

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. frankston.rpca.org.au bit.ly/WTrpcf

The concept and layout draws heavily from *Let’s Worship God*, a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Airdrie, Scotland. airdrierpcs.org

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. bit.ly/WkBbl or 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 Luke by John Calvin, William Hendriksen and Kent Hughes

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 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 Luke 5:1-11 Fishing for fish and for men

Notes As Jesus preaches the gospel by the lake He asked Simon Peter to launch his boat out from shore a bit so He could sit in it and preach to the people on the shore. Simon did as Jesus asked.

After He finished, He gave Simon a more difficult instruction – put out your net in the deep water. Simon and Andrew, James and John had been fishing with their nets all night – and had caught nothing. It was likely mid-day, the nets were mended and folded, the fishermen were tired, the fish were nowhere to be found.

So, what does Simon reply? I'll do it – because you say so. What faith! Doubts were expressed, but Simon was not willing to let his doubts keep Him from obeying the word of Jesus. How much he knew about who Jesus was at this point is not clear. But He responds with faithful obedience to the authority of Jesus.

And the catch is so great that the other boat has to help and both boats are in danger of sinking with the catch. Peter recognizes something of Jesus' divine nature and, knowing his own sin, bows before Him. Rather than departing as Simon had asked, Jesus calls these four fishermen to follow Him and to fish for men. And again they obeyed.

- Questions**
1. What was Simon's response to Jesus requests? Why?
 2. Why did Simon ask Jesus to depart from him?
 3. What did Jesus do instead?



- Praise** Psalm 41a²
- Pray**
1. Acknowledge the perfection of Jesus and your own sin
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

¹ 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

² 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 Luke 5:1-39 (20-26) Amazement at Jesus

Notes All of the gospel accounts of Jesus tell us amazing things. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us many times how the crowds were amazed/astonished at what they saw and heard in Jesus.

They were astonished at the authority of His teaching (4:32). And, so must we be – willing to follow it even when it seems like following it won't work (v4-5). They were amazed at His authority over sickness and disease (Mk 7:37). And even though we are not promised full health in this life, it is to Jesus we must turn with physical ailments. They were amazed at His authority over demonic spirits (4:36). Again, the only hope for one under Satan's influence or control today is the power of Jesus.

They were astonished and even frightened by His authority over the natural world (v8-9, Mk 5:41). And He still controls the natural world today – sending rain or drought, storm or calm, as He pleases. And, of course, they were amazed that Jesus even had authority over death (8:49-56). So, we seek His help even now, if death seems eminent, and know that the dead in Christ will rise.

But more amazing than all these – more important even than life – is the authority and power that Jesus has to forgive sinners. Jesus, God the Son, forgives repentant sinners. What wonder! Let us never stop being amazed and let us never stop glorifying God that Christ has forgiven our sins.

- Questions**
1. What authority did Jesus demonstrate in the gospels?
 2. What is the most significant authority He demonstrates?
 3. 

- Praise** Psalm 41a
- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to continue in amazement that Jesus forgives sin
 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

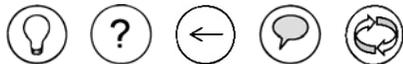
Reading Luke 5:33-39 Feasting or Fasting?

Notes Now the question is put to Jesus why His disciples feasted while the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fasted. John (the Baptist) was the last of the Old Testament prophets. We know (3:1-20) that his message was one of repentance – turning from a life of sin. His followers may have been fasting out of sorrow for their sin – or even sorrow over their teacher’s arrest by Herod and eventual execution. The Pharisees, we know, boasted in the frequency of their fasting (18:12) and fasted so as to be seen by men (Matt 6:16-18).

Jesus’ disciples, on the other hand, did not fast. And, Jesus’ answer was because they were guests at the wedding celebration. “Later,” He said, “they would fast – when the bridegroom is taken away.” Scholars have debated the ongoing practice of fasting. Christians have, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus with them. Yet, He is not physically present. We note that the early church was not opposed to fasting as a means of seeking God’s will together. (Acts 13:1-3)

Jesus then illustrates His teaching with two parables of new and old not mixing well. Many believe the old cloth and old wineskins refers to the passing away of the Old Testament ceremonial system. As we see in the rest of the New Testament it doesn’t work to try to just add Jesus on top of Old Testament ceremonies. The old has gone, the new has come.

- Questions**
1. Why did the Pharisees and John’s disciples fast?
 2. Why didn’t Jesus’ disciples fast?
 3. Can we add Jesus to OT ceremony? Why or why not?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 41a
1. Rejoice with your family that the new has come in Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 5:12-16 Be cleansed

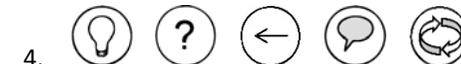
Notes Preaching and healing. Those activities summarised much of Jesus’ public ministry. Luke’s orderly account (1:1-4) described these activities. Here, Jesus encounters a man with leprosy – a disease causing numbness to the extremities. For years this man had suffered this disease which left his body grossly disfigured due to burns and injuries to the pain-numbed flesh.

There was normally no hope for a person with this disease. Shunned by the community as unclean, they lived a beggarly existence until finally the disease took their life. This bold beggar though, came up to Jesus. Somehow he knew that in Him there was hope. He acknowledges Jesus’ power over this vile disease, that if willing He can make him clean. Jesus was willing and cleansed him with a word and a touch. What power! What grace!

How like this leper we are by nature. We are being destroyed by sin and its effects. Our only hope is to be made clean – made new by the voice and touch of Jesus. As you pray for unbelieving friends, ask God to expose to them their decaying uncleanness and cause them to seek Jesus’ willingness to cleanse them.

Jesus commanded the man to go through the ritual the law required with the priest (Lev. 14) and to not tell anyone what He had done. But the word went out. Many came for healing. And, Jesus often withdrew to seek His Father in prayer.

- Questions**
1. What was the leper’s request of Jesus?
 2. What was Jesus’ response?
 3. How is our natural condition like this man’s?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 41a
1. Rejoice with your family that you have been made clean in Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 5:17-26 Forgiveness and healing

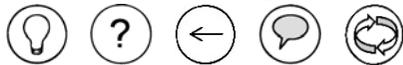
Notes As Jesus continued healing in every town He came through, the crowds – and the religious leaders – came to Him. He was crowded in a house with no way for anyone else to come in. But some determined friends of a paralysed man went up on the roof and let their friend down through the tiling of the roof. Obviously, the man wanted to be healed.

But Jesus astonished everyone by announcing to the man, not healing, but forgiveness of his sins! The murmurs began immediately. This blasphemer! Only God can forgive sins. No one yet spoke their concerns out loud to Jesus, but He knew their hearts.

Obviously it's easier to say "Your sins are forgiven," than to heal a paralysed man. Jesus acknowledged this to the religious leaders. But He wanted them to know that He had the power to do both, so He said to the man, "Get up, walk home." And the man immediately got up and walked home giving God glory.

No wonder the people were amazed – and frightened. This is no ordinary man – this Jesus. What power and authority! We may need healing from one sickness or another. Jesus has the power to and might be pleased to heal us. But we all need our sins to be forgiven. And no one who asks, in faith, for Jesus to forgive their sins will be turned away. Let us be amazed and glorify God.

- Questions**
1. How did the paralysed man's friends get him to Jesus?
 2. What did Jesus do for the man?
 3. How can our sins be forgiven?



- Praise** Psalm 41a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that Jesus has forgiven your sins
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 5:27-32 Following Jesus

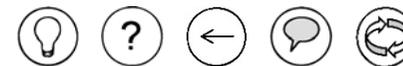
Notes Jesus continues demonstrating His great authority by calling Levi, a tax collector to follow Him. Tax collectors were despised in Jesus' day. They were generally spoken of in the gospels in the same breath as sinners, prostitutes, wicked people. Yet Jesus calls Levi to follow Him. No sin is too small to keep one from the Kingdom of Heaven. No sin is too great to be forgivable by Christ.

Luke records that Levi left all to follow Jesus. *Levi made a decisive break with his old life and followed Jesus... as a continuous pattern of life.* (Hughes) *He left his lucrative business and trusted that God would provide for his needs.* (Hendriksen)

Immediately, Levi invites Jesus and many of his tax collector friends to his house for a banquet. And, it seems, immediately the religious leaders begin to complain to Jesus' disciples. "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" "Why eat and drink with such unworthy people," they seem to be implying, "and not with good people like us?"

Jesus makes clear that He has come to call sinners, not self-righteous people, to repentance. Do we see ourselves that way – as sinners, even despicable sinners, called to repentance by Jesus? Do we see Jesus' saving work as a total transformation of heart and life? *Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* is a recent book that without glorifying sin shows the transforming work Jesus does – and must do – in saving one to Himself. <http://bit.ly/Secret>

- Questions**
1. What was Levi's work and reputation?
 2. What was Christ's call to him? What was his response?
 3. Who does Jesus save?



- Praise** Psalm 41a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Jesus saves sinners
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member