



COMPREHENSION: “WHAT DOES IT SAY?”

Read the passage repetitively (consider reading multiple translations).

Look up key words in the dictionary.

Write a main idea (or draw a summarizing picture) for the passage.

Note any literary techniques that the author is using.

Pay attention to genre, conjunctions, syntax, etc.

Look for repeated ideas, connected ideas, progressions of thought, and mark them.

What does the passage teach is true about God or us?

INTERPRETATION: “WHAT DOES IT MEAN?”

What words, themes, or phrases stick out?

Explore why the author would have used a particular word or phrase, or why he would have made a particular point the way it is made.

Keep in mind the textual, historical and cultural context.

Make connections to other parts of the book or Bible (cross references).

Paraphrase or summarize part or all of the passage.

APPLICATION: “HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?”

Consider how what the passage teaches about God should change the way you think, speak or act. Make meaningful connections to your own life:

Is there a sin to confess? Is there cause for thanksgiving or praise to God? Is there a promise or truth to trust in? Is there an attitude to change or a motive to examine? Is there a command to obey, or an example to imitate? Is there an error to confront or avoid? Who can I tell about this truth or change? To whom is this good news?