The development of an instruction manual on biblical exegesis was proposed as a solution to the problem of the lack of sound biblical preaching in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Far Eastern Division of Seventh-day Adventists. The process included the following procedure: (1) defining the problem, (2) setting the objectives, (3) reviewing of literature, (4) designing the exegetical process, (5) testing the exegetical process, (6) evaluating the exegetical process, (7) improving the exegetical process, (8) writing the instruction manual, (9) evaluating the instruction manual, and (10) improving the instruction manual.

The resulting instruction manual was entitled SEARCH: An Exegetical Process in Sermon Preparation. It explains the phases, procedures, and steps of an exegetical process called the SEARCH Method designed by the researcher. The instruction manual also includes a chapter on tools for exegesis.

SEARCH is an acronym for the six phases of exegesis in sermon preparation. It also includes a preliminary phase. The SEARCH Method is outlined below.

Preliminary Work

1. Choose the preaching passage
2. Confine the preaching passage
3. Confirm the text of the passage

SEARCH

1. Survey the literary context
2. Examine the historical, geographical, and cultural backgrounds
3. Analyze the passage
4. Recognize the theological message
5. Compare with other sources
6. Harmonize the application with the passage’s intention.