**Inductive Study of an Epistle**

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|  | **Step-by-Step Instructions** | *Check when completed* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Read the Epistle you are studying 1 time in its entirety.** |  |
| **2** | **Read the epistle a second time. This time shade with a different color all references to the recipients including the pronouns. Then record on your Epistle overview worksheet all you can learn about the recipient (faithful saints and brothers in Colossae) from the letter.** |  |
| **3** | **Read the epistle a third time. This time shade with a different color references to the author (Paul & Timothy). Record on your epistle overview worksheet all that you can learn about the Author’s attitude toward the recipient along with the references.** |  |
| **4** | **Examine any and all references to the people (Ex: Colossians) in question. *These should be references from the Bible, but outside the letter you are studying.* Record on your Epistle Overview Worksheet your discoveries from these sources and where in the Bible you discovered this information. Next, you would include information from the introduction of your commentary or other background information you find from sources *outside the Bible.*** |  |
| **5** | **Summarize each Paragraph in the epistle. (A suggested guide for this part is to summarize the paragraph in 25 words or less.) Record these summaries on your Epistle’s Paragraph Summaries worksheet along with the chapter number and paragraph number.** |  |
| **6** | **Using the RIGHT column of your Epistle’s Paragraph Summaries worksheet, determine the different Sections (arguments) of the letter and give each section a title. Record your sections titles on your “Chart of Epistle” worksheet.** |  |
| **7** | **Using your Chart of Epistle worksheet, determine and write out the purpose for which the letter was written. N.T. writers often, but not always, state their purpose for writing at the beginning or end of their letter. (Suggested Guide: 40 words or less; or, 3-6 purposes.)** |  |
| **8** | **Using your Chart of Epistle worksheet, determine and write out the main theme of the letter. (Suggested Guide: 15 words or less.)** |  |
| ***9*** | **Identify the key words in the Epistle and record them on your “Chart of Epistle” worksheet.** |  |
| **10** | **Create a Chart of the letter containing a TITLE for the chart (this should include the title of the epistle being studied), the epistle’s SECTIONS, the epistle’s PURPOSE(S), and the epistle’s THEME. A chart is either a picture or just an actual chart.** |  |

Epistle Overview Worksheet

| **Information about the recipient:** | |
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| **Information about the author’s attitude toward the recipient:** | |
| --- | --- |
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| **Information from outside sources:** | |
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Historical Context

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| **Title:** | | |  |
| **Section #** | **Subsection** | **Section Title** | **Section Verses** |
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**Literary Context Outline**

| **Purpose:** |
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| **Theme:** |
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| **Key Words:** |
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