

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/WTrpcf](http://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](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 total from *A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

# 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 Chronicles 20:1-4, 13 A Terrible threat

**Notes**

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

[King] Jehoshaphat discovered that godliness does not ensure a life without trials. Sometimes it is the very godliness of God’s people that makes them targets for God’s enemies. In this instance God’s enemies were a coalition of nations dwelling to the east of the River Jordan. The Moabites and Ammonites were the nations descended from Lot’s daughters. The Meunites were probably Arabs...who lived a nomadic existence south of the Dead Sea. Together they gathered together ‘a vast army’.

As this army moved north, alarm spread before it... As the countryside was pillaged and villages torched, messengers brought the terrible reports to Jerusalem. The terrified people sought God’s protection... they gathered together to seek the Lord. The whole community came together for this sacred assembly.

The external threat strengthened the sense of national unity, but it did not create it. God’s people were united by virtue of their covenant with God. They were united in their need for grace and in their enjoyment of God’s mercies. Their unity was cemented as they worshipped together and acknowledged these truths. It is still important that families should gather as whole families to worship God in their homes and in congregational worship. Yes, even the young children should be present when God’s people meet.

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who were coming to fight against King Jehoshaphat?
2. What was the response of the King and God’s people?
3. What unites us in our local church?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

Psalms 103b<sup>2</sup>

1. Ask God to protect you, your family, and your church
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**

2 Chronicles 20:31-37 Jehoshaphat’s Epitaph

**Notes**

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

When Jehoshaphat’s reign came to an end, he was given a good epitaph: ‘He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD’ (20:32). Jehoshaphat was a redeemed man, but he has not been presented as a perfect man. His warts have been painted in these final verses. Perhaps an explanation for his imperfections is found in 20:32: ‘He walked in the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them ...’ Of course, it was good to have a father like Asa to learn from, for he did many good things. However, Asa too was a mere man. Asa had his failings and imperfections.

The danger of resting upon mere men is that they have feet of clay. We may resolve to learn from their mistakes and reproduce their strengths. However, unless our focus is upon the perfect man, we are more likely to reproduce their weaknesses while wrongly presuming that we have their strengths. For this reason we are urged to look ‘unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,’ ‘... till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ’ (Heb. 12:2; Eph. 4:13, NKJV).

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What were the positives given about Jehoshaphat’s reign?
2. What were the negatives?
3. How can we best have a positive epitaph at our end?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

Psalms 103b

1. Pray that you and your family will look to Jesus to begin and finish our faith, 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** 2 Chronicles 20:26-30 Acknowledging what the Lord had done

**Notes**  
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

*Jehoshaphat and his people willingly acknowledged that the Lord had delivered them from invasion. Praise is the theme of these verses. After the three days of collecting plunder and removing it from the battlefield, the people of Judah assembled to praise the Lord... They did not become so engrossed with the spoils of victory that they forgot to give thanks to the one who had given them victory. After God has blessed us it is very easy to become more interested in the gifts than the Giver. It is a good practice to pause and give thanks to the Lord as we receive his blessings...*

*The people's thanksgiving did not die away as soon as they left the battlefield... Too often God's people forget his goodness, and what the Lord has done for them, as they move on to new things, but this was not so in the case of Jehoshaphat and his people. Their rejoicing in God was not momentary, but ongoing. Because 'His love endures for ever', so too must the grateful response of people who have been so greatly blessed...*

*Not only did the people of Judah marvel at the greatness of Jehovah, even the heathen nations were amazed at what the Lord had done to the coalition armies... The men of Judah made sure the whole world heard what the Lord had done. Yet how often do we keep to ourselves the breathtaking news of what the Lord has done for us? May he stir us up to proclaim his greatness!*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How did Jehoshaphat and the people acknowledge God?
  2. How can we continue to remember what God has done for us?
  3. How can we tell unbelievers what God has done for us?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 103b
1. Rejoice with your family in what God has done for you
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** 2 Chronicles 20:5-12 Jehoshaphat's response  
**Notes**  
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

*Jehoshaphat responded to the crisis by taking the initiative. He led the people in prayer. His tone was urgent. Disaster was staring them in the face, but there was no panic in his voice. Jehoshaphat's request was simple: he sought deliverance from his enemies. His approach was bold...*

*...He based his prayer on the promises of God and the experiences of the covenant people. God had never broken his promises to his people, and Jehoshaphat was certain that he never would. On this basis the king prayed to God for deliverance. He presented five arguments:*

1. *God's lordship over the nations. Jehoshaphat was not afraid of these nations because they were powerless before the Lord.*
2. *God's promise to Abraham. God chose Abraham to be his friend and made a covenant with him and his descendants... Jehoshaphat rejoiced in the same covenant promise...*
3. *God's promise to Solomon. The building of the temple in Jerusalem was... a reminder that God would listen to them when they cried out to him...*
4. *God's despised goodness. God had been merciful to Moab and Ammon... [as] the Israelites when they entered into the promised land... Now [they] were forcing their way into the land...*
5. *The powerlessness of God's people. This was the most persuasive argument of all. God is at his most merciful when his people are at their most helpless...*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. On what did Jehoshaphat base his prayer?
  2. What were his 5 arguments in his prayer?
  3. How could we use similar points in our prayers?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 103b
1. Rejoice in God's power and presence with His people
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

### Reading

2 Chronicles 20:14-19 A Prophetic response

### Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

*God's response to Jehoshaphat's prayer was immediate and startling. A voice was heard crying from the body of the assembly...Jahaziel's message promised deliverance...Jahaziel's message emphasized the activity of God and the passivity of his people. They were to watch and see what the Lord was going to do, but they were not to fight themselves.*

*It would be easy to draw the wrong lessons from these verses...For many years it has been taught in some quarters that sanctification comes in the believer's life by 'letting go' and 'letting God' do everything...After all, we are told, the battle is the Lord's, and the strength that overcomes is his strength. This, however, is a wrong application of biblical teaching.*






*...the clear teaching of Scripture [is] that God's people enjoy victory over evil by exerting their God-given strength. The point of [Jahaziel's] prophecy is not that God's people ought to do nothing. He addressed a situation where they were unable to do anything effective.*

*The purpose of Jahaziel's message was to encourage the people of Judah not to despair...As they watched they would see the Lord destroy their enemies. The same is true in every spiritual battle. When we go into battle against our temptations and besetting sins, we receive the same encouragement. 'Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.'*

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was God's message through Jahaziel?
2. What can be a wrong lesson from this message?
3. How should we go into spiritual warfare?

4.     

### Praise

Psalm 103b

### Pray

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to face your spiritual battles today, 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 Chronicles 20:20-25 God's power at work

### Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

*What must the men of Judah have expected as they set out for the desert? Although they had the Lord's assurance that the battle was his and that he would win the victory, they were in the dark about the way in which he would bring this about. What form would that victory take? Jehoshaphat did not know, but he was sure that the Lord knew...*

*The Lord did not disappoint them...We are given no insight into the intrigue that divided and destroyed this coalition. We have no record of the jealousies and tensions that tore them apart. All we know is that 'They helped to destroy one another' (20:23). This disunity was created by the Lord (20:22).*


*The men of Judah...discovered what the Lord had done when they marched out into the Desert of Tekoa. By the time they arrived the battle was already won...All that remained for Jehoshaphat and his men to do was to gather the plunder from the silent battlefield...However, it is not true to say that Jehoshaphat and the men of Judah did absolutely nothing. Although they did not lay a hand upon their enemies to defeat them, they did look to the Lord...*

*This is what God expects his people to do. He does not expect them to win the battle by relying on their own cunning or strength. He calls them to look to the Lord and put their trust in him...What is the helpless sinner to do? ... look to the cross and believe that there he can find forgiveness. What is the trembling believer to do? ... look to the Lord who has given him great & precious promises.*

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How did Jehoshaphat prepare the people for this battle?
2. Who won the battle? Explain
3. What are God's people to do in spiritual battle?

4.     

### Praise

Psalm 103b

### Pray

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God is victorious
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member