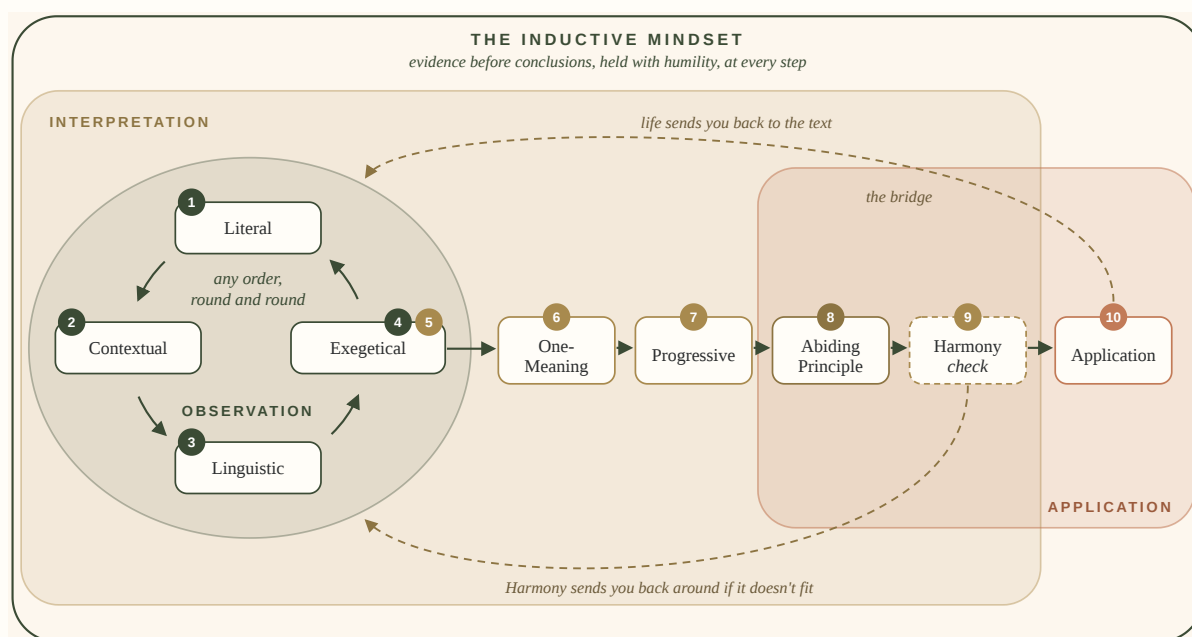


The Ten Questions

*A time-tested way for the workman who “accurately handles the word of truth”
(2 Timothy 2:15, BSB)*



Lesson 4 online



Questions 1 to 4 go round and round, in any order, until the meaning comes clear; then the road runs on. Harmony, or life itself, can send you back around.

#	The question to ask	Stage · Guardrail
1	What genre is this, and what does it actually say in that genre?	Observation · Literal
2	What surrounds it, what did the first readers know, and where does it sit in the whole story?	Observation · Contextual
3	Is there a word where the Hebrew or Greek adds nuance?	Observation · Linguistic
4	What is the Author saying in this passage to the original audience?	Into Interpretation · Exegetical
5	What am I bringing to this text that I need to let go of?	Posture check · Exegetical
6	What is the one thing this meant when it was first given, before later revelation illuminated it further?	Interpretation · One-Meaning
7	Where does this sit in the unfolding story? What had God revealed by then, and what did He reveal later?	Interpretation · Progressive
8	What is the timeless, abiding principle that applies to us today?	The bridge · Abiding principle
9	Do clear passages elsewhere agree with my reading?	A check · Harmony
10	How might we apply this abiding principle to our lives today? How is God inviting you to live out this abiding principle this week?	Application

Book Background Guide

Use these questions each time you begin a new book of the Bible. **Let Scripture answer first, then consult wisely.**

Book: _____

1. Author and time *(the time gap)*

Who wrote this book, and when? What was happening in the world then?

2. First readers *(the culture gap)*

Who first received it? What were their background, beliefs and struggles? What did they already know?

3. Occasion and purpose

Why was it written? What did the author want his readers to know, believe or do?

4. Kind of writing *(the genre gap)*

Is it narrative (history, gospel, parable, genealogy), poetry (songs, wisdom, prophecy), prose discourse (law, sermons, letters) or apocalyptic (visions full of symbols, as in Daniel and Revelation)? Most books mix them.

5. Place *(the place gap)*

Where were the author and the readers? Who ruled, and what was the land like?

6. Place in God's story *(the theological gap)*

What had God already revealed by the time this book was written? What did He reveal later that its first readers did not yet know? Where does this book fit in the story of God's plan of salvation? *(Later revelation adds to what came before; it never contradicts it.)*

Where to look: the book itself first; then the introduction in a study Bible, a Bible dictionary, a Bible atlas, a Bible introduction and good commentaries. Use three to five sources, and be careful with websites: anyone with an opinion can make one.