

Christian student ministry workers in Sweden developed a series of questions to ask when reading a Bible passage. Called the “Swedish Method” because of its origins, these questions can be used when reading the Bible by yourself or with others.

The daily readings in this family worship guide have a few questions. However, we encourage you, as appropriate for your family, to ask the following general questions of the text each day.



Is there something that ‘shines’ from the passage—whatever impacts most, or draws attention?



Is there something you don’t understand, or a question the passage raises in your mind?



Is there a personal application to your life?



Is there something you plan to share with someone else – and who will you share it with?



How do ideas in the passage interrelate? Or with other passages in this book – or in the whole Bible?

*Worshipping Together* is part of the vision and is a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Frankston, Victoria, Australia. [frankstonrp.org.au](http://frankstonrp.org.au) [bit.ly/WTrpcaf](http://bit.ly/WTrpcaf)

The concept and layout draws heavily from *Let’s Worship God*, a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Airdrie, Scotland. [airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [bit.ly/WkBbl](http://bit.ly/WkBbl) or [bit.ly/3yrBbl](http://bit.ly/3yrBbl)

The quote on the cover is from the article *What Shampoo and Family Worship Have in Common*, Written by Randy Greenwald, (Quoted from *Tabletalk* magazine, Nov 1997.)

Notes this week are drawn in part from commentaries on Jeremiah by John Calvin, Phillip Ryken, HCSB Study Bible, and Reformation Study Bible

# Worshipping Together



We love God because He first loved us.

And we love to tell God that we love Him.

Joyful and faithful worship together twice each Lord’s Day is the highlight of our week. We are glad that they said, “Let us go to the House of the Lord.” Corporate worship prepares us for the week and prepares us for Heaven.

In addition, we regularly worship God as families and as individuals.

One father put it this way:

*The back of my shampoo bottle says, “Lather, rinse, repeat.” Simple enough that even I can do it. Though family worship may be a bit more complicated than shampooing hair, it ought not to be rated with “home dentistry” in the scale of difficulty.*



*If you could buy family worship in the store, it would come in the form of a Bible, and the directions would simply say, “Read, pray, repeat.” Men\* should gather their families at least once daily. They should read a portion of the Scriptures to them. And they should pray with them. There need be no fireworks or pizzazz to keep the kids interested. There needs to be only a father\* with a heart-love for God – who desires to see that love appropriated by his children.*

*Read, pray, repeat.*

\* Fathers leading their family in worship is always the goal. When, in the Lord’s providence, the father is absent or uninterested a godly mother will lead her children

**Reading** Jeremiah 1:1-3 Introduction

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)





Although the beginning phrase is “the words of Jeremiah” this is not a personal letter. Jeremiah is writing God’s words to God’s people. Over 300 times Jeremiah writes “this is the Lord’s declaration,” or “the Lord says”. As the RSB notes, *Jeremiah’s recorded words, therefore, are God’s words*. Specifically this letter is written to Judah during Jeremiah’s lifetime calling them to turn from their sin and follow after God.

Jeremiah is introduced as a priest so had both roles of prophet and priest. As the HCSB notes, his *revelations began during the reign of the Judean King Josiah (640-609 b.c.), and continued during the reigns of Jehohaz (reigned for three months in 609 b.c.); Jehoiakim (609-597 b.c.); Jehoiachin (reigned for three months in 597 b.c.); and Zedekiah (597-586 b.c.). Jeremiah did not mention the brief reigns of Jehohaz or Jehoiachin in his list (v. 3).*

His prophecies of judgment ended only when the judgment came and Judah was carried into exile into Babylon. He is often called the weeping prophet. As Ryken notes, *he labored as God’s prophet for forty years or more, from 627 B.C. to some time after 586 B.C. Four decades is a long time to be a weeping prophet.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who was Jeremiah?
2. Whose words make up this prophecy? Explain.
3. Why do you think Jeremiah might have been weeping?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a<sup>2</sup>
1. Ask God to help you repent of sin and follow after God
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

<sup>1</sup> You will notice we only have a printed guide for 6 days. We recommend each Lord’s Day you review the previous week’s readings and/or the previous or current week’s sermons and pray together

<sup>2</sup> Psalm selections are taken from the *Book of Psalms for Worship*. We encourage our congregation to sing the same selection each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

**Reading** Jeremiah 1:13-19 What else do you see

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Jeremiah’s 2<sup>nd</sup> vision is probably clearer to us, and more ominous. He sees a pot boiling over a fire. But the pot is tipping out from the north toward the south and the contents are, it seems, being poured out. The contents are the boiling judgments of God on Judah.

Ryken notes that *God himself will do the judging. God is summoning the northern kingdoms. When the Babylonians come, they will be marching to God’s orders. God is the one who will tip the “boiling pot” and pour it out over Judah. Judging sin is God’s prerogative. He is the righteous judge who uproots and tears down nations, who destroys and overthrows kingdoms.*






And, Judah will be overthrown and destroyed. Foreign kings will set up their thrones in Jerusalem (see 39:3). Judah will be carried away (see chapter 52). God will judge.

We would do well to heed this warning. It is possible to be God’s people in name only, but not in heart, as we see from Jeremiah’s whole book. If we are that way, judgment is coming. God will pour out His judgment, even more severely, on those who take His name for themselves, but in vain.

Finally God encourages Jeremiah that He will cause him to stand. Even though many will oppose the words of God that Jeremiah speaks, God will protect and prevail.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is Jeremiah’s 2<sup>nd</sup> vision?
2. What is the meaning of the boiling pot?
3. Who will God judge? And why?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a
1. Pray that you and your family will ..., with God’s help
  2. Pray for your family
  3. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member
  4. Pray for the reading and preaching of God’s word tomorrow

**Reading**

Jeremiah 1:11-12 What do you see?

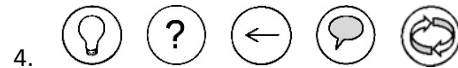
**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Now, God uses two visions in order to give Jeremiah further information about his role. The first vision Jeremiah sees is a branch of an almond tree. HCSB notes point out that *in the first of two visions, God showed the prophet a branch of an almond tree, one of the first trees to blossom in the spring. In 1:12 the Lord interpreted this imagery by saying, I watch over My word. The "almond" is shaqed in Hebrew, and the verb "to watch" is shoqed, and so these verses involve a pun in the original language. Just as the almond tree blossoms early in Israel's spring-time and signifies the coming of a fruitful season, God told Jeremiah that He would soon cause him to "blossom" with fruitful words from God.*

Like Isaiah's words in 55:10-11, God here promises that He watches over His words so that they have His intended effect. God's words work. The author of Hebrews reminds us in similar words in 4:12. God's word is living. Even when we don't see it at work, we can be sure of God's promises that His word is at work. And it will accomplish God's intent – to change those who hear it. How is God's word changing you?

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Jeremiah's first vision?
2. What was the meaning of the almond branch?
3. How is God's word changing you?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a
1. Seek God in prayer to watch over His word in your heart and life
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading**

Jeremiah 1:1-5 I chose you

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

The first word from God about which Jeremiah tells us is God's call to him. God chose him (while he was still in his mother's womb – a foetus), set him apart, and appointed him. Of course, God knows everyone not just in the womb, but even before the foundation of the world. But His knowledge of Jeremiah is for Jeremiah's particular task.

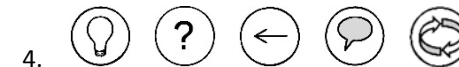
God chose and formed him to be a prophet – to the nations. Calvin notes that *though God appointed him especially for his Church, yet his teaching belonged to other nations, as we shall presently see, and very evidently, as we proceed; for he prophesied concerning the Babylonians, the Egyptians, and the Moabites; in short, he included all the nations who were nigh and known to the Jews.*

God knowing and choosing Jeremiah doesn't just tell us about Jeremiah, but also about us. Ryken shares this quote, *My identity does not begin when I begin to understand myself. There is something previous to what I think about myself, and it is what God thinks of me. That means that everything I think and feel is by nature a response, and the one to whom I respond is God.*

When did God know you? Before He formed you in the womb. Before you were born. How are you responding to God?

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What had God done with Jeremiah when he was a foetus?
2. What does that tell us about a person before they are born?
3. What did God call Jeremiah to be?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a
1. Rejoice with your family that God has known you since before you were born.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Jeremiah 1:4-8 I will be with you

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)





Having been chosen, set apart, and appointed by the Sovereign God was not, at first, enough for Jeremiah. "I'm too young. I can't speak." He sounds a bit like Moses. (Ex 4) Calvin notes that *when [Jeremiah] thought of himself, he felt that he was wholly unequal to undertake an office so arduous.* Like Timothy, Jeremiah was fearful (2 Tim 1:7) and his timidity had to be overcome.

Which for God was no trouble. Those who God gives a task, God equips for that task. God brushes aside Jeremiah's objections with His promise to be with Jeremiah wherever he goes. God's promise of His presence is found often in His word. Jesus made the same promise to His followers. (Matt 28) Because God is with us, we can do what God says to do. Although we should not be quick to become teachers (James 3:1) nor should we refuse to do what God calls us to. As Calvin states, *we ought to undertake nothing without considering what our strength is, so when God [commands] anything, we ought immediately to obey His word as it were with closed eyes.*

Because God is with Jeremiah, Jeremiah doesn't need to be afraid of anyone. Even though his words would often be rejected and he would end up in danger from Judah and her king, God, by His own word, promised Jeremiah protection.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Jeremiah's initial response to God's call?
2. Why could Jeremiah have been afraid?
3. What did God say to overcome Jeremiah's reluctance and fear?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to obey God's word, with God's help.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Jeremiah 1:9-10 I have filled your mouth with my words

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)






Now, the Lord gives Jeremiah a second instruction and encouragement to overcome Jeremiah's reluctance. Not only will God be with Jeremiah, but Jeremiah's mouth is touched by God. God puts His words in Jeremiah's mouth for him to speak. HSCB study notes mention that *almost identical words were spoken to Moses in Dt 18:18: "I will put My words in his mouth." Here is an anthropomorphism (description of God in human terms) that promises that God will personally be the source of His message.*

And, what will that message be? To uproot. To tear down. To destroy. To demolish. To build. To plant. Ryken notes that *the prophet's job description includes six tasks, and four of them are negative. Two to one, his words to the nations will be words of judgment... Once the Lord uproots, tears down, destroys, and overthrows a nation, there is not much left...[Jeremiah] lives in such evil days that judgment will outnumber grace two to one.*

Yet evil does not have the last word. Grace does. Ryken goes on to say that *when the cities of evil have been torn down and plowed under, God will start afresh...This is also God's plan for salvation in Jesus Christ...The temple of Jesus' body was uprooted and torn down from the cross. It was destroyed and overthrown to the grave. But God built and planted resurrection life into the body of Jesus Christ.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was God's 2<sup>nd</sup> encouragement to Jeremiah?
2. What is Jeremiah's message to be?
3. How is that message mirrored in Jesus?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 91a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that built and planted resurrection life into the body of Jesus Christ
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member