LIFE GROUP / BRANCHES BREAKOUT

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How To Develop Small Group Questions Using the Inductive Method

What is *inductive* bible study?

- *Inductive* simply refers to the process of collecting information and drawing conclusions from observation.

- “A commitment to the evidence that is in and around the text so as to allow that evidence to determine our understanding of the meaning of the text, wherever that evidence may lead.” - David Bauer and Robert Traina, *Inductive Bible Study*
Why Develop My Own Questions?

- This kind of preparation allows the Spirit to open your eyes to a greater understanding of the passage.
- Provides an opportunity to discover insights into the passage that apply more directly to the needs and experiences of your group.
- Allows for tailoring the discussion to the spiritual maturity level of your group.
- Ensures that your group discussion is grounded in scripture.
- With the benefit of having already heard the sermon, you will know what the preacher chooses to highlight and what your group may be expecting to discuss.
The Inductive Bible Study Process

THREE KINDS OF QUESTIONS

• **Observation:** *who/what is happening in the text?*

• **Interpretation:** *why is this happening in the text and what does it mean?*

• **Application:** *why does this matter or relate to my life?*
STEP ONE: Observation

• Who is in the passage? List all of the people and the order in which they appear. Categorize them.
• What significant events take place?
• When do the events of this passage occur?
• How does Matthew describe the angel of the Lord?
• How does Matthew describe the Roman soldiers?
• What kinds of repetitions do you notice in this passage (events, words, etc)?
• What reason does the text give for why the women went to the tomb?
STEP TWO: Interpretation

- How would you characterize the range of emotions expressed throughout the events of this passage?
- Why do you think fear features so prominently in this passage?
- What significance do you find in the fact that the soldiers appear as dead men and the supposed dead man appears alive?
- How do you think the original hearers of this story responded to the fact that the first to hear the news were women?
STEP THREE: Application

• Fear is such a common response to divine activity throughout scripture, but it doesn’t really seem to shape the way we talk about God today. Why do you think that is?
• How do the events of Easter morning allow you to understand the silence of God on Good Friday?
• What difference does the angel’s declaration, “he is not here” make in your life?
• If Jesus has already gone ahead of us, what reason do we have to fear?
• What kinds of things fill you with fear today?
• How can you offer these fears to the risen Lord?