

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/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 Deuteronomy by John Calvin and Matthew Henry

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 Deut. 6:1-3 Observe these commandments

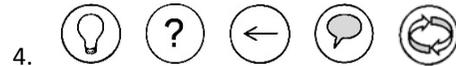
Notes Deuteronomy means “2nd law.” In this book, Moses repeats much of the law God gave Israel at Mt. Sinai 40 years earlier. This is Moses’ last instruction to Israel before he dies and they enter the promised land. Why did God give these laws? Here Moses gives three reasons.

That we might keep them. Even though given to Israel, God’s moral law continues today to be the guidebook for Christians. God teaches us in His word how He wants us to live.

That we may fear the Lord. *No single English word conveys every aspect of the word fear in this phrase. The meaning includes worshipful submission, reverential awe, and obedient respect to the covenant-keeping God of Israel.* (The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version (HCSB) notes.)

That it will go well with us. God’s laws are for our good. To obey them is always best. Even for a non-Christian, life will be better lived in obedience to God (yet for them they will still be lost and under God’s judgment.) How much more for us. His commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

- Questions**
1. What does Deuteronomy mean?
 2. What 3 reasons did Moses give here for God’s law?
 3. Does the law have any use for a Christian today?



- Praise** Psalm 43b²
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to observe God’s law, by His 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 Deut. 6:20-25 When your son asks...

Notes Two things come immediately to mind with v20. You are keeping God’s law by His grace. And, your children are seeing you do it. So, they ask, “Why? What do God’s laws and regulations mean?”

Are your children asking? Are they seeing and hearing God’s law in and from you? They must. What will you say when they ask? Moses tells these parents to tell their children 4 things.

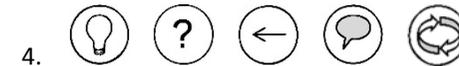
God delivered us. For them it was both a physical bondage in Egypt and a spiritual bondage. For us it is at least the spiritual bondage to sin and Satan we were in.

God gave us good. Again, for them, it was the land – a promise of God to Abraham some 400 years earlier. That land wasn’t enough – they looked for a heavenly country (see Heb. 11:13-16). But it was good from God and God has given us much good (which will pale in comparison to Heaven).

God gave us His law for our good. Again, we are reminded (as we often need to be) that God’s commandments are for our good.

And, keeping God’s laws will be our righteousness. And, we say, “Wait a minute!” The easy (but wrong) conclusion here would be to say that in the Old Testament people were saved by works, but in the New we are saved by faith. Doing the law is NEVER, not here, not anywhere, the means to salvation (unless we could keep it perfectly). Rather, it is the evidence. We obey God’s law because we are saved by God’s grace.

- Questions**
1. What does Moses suggest children might ask?
 2. What has to happen for that question to come?
 3. What should be our answer?



- Praise** Psalm 43b
- Pray**
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

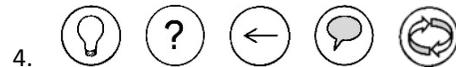
Reading Deut. 6:16-19 Do what is right

Notes What makes God jealous? What makes Him angry? *We never find, either in the law or the prophets, anger, or fury, or jealousy, or indignation, attributed to God but upon occasion of idolatry.* (M Henry) Whether it is the good gifts of God or the false gods of the nations around us, when anything other than God Himself becomes the centre of our affections we have taken an idol. Even legitimate needs can become an idol (see Ex. 17:1-7) What is the antidote to idolatry? Diligence.

Diligently keep His commands. In the Hebrew language at times a word is repeated to make emphasis. For example, in Gen 2.17 “you shall surely die” could be translated “dying, you shall die.” Here, Moses says, carried by the Spirit of God, “keeping, you shall keep,” or as in our English Bibles, “you shall diligently keep,” or “be sure to keep.”

There is no room – even – for slacking off in the Christian life. No room for easing up. No room for putting the gear in neutral and rolling down the hill. Every day, every hour, every minute, every second we have to take up our cross, follow Jesus, keep His commandments. And when we fail, we come to His cross, find repentance in Him, and in Him, renew our diligence in obedience instead of idolatry.

- Questions**
1. What makes God jealous?
 2. What idols tempt us/you?
 3. How can we avoid such idols?



- Praise** Psalm 43b
Pray
1. Confess, with your family, your idolatry and renew your commitment, in Jesus, to keep His commandments.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Deut. 6:4-5 Love the Lord your God

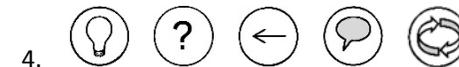
Notes Listen up! Pay attention! Hear this! With that sort of attention getting, Moses introduces what became to Jews a great privilege to know and say. *These two verses the Jews reckon one of the choicest portions of scripture... having this saying among them, Blessed are we, who every morning and evening say, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.* (M Henry)

And it is even a greater privilege for us who know God more fully through Jesus Christ! Here we learn what we are to believe concerning God and what duty He requires of us. (see Westminster Shorter Catechism Question 3)

We are to believe that God – our God, Jehovah – is One. He is – and He keeps His promises (from the meaning of His name, Jehovah/Yahweh/LORD). He is the only God. He is our God.

And what is our duty? We are to love God with all our being. The greatest commandment God gives us is to love Him. *We must highly esteem him, be well pleased that there is such a Being, well pleased in all his attributes, and relations to us: our desire must be towards him, our delight in him, our dependence upon him, and to him we must be entirely devoted. It must be a constant pleasure to us to think of him, hear from him, speak to him, and serve him.* (M. Henry)

- Questions**
1. Are there more Gods than one? (WSC Q/A 5)
 2. What is to be our response to this One God?
 3. What does it mean to love God?



- Praise** Psalm 43b
Pray
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to love God with all your being, with His help.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Deut. 6:6-9 Teach Him diligently to your children

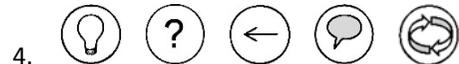
Notes Why do we have family worship? Why do parents take their children to church? And, is that enough?

First of all, here we learn that God’s gracious laws are to be ours – we are to “own them.” They are to be in us – In our hearts. It may be less today, but still not uncommon for parents to send their children to Sunday School. “Go, learn about God. It will be good for you.” But Sunday School can never replace a parent with an overflowing heart for God.

Once our heart (as a parent) is overflowing for God – then it will and must overflow to our children. We teach Him diligently. We talk about God to them all the time. Notice the comprehensiveness of v7 – when you sit together (is the only time we sit with our children to watch TV or a DVD?), when you go out (riding in the car is a great time to talk about God), when you go to bed (are you too busy? – have your children “outgrown” bedtime prayers?) and when you get up (what a blessing family worship around the breakfast table is!). How are you doing? And, if you have no children, who are you teaching about God?

Let it be written on our gates, and let every one that goes by our door read it, that we believe Jehovah to be God alone, and believe ourselves bound to love him with all our hearts. (Henry)

- Questions**
1. What must happen before parents teach their children about God?
 2. Then, how and when should they teach their children?
 3. How might we put our love for God “on our gates” today?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 43b
1. Commit yourself to love God and teach Him to your children, with His help.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

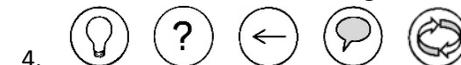
Reading Deut. 6:10-15 Beware, lest you forget

Notes Oh, the good life! Isn’t that what we long for – when we have enough, when our needs are met, when things are going well. Such blessing is indeed from the Lord. Yet there is a great danger in it. The danger is not because of the Lord – all His gifts are good, but because of the sin that remains in us. (There is also a great danger in times of difficulty too – but that is for another time. Read Ps. 119:65-80 if you are in affliction.)

What is the danger when things are going well? That we get caught up in the “things” and the “well” and that we forget the God we profess to love and Who gave us good things and good times. Israel is preparing to get much good from God – lands, houses, crops. In His judgment on Canaan He is going to take the good things they have, kill them for their sin, and give their good things to His people.

Beware, when we are experiencing peace and prosperity, lest we forget our God. He is jealous for our affection – and He should be. There is one God and He is our Lord. He has saved us - and that is worth so much more than any good things or good times. Are there good things from God which you have, that are taking your affections from God to them? What is there in your life of which God would be rightly jealous?

- Questions**
1. Where do all good gifts come from?
 2. What is a danger with good gifts?
 3. How can we avoid that danger?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 43b
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer God has given you much good. Pray you would not forget Him.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member