

The Drum Family

March 2015



Studying the Bible deeply

I have to be honest with you - a major issue stated by most missionaries in the field is the fact that they have a very hard time staying spiritually fed and filled up. You might be saying, "What?! How is that possible? Missionaries are the experts, right? How could they have a hard time with staying rooted in The Word???"... don't pretend like you're not thinking that... I hear you. But the honest truth of the matter is that many, many, many missionaries become spiritually dry and shrivel up. They do a lot of teaching and preaching and sharing and serving, and sometimes they just have a really tough time finding someone who can speak in to their lives, who is willing to really sit with them and pour in to them and help to revitalize them on a regular basis, who will be open to really going deep in study with them. It's a real thing, and it is eating missionaries alive all around the globe. It's not a new thing... it's been happening for centuries. **And, it happens to us.**

In Peru, we did a lot of giving and serving and teaching and pouring out to others. But, when it came to our own spiritual growth and development, we were drying up quick. Exhausted and, frankly, a little tired of hearing our own thoughts being taught all the time, we were just getting a little stale and run down in our spiritual growth. And with no mature believers around us in our community to help us and to study with us and to pour in to our lives... well, it was not a good thing. Oh, how we wished for a group of folks who would go deep, who would ask hard questions, who would hold each other accountable to the Scriptures and who would really struggle together in The Word! On the few occasions that we were able to study with someone in that way, it was incredible and life-giving! But, there were lots of long, dry periods between those springs of Living Water.

Several years ago, we were introduced to a method of Bible study that really made the Scriptures come to life for us. Inductive Bible Study is an investigative approach to the Bible using three basic components: **Observation, Interpretation, and Application.** Okay... don't check out on me yet. Hang in there. This is NOT hard, and it is OH SO GOOD!!! And this whole story is going to come full circle, so hang in there!

Observation: Observation teaches you to look for and see exactly what the passage says. Observation answers the question, "what does the passage say?" Keep looking. Keep digging. What do you see? What else do you see? What else? Notice connections. Notice repeated words. Really pay attention. Slow down. When I teach this method, I tell people to look at it as if they were investigating like detectives or forensic scientists. Slow down and pay attention to everything. Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Underline things that seem important or interesting. I like to use different colors. Make lists of anything that seems to go together. I often make lists of verbs/action words... for example, a list of all the actions that describe Paul in a chapter in Acts, or a list of characteristics exhibited by Jesus in a certain passage.

Interpretation: While observation leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God says, interpretation goes a step further and helps you understand what it means. So, where in Observation we were looking at everything with a fine toothed comb and asking the basic 5W questions, now we are going to look at it and say, "So, what's that all about?" What does it mean? Why did

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...Inductive Bible Study

the characters do that particular thing? Does the culture of the time have anything to do with this? This is the part where we really want to step in to the story and try to see it through the eyes of each character. How would you feel if Jesus said those particular words to you? What would you be thinking or experiencing if you were a player in this passage? What would it be like to actually be there? If you were in this story, who would you be? Who do you identify with? What are you feeling, thinking, seeing, tasting, experiencing... think with all of your senses and emotions.

Application: "So, now what?" That's the question, isn't it!? Now that you have really dug in and really experienced the Scripture, now what? How does this impact you? What are you going to do with your day-to-day life now that you have been impacted by this particular passage? How do you go forward and walk in this new knowledge of The Word.

I tell you all of this to get to the point of how Inductive Bible Study has made a major difference in our spiritual lives. When we moved to Spain, we still really longed for people to study the Bible with at a really deep level. What would that look like? Would we dry up in this new field of mission service? We didn't know the answer, but we really prayed for someone to study with.

A couple of months in to our time here, I was asked to 'bring the Word' (speak or teach) to a small women's study group one evening. Being a teacher who believes in the power of inquiry and discovery as a great teaching tool - so much better than just telling / lecturing and giving out information - I decided to take the passage of the Paralytic and the Matt Carriers and just try out the

Inductive Method with this group. Folks... it got deep! There was some serious discovery and some big time lightbulb moments as people really dug in and observed, made connections, and saw Scripture in a whole new way. At the end of the evening one woman said, "I have read this passage and heard it at least a hundred times. But I haven't ever seen so much or gotten so deep as we got tonight. This is amazing!" And the beautiful part is, I just bring the Scripture to the table and help guide people to dig and ask questions. And in the process of discovery and discussion, I, too, get to learn and process and see new things through the perspective and hearts of others!

Now, 18 months later, we found the thing that sustains us spiritually in the field...reading the Scriptures via Inductive study methods with others and having deep discussions and times of great growth! We have several different study groups

each week, each studying a different passage or book of the Bible. One group has 12-15 adults studying stories of Jesus and the disciples. Our youth study group has 12 youth studying Jesus. We have a group of 3 couples who are currently studying the book of James. Billy meets one-on-one with another man to study a passage each week. And I study with a group of ladies in another town once a week. It is truly incredible how God has given us a great method (via some great teachers years ago) and this method has really appealed to those around us in Spain! We are definitely NOT shriveling up in The Word nowadays... we are THRIVING! Praises to Him!!!

~Laurie



Axel and Delilah study with us on Thursdays.

Romans 15:30

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received, ³² so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. ³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

This month, we would like to give you some specific people and things to pray for. It is our hope that you would join us in praying more specifically and more personally. You are a vital part of this ministry and of our ministry team! Prayer is essential, and we would like for you to have some very specific things to pray for - real, concrete names and places that will make Spain and the ministry very real to you.

- Pray for Paco and his wife, Teresa (Billy's language and culture helper and good friend) Pray for Billy and Paco's friendship and discipleship. Pray for Paco's health.
- Pray for Miguel and Ana and their family (our friend/pastor and his wife). Pray for provision for them. Pray for the tough role of pastor and pastor's wife and all the difficulties those roles bring to life. Pray for our continued friendship with them, may it continue to grow.
- Pray for the women in the study group in Campillos. Campillos is a town (45 minutes away) that has NO church. Laurie has a women's group there. Please pray for Rosa and Marlene, Nelly and Josefina, and Gracie. Pray for this group to find strength to continue to study together amidst their various work schedules and life's demands. Pray for great friendships to continue to grow here.
- Pray for the Life Purpose coaching group... a group of 4 young adults studying together with us each week to discover their God-given design and how they are being called to a specific purpose in the Kingdom. Pray for Wendy, Isaias, Kasia, and Hannah as they continue to study together and discover who they are in Him.
- Pray for immigrants in Spain and their special place in the growth of the church here. Too many to name here, but you could pray for them by country... we have immigrant believers and friends from Nicaragua, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the USA.
- Also pray for migrant populations who are here due to issues in their home countries... people coming in from Morocco, Syria, Algeria, Libya, Pakistan, and many other places. Pray for safety for their travels and for blessed transitions as they become strangers in a foreign land and look to find shelter and community and friendship far away from home.

A crazy, busy, AWESOME month...

The last several weeks have been crazy busy! And, I (Laurie) admit to not taking that busyness and stress in stride. There may have been a few breakdowns and some tears. Okay, maybe more than a few. Stress doesn't look good on me.

I went to a conference and training for Care Givers working in Hard Places. Our role as counsellors, coaches, and care coordinators for people in really varied locations means that we deal with a variety of situations and we need special tools and training for that. Therefore, I spent a week in Turkey with 350+ other counsellors and coaches and care coordinators looking at ways to better care for and support mission workers in their varied roles. Along the way, I also learned some great tools for caring for ourselves as we continue to work and serve in the ever-changing and dynamic mission field of Spain and post-Christian Europe. Billy stayed in Spain and continued with the daily work that is our life of ministry here.



Upon my return, I had a couple of catch-up days before our boss hit the ground in Spain for a field visit. It was her first visit to our field and her first glimpse face-to-face with what ministry looks like here. Just a note here... I LOVE my boss! She's the best. And I'm really so grateful for a few days with her! It was a great time for us, as we processed through our last 18 months, ministry initiatives, and possibilities for the future. She was a great encouragement to us and we were truly blessed by her time here! It was especially great to see Spain through the eyes of someone else and realize just how much we love this country and these people!

We took the boss to the airport and immediately launched in to last minute preparations for a working retreat that we hosted for Mission Society cross-cultural workers in Europe. Workers arrived last Tuesday and Wednesday and we had several days of focused discussions about the complexities of working in post-Christian contexts, bible study times together, and prayer for each field of service and each person working in Europe. We also managed to spend lots of time building relationships around meal times and during long, restful



walks together. We had lots of laughs and we shed a few tears together. MKs (missionary kids) also enjoyed a time of retreat together with bible study times, games, a few crafts, and a lot of time having fun.

All in all, it has been a very busy few weeks! We have now been "back to normal" routines for a while... back to leading bible studies, training others in ministry skills, meeting with pastors and leaders, and continuing to build relationships within the community. Back to counselling and coaching. Back to discipleship. And back to living a life of intentionality for Him. I'm glad to get back to 'normal life' and to work on my own self care and soul care... time to let some stress go!

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you.

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.



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HOLD THE DATE! GET TICKETS NOW! Crawfish Boil FUNdraiser!

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We love to Skype,
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