



## INTRODUCTION TO INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (IBS)

Inductive Bible Study has its roots in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the work of two Yale scholars, William Rainey Harper, and Wilbert White (Founder, Biblical Seminary of NY). These scholars emphasized mastery of the Biblical text through a methodical and careful reading of the *text itself*, in the reader's native tongue (English in their case). This technique would come to be known as "inductive study" because it employed inductive logic (drawing conclusions only after examining the evidence... the text in our case). For 100+ years IBS has been a major way scholars have interpreted and applied the Bible. This course is intended to provide a basic overview of Inductive Bible Study (IBS). Students will learn to OBSERVE the text grammatically, INTERPRET it with an understanding of its original historical context, and the APPLY it to our contemporary context. Paul's short epistle to Philemon will provide the backdrop for the class. We'll unpack Philemon as we explore it using the IBS method.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 12 pack of standard colored pencils (\$2 at most grocery stores)

### SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Bible (preferably one you don't mind coloring in). Philemon texts (NRSV) will be provided for those who wish to use them.
- Methodical Bible Study (Robert A. Traina) \$12 – Amazon. This book will not be referenced in our class, however it provides a great overview of the basics of Inductive Bible Study, and would be a good resource for those who would like to keep studying using IBS methods.
- How To Read the Bible Book by Book (Gordon D. Fee) \$13 –Amazon. This book will not be referenced in class, but it is a fantastic Bible Handbook, providing key overview/historical information for every book of the Bible. It's a tremendous "one-stop-shop", easy to read resource that will complement the study of any book of the Bible.