



### Observe the Bible passage.

- ✦ **Read through** the entire section several times without interruption using different translations.
- ✦ **Look for the facts** of the passage. Answer the Who, What, When, Where and How questions. Look for comparisons or contrasts, warnings, commands or promises made?
- ✦ **Look for details.** In a letter (exposition) pay close attention to terms, ideas and concepts. Try to follow the authors original train of thought.
- ✦ **Look for repeated words or phrases.** These are important clues (key words) that will help you understand what the writer wants to convey.
- ✦ **Define words** that stick out to you.
- ✦ **Break the sentence or paragraph down** to its simplest form; taking out all prepositions, phrases and descriptors. Mark it right on your “working text” **Example:** *~~For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.~~* 1 Cor 1:18

### Dig Deeper into the passage.

- ✦ **Word studies** trace the meaning of a word and how and where it is used throughout the Bible. A Bible concordance and dictionary are essential for this. It may be helpful to also consult Webster’s 1828 Dictionary, that you can access online, to bring added meaning
- ✦ **Cross-references** help you find the original Greek or Hebrew word throughout the Bible. Treasury of Scripture Knowledge (Treasury of Scripture Knowledge online, or most bible programs) tracks a specific word or phrase through the bible for a broader context. Defining Key Words helps you find the main concepts.
- ✦ **Bible Background.** Bible Dictionaries and The Bible Background Commentary, helps you learn about the people, places and customs of the culture.

### Additional thoughts

- ✦ Give a one- or two-word title to each section to help you understand what each section is about.
- ✦ Use the “working-text” provided in the printed lesson to jot down notes, questions and definitions. **Jot down where you found it for the benefit of the group.**