

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STAGE TWO: PREPARING THE MEAL

Overview Chart

OBSERVATION

Read the passage thoroughly.

Observe the passage by examining:

- 1) The who, what, where, when, why, and how
- 2) What you can see, touch, taste, hear, and smell
- 3) The logical connections, flow of thoughts, and range of subjects
- 4) What's repeated, emphasized, related, alike, and unlike
- 5) What's written before and after

INTERPRETATION

Understand the passage deeply.

Interpret the passage by studying:

- 1) The cultural, biblical, and historical context
- 2) The literary genre and use of language
- 3) The author's intent for writing
- 4) The author's beliefs about God and life

CORRELATION

Compare the passage carefully.

Correlate the passage by comparing it with:

- 1) Scripture that corresponds in historical events
- 2) Scripture that corresponds in theological truths
- 3) Scripture that corresponds in application principles

APPLICATION

Internalize the passage personally.

Apply the passage by:

- 1) Reflecting on your daily habits, attitudes, and relationships
- 2) Inviting the Lord to search your heart (Psalm 139:23–24)
- 3) Asking questions: Do I need to heed a warning? Claim a promise? Confess a sin? Overcome a fear? Break a habit? Resolve an offense? Offer praise?
- 4) Pursuing new paths that lead to wholeness and spiritual health

*I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.
I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways.
I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.
(Psalm 119:14–16)*

