

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 18:1-8 Persevering prayer

Notes Jesus wants His disciples to continue in prayer until His final return. Yet He knows we may at times be tempted to give up. To combat that, He tells a parable. In this story, Jesus presents a widow with a need for justice and a judge without a care.

The widow is persistent in making her case before this judge. But the judge does not fear God nor respect people – so his inclination is to ignore the woman’s case. But her persistence in prayer wears him down so he grants her petition.

Now, the absolute wrong interpretation for Christians of this parable would be to equate us to the widow and God to the judge. And decide that if we keep pestering God with our prayers that He will finally give in and answer us. Rather, Jesus tells us that *God will not let his chosen ones down... [but] he will surely see to it that they are fully vindicated. God and the wicked judge are opposites.* (Hendriksen)

The encouragement of the parable is NOT to keep praying in hopes that we will finally wear God down. Rather it is to keep praying because we know God hears us and will answer.

- Questions**
1. What is the relationship between the woman and judge?
 2. What is the relationship between God and us?
 3. Why should we continue in prayer?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42c²
1. Commit you and your family to continue in prayer, by 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

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 18:35-43 “I see!” said the blind man

Notes Jesus is travelling to Jericho and a blind man begging by the roadside hears that Jesus of Nazareth is coming by. In his wretched, miserable condition this blind man reveals much about Jesus

He first reveals Him as the Messianic King the Old Testament promised. Twice, Luke tells us, he referred to Jesus as the Son of David. God had promised David’s Son would sit on His throne forever.

Second, he reveals Him as a merciful King. “Have mercy! Have mercy!” he cries. *In the Psalter—see Ps. 4:1; 6:2; 9:13; 25:16; 27:7; 30:10; 31:9; 41:4; 51:1; 86:16—this (“take pity”) is a cry addressed to God by an afflicted person.* (Hendriksen)

Third, he reveals Jesus as a powerful King. “I want to receive my sight,” he calls to Jesus – implying, “and you have the power to do this.” And, his faith is well placed, as Jesus does indeed immediately grant him sight. *One moment total blindness ... the next unimpaired vision. How astounding!* (Hendriksen)

And, receiving his sight, this formerly blind man glorified God, and the people praised God. Then he followed Jesus showing that by faith not only his physical, but also his spiritual eyes were opened.

- Questions**
1. What does the blind man reveal about Jesus?
 2. What does Jesus do for the blind man?
 3. What must happen for a spiritually blind man to see?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42c
1. Pray Jesus might grant sight to any spiritually blind family members. Glorify God that He has given you sight.
 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 18:31-34 Why Jesus came

Notes Now, Jesus takes His twelve closest disciples aside and explains to them why He came – and the means by which children or rich men (or anyone else) can be saved. Twice already Luke has recorded Jesus telling His disciples this. (9:21, 44)

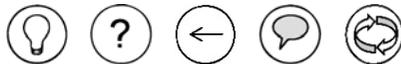
He makes clear this is what the Old Testament prophets have said would happen. God’s Word, which cannot lie, would be fulfilled. And these things would happen to Him, the Son of Man. Taken from Daniel 7:13-14, Jesus claims this title of Son of Man.

God, the Ancient of Days, gives to another divine being, “one like a son of man,” glory, sovereignty, worship, and everlasting dominion—an eternal kingdom. Jesus, when he came to full messianic consciousness, said in effect, “I am the Son of Man. I am the eternal, sovereign King!” (Hughes)

And, Jesus is very direct, telling them He, the Son of Man, would be delivered to the Gentiles, mocked, beaten, and killed – and then He would rise on the third day. Yet Luke tells us three times in v.34 that they didn’t understand. It seems to clear to us – and would become clear to the disciples as *history, and Christ Himself would open their eyes.* (Hughes) (Luke 24:31)

And Christ must open our eyes to understand we can’t earn or buy salvation but He had to purchase it, with His death and resurrection, for any who would be saved.

- Questions**
1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Son of Man?
 2. What does He tell His disciples will happen to Him?
 3. What was their response? Why?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42c
1. Confess, with your family, the crucified and risen Son of Man as your Saviour
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 18:8-14 Humble prayer

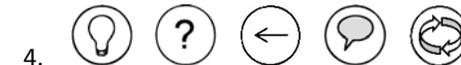
Notes Jesus continues to teach His disciples about prayer in another parable. This one is not about the frequency of our prayers, but the attitude. Again we have two characters – a Pharisee (moral, visibly righteous) and a tax collector (thieving, traitorous sinner).

Both of these men go to the temple to pray. And their prayer reveals the condition of their hearts. We are familiar with the parable and immediately know that the Pharisee’s prayer was vain and empty, while the tax collector’s prayer was humble and repentant. And it doesn’t surprise us that Jesus declares the tax collector as justified.

But, I wonder, do we come away from the parable thinking, “God, I thank you that I am not like this Pharisee...” Jesus doesn’t offer us an easy out – rather challenges us to consider in what ways we might trust in ourselves that we are righteous and in what ways we despise others.

Instead, we must honestly humble ourselves before God in our prayers and trust His merit alone – for our salvation and for the answer to our prayers.

- Questions**
1. What was the Pharisee’s attitude in prayer?
 2. What was the tax collector’s attitude in prayer?
 3. How might we be like both of these men?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42c
1. Commit yourself and your family to humble prayer, 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 Luke 18:15-17 Childlike faith

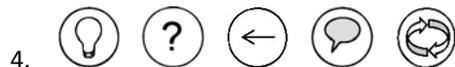
Notes Now, Luke recounts to us Jesus and His disciples' encounter with parents and their infant children. These parents desired that Jesus would bless their children with His touch. But the disciples, for reasons not given, were inclined to send them away. It seems they thought Jesus was too important/too busy for infants.

But Jesus responded that He was not too busy at all. "Let them come," He replies. And, as He is blessing these children He teaches His disciples, and us, invaluable lessons.

Kingdom of God members must be as little children are. Yet it is not their innocence that qualifies them. Rather it is their helpless dependence. In a way similar to how dependent little children are, for years, on others, so too we are dependent on God's gracious care and acceptance.

Yet Jesus further qualifies the connection between children and the kingdom of God. Only by receiving the kingdom as a child will *anyone* get in. *Children know how to receive a gift—they simply take it.* (Hughes) Only by taking salvation as God's free, unmerited gift can we, or anyone else, receive it.

- Questions**
1. Why did the parents want to bring their children to Jesus?
 2. How did the disciples respond?
 3. What did Jesus teach about children and heaven?



- Praise**
Pray
- Psalm 42c
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in God's gracious gift of eternal life.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 18:18-30 How and Who can be saved

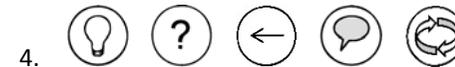
Notes From a helpless, dependent child, Jesus next encounters a successful, wealthy, ruler. Perhaps he had watched Jesus with the infants and heard how they could enter the kingdom of heaven. So, he asks Jesus, "How can I inherit eternal life."

Jesus first challenges him with the moral law of God. And this man is certain he has kept them all – since he was a boy! So, Jesus, knowing his heart (and ours), confronts him with what he is depending on – his great wealth. "Sell it all and give it away," Jesus tells him. "Then your treasure will be in heaven."

We would make a grave mistake if we thought that getting into heaven was simply a matter of obeying the commands of God and giving away all our wealth. Rather, Jesus exposes our hearts. Are we trusting what we have? or what we have done? Such misplaced trust makes it impossible for a person to be saved.

Thankfully, what is impossible for men – earning or buying our salvation – is possible with God. He alone can save. He alone can make a man trust, like a little child, the unmerited mercy of God. He alone can make a man willing to give up everything he once held dear in order to follow Jesus. And, He alone, makes it worth it to do so.

- Questions**
1. What was the rich ruler trusting in to get to heaven?
 2. What was he unwilling to give up?
 3. Who can be saved?



- Praise**
Pray
- Psalm 42c
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God has accomplished the impossible in bring you to salvation
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member