

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 Acts by John Calvin, Bob Utley, Simon Kistemaker, Gordon Fee/James Stuart, and Kent Hughes, 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.

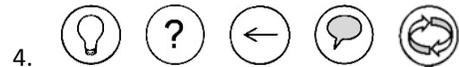
* Fathers leading their family in worship is always the goal. When, in the Lord’s providence, the father is absent or uninterested, a godly mother will lead her children

Reading Acts 2:1-4 the day of Pentecost

Notes (See back page for authors)
Pentecost, to most Christians today, is a reference to the events of Acts 2. However, it is helpful to note that Pentecost is an Old Testament feast that takes place 50 days after Passover. As Utley notes, *this annual Jewish Feast is also called “Feast of Weeks” (cf. Exod. 34:22; Deut. 16:10). The term “Pentecost” means “fiftieth.” This feast was held fifty days (seven weeks) after Passover (i.e. numbering from the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread). It had three purposes in Jesus’ day: (1) commemoration of giving of the Law to Moses; (2) thanksgiving to God for the harvest; and (3) an offering of the first fruits (i.e. a sign of YHWH’s ownership of the whole harvest) of the grain harvest.*

So, on this first post-resurrection, post-ascension Pentecost, the 120 (1:15) believers were together waiting for Jesus’ promised gift of the Holy Spirit (1:4-5). As they wait, as the day of Pentecost arrived (literally “was being fulfilled”), there was a sudden spectacular sound and light evidence that something amazing was taking place in their midst. As the RSB notes, *three signs (wind, fire, and inspired speech) of God’s presence were witnessed.* What could this be!?

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What was the day of Pentecost?
 2. Why were the believers all together?
 3. What happened as the day of Pentecost was being fulfilled?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 144b²
1. Rejoice in prayer in the work of God the Holy Spirit
 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 Acts 2:41-47 And they devoted themselves...

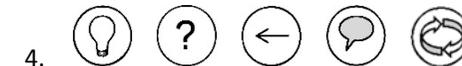
Notes (all the italicised comments in today’s notes are from Kent Hughes.)
Amazingly God saves three thousand people through Peter’s sermon. *Three thousand spiritual newborns! Earlier that day in the Upper Room there had been 120. Now in a flash there were 3,000! Three thousand new children of God—3,000 shepherding responsibilities for the apostles.*

These 3,000 baby Christians were continually devoting themselves to God’s Word as it came from the apostles.... These new Christians... were hungry for God’s Word. They could not get enough of it... The backbone of a healthy Christian life is teaching.

“They devoted themselves to... the fellowship.”...Every time this word is used in the New Testament, it denotes some kind of sharing... Fellowship comes through giving. True fellowship costs! So many people never know the joys of Christian fellowship because they have never learned to give themselves away.

And, they devoted themselves to worship. *Their worship consisted of two things: “the breaking of bread and... prayer.”... Christ and his atoning work were constantly before them, daily bringing their hearts upward in solemn and joyous contemplation...Another way they worshiped was “prayer.” The text should properly read, “the prayers” suggesting specific prayers [and, likely, specific called times to prayer]...When the Spirit reigns, the hearts of God’s people move up toward him and their relationship with him intensifies.*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Why are Christians to be devoted to teaching of God’s word?
 2. What is true fellowship and how do we get it?
 3. Why are Christians devoted to worshipping God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 144b
1. Pray that you and your church will be devoted to God’s ways
 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 Acts 2:37-40 What must we do?

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Now Peter brings the sermon home. Of course, it's not just Peter. The Holy Spirit applies his sermon about Jesus' death and resurrection, and about their culpability in His death, to their hearts. They were deeply convicted – literally cut to the heart – and asked Peter and the apostles, "What must we do?" How does Peter answer?

Repent. Turn in sorrow from sin. Calvin notes that the word *signifies the conversion of the mind, that the whole man may be renewed and made another man.*

Be baptised. Kistemaker notes that *baptism is the sign indicating that a person belongs to the company of God's people.* Being baptised in the name of Jesus is simply Peter's shorthand of Jesus' fuller statement in Matt. 28:19.

You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God the Spirit will dwell in every person who repents and believes.

This promise is for you and your children. As had always been true of God's saving work, His promise continues to be that He will be God to us and to our children.

And for all who are far off. Peter points out what even he doesn't yet understand – that God will call many in the far off nations (Gentiles) to be saved as well as Jews.

As many as the Lord our God will call. God's sovereignty extends even to salvation. He must call or none of us will ever answer. But He does call. And when He calls, as on this amazing day, people answer His sovereign call and are saved.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What happens to the hearers of Peter's sermon?
2. What do they ask Peter and the apostles?
3. What does Peter answer?

4.     

**Praise
Pray**

- Psalm 144b
1. Rejoice in prayer at God's sovereign call to you for salvation
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Acts 2:1-13 Astounded, Amazed, Perplexed

Notes
(See back page for authors)

As this sudden spectacular sound and light evidence is taking place amazement abounds! As the Holy Spirit fills these believers, they suddenly have the ability to speak in the various languages of the international Jews gathered there. Many of these Jews had begun to gather where the disciples were when they heard the sound of this Spirit-wind.

Hughes comments that *at Pentecost, the reviving winds of the Spirit came upon the apostles with incredible spiritual life and power...The apostles now had God's life-giving Spirit in a more intimate and powerful way than they had ever known—than anyone had ever known...To the observant Jew, it was easy to see that the Holy Spirit had come. When he comes to God's people, he brings wind, fire, and utterance...Some began to speak in perfect Latin, others in an authentic Phrygian dialect.*

In response to this amazing occurrence, which many believe is an undoing of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11), the crowd is amazed. Calvin notes that *the principal fruit of the miracle is expressed in this, that they inquire, and thereby declare that they are prepared to learn; for otherwise their amazedness and wondering should not have done them any great good. And certainly we must so wonder at the works of God, that there must be also a consideration, and a desire to understand.* Although some scoffed and disbelieved, we will read on to see that many are saved!

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. From what different nations were these Jews in Jerusalem?
2. What was so amazing about the believers' speaking?
3. What were the responses of the Jews as they hear?

4.     

**Praise
Pray**

- Psalm 144b
1. Commit in prayer to desire to understand God's works
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Acts 2:14-21 Let me explain

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Some of the scorners supposed the sounds they were hearing from these Spirit-filled believers was drunken gibberish. Don't unknown languages sometimes sound like that to you? However, Peter was quick to assure them that this was not a natural, but a super-natural fulfilment of prophecy from hundreds of years earlier.

Hughes reminds us that *just fifty days earlier, Peter had committed the greatest denial of Christ in history... [Now], just fifty days later he was the inaugural spokesman for the inception of the age of grace.* Peter begins by answering the astonished Jews. "What could this be?" (v12)? This was the fulfilment of God's promised pouring out of His Spirit on His saved people – His slaves.

Yet Peter also quotes Joel as prophesying dramatic heavenly and earthly events in this promised age. We would do well to understand, as Utley comments, that *this is apocalyptic language, which is obvious because Peter asserts that this was fulfilled, yet none of these specific natural phenomena occurred, except possibly the darkness while Jesus was on the cross. It speaks in figurative language of the coming of the Creator and Judge.*

This age – the great and remarkable Day of the Lord – Calvin says *begins this day at the first preaching of the gospel, and... extends the same unto the last resurrection.* From this day until the end of time, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What question is Peter answering?
2. What did Joel prophesy God would do?
3. What must anyone do to be saved – from Pentecost to the end?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 144b

1. Rejoice in the promised saving work of God's Spirit
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Acts 2:22-36 God has made this Jesus both Lord and Messiah!

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Peter continues his Spirit-empowered sermon of grace. Hughes comments that Peter's sermon *was great because it was simple. First, the apostle answered their question; second, he told them about Christ; third, he enlisted commitment...The sermon was great because it was Scriptural. Peter's message abounds with God's Word (v16ff, v25ff)...The sermon was great because it was Christ-centered (vs 22, 23, 32, 36)...The sermon was great because it was convicting (v.36)...The sermon was great because it was practical. It began by answering the question "What does this mean?" (v. 12) and ended by answering the question "What shall we do?" (v. 37). The sermon was great because it was attention-getting and relevant.*

Peter stresses what God had done in Christ. He stresses both God's purpose (v23a) and man's sinful action (v23b) in Jesus' death. "You killed Him!" Peter stresses. "But, God raised Him up." Though Jesus' enemies thought His death would be the end of Jesus, God made it, instead, the end of death. That is, all who will believe in Jesus as Messiah and submit to Him as Lord, the pains of death are replaced by resurrection and eternal life.

Hughes also notes that *It would be wonderful to hear a great sermon like Peter's, but it is even better to hear a sermon that is great because of what it does to us. It is entirely possible to hear good teaching or preaching for years and never personally hear it in the great way the 3,000 did...Do we hear Peter's sermon?*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why was Peter's sermon so great?
2. Who was responsible for Jesus' death, God or the Jews?
3. What should happen to us when we hear good preaching?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 144b

1. Rejoice in prayer that Jesus is the resurrected Lord
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member