

Class 3 - Inductive Bible Study, Part 2

Introduction

00:00

A warm welcome to all of you to come back on this journey with us. Last week we learned about inductive method of Bible study. Remember, inductive Bible study simply means that you're digging from the bottom up, you're going into the details of a passage in order to come to a probable accurate conclusion of what God is saying to you in that passage. That is what inductive Bible study is, in a nutshell, okay. From the detail for the particular to a general understanding of what it is teaching you. Now, do you remember the three steps that are required in inductive Bible study? What is the first of the three steps involved in inductive Bible study? Very good. What does it say would be summarised in observation, right? Observation now, have anyone of you apply your powers of observation? Remember Agassiz and the fish? Have you applied it not to the fish, but to the Bible, in your reading of study this week? Well, I hope you will have applied some of this. otherwise, it will all just become very theoretical. Right? So I hope you have given yourself time and opportunity to pause, to think, to observe the passage that you're looking at. Now, the second step is what does the Bible mean? Very good. And that would be interpretation, right? Interpretation, that is a second step in inductive Bible study. And the goal of interpretation is to know what this passage would have meant from the author, the first time they have heard it. So you need to go back and do a bit of contacts, a bit of detail, a bit of historical study, etc, just to get the right interpretation. Now, today, we are going to head on to our third step, which is application, okay, application. And I'm going to go through some of the principles to guide us in applying a passage in our own lives. However, the majority of this time will be a practice for all of you. Okay, a practice for all of you, because we are learning how to study the Bible, not learning how to listen to Bible teaching. Okay. So last week, I know that you're a little a little, you know, lost a little like, oh, you know, do I have to really do this. But I hope as we get along, you realise that we'll be looking at some passages, you're going to put some put to practice what you have learned, so that you really know how to study the Bible, which is our intent. So there will be some practice later, much time will be given to it.

Application

Now, so let's talk about application. Okay, we have talk about observation, about interpretation. Now we're going to talk about application. Application is incredibly important. Look at what our passage says today in James chapter 1, verse 22, to 24. But the doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourself. That means observation, with interpretation without application, without learning and thinking about how to apply it, you can fall into a deception. That you are growing spiritually, that you are becoming more like Jesus, when actually all you have increased in, is knowledge in the head, without any real change in our lives. That's why application is very important. So let's go on to see what he says. If anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer. If you just listen and never do, never practice never apply. He is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in the mirror. He pays very careful attention. He's spend all this effort looking into the mirror for he looks at himself, goes away, and at

once forget what he was like. Now that's very sorry, isn't it? Very sorry, end result of any Bible study. That all you did is coming in ooh, ah, wonderful, great. And then after that live completely unchanged. So that's why the Bible paints for us this picture in James. It's like looking into the mirror, aww, there's a pimple here, oh there's a wart there and then you walk away, nothing changed. A total waste of time and effort. So that's why application is very important. Now we may think that we have, you know, studied well, we observed and we interpret well, but unless we apply what we see to our lives, we are not accomplishing anything of value, which is what James 1:22 to 24 is warning us about. Now. I'm guessing that most of us do not study the Bible with the express intent. I'm going to learn but I'm not going to apply. Nobody does that, right? I hope not. Only study the Bible. I'm going to learn, I'm gonna listen very well, I'm going to think very hard. But I tell you something, at the end of it, I won't do anything it says. Now, that will be really weird. That's not what we do. And that's not how we fail to apply. But what could be some reasons why we don't apply the Bible. One possibility is we do not understand it well enough. Okay, we'd have not thought about what the Bible is saying. Observe it, interpreted it so accurately and precisely that, you know, like an arrow, it just shoot straight into your heart, and you look at it, that's me, that's exactly what I need. So sometimes, maybe, it's because you didn't understand it well enough. Maybe sometimes, you did not spend enough time thinking about the Bible. And what it is saying. Let's say you spent your time studying, observing, interpreting over your morning coffee. And by the time you reached the most critical part, which is application, oh time to go, and you rush off, then you'd actually short change the opportunity for you to apply the Word of God to your life. So you may want to really plan your time well. it's strategic, okay, you have to think it through. It cannot be anyhow. Why? Because you do not want to miss the step of application. Now what's the other possibilities why we don't apply the Bible well? Well, another reason could be unwillingness to consider sin in our lives. Now, you see, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God and the Bible as the Word of God is speaking to us to change our lives. Which means that we all have some areas that is going to be sensitive, that needs change. We have to be humble to accept that reality, because we are sinners, and we all fall short the glory of God. So if we are unwilling to consider some shortcomings in our own lives. If we're unwilling to face some realities about maybe our attitude, about our motivations, our desires, our practices, then everything you read, there will be a tendency to deflect and make it very theoretical. You'd become a great Bible philosopher. Anytime you can talk about how the great meaning of life and whatnot, or you can be a great judge of somebody else's life. The moment oh, yeah, just like that question I know. Oh, yeah, just like anybody I know, but never me. All right. So when you fail to apply to your own life, maybe it's because you're not willing to consider some areas that God's Word is pointing out to in your own life that needs to be changed. So we need to realise that the Bible not only affirms what we do right, the Bible also rebuke and correct us in those areas we did wrong. And when we accept that, you will find that application becomes very, very real. Now, sometimes we don't apply the Bible well, because we maybe applied individually, rather than in a group. So sometimes a group Bible study is helpful, because when you begin to share, you begin to see and others can point out certain things that you are doing, that need to be changed. So we're talking about Bible study that is not necessarily just individual or personal. These are general principles that can be applied also in a group Bible study. And maybe sometimes we do not sit down to reflect on our own lives. You see, the way you approach your Bible affects what you take away from it as well. If you're looking into the Bible just to get more nuggets of information, maybe about science, about archaeology, about history, about, you know, philosophy, you can find, you know, here and there different things. But if you come to the Bible and say, Lord, you know, shine upon my heart, show me, search me, then you will find that your Bible

study become a journey with God, whereby you get to know the God of the Bible, and the God of the Bible, get to speak into your life. So that's what we mean by application. Now, so look at your notes below on second page. How can all this work out, okay, as you learn to apply Scripture. Here are some questions you can ask. You need to take time to ask when you read your Bible. So when you really want to study the Bible, you have to spend time. It cannot be in a rush, okay? So we're not talking about, as I mentioned, in our first lesson, devotional reading. That's well and good, great. Get on MRT, as you balance, you know, you try to read the Bible. Wonderful. All right. Maybe when waiting for your morning coffee at a kopitiam, you read, no problem for devotional reading. But when you're studying the Bible, you need time. You need dedicated time to observe, to interpret, and to apply. So let's look at some of this question. Does it point out sin in my life? You know, it's amazing when you start asking God to do something like that? The Holy Spirit can really, really flush out some things that we need to change. So let's start with that. Does it point out any sin in my, anything I'm doing thinking, feeling that is wrong? What assumptions does the Bible have that I don't share? You see, we all grow up with different backgrounds, different worldviews, we have certain attitudes. And we have certain set thinking. Maybe it's because of our home background, maybe because of our society that you grew up in. Because Singapore is such a cosmopolitan city. People can come from different, you know, cultural backgrounds. And you actually don't share those assumptions. Maybe you don't even think that God exists. Maybe you think that God exists, but you know, he's not that great. Maybe you think that well, God exists is great, but he's not that good. Because I don't see His goodness, anywhere, everywhere. And so what assumptions does the Bible has that I don't share, because you know why? When you have those assumptions, we call them presuppositions. That means even before you launch into the topic, you already think like that already. Those things will trip you up, and will keep you from applying the Bible. Is there a command to obey? Is God telling you that this is a good idea? Or is it something you really need to do? Is that an encouragement? You see, these questions are meant to help you think about how does the Bible relate to your life? Is there a promise for me? does it teach me something about God? does it teach me something about myself? What evidence for my faith does it give me? What will I do differently? How can I model or share, teach these truths to others? What application is there for us as a family or as a church? You see, when you begin to think like that, you are no longer contented with knowing what the Bible means or say. You want to know what does it say to me. And we want our Bible study to reach this point. So give yourself time to ask these questions. Now, you look further in your notes. Some guidelines to follow, some guidelines to follow. Now, how do I ask these questions? How do I make sure that I'm making good applications? The first is to pray. All right. When you come to the point where you think you understand what it says, where you think you know what it means, then you need to stop and say, 'Lord, please show me what I can learn for myself, what you want to correct. What do you wish to command? You see, the Bible tells us that the mind that is set on the flesh, that means left to ourselves, it is hostile to the things of God. It does not submit to the law of God. We're talking about the natural man. If we just use our intellect, if we just count our emotions, or just count on our willpower, you will find that it just doesn't want to go in the direction that God tells us to go. That's why we need to pray when we make application. And how do we pray? Well, one good way to pray is in Psalms 119, verse 18, right. So if you have your notebook with you, write down, Psalms 119 Verse 18. Okay, Psalms 119, verse 18, is a great way to pray, to ask God for help in application. So what does Psalms 119 verse 18 says. It says, open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. So when you come to application, pray, ask God, 'Open my eyes, help me see those wondrous things related to my life, out of Your law. Now 2, How do I make sure that

I make good application. Number 2 is give yourself time to think. Okay, this is where we come back to the meditation part, the chew the card, you know, the memorising it, you know, asking God to show you as you pray and wait. Because when you think about your life, and how it is heading in whatever direction and how the Word of God can meet you there, it takes time, It can't be rushed. When you rush it, you miss it. So when you study the Bible, have a dedicated period of time. Plan it such that you not only observe, you will not only interpret, you give yourself time to think, not just about the Bible, but about how now the Bible connects with right where you are. Maybe you're struggling with parent child relationship, And the passage you are studying. At first, you don't see how it connects. But if you give yourself time to think and you pray, 'open my eyes to behold wondrous things out of Your law', then the Lord may draw certain principles that somehow relate to that situation. Maybe you are struggling with problems at work. And you're stressed up. I do not know what it may be or you may be dealing with interpersonal relationships, ministry struggles. Maybe you have been feeling guilty lately about certain habits in your life, or the Lord may be revealing about what really motivates you. It could be anything. But if you at least give yourself time to think about your life in the light of what you've studied. So think. Number 3, write. For many of us, we think best when we write. That means you got to slow down. Again, it takes time. And to write down your thoughts. Journaling is very, very helpful. I know that it's very convenient to have your handphone or your iPad, because you bring everything with you on it, right. But one thing that may be challenging is that you can't write. Well, maybe we should change the word write to type, you know, why type? So that when you call your Bible app, or you call up your note making app, you can type your thoughts in there. So if you are not the kind who buys a notebook or journal or keep little bits of scrapbook to write down your journey thoughts as you study the Bible, maybe you should try. Okay, iPhone has a note making app, right? I'm sure Android has plenty other apps too. So if you are a electronic guy, or girl, no worries, type. But make sure you journal. Because as you type you slow down to think about what really matters. And then you'll find that the Lord can speak to you. Now, 3, talk, talk means to talk to someone. You know, if you're married, this is great. You can just call your wife over and say, you know, honey, I've been studying the Bible. I've been thinking about this. Would you tell me what you think of this passage? If you are even more bold, you can even say, 'as you read this passage, would you tell me what you think I can learn from it?' I tell you, maybe your honey become not very honeyish already. Oh, my waiting for that moment. I tell you, you know what? You see this verse, there you know what you did? You know, talk to someone, maybe it's not your honey, maybe it's not your wife or your husband? Maybe it's your children, talk to someone about the Bible and you know, through their eyes, see your own life. Maybe it's a good friend. Right? Maybe it's your journey, discipleship, partner, your group, whatever, talk to them, so that your understanding of truth is not purely theoretical. Okay, so see your own life to other people's life. Number 5, listen. Now, what does this listen means? This listen means that you can even get the help nowadays with so many online resources of other pastors on the passage. Just type in that passage you're studying. Let's say you're studying John chapter 14, Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in this, believe also in God. And so you just type John chapter 14, verse 1 to 2, then that all the famous pastors, preachers of the world around the world will appear. John MacArthur, John Piper so on and so forth, you know, and then listen to the sermon. It's free. The resources are available. And who knows, you may even call up Jason Lim, you know him, right? Ah, if you happen to have preach on the passage, call him up again, listen again. And so that you can have another point of view on the passage and maybe some of the applications they make will speak to your heart. Okay, so these are the different ways in which you can apply. Now, last week, we already talked about how observation in

that article, Agassiz and the fish staring at the fish took days. Correct. And then today, we talk about application and if I got to pray, think right talk, listen, obviously, your Bible study cannot be completed in even one hour. Agree? If you can finish all these in one hour, you superstar? Because how do you think so much? How do you memorise? How do you meditate? The whole journey of Bible study now should not be thought of as one hour, in a day, in a month. Are you with me? You shouldn't be looking for a quick fix. You shouldn't be looking for some secret formula to just somehow step it up and you're there. And then you can start you know, articulating truth. You should be thinking now or maybe one hour a day, if you are able to organise your time, every day in a week. So let's say you want to study John 14. Okay, you start on Monday, give yourself an hour, Tuesday, another hour. Wednesday, another hour. Thursday, and by the time you hit Saturday, maybe you will finally finish observation. Are you getting the picture? If you are seriously studying a passage. In other words, please be patient with yourself. This is not a quick fix, a secret formula to super speed up your study on the Scripture. This is to equip you with tools. Some passages are easier, some are not so easy. Some takes more work, some takes less work, but you need to spend time. And then you carry on the next week. And you continue to get yourself an hour. Interpret, you know. Maybe somewhere along the line because you did your observation well, your interpretation by Wednesday is all done. Three days, three hours worth on interpretation. And then you continue to plough on. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, wow by Sunday, you got your application together. So give yourself time to really study a passage. And it's not that hard. Because if you're really working on a passage, let's say Psalms 23, The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. Initially it's just a song to you, maybe. Maybe it's just something nice you hear at funerals, or maybe at weddings, you know, because it's just such a beloved Psalm, Psalm 23. And initially, it didn't really occur to you what truths there might be, because it's so familiar. But if you put it to memory and you say, 'Lord, I want to know more about you as my Shepherd, and you begin to observe. You put to memory. Only six verses, then on the MRT, or on the bus or at home, when you're relaxing, your mind is spinning The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He leads me to walk beside still waters, and so on and so forth. And you go on, you know, right to the end, Surely mercies and goodness shall follow me all the days of my life. And you know what, it can be really amazing in that week, something in that 6 simple verses can pop up and grab your attention. And that may open a whole new chapter in your understanding. That's what I mean. Give yourself time. Let the Word of God work its way into your life, into your heart. Don't be in a hurry. Don't be in a rush. Don't try to solve all the world's problem or solve all the Bible study challenges in one hour. A night in a month. That probably wouldn't work unless... You know I attended this course, what observe, interpret, apply, it never works. You know why it never works? Time, you need time. Okay, good. Now, all that is to help you understand the importance of application and the time needed. And now we come to the part where we're all been looking forward to. Practice. Okay, practice. I hope you got your notes ready. We are going to practice on Philipians chapter 2:19 to 30. We're going to apply, observe, interpret, and application. Of course, this is a very very sped up, you know, example, because I just told you not to spend an hour a day and expect to do all three, right? And I'm going to try to bring you through this, maybe in less than half an hour. Now, so this is not a model in time. Okay. But this is an example of practice, in principle. Now you're going to see with me, if you scroll down, that there's this passage are printed out for you on page 3. And then there is this notes all done up for you. So what's going to happen here? Well, there are two ways you can approach to this today, in this short, maybe 20-25 minutes. One, you could and highly recommended, take out your paper, take out your pen and begin to do I'm going to guide you through. So you have hands on practice, okay? You draw those triangles, draw those boxes, you know, draw

those lines, bring those notes, so that you get a sense and feel of what you do. But some of you may not want to do that, then what you can do is look at this page instead. This is like the shortcut, the cheat sheet, you know, All the codes are in their already. So you can just look at them. Okay, that's what you mean? And you can follow along. So it's up to you. Okay, one is the, you know, Chinese yuan zhi yuan wei, original. Okay, the other one is all provided for you. The instant noodle. All right, both have its certain limited value, follow along. And let's look at this passage together, shall we? Let me read it to you. Okay, let's see. Practice. Philippians chapter 2, verse 19, to 20. Okay, get your pen ready, if you want to follow along. If not, turn to that cheat sheet or that one with all the notes and diagrams and see how it works out. I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon. That I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interest, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself because as a son, with his father, he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

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I'm confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon. But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. Indeed, he was ill and almost died. But God had mercy on him and not on him only, but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore, I'm all the more eager to send him so that when you see him again, you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord with great joy and honour men like him, because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me. Now, as I read that passage, I wonder how many of you tried very hard to follow? If you did, good. If you did, could you really understand what Paul was saying? I doubt so. Now those of you whose mind was somewhere else, like, Okay, what did I had for lunch? What did my friend just say about me? You know, what are my kids doing now? Even worse. You're not even close to observation. Right? But this is the way it is. When you study the Bible, your mind is not always in the right frame of focus, right? So just now what I read, some of you were with me, some of you are not with me, your minds were wandering. So what is going to do now? For the next five minutes, if you really want to learn to observe? This is what I encourage you to do, okay? Don't go on your WhatsApp. Don't go and check commentaries. Read the passage again. All right, read it now for yourself. Start observing just for five minutes, read it as many times as you need to, until you finally pause everything else that you're thinking of and start thinking about what Paul is saying. Because that's where observation start. Five minutes only, okay? May the Lord be with you. Go. Okay, now, you may be getting into the thick of it, but none will draw you back to the class here. When you look at Philippians chapter 2 verse 19 to 30, I'm gonna give you a bit of context because all this will come when you really study the Bible. You got the first ask what's Philippians? Well, Philippians, it's a letter, the genre, or the type of writing in the Scripture. It's a letter. Now who wrote Philippians? Maybe you didn't think of that yet. But soon, we will have to equip you with that awareness, that understanding that you will begin to ask these questions. So who wrote it? Anyone know? Paul, very good. Now, who did he write this to? Very good. The Christians at Philippi. And where is Philippi? Philippi is in Macedonia, It's in Greece. We read in Acts 16, that when Paul wanted to go into Asia Minor, the Holy Spirit forbade him and then he will eventually led to Philippi, where he met a seller of purple, Lydia, and there he saw that the Lord was with this lady and he stayed there. And they were the first household that trusted the Lord. And then

you later read on the story of the jailer, right, who converted when Paul was in prison there because he was maligned and accused of crimes he didn't commit, and the Lord, allowed an earthquake to take place. And the prison cells were all open, but they didn't run away. And when the Philippians jailer was ready to kill himself, Paul said, do not kill yourself, we are going to escape. And somehow, the earthquake and the prison situation convicted the jailer of his sin. And he asked Paul, what must I do to be saved? Right? So there was this miraculous encounter, in which this incident led to this person wanting to trust in Jesus. And Paul told him, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved. So those are some little historical background of how this church formed. And now years later, Paul is writing a letter to this church. And we're in the second chapter. So what happened in the earlier part, if you look into the contexts. Well the earlier part, if you did, you know, run your eyes over across to take a look, you will read that in the first half of chapter two, the Bible tells us that Jesus humbled Himself and therefore we should also humble ourselves. And then it flowed into now this passage. Now if you had in the past five minutes, been trying to read and focus and think about what he's saying, you will be in a better position now to follow along. I'm going to give you some observations, okay? And for those of you who wants to take note, this is a time to take out your pen or take out your typing note. For those of you who just want to look at the passage and get a feel, then you look at that one with all the triangle and something else. Now first question to observe using the five W's, who are the main people in this passage?

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Who are the main people? You'll find that the first person mentioned here is nope. Who? Lord Jesus, why you forgot him? Observation, remember, look at the fish, you know? Not the fish but look at the passage. Right, the Lord Jesus great draw a triangle there. Okay, highlight to yourself. This is when Jesus you know, pops up, God pops up. Okay, good. So you now highlight. This is a person, good. Then the next person well done, Timothy. Maybe you can draw a square. Right. So now the people whom you may be overlooked or gloss over, they should now stand out to you so that it helps you to observe. Now you may not like to draw triangles, maybe you hate squares, I do not know. But do whatever you like to do. You want to use colour also can. Bright red for what person so you have a colour code. Do whatever you need to highlight your observations. That's the point. Okay, now that's another person that was mentioned. Who is that person? Yes, Epaphroditus okay. He's not a fruit, he's not a Greek goddess. Okay, sometimes you see Epaphroditus, Oh, is Epraditis? No, no, no, no, no, no, no. So observe, observe, observe, okay, he's a person. So what do you do for Epaphroditus? Maybe you'll draw a circle. Right? Ah, okay. Now, I have some people that I need to take note of. We are not talking about some high truths. We're not talking about some deep, you know, discussion of theology. This passage, it's very interpersonal. Right? You have Timothy, you have Epaphroditus. It's very true to life. Okay, so your observation now helps you to realise that we're not talking about some deep theology or some high truth. We're talking about people now. Good. Now, what else can you observe? You observe that not only are they interacting among themselves? You'll notice in verse 21, okay, that is for every one looks out for his own interest. So now Paul is also reaching out beyond this circle, Timothy, Epaphroditus, Lord Jesus and himself to talk about everyone else. So they are now interacting with this larger group of people. Now, who are they? Well, we got to find out, we got to observe. We need to compare Scripture with Scripture. And you look at verse 28. It says that, I'm more eager to send him so that when you see him again, you may be glad and I have less anxiety. Welcome him in the Lord and with great joy, honour men like him. So you'll notice that there's some action going

on here, but we'll come to that later. All right. So these people are not static. They are on the move. They're doing something in this passage. You need to observe slowly and find out what. Okay, so think about now the circumstances. Just now was full. Now is what is going on in our passage. Just come now to verse 19. Verse 19, Paul says here, I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon. Now, who's the you here? The church, which church? In Philippi. Okay, so obviously, Paul is not in Philippi. So where was he, anyone know? Very good. Okay, if you did your historical study and background, this is his Rome imprisonment. So he's in Rome, still in Greece, but quite far away, in that Western region, but he wants to send Timothy to the Christians at Philippi. And in verse 20, he complemented Timothy. He said, I have no one else like you, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. Now, if you go to verse 25, you'll notice that he's sending another person to the church at Philippi. Who is that person? Yes, Epaphroditus. Now who is Epaphroditus here? Who is Epaphroditus? He's a messenger sent by the church at Philippi. And you notice that Epaphroditus also get very high commendation. He called him his brother, his fellow worker, his fellow soldier, who is your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. So now Paul is sending Timothy and also wants to send Epaphroditus back to the church at Philippi. And in verse 24, you will notice that

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Paul himself once to visit. Okay, Paul himself wants to visit. Somehow Paul sense or knew that he will also be released. Okay, so what kind of relationship do you think Paul has with the church at Philippi?

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Is it close? Yeah, I think it's pretty close. What kind of relationship? What else can you tell from all these exchanges? Shepharding, that's great. That's a great thought. Right? What else besides shepharding ?

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As a mentoring relationship, yeah probably some truth will be exchange. But you'll notice that the men that the church sent to Paul was not someone whom he has to rebuke or correct. But he says fellow worker, fellow soldier, my brother. So is he good man or not good man? Good man, right? So when the church sends a good man, the church sometimes feel like I had a loss right? I mean, could you imagine, will Gospel Light Christian Church be happy to send Pastor Jason to, what's the latest mission station that Pastor Paul went to setup? Khajistan. I think all of you will go on a vote right? No, but think about it with me. Okay. This is very real. If Gospel Light Christian Church eventually all agree and voted, prayed to send Pastor Jason to Khajistan, what does it speak about you as a church? Outstanding, you give your best. Right? And you must really love the church at Khajistan, if not why send Pastor Jason? We want him ourselves. We need him every Sunday morning. Right? Are you getting the picture? So, now when the church at Philippi is going to send such a quality guy to Paul, what does it say about the church at Philippi relationship to Apostle Paul? Close it's what, it's warm, right? You send one of your best man over. To do what? Sit at prison and look after him. Wow. Okay, that's quite unusual. That's quite a love relationship, isn't it? It's warm and Paul knew it too. Paul said, you sent me a really good guy. And what does Paul do? I'm going to keep him to myself. No, right? So what did Paul do? What Paul said he will do. He want to send him back. Could you imagine the church Khajistan. They are so deeply blessed by Pastor Jason's preaching and exegesis and many souls were saved. Many people were disciplined. And then Khajistan said, you know, Gospel Light Christian Church,

thank you so much. We're keeping him for good. Then you be like, Wah, loss. No, right. What happened? The church at Khajistan say, hey, you know what, we are so deeply blessed. We want to send him back to you. You know how Gospel Light Christian Church will feel? That's a great church. I mean, they love the Lord. They're not selfish. They didn't keep our best guy, you know, and he's sending him back to us just to bless our hearts. Wonderful. We're not sending him back. Right? So we don't want to think like that. We're seeing an exchange of love here? Do you realise that? We're not keeping the best to ourselves? We're sharing, we're sending them back and forth. Why? Because there is a very warm relationship. If you read other epistles, like the epistles to the Corinthian church, whether first or second Corinthians, you will notice there isn't so much standing back and forth. You will notice that right? There's a lot of what? A lot of teaching, because there's a lot of wrong understanding of truth. But here you have a church that is actually putting truth of love in action. So the situation if you think about it, okay, is communicating things that you might have glossed over. Now, let's look at verse 26. For he longs for all of you and he is distress, because you heard he was ill. I don't know how you think and feel. But to our modern mind is like, aiyo, why so gan cheong. Go see a doctor? Take two Panadol, next day well already. You know, it's like, come on, let's not make a mountain out of a molehill. But you know, in those days, when a person is ill, maybe they don't have a pharmacy nearby. I don't know. Maybe they don't have a doctor. They don't have Panadol. Do you know that aspirin wasn't invented until much later? And so when they get ill, they could easily die just because they had a fever. You remember in the Gospels, when Peter's mom had a fever, when Jesus went in to heal? It was a big deal. Do you remember that when a little girl was ill and Jesus healed, it was a big deal because they didn't have pharmacies. They didn't have doctors. They didn't have hospitals. And so when the church in Philippi heard that Epaphroditus was ill, think about it. Was ill. Epaphroditus was not thinking, aiyo I so poor thing. I come here, I serve God and I fall sick.

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Aiyo, how come God, you never take care of me. He wasn't thinking of that, you know. He was thinking of what? He was distressed. He was troubled because the church at Philippi heard that he was ill. That means even the news of his sickness and the distress it could cause to the church at Philippi troubled Epaphroditus's heart. So you can see here that that is a very unusual relationship of love and concern, one for another. Now, when was all this taking place? Well, obviously this took place after the church at Philippi was established. Right? It all took place after Paul was in prison. And it all took place after Epaphroditus visited Paul. Now, we are seeing already where these people are according to the texts. And now let's look at why? Why did Paul write this section of the letter? Why did he do that? He wanted to introduce Timothy because he's going to send Timothy to Philippi. Right? He's going to send him to Philippi because he wants now Timothy to bless the church at Philippi. All right. Now why else is he writing this letter?

45:03

It has something to do with this people. Epaphroditus and Timothy. Think about, if someone in the church at Khajistan send their best to us. And we are deeply blessed. How would you feel? You feel loved? Right? And if we are operating normally and not selfishly, spiritually and not canaly, when you are loved, how do you respond? You want to love them back in return, right? So did you notice what Paul is doing? He's still in prison. And he's not only sending Timothy. He sent Epaphroditus back as well. The logical mind will say keep one, at least can run some errands for me, right? At least can buy

my wanton mee for me and queue for the prata. Correct? Keep one. But Paul is like, oh, I'm so loved by you guys. I'm gonna send both back to you. One, for Timothy to bless you. Two, Epaphroditus so that you can see for yourself that he is now well, just so that you are no longer distress. There is this very, very fine relationship of love that he's expressing. So in verse 24, you will notice that he wants not only to send them, he also wants to go and see them himself. Now, verse 25, says that he wants to thank them for Epaphroditus. And in verse 27, if you notice, he says that he was ill and almost died. But God had mercy on him and not on him only but also on me to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. Why sorrow upon sorrow? He's already in this place of sorrow called a prison, right? Could you imagine in this prison, when a church love him so much and send a messenger? He worked so hard until he almost died? How do you think Paul will respond? Wah, why you sent me a sick guy. No, right? This will be how a selfish man will respond. Wah you send me a someone healthier. No, he was having already all this sorrow in prison, he was deeply blessed and to see Epaphroditus serve him and his needs until he himself fell sick. He must have worked really hard. If he could sense that if Epaphroditus, his brother, his fellow soldier, his fellow worker is to pass away looking after him, he will feel even sadder. So there's all these affections and, you know, concern and Christian love being displayed. So, after having observed all this. Now, I brought you through quite quickly, and point out certain things to you that you might not have considered. So basically, maybe what you might have arrived at over a week as you chew on it, studied, observe, thought about it, that will eventually pop up over the week. We kind of sped it up to within 20 minutes. Now, here's the catch. Okay, this one I cannot speed up. But this one, you have to put your mind and heart to it. Remember application. So go back to your notes. Look at pray. Think. Okay, look at talk, look at listen. Find the one that you can now apply to help you in your application. Now that you have this observation and interpretation, pray and ask God to apply what you're seeing in this passage to your own life, five minutes, okay? If you can write, write. If you cannot write type, okay, but now make some

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applications. Okay, now, as applications are pretty personal, I wouldn't be inviting you to share. But I do hope that you have written down certain meaningful thoughts, and have got the hang of it so that you know what it should feel like when you do your own personal or group Bible study. I hope that after this session, you'll realise that a real Bible study takes time. Okay, it takes thought, it takes prayer. It takes work, and it cannot be done overnight. Okay, you have to really plough at it to get the right sense of the text. Find out what it really says, what it really means and then make those applications. And then you will be profitable. So that's all we're going to cover for inductive Bible study. Next week you're going to be stretched further. You're going to be introduced to this thing called genres. Okay, you're going to look at Old Testament genres, you're going to look at New Testament genres, you're looking at poetic, apocalyptic. That will be near the end. All different kinds of ways the Bible is written. Okay, so just when you think maybe you got a handle on inductive Bible study, you are going to be now thrown a little into the deep end. So I welcome all those who are bold, courageous, and who are daring. Come back and join us next week. And find out more about how the Bible is written so that this will help you in studying the Bible. All right, those of you who have questions, feel free to stay behind. I'll be here for a while to answer some of your questions. Otherwise, I would like to pray for all of you. And then we will dismiss. Our Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for this study on inductive Bible study today. Lord, we realise that so often, we want to learn truths that would warm our hearts and maybe tickle our brains, but not quite applying it to our lives. Today, we looked at a simple passage on Philippians and realise

that here are real Christians in action. Men like Epaphroditus, Paul Timothy, they were interacting with one another in a difficult situation when Paul was in prison, and they make certain choices that reveal genuine Christian love and concern. How should that motivate us? How should that challenge us in the way we make our own decisions, in difficult situations, in our own lives. May You open our eyes, that we may behold, wonderful things out of Your Law, so that we can be doers of Your Word and not hearers only. Lord, I pray for all my brothers and sisters here that they will take some of these principles and truths that they have learned and begin to work it into their own study of the Scriptures, that they may benefit greatly from their own study of Your Word. We ask all this now in Jesus name, Amen. All right. God bless all of you. I hope to see you again next week for how to look at the Old Testament.