

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 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

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 2 Peter by John Calvin, Bob Utley, Simon Kistemaker, Gordon Fee/James Stuart, and James Smith, and notes from the HCSB Study Bible, and the 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 2 Peter 1:1-2 Greetings

Notes (See back page for authors)
Fee/Stuart comment that *as Peter's last will and testament, 2 Peter is critical to the biblical story, declaring the certainty of the Lord's coming and thus pointing the way toward the final book in the story, the revelation Jesus gave to John.*

Peter begins acknowledging himself as both a slave and an apostle. Although slave (often translated servant) sometimes offends our modern sensibilities Utley comments that it conveys *the NT focus on humility in relation to Jesus as Lord.*

To these unidentified readers, Peter shares a solidarity both as slave to Jesus (1 Peter 2:16) and as those who both share the privilege of their faith in Jesus. And, of course, all believers in Jesus today also share a faith of equal privilege – granted to us by God's mercy. Peter stresses this in the word "obtained" ("received") which, as Kistemaker notes, *suggests that someone obtains something by casting lots (refer to Luke 1:9; John 19:24) or by the will of God (consult the Greek text of Acts 1:17). Peter uses this verb to indicate that man receives his faith from God in accordance with God's will. He reminds his readers that faith does not originate in themselves but is a gift from God.*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. To whom does Peter write?
 2. What do Peter and his readers and believers today share?
 3. Where does this precious faith come from?

4.     

Praise Psalm 141a²

- Pray**
1. Rejoice in prayer in God's gift of saving, precious, faith
 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 2 Peter 1:16-21 Eyewitness God-speakers

Notes (See back page for authors)
Sadly, many people disbelieve Peter's account. They don't disbelieve because they have proven by verifiable evidence that Peter didn't actually witness what he witnessed and write about what he witnessed. They simply choose to disbelieve.

Peter stresses to his readers that he did indeed write as a human eyewitness to Jesus Christ. He literally saw with his literal eyes the coming of Jesus with power. He literally heard with his literal ears the voice of God on the mountain telling him to listen to God's Son, Jesus, in whom God delighted. He literally wrote with his literal "pen" (not a Biro, of course, but whatever men of Peter's day wrote onto their parchment-paper with) a literal account of what he had literally seen and literally heard. And, he told more details than he wrote in 1 and 2 Peter, to many, including John-Mark who wrote many of them down in the Gospel of Mark.

And, we would do well to pay attention to this word – as it was written by men carried by God's Holy Spirit in both the Old and New Testaments. Keep paying attention to it until, and even after, the glory of Jesus breaks into your heart like the morning star and day-break!

Even so, Come, Lord Jesus. Come to my heart and life in Your full majesty and glory. Come to enable me to make the hard effort of living to Your glory. Come to me in truth and let me reflect Your glory to the often dismal place of this world.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What did Peter witness and write about?
 2. Where did the Bible come from?
 3. In what ways did and does and will Christ come?

4.     

Praise Psalm 141a

- Pray**
1. Pray that the Morning Star will rise in your heart
 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 2 Peter 1:12-15 Soon lay aside my tent

Notes
(See back page for authors)

In this “last will and testament” Peter reminds his readers that he will soon “lay aside his tent.” He’s not speaking of giving up camping. He speaks of laying aside the tent of his body – of dying. Even though he believes that will soon happen, he is devoted to continuing to remind his readers of these critical spiritual truths until it happens. Having called his readers to make every effort (v. 5 and 10) he now commits himself to that same thing (v15). The effort of communicating these needed gospel truths in this letter was worth it to help his readers (including us) recall these truths long after Peter was dead and buried. He reminds with this reminder so that we can remember.

We might be able to say, as Peter does about his readers, that we know the truth – that we are even established in it. Yet we need continual reminders. That’s why we read the Bible in private and family worship. That’s why we study it with other Christians and why we attend worship to hear the word read and to hear Jesus preach through the sermons.

Peter was committed to not quit teaching until he would lay aside his tent. We must commit to not quit learning until we lay aside our tent. Even though, as Kistemaker notes, *believers have the truth of God now, they readily forget and need someone to refresh their memories*. Lord Jesus, keep me remembering the gospel and bearing its fruit!

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Peter’s “tent”?
2. What was he devoted to doing for as long as he lived?
3. When are we to quit learning and remembering the truth?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 141a
1. Confess in prayer your need for Jesus to keep reminding you of the gospel
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Peter 1:3-4 All we need

Notes
(See back page for authors)

My driver asked, ~Sir, do you have everything you need?" Which in an existential sense was a very big question, but I had no immediate requirements, so I just nodded in the mirror and stayed quiet. In fact I was hungry and short on coffee, but I figured those problems would resolve themselves fast enough. (Lee Child, Personal).

Do you have everything you need? A very big question indeed in terms of our existence. Yet one that the Holy Spirit answers through Peter’s letter. God’s divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness. Everything. Required. For life and godliness. Everything. This doesn’t mean we are to be isolated Christians since we have everything we need for life and godliness all to ourselves. One of the means of supplying all that these readers needed for life and godliness was Peter’s letter. One of the means of supplying all that we need is God placing us in a local congregation of the body of Christ.

Calvin comments that *God then truly gives us life, when he renews us unto the obedience of righteousness. So Peter does not speak here of the natural gifts of God, but only mentions those things which he confers peculiarly on his own elect above the common order of nature*. These gifts include, as the RSB notes, *being conformed to the likeness of Christ (Rom. 8:29) and the image of God in them is being renewed in true righteousness*.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Where do we get all we need for life and godliness?
2. What are some of God’s great and precious promises?
3. How does God make us like Himself?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 141a
1. Commit in prayer to believing that God has given all you need for life and godliness
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Peter 1:5-9 Add it up

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Some people like maths. Some don't. Peter urges his readers to add to (supplement) their faith. This precious faith, received as a gift of God, is not to be left all by itself. Instead, we are commanded to add to it. We can't forget that this adding is by God's grace – as He is making us more like Christ He enables us to add.

The RSB notes about this list that *the order of virtues here ("faith ... love") is not a sequence in time, as if stages of the Christian life were being described (vv. 8, 9). Peter is using a rhetorical figure that builds a series of elements to a climax. The beginning and conclusion of the series are significant, however. Early Christian virtue lists often begin with "faith," the starting point of the Christian life, and end with "love" (Rom. 5:1-5; 1 Cor. 13), the preeminent fruit of the Christian life.*

Notice as well that these virtues are both internal and external. Again, we don't live the Christian life in isolation – we must be as concerned about internal knowledge and self-control as about brotherly affection and love. Peter, as Kistemaker comments, *exhorts us to apply [these virtues] so that we may reap an abundant harvest in knowing Jesus Christ. A neglect of these virtues results in spiritual loss and deprivation.*

Useful and fruitful. Who doesn't want that? May God help as we labour hard to add it up!

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What are we to add to our faith?
2. What is the positive result of adding these?
3. What is the negative result of not adding these?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 141a
1. Commit in prayer to the hard work of adding these virtues to your life, 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 2 Peter 1:10-11 Confirm our calling

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Once again, Peter calls his readers to make every effort – to commit to the hard work of living the Christian life. Of course, we must remember that God has given us everything we need for this hard work! (v3). Peter stresses that doing the things he has urged us to do both confirm our salvation and keep us from stumbling.

The RSB notes that *while God's choice of the elect is firm and certain in God (2 Tim. 2:19), it may not always be obvious to the individual Christian. Assurance of God's call comes through the evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives (1 John 3:10, 14) as well as through the internal testimony of the Spirit in our hearts (Gal. 4:6).*

The sometimes called "Five Points of Calvinism" end with "P" – the Perseverance of the Saints. Sometimes people want the P to stand for Preservation of the Saints – stressing that God preserves the salvation which He grants. While that is true, it is also true, as Peter notes here, that genuine saints, those God has saved, do persevere in the Christian life. Confirming our calling and election leads to entry into heaven – an entry supplied by God.

Calvin comments that *the children of God are distinguished from the reprobate by this mark, that they live a godly and a holy life, because this is the design and end of election. Kistemaker notes that calling is not merely an invitation; it is a royal command which man must obey. And election is evidence of God's grace and love toward man. Man, then, must take possession of his election by exercising the virtues Peter outlines in verses 5-7.*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What effort does Peter call us to here?
2. What is God's calling and God's election?
3. What is the result of confirming these?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 141a
1. Rejoice in prayer that God has called/elected you to holiness
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member