

Dr. David Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15, Evaluation and Application Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15, Evaluation and Application, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. David Bauer on inductive Bible study focuses on evaluating and applying biblical interpretations. He explains how to determine if a passage's teachings are universally applicable (transcendent) or specific to its historical context (situation-bound). Bauer emphasizes using contextual and scriptural evidence to make these evaluations, considering factors like the teaching's force, scope, and any implied divine concessions. He further discusses the importance of specific application ("appropriation") in personal life and preaching, contrasting direct and indirect application methods. Finally, he stresses the need for both accurate understanding of the contemporary situation and the specific teaching of a given passage in order to make proper application.

**2. 19 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15 – Double click icon
to play in Windows media player or go to the
Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link
there (Introduction & Languages → Introductory Series →
Inductive Bible Study).**



**Bauer_IBS_Session1
5.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15, Evaluation and Application

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided lecture excerpt by Dr. David Bauer on Inductive Bible Study, specifically focusing on "Evaluation and Application":

Briefing Document: Inductive Bible Study - Evaluation and Application (Dr. David Bauer, Lecture 15)

Introduction:

This briefing summarizes Dr. David Bauer's lecture on the crucial stages of "Evaluation and Application" within the inductive Bible study method. It emphasizes the importance of moving beyond simple interpretation to discerning the relevance and practical implications of biblical texts for contemporary life. The lecture highlights the need to distinguish between situation-bound and transcendent teachings and to consider the force, scope, and degree of concession in applying biblical principles. It also discusses situational evaluation and the principles of correspondence and specificity in appropriation (application) of biblical truths.

Key Themes and Ideas:

1. General Conclusion (Nub of Interpretation):

- Bauer stresses the importance of synthesizing specific inferences into a "general conclusion" paragraph that encapsulates the core meaning of the interpreted passage. This serves as the foundation for evaluation and application.
- Example from James 1:5-8: "Wisdom is the ability fully and profoundly to know the meaning of the reality that God has revealed...and the understanding of the process by which we translate this right thinking...into right action...This wisdom is itself a divine gift..."

1. Evaluation: Transcendent vs. Situation-Bound Teachings:

- **Core Concept:** Evaluation involves determining whether a biblical teaching is *transcendent* (applicable across times and cultures) or *situation-bound* (limited to the original context).
- **Definition: Transcendent:** "...not so tied to the original situation that they cannot be taken up and directly applied, but are legitimately directly applicable in other times and in other places, including our own."

- **Situation-bound:** "...so tied to the original situation in which they were communicated that they could not legitimately be taken up and directly applied in other times and in other places including our own."
- **Importance:** This distinction is crucial for avoiding misapplication of the Bible.
- **Example of situation-bound** - 1 Timothy 5:23, "No longer drink water, but use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses." Is tied to Timothy's specific needs and context.
- **Example of transcendent** - Matthew 22:37-40 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Is seen as broadly applicable to all situations and all times.

1. Additional Aspects of Evaluation:

- **Force of Application:** Is a teaching an *absolute requirement*, a *strong recommendation*, or a *tactical suggestion*?
- **Scope of Applicability:** Does a teaching apply to *all persons* or only to *specific groups*?
- **Degree of Concession:** Does a passage represent *God's ideal* or a *divine concession* due to human limitations? Example of Naaman the Syrian bowing to Rimmon, or Paul allowing marriage to avoid burning with passion

1. Continuum of Transcendence:

- Bauer introduces a continuum where some passages are clearly transcendent (e.g., the Great Commandment, Matthew 22:34-40) while others are clearly situation-bound (e.g., Paul's advice to Timothy about wine, 1 Timothy 5:23). Many passages lie somewhere in between and have elements of both.
- The decision is based on whether the teaching expresses a fundamental truth that transcends the original situation, viewed contextually and through a broad biblical perspective.

1. Evidence-Based Evaluation:

- Decisions about applicability should be based on *evidence*, not just intuition.
- **Types of Evidence:****Context:** Immediate context of the passage within its book (examples are given from Matthew 16:20 - Jesus telling the disciples to tell no one

he is the Messiah, and Matthew 10:5-6 - Go nowhere among the Gentiles. In both cases, these directives are only for the current moment and are overruled by the great commission of Matthew 28) and the broader book context (e.g. Matthew's gospel and the great commission)

- **Scriptural Testimony:** Broader biblical perspective, including the "progress of revelation" from the Old to the New Testament (example from Exodus 21:23-24: "eye for eye", versus Matthew 5:38, where Jesus rejects this literal interpretation of the old law).

1. **Relevance of Situation-Bound Passages:**

- Situation-bound passages are **not** irrelevant.
- They can be relevant to individuals or groups in similar situations (e.g., teachings about eating meat sacrificed to idols).
- The *reason* behind the teaching or its theological implications are almost always directly relevant to those in our own times, even if the literal meaning is not.
- The answer to the rational and implicational question are usually more helpful than the definitive question for today.

1. **Situational Evaluation:**

- It's essential to evaluate the contemporary situation to determine the congruence between biblical teaching and the current context.
- Misunderstanding contemporary situations can lead to misapplication of biblical truth.
- Requires in-depth understanding, particularly for complex contemporary issues such as euthanasia, war, or cloning.

1. **Application (Appropriation):**

- Bauer prefers the term "appropriation" as it encompasses broader spiritual and moral formation, not just behavioral changes.
- **Two key principles for appropriation:**
Correspondence: Ensuring a clear connection between the biblical teaching and the contemporary situation.
- **Specificity:** Avoiding broad, generic applications and instead applying the text in a specific way to specific situations.

- The ideal is that a person can ask exactly how *this* passage, interpreted in a specific way, can be applied specifically to specific situations that they face.
- The goal is for a person to be able to say, “My life is different *because* of this passage,” and would be poorer without the specific insight of the passage being applied.

1. **Appropriation and Thinking:**

- Appropriation should be focused not just on behavior, but also in how we think. The New Testament is concerned with processes of thought and the direction of thought.

1. **Direct vs. Indirect Application (in Preaching/Teaching):**

- **Indirect Application:** Hearers make their own applications based on the teaching.
- **Direct Application:** Preacher/teacher explicitly demonstrates how the teaching should be applied in specific ways.
- Bauer notes that some consider indirect application to be more effective but recognizes a preacher's obligation to point out possible applications.

Conclusion:

Dr. Bauer's lecture provides a thorough framework for biblical evaluation and application. He emphasizes the need for a careful, evidence-based approach that considers context, the nature of the teaching, and the nuances of the contemporary situation. By distinguishing between transcendent and situation-bound teachings, and by emphasizing specific appropriation, the lecture provides a clear path to effective and relevant engagement with the Bible for personal and communal transformation.

4. Study Guide: Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15, Evaluation and Application

Inductive Bible Study: Evaluation and Application

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. According to Dr. Bauer, what is the essence of wisdom as derived from James 1:5-8?
2. What is the primary difference between situation-bound and transcendent teachings?
3. Besides the legitimacy of application, what other factors are involved in biblical evaluation?
4. Explain the concept of "degree of concession" in biblical evaluation and give an example.
5. What is the continuum of transcendence and what are the two examples at either end of it?
6. What two types of evidence are important for biblical evaluation, and what does each provide?
7. How does the Great Commission in Matthew 28 relate to the command in Matthew 10:5-6?
8. Why does Dr. Bauer argue that the teaching in Romans 1:18-36 is considered transcendent?
9. Even if a passage is situation-bound, how can it still be relevant to contemporary believers?
10. What are the two key principles of appropriation, according to Dr. Bauer, and why are they important?

Answer Key

1. Wisdom is the ability to understand God's revealed reality, translate it into right thinking, and implement it into right action, leading to wholeness and unity that pleases God. It is a divine gift freely accessible to Christians through prayer.

2. Situation-bound teachings are exclusively tied to the original context and are not directly applicable to other times, whereas transcendent teachings are not bound by their original context and can be applied universally.
3. Beyond legitimacy, biblical evaluation considers the force of application (absolute requirement vs. suggestion), the scope of application (all persons vs. specific groups), and the degree of concession (God's ideal vs. what God permits).
4. The "degree of concession" refers to when a biblical passage presents a reality that falls short of God's ideal but is something that God allows (such as God allowing Naaman to bow before Rimmon), which should not be taken as God's will, but a concession.
5. The continuum of transcendence refers to the varying levels of direct applicability of biblical teachings, with the love command from Matthew 22 at one end and the instructions to Timothy in 1 Timothy 5 at the other.
6. Contextual evidence from the immediate and broad context of the passage and Scriptural testimony from the wider biblical perspective help evaluate a teaching's applicability by clarifying if the passage expresses a fundamental, transcendent truth or if it is situationally contingent.
7. The Great Commission in Matthew 28, commanding the disciples to make disciples of all nations, directly contradicts the earlier command in Matthew 10:5-6, which restricted them to the lost sheep of Israel, rendering the earlier command situation-bound.
8. Dr. Bauer argues that the teaching in Romans 1:18-36 is transcendent because it is based on creation and the order of creation and a violation of that order against the creator, suggesting that its principles apply universally and remain relevant for as long as creation continues.
9. Even situation-bound passages can be relevant through applying the rational and implicational questions, and they can also be relevant to people in similar situations to those in the original context (i.e. people in cultures with idolatrous practices).
10. The two principles of appropriation are correspondence, ensuring there is a proper link between biblical teaching and the contemporary situation, and specificity, applying the teachings to specific, real-life situations rather than only broadly.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each of the following questions with a well-developed essay incorporating the concepts and ideas in the source material.

1. Discuss the relationship between interpretation and application in inductive Bible study. What are the necessary steps that connect proper interpretation to effective and appropriate application? How can missteps in either of these steps lead to problems or misapplication?
2. Explain the significance of evaluating a biblical teaching's transcendence or situation-bound nature, and what considerations should be taken to distinguish these aspects? How can these conclusions impact how one lives and views Christian teachings?
3. Using examples from the text (the commands to the disciples in Matthew's gospel, the dietary recommendations to Timothy, or the law concerning an "eye for an eye"), explore the different forms of evidence used to determine applicability. How do these different types of evidence function to support or undermine the direct application of a particular teaching?
4. Dr. Bauer argues that appropriation is a better term than application, especially when considering the need for specificity. Discuss the role of the contemporary situation in evaluating and applying biblical truth and how a focus on either the "rational" or "implicational" questions (rather than definitive questions) can aid in applying even situation-bound passages.
5. Critically assess the relationship between the actions (doing) and the thinking (believing/understanding) in applying Biblical truth in everyday life? What is meant by the terms "direct application" and "indirect application"? What is the role of the church in facilitating the application of biblical truth in ways that are both relevant and transformative?

Glossary

- **Inductive Bible Study:** A method of studying the Bible that involves observing, interpreting, and applying the text in that order, focusing on what the text itself says rather than bringing preconceived ideas.

- **Evaluation:** The process of discerning which aspects of biblical interpretation are applicable to contemporary life by determining if teachings are situation-bound or transcendent. It also includes assessing the force, scope, and degree of concession in application.
- **Application:** The process of relating biblical teachings to contemporary life, either personally, communally or culturally by understanding the correspondence between the two and applying that understanding with specificity, considering both thought and action.
- **Situation-Bound:** A characteristic of a biblical teaching that is limited to the original context and circumstances, making it not directly applicable to different times and situations.
- **Transcendent:** A characteristic of a biblical teaching that is not limited to the original context and can be directly applied to various times and situations.
- **Force of Application:** The strength or intensity with which a biblical teaching should be applied, whether as an absolute requirement, recommendation, or tactical suggestion.
- **Scope of Application:** The extent to which a biblical teaching applies, whether to all persons or only to specific groups of people.
- **Degree of Concession:** The concept where God allows a certain behavior or situation that falls short of His ideal will, as a compromise or concession to human weakness.
- **Continuum of Transcendence:** A spectrum illustrating the range of applicability of biblical teachings, from those that are universally transcendent to those that are highly situation-bound.
- **Contextual Evidence:** Biblical evidence derived from the immediate and broader context of a passage, used to determine the validity of an application.
- **Scriptural Testimony:** Biblical evidence from the broader perspective of the entire Bible, often used to evaluate the consistency and applicability of a specific teaching.
- **Appropriation:** The act of making biblical teachings one's own, incorporating them into personal understanding and living, involving more than just behavioral changes but also changes in thinking.

- **Correspondence:** The necessary connection or link between biblical teaching and the contemporary situation to which one is applying that teaching.
- **Specificity:** The practice of applying biblical teachings to precise, concrete, real-life situations, moving beyond generalities to address specific needs and decisions.
- **Direct Application:** When the preacher or teacher makes clear the applicatory significance of the passage being studied.
- **Indirect Application:** When the listener takes ownership of the application of a passage of Scripture.
- **Hermeneutical Spiral:** A process of interpreting a passage of Scripture by using observation, interpretation, evaluation and application and the relationships between those stages.

5. FAQs on Bauer, Inductive Bible Study, Session 15, Evaluation and Application, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Biblical Evaluation and Application

1. **What is the key difference between situation-bound and transcendent biblical teachings, and why is it important to distinguish them?**
 - Situation-bound teachings are closely tied to the original circumstances in which they were given and are not directly applicable to other times and places. Transcendent teachings, on the other hand, express a more fundamental truth and are applicable across different contexts, including our own. Discerning between them is vital for the legitimate and appropriate application of biblical truth, ensuring we don't apply something that is not intended to be generalized.
1. **Beyond simply determining whether a teaching is situation-bound or transcendent, what other factors should we consider during the evaluation phase?**
 - We must evaluate the *force* of the teaching, determining if it's an absolute requirement, a strong recommendation, or merely a suggestion. We also need to consider the *scope* of the teaching, whether it applies to all persons or only a specific group. Furthermore, we should recognize instances of *divine concession*, where God permits behavior that is not ideal but reflects a response to a specific situation or human weakness. These distinctions inform how we understand the weight and applicability of the teaching.
1. **Can you give an example of a biblical passage that represents each end of the continuum of transcendence, and why they are classified as such?**
 - Matthew 22:34-40, which commands loving God and neighbor, is an example of a *transcendent* teaching. Its context and consistent repetition throughout Scripture shows it as a core directive, not tied to a specific time or culture. Conversely, 1 Timothy 5:23, advising Timothy to drink wine for his stomach ailments, appears *situation-bound*. Its context shows it to be contingent on Timothy's health, not a general requirement, and the Bible does not forbid the drinking of water in other places.

1. How do we use contextual and scriptural evidence to determine if a teaching can be directly applied today?

- *Contextual evidence* involves examining the immediate setting of a passage and the broader context of the book and the Bible itself. For example, Jesus' command in Matthew 16:20 not to reveal his Messiahship is situation-bound due to the later Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. *Scriptural testimony* considers how the Bible's message unfolds over time. Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:38 regarding "turning the other cheek" revises the law of retaliation from Exodus 21:23-24, demonstrating how the New Testament changes application of the Old Testament law.

1. Even if a passage is considered situation-bound, how can it still be relevant to modern believers?

- While the direct answer to the definitive question of a situation-bound passage may not apply today, the underlying reason or implications of the passage are almost always relevant. By asking *why* the passage communicates what it does and what the *theological implications* are, we can often discover principles that are transcendent and applicable to modern situations. Also, it may apply directly to people in similar situations that exist today.

1. What is situational evaluation, and why is it essential in the application process?

- Situational evaluation means assessing the contemporary context to which biblical teachings are being applied. We must accurately understand the dynamics, nuances, and complexities of modern situations to ensure that biblical teaching is applied appropriately. Failure to do so can lead to misapplication and potentially cause harm. It's crucial to consider if there is sufficient congruity between the biblical truth and the modern situation to which it's being applied.

1. What does 'appropriation' mean, and how does it differ from simple 'application'?

- Appropriation is a broader term than application. While application often refers to specific actions or behaviors, appropriation encompasses moral and spiritual formation. It's about how a biblical teaching shapes our overall understanding, thinking, and way of life, not merely specific behavioral decisions. It involves asking, "How does this teaching change the way I think about and live in this contemporary situation?"

- **What are the key principles of correspondence and specificity in appropriation and why are they important for effectively applying Biblical teachings?** The principle of *correspondence* ensures a valid relationship between the biblical teaching and the contemporary situation. The principle of *specificity* requires moving beyond general platitudes to understand how *this* particular teaching from *this* passage impacts *this* specific aspect of life or situation. Broad applications often fail to be helpful because people live in the specifics of life, not just general concepts.