated words with colors or designs. These pages will become real "treasure" to you as you discover important instructions, repeated words, lists, contrasts, etc.

Tip: Use a 1" ring to keep all your observation worksheets (OWS) together and store them in the front pocket of your 3-ring binder. This makes the OWS easier to use alongside your homework.

The **Appendix** sometimes contains other valuable charts and maps that will be used for more than one lesson. Keep them in the back of your book so you can find them easily.

HOMework

What if a homework question is stated in such a way that I don't really understand how to answer it?

Experienced Precept students can tell you that this happens to ALL of us sometimes! Sometimes we will just meditate on the question for awhile and perhaps the Holy Spirit (our real teacher) will help

us understand it, or we'll skip it and come back to it later....or leave it blank until we get to class and perhaps it will be covered at that time...if not, be sure to ask!

Caution: Don't be tricked into thinking that lots of "white space" after the question means you have to write a super-long answer. Conversely, a small amount of "white space" doesn't necessarily mean that the answer is short...just meditate before the Lord and write down what HE is showing you.

Recommendation: We know that life is often hurried and sometimes it's difficult to get all your homework done. However, it has been our experience that we need to start EARLY in the week, perhaps starting the next day after your last class. This way, the sweet Word can "soak in" all week long. If possible, work your study time into a regular time, place each day. Then if all else fails and you don't get to do any homework at all, **DON'T** be deceived by our common enemy into thinking that you shouldn't even come to class! This class is probably exactly the lesson you need to hear the most! So come to class, listen—be blessed -- and the next day, just start with the next lesson (and maybe go back to work on the missed homework when you have some spare time.



PRECEPT lessons are designed so that one lesson builds upon the previous one. So, you'll want to try to get each "building block" of truth in place so you won't get discouraged and drop back too far.

CLASS DISCUSSION

It might surprise you that during class we don't usually cover the homework in the same order you worked it so faithfully (Like, "*What did you get for Day 1, Question 1, ?*" etc) Rather, we leaders try to take all the various threads of our homework and pull them together as we summarize the main point of the lesson. To do this, we try to use a helpful visual aid like a chart, or a map, or a timeline.

Also, if someone wants to make a point on the lesson topic that is not covered in class, we welcome that input...just as long as that point is based on the truth of the Bible (you might want to have that scripture verse handy).

Now we may have forgotten to tell you something... so if you still have a question,

1. Call the friend who invited you (he/ she probably had the same questions you have now and would love to share what he/ she has learned along the way)
2. Call or email your Bible study leader (he/ she would love to have some "one-on- one" time to get to know you better...and your question will help your leader know what others may be struggling with during the week and can address that question during class if needed)

Virginia Bentley virginia.l.bentley@gmail.com 312.505.9029

"And FINALLY" (as the apostle Paul would write), we are trusting that the Holy Spirit is busy during the week showing each of you really special insights or applications of what you are learning. So we are hoping that each of you will come prepared to share those sweet truths with the whole class...we will ALL be richer for it!

Our desire is that our classes would capture the excitement of the early church just after the day of Pentecost...

Acts 2:42-47

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe....Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple....praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.