

Inductive Observations Guide

Inductive Bible study is both a science and an art. The goal is to find the observation. The suggestions for how to mark each observation are just that, suggestions. My goal when marking up a passage is to make it visually easy for me to see. Feel free to copy it exactly how I do it or make it your own as you get more comfortable.

****All examples below come from 2 Timothy 1:1-18. These observations are not exhaustive. They are meant as examples.**

1. Descriptions. Descriptions are usually made up of adjectives, lists of adjectives, or nouns that are used to describe a person, thought, condition, or way of life. Keep a sharp lookout for descriptions - God often uses them when revealing Himself. Make sure to note descriptions of the Author, Audience and God; but be on the lookout for other descriptions surrounding key themes. Ex. Gospel, growth, Bible, etc. Use “ ” to mark descriptions. ****notice the “ ” below**

Examples:

Paul is described as:

- an apostle (1:1,11)
- prisoner (1:8)
- a preacher (1:11)
- a teacher (1:11)

Timothy is described as:

- Paul's beloved son (1:2).
- Having sincere faith (1:5).
- Having a good deposit entrusted to him (1:14).

¹Paul, an ¹¹apostle of Christ Jesus ¹¹by the will of God, according to the promise

of life in Christ Jesus, ¹¹To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from

2. Reasons/results. This type of speech indicates to us the motive we should have for doing something or a result we can expect from a certain type of action. Circle (O) key words and link ideas with curved arrows. Look for key words and phrases such as:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|
| • Because | • in order that | • for |
| • Therefore | • since | • thus |
| • That | • so | |

Examples:

- The reason Paul tells Timothy that he longs to see him is so that Paul may be filled with joy (1:4).
- The reason that Paul reminds Timothy to kindle afresh the gift of God is because Paul has been reminded of Timothy's sincere faith (1:5-6).

****notice circle around key word and curved arrows pointing to reason/result**

you, even as I recall your tears, (so that) I may be filled with joy. (For) I am mind-

ful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois

and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. (For this reason)

I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying



3. Repetition of thoughts or words. This type of observation should be made not simply to enumerate the frequency of the repetition, but to help in identifying the issues that are being addressed and how they relate to surrounding issues. Repetition reveals the author's emphasis.

Examples:

"Not ashamed" is repeated 3x in 2 Timothy 1:8-16

Paul repeats how he thinks/remembers about Timothy 3-4 times: ***notice unique marks*

- Constantly remembers Timothy in his prayers (v. 3).
- Recalled Timothy's tears and longs to see him (v. 4).
- Has been reminded of Timothy's sincere faith (v. 5).

did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, ¹longing to see

you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. ²For I am mind-

4. Comparisons and/or contrasts. Comparisons help us to understand the similarities between certain things or ideas, while contrasts aid us in seeing distinctions, differences, or opposites. Use a box (□) to mark compare/contrast words and link ideas with straight arrows.

Comparisons can be identified by words such as: *like, as, just as, so also, likewise*

Contrasts can be identified by: *but, however, neither-nor, yet, otherwise, nevertheless, although*

Examples:

- Paul compares Timothy's faith to that of his mother & grandmother (v. 5).
- Paul gives a 3-fold contrast to the spirit of timidity with a spirit of power, love, & discipline (v. 7). – *(notice box with arrows to timidity & 3-fold...)*

on of my hands. ⁷For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and
3 fold contrast
to spirit of
timidity love and discipline.
② ③

5. Types of Statements. Different types of statements help reveal the tone of the passage. Also, they are helpful in understanding how truths should be applied. Underline key phrases of each statement.

Commands – imperative, action statements.

Promises – if, will statements with a positive future connotation

Warnings – if, will statements with a negative future connotation

Exhortations – "should," "let us" phrases that signal strong encouragement but are short of a direct command

Rhetorical Questions – often used to prove a point

Examples:

- Command: Paul commands Timothy to not be ashamed to testify about our Lord and to not be ashamed of Paul and to join with him in suffering for the gospel (v. 8).
***notice underline below*
- Exhortation: The writer of Hebrews exhorts the readers to consider how they may spur one another on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24-25).



Here is an example of the entire passage of 2 Timothy 1 marked with the Big Idea at the bottom:

Why Paul is an apostle....
 1) by will of God
 2) by promise of life in Christ

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved son, grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ungrave to add "mercy" in greeting

Context:
 - thankfulness
 - prayer for him
 - longing to see

³I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well for this reason

Compare faith of mother/g-mother

Exhortation: I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

3-fold contrast to spirit of timidity

Command
 Command
 how to get through suffering
 Contrast calling NOT by works but by God's purpose/grace
 Great description of the Gospel & what Jesus did = the reason for which Paul preaches

⁶Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, ¹⁰but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, ¹¹for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. ¹²For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; ¹³for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Bookend commands... the gospel is why suffering & teaching Christ are worth it.

Command
 Command

Context:
 - conflict & desertion Paul is dealing with

¹⁵You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. ¹⁶The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains; but when he was in Rome, he eagerly searched for me and found me—
¹⁸the Lord grant to him to find mercy from the Lord on that day—and you know very well what services he rendered at Ephesus.

****Share Christ through suffering****

