

## GUIDELINES FOR USING A STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

The Strong's concordance is a book which lists all the words of the bible. Most are based on the King James Version, and it is written in dictionary form. It tells you which book and verse of the bible that you may find a particular word. Also included in the back of the Strong's Concordance is a Hebrew and Greek dictionary.

You can use a Strong's Concordance in two ways. Either to help you find a verse and the scripture reference or to define a word in its original form, whether it be Hebrew or Greek. (note the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek)

For example...let's say you want to find a verse on asking for wisdom. You may even know it's in the New Testament. So, you turn to the Strong's and use it just as you would a dictionary looking for the word wisdom. You will find it on page 1175. You can scan down looking at all the books of the bible where the word wisdom is found. A part of the verse is given on each reference line to give you an idea of what the verse is referring to. You find, for example, James 1:5 to be the verse you were thinking of. It's found in the bottom right-hand column on page 1175. You can now turn to this reference in your bible and read the verse in context of what the author is speaking about.

The other way to use the concordance is to define a word. But, before you can define a word, you must understand the number system used in correlation with the dictionaries in the back. To the right of each verse listed, is a number written either upright (456), or in italics (*456*). In looking at the word wisdom in James 1:5, you will see the number *4678* (italics). Turn to the Greek dictionary of the New Testament in the back and find the number *4678*. (it's found on page 66) You will see the word wisdom written with the definition following. There often will be reference to another number which means that the word came from another root word, Therefore, to gain greater understanding of the word wisdom, you need to also look up *4680*.

Defining words from the bible helps give you accurate interpretation of the passage you're studying and guards against ever coming to a false meaning of what the scripture says. (this is where cults go astray).

## BASIC INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

### Observation

Goal: to examine and pay careful attention to the text of the Bible.

- Note and mark repeated word in the text you are studying
- Make note of contrasts in the verses
- Make note of comparisons in the verses
- Notice conclusion words and ask what conclusion is being drawn
- Look for detail-things like lists of actions, thoughts, instructions, characteristics in the verses
- Ask questions as you read the text. Use the 5 “W’s” and “H” questions (who, what, why, where, when, how)

Who wrote it? To whom is he speaking?

When did this event take place?

When will it happen?

What are the main events?

What are the major ideas/doctrines?

What is his purpose in saying that?

Where was this done?

Why was this mentioned?

How is this truth illustrated?

How is it done?

- Optional: Choose a key verse that summarizes the theme of the chapter. Title each chapter of the text to reflect the chapter theme.

### Interpretation

Goal: to help you discover what the text means.

- Try to find answers to the questions you wrote in observation
- Look up definitions of words in the text (use Strong’s Concordance, Vine’s Dictionary, Greek or Hebrew Lexicon, etc.)
- Look up cross references
- Do word studies and topical studies

### Application

Goal: for the Lord to show you what you should personally apply to your life from what you have learned. How does this knowledge change my thinking and my actions?

## JOHN 15

**1** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

**5** “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

**9** “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

**11** “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. **12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. **17** These things I command you, that you love one another.

**18** “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept

My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** He who hates Me hates My Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. **25** But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

**26** "But when the [c]Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. **27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

## OPTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

### 1. Topical Study

- a. Pick a topic
- b. In a concordance, look up all references to this topic and jot down what they say to you.
- c. Look up cross-references from these verses and record their main thoughts.
- d. In a concordance, look up some words that are opposites of the topic you have chosen; for example, for diligence look up laziness. Record the main thoughts from each of these verses.
- e. Ask yourself the following questions:
  1. How does this topic apply to my life?
  2. Is there a command for me to obey?
  3. Is there an instruction I need to follow?
  4. What are the benefits of abiding in the Word concerning this topic?
  5. What are the consequences if I don't?
  6. What similar truths has God revealed to me in the past?
- f. Look over all that you have found. Pray and then journal what you learned and what God showed you about the topic.

### 2. Word Study

- a. Select a word that you want to study.
- b. With a concordance, list all of the verses that contain that particular word. If there are too many, choose the ones that stand out to you.
- c. Look them up and write down what they say to you.
- d. Look up any cross-references that are included with these verses and write what each of them is saying.
- e. Read over and then pray about what you've found. Journal your thoughts about what you have learned and what God has shown you through this study.

### 3. Character Study

- a. Choose a character whom you want to learn more about.
  - b. In a concordance, find the character, and then make a list of all the references to him or her. If there are too many, choose the ones that stand out to you.
  - c. Read each passage and record what is revealed about the character. You could also read whole passages of the Bible in which this person's life is prominent.
  - d. Ask yourself the following questions about this person:
    1. What was his/her motivation in life?
    2. What things may have hindered his/her walk with God?
    3. What were his/her strengths?
    4. How did this person handle trials or difficult situations?
    5. What are the similarities/differences between this person and myself?
    6. What qualities in this person do I desire to have in my own life?
    7. Can I tell how much time this person spent in prayer, the Word, or in fellowship with God?
    8. What can I learn from this person's walk with God?
3. Read over all that you've found. Pray and journal about what the Lord taught you through this study.

### **Suggestions for your own quiet time.**

1. Find a quiet place where you can be alone.
2. Have a plan. Our quiet times should not be a haphazard time, but a time that we can spend that will develop our faith and walk with the Lord.

The following will be useful for you to use in order to grow in your knowledge of the Word and in learning to hear God's voice speaking to you:

- a Bible
  - daily Bible reading plan (the One Year Bible is a good place to start)
  - a journal
  - a devotional book
3. Your quiet time should include a time in prayer with the Lord. You can develop a prayer list of people and things that you want to pray for and write those prayers in your journal. It is always a blessing to be able to go back and read your prayer requests at a later time and see how the Lord has answered them. And don't forget to pray for yourself...for your spiritual growth and understanding, for sins which you struggle with and need to forsake, for how the Lord would have you to serve Him, etc.
  4. In your quiet time, you should be reading the Bible with the intent to have God speak to you through it. It's not a matter of how much you read, but how you read. Ask God to show you things you have never noticed before or how the particular passage you are reading applies to you personally. Debbi Bryson of The Journey on the Bible Bus encourages you to ask the following questions as you read your Bible:

- What did I learn about God today in my reading?
- What did I learn as a lesson about life?
- What did I learn about myself, my attitudes, priorities, fears, failures, desires, mission, or my destiny?
- Is there a lesson that I can apply today?
- What can I take from my reading and pray back to God for understanding, instruction, or help?

Journaling is a very helpful and practical tool to use as you read and pray in your quiet time. It will help you to better remember what you read as well as be a blessing for you as you look back at your prayers and the things the Lord has shown you in your time with Him.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY TEXT-JOHN 15

Title: A fruit bearing Disciple

What is a  
vinedresser?

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept

Why does the world hate us?  
How do we bear fruit?  
What is the difference between a servant and a friend?

What happens if we don't abide  
What instructions are we given  
in this Chapter?



My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. **22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. **23** He who hates Me hates My Father also. **24** If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. **25** But *this* happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Who is the Helper?  
What does He do?

**26** "But when the [c]Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. **27** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

### What do you learn about the Father?

- He is the Vinedresser
- He is glorified when we bear fruit
- He loves Jesus, His Son
- The world hates Him
- The Holy Spirit comes from Him
- Jesus makes known His words to us
- He answers prayer

### Abiding

- you must abide in the Vine (Jesus)
- you must abide to bear fruit
- We're to abide in Jesus' love
- His word is to abide in me

What happens if we don't abide?  
What instructions are given in this chapter?  
If this chapter?

What is the difference between a servant and a son?  
How do we bear fruit?  
What is the difference between a servant and a son?