

# *An Inductive Approach with Imrah*

Beloved ones,

We at Imrah have taken up the assignment to study and teach the Word with an exclusively inductive approach, in addition to the Foundation Course we're doing. Mostly preachers and teachers of the Word use the deductive approach, where they take a topic they want to study and then gather Scriptures to support the message they have in mind. As much as this is important, the pitfall that I see in an exclusive deductive study is (1) You do not come with an open heart to learn, but you have a predetermined point of view. (2) One can ignore the context of an individual Scripture, and what the author of the book intended to convey.

The first time I was introduced to this inductive approach, I thought I was already following it, but now I realize how much tradition had influenced my understanding of the Word in certain areas. I believe as you continue to go through this course material with us, you will discover for yourself what I experienced.

Don't get me wrong, the inductive study does not nullify the importance of deductive study; rather it gives a more solid foundation for studying Scriptures.

Happy discovering!

*Sidharth Mohandas*

Founder and Director,  
Imrah Ministries

**Note:** This material is written for reference, it is not an exhaustive teaching. If you want to be trained in this approach, please mail us your name and Skype ID to [admin@imrah.org](mailto:admin@imrah.org)

### DEDUCTIVE METHOD

Studying passage from your own perspective, understanding, cultural background and linking with seemingly similar verses from other portions of the Bible and then applying.



### INDUCTIVE METHOD

Observing and analyzing the passage from the author's perspective, his original intent, his cultural background, his world, and finally applying to your world

We shall do this study at three different levels, starting with **Observation**, **Understanding** and then finally, **Application**.

Start prayerfully, and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you even as you study His Word. Remember, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is not a substitute to studying Scripture, nor is studying Scripture a substitute for the ministry of the Spirit. Both are essential.

## OBSERVATION

In the first level, all you do is observe the text. Let's consider this passage from **Mark 4:21–25** :

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."



John Mark

**(1)** Read through the passage a number of times as you would read a letter from a beloved friend.

**(2)** The next thing we will do is to put the entire passage in the form of statements like this:

He said to them:

1. Lamp not to be hidden
2. Lamp to be put on a stand
3. Whatever hidden is meant to be disclosed
4. Whatever concealed is meant to be brought into the open
5. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear
6. Hear carefully

He continued:

7. The measure used – measured back
8. And even more
9. Whoever has – given more
10. Whoever does not have – even what he has is taken away.

**(3)** See if there is any structure in the passage, and then form blocks:

#### **HIDDEN/DISCLOSED**

1. Lamp not to be hidden
2. Lamp to be put on a stand
3. Whatever hidden is meant to be disclosed
4. Whatever concealed is meant to be brought into the open

#### **HEARING**

5. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear
6. Hear carefully

#### **MEASURE USED/MEASURE GIVEN**

7. The measure used – measured back
8. And even more
9. Whoever has – given more
10. Whoever does not have – even what he has is taken away.

- ✚ Write down all the questions you may have in the passage. Go through these questions after you finish the Understanding Level.

## UNDERSTANDING

Before we can understand the passage, there is some ground work that we have to lay.

(a) Look for **relevant key words** and **key phrases** that are repeated in the passage:

He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is **hidden** is meant to be **disclosed**, and whatever is **concealed** is meant to be brought out into the **open**. If anyone has ears to **hear**, let him **hear**."

"Consider carefully what you **hear**," he continued. "With the **measure** you use, it will be **measured** to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

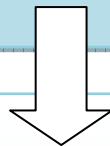
Hidden/concealed (2)

Disclosed/open (2)

Hear (3)

Measure/Measured (2)

Note the most repeated key words. In this case, "Hear"



(b) **Parallelism** is a very common technique in Jewish writings to emphasize truth, where a single message is stated twice immediately after the first, changing the words slightly.

Example: Psalm 103:1 says

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul  
And all that is within me, bless His holy name"*

Look for Parallelism in the passage of study.

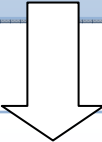
For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

"Consider carefully what you hear."

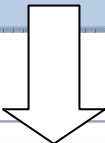
(c) **Contrasts:** Look for contrasts in the passage.

Example: hidden/concealed – disclosed/open  
has – does not have  
given more – taken



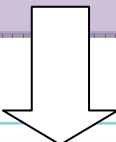
(d) **Progression:** Do you see any crescendo messages in the passage?

Example:

- (1) Hear → Hear Carefully
  - (2) Measured back → Even more
  - (3) Does not have → Even what he has will be taken from him
- 

(e) **Direct Speech of Jesus/God:**

Does the passage have any direct speech of Jesus or God. Not everything narrated in the Bible is necessarily true. For example, the statements of Job's friends in the book of Job are not absolute truths. What Jesus says is always true.



(f) **Old Testament References:**

Are there any O.T quotations in the passage? If so, go back to the O.T. reference and read it to understand the original context.

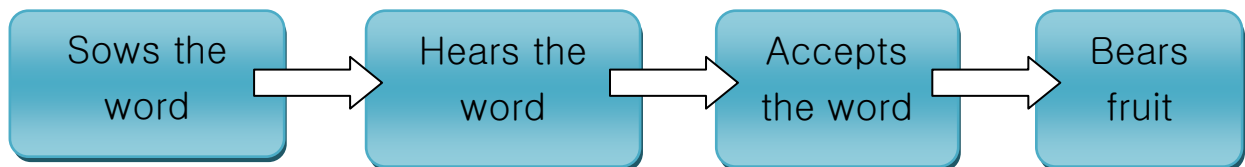
## CONTEXTUAL STUDY

Read the passage from Mark 4:1–25. Go through the above steps, from (a) to (f), especially, (a), (e) and (f).

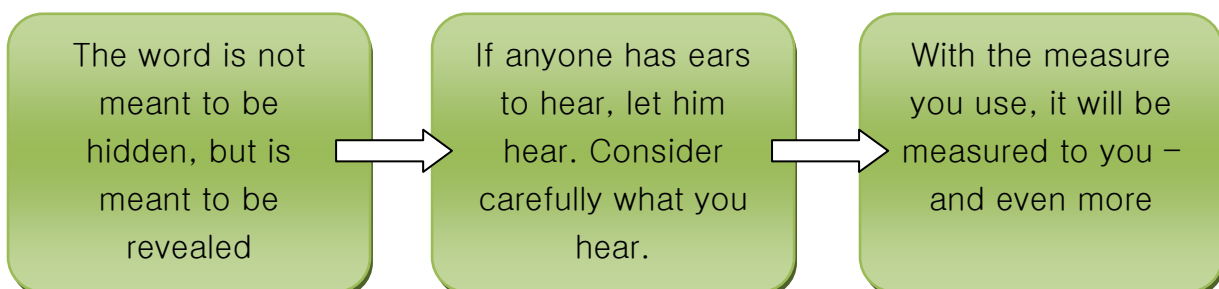
### Results:

Hear/Listen/Hearing – 11 times  
Sow/Sown – 10 times  
Seed – 8 times  
Word – 8 times  
Parable – 5 times

Consider, the structure in the explanation of the parable (The immediate context of the passage we are considering) from Mark 4:14–20.



If you read Mark 4:21–25, you see the same structure as above.



## THE THEME OR MESSAGE:

Just like a lamp is not meant to be put under a bowl or a bed, the Word of God is not meant to be hidden. God wants to reveal His Word, just like the sower sows His seed intending for crops. However, we see from the passage that the Lord emphasizes “Hearing and receiving” the Word. The Greek word used for “receive” or “accept” in verse 20 of Mark 4 is *paradechomai*, which is not just superficial hearing, but an intense and deep reception; internalizing the Word. When we use the measure of revelation that is given to us, we bear fruit and receive more revelation.

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I believe listening is the most important thing in prayer. In this part of the study, we set aside the analytical mindset, and LISTEN to the Holy Spirit. What fresh revelation does He have to offer?

When I did this with my mentor Egmont Mika, he asked us to take 20 minutes to listen to the Lord. As I listened to Him, He showed me a picture of my mother speaking to me. I was hearing her physically, but the attitude of my heart was not one where I was listening to obey. My hearing was superficial, lacking a willingness and readiness to obey.

This truth really liberated me as it exposed my heart attitude in certain areas of my life. Without this listening time, I would not have known what the Lord had exactly for me from this passage.