

Articles of DISCOVERY

Induction asks the question, "What might be true?" Deduction asks the question, "What is true?"

The key to effective Biblical Facilitation is for the Facilitator to know what concept (the single truth) is to be discovered, and to develop a lesson that guides the class/group to the parameters, details, and ideas that create the shape of this truth. The Facilitator should use the function and flow of questions to guide participants toward discovery of the gold nugget of the passage. To do this, a great facilitator will often promote induction early in the study - "What might be true?"

However, to find the nugget, the facilitator will turn the study to deduction, analyzing context, content, culture, audience, and author against the induced ideas. In this analysis, a great facilitator can help his group discover truth.

Jesus was a master of this strategy. For example, in Matthew 21:23-27, the chief priests and elders confronted Jesus with their induced truth. He asked them a question that caused them to analyze the context, content and culture of the question. The sad thing for them - and for Jesus - was that when they were faced with the only conclusions possible, they chose to ignore the truth. They had only one more step to a great deduction, and their own comfort zone kept them from taking it.

There is a danger in failure to analyze. Our ancestors looked at the movement of the stars and concluded that we were the center. Because they came to a singular conclusion, it probably felt much like deduction, but was in fact error for lack of qualified information.

Great detectives strive for truth, not conclusions. We need to be able to say, "I don't know what that means." We need to be able to continue the search for truth after the Sunday School hour is concluded. In our analysis, let us never make the mistake of eliminating falsehoods or partial truths so that we can "conclude" with another singular falsehood or partial truth.