

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 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

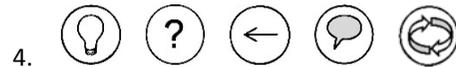
Reading Deut. 11:1-7 Because the Lord has made you as the stars...

Notes Chapter 11 begins with a “therefore” so we need to look back and see what it is there for. The verses that end chapter 10 tell us. “Because the Lord has delivered you, made you as the stars in the heavens, therefore...” Therefore what?

Therefore love the Lord your God. When we think of Deuteronomy, we think of law – the 2nd giving of the law. When we think of law, we think of duty. Yet this book calls us to think of love when we think of law. About a dozen times in Deuteronomy we are called to love God and nearly that many times we are reminded that God loves us.

Remembering that God loves us, and has delivered us from bondage and trouble, calls us to obey God’s commandments. *The whole address has this scope, that the people should testify their gratitude by their obedience, and thus being allured by God’s bounties, should reverently embrace His Law.* (Calvin) We have to love God before we can obey God. But love for God leads us to obedience to God – or else the love we profess is not love at all. *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.* (1 John 5:3)

- Questions**
1. What is the therefore in v.1 there for?
 2. What is to be our response to God for His deliverance?
 3. How do we demonstrate our love for God?



- Praise** Psalm 44a²
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to love and obey God, 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. 11:26-32 Blessings and Curses

Notes Moses sets, by God’s instruction, before the people 2 promises. A promise of blessing for obedience, and a promise of a curse for disobedience. So serious was God about this, that when the people came into the promised land, they were supposed to (and did – see Deut 27-28, Josh 8:30-35) read off a reminder of God’s promised blessing from one mountain, and a reminder of God’s promised curses from another mountain.

How can we, as Christians, understand these blessings and curses? In two ways – temporary and eternal.

God does promise, even now, blessings for obedience and punishments for disobedience. Two New Testament examples: Obedient children have a promise of longer life. (Eph 6:1-2) In-sensitive husbands have a punishment of prayers being cut off before they reach God. (1 Pet. 3:7)

Yet at the same time there is eternal blessing and an eternal curse. We get the blessing and avoid the curse by obedience. But it is an all or none offer. Perfect obedience gets eternal blessing. And, so we get the curse – because we disobey in our thoughts, words, and actions. Yet Jesus became a curse for us. He took our punishment, our curse, so we might receive His earned blessing. Because the promised land was Israel’s, they were to be careful to obey God. Because heaven is ours by grace, let us also be careful to obey our gracious God.

- Questions**
1. How are blessings and curses seen in this life?
 2. How are blessings and curses worked out in eternity?
 3. What is our greatest motivation to obedience?



- Praise** Psalm 44a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that Christ was cursed for you
 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. 11:22-25 Hold fast to Him

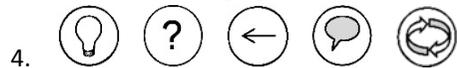
Notes Moses again calls God’s people to obedience. Yet here, for our benefit, he explains what that obedience looks like. First, it looks like love. We love because He first loved us. We obey because He first loved us. We obey because we love Him

Secondly, it looks like walking. Not for exercise, but living in God’s ways. Walking brings to mind everyday, even mundane tasks. In the everyday, moment by moment things we obey. We even eat and drink to His glory (1 Cor. 10:31), we take even our thoughts captive to Him (2 Cor. 10.5)

Thirdly, it looks like hanging on to God. We will never be able to obey in our own strength. Instead we cling lovingly and desperately to God and His grace, knowing He will never let us go.

After this threefold explanation, Moses repeats the promise of blessing and success in the task for obedience. God had called Israel to be His people. He had redeemed them from slavery in Egypt and was bringing them into this good land of Canaan. His promise was that as they obeyed they would find success in taking the land. God would drive out their enemies – people stronger than they were. God would give them every place they went in the land, if they obeyed. So, today, God blesses our obedience. But, like then, so now we must remember it is still all of grace. Our obedience is of grace. God’s blessings are of grace.

- Questions**
1. What does love have to do with our obedience?
 2. What does walking have to do with our obedience?
 3. What does hanging on have to do with our obedience?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 44a
1. Confess, with your family, your temptation to disobedience. Ask God to help you hold fast to Him.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

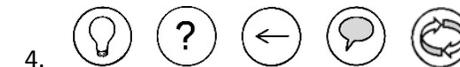
Reading Deut. 11:8-12 Reasons for obedience

Notes Moses, by God’s Spirit, gives 2 reasons for the obedience to which he has called God’s people. The first reason is strength for the task. When God’s people are in rebellion against Him, they are always weaker than when they are in loving obedience to Him. The particular task they were being given here was to take possession of the land of Canaan. Although God would give them this land, it would not come without the effort of war. As they obeyed, they would find strength from God. And, as we obey, we too will find strength from God for the tasks before us.

The second reason Moses gives is to have long life. Obedience to God’s commands is conducive to long life, and disobedience is contrary to long life. This, of course, is not an absolute. At times those who are faithful to God are cut down in untimely death while yet young. And at times the wicked live long and prosper. But the promise is not for this life only – but for eternity. The righteous will live forever, while the ungodly will die forever.

This obedience would be motivated not only by God’s deliverance, but by God’s ongoing kindly care. *While the Egyptians were ditching and guttering in the fields, up to the knees in mud... the Israelites could sit in their houses, warm and easy, and leave it to God to water their land.* (M Henry) The more we are aware of what God does for us, the more we desire to obey Him.

- Questions**
1. What two reasons for obeying God does Moses give?
 2. Do the godly always live a long life? Why or why not?
 3. What has God done for us?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 44a
1. Lead your family in prayer to thank God for His many gracious benefits.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

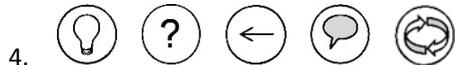
Reading Deut. 11:13-17 One more reason

Notes Here, Moses, by God’s Spirit, gives one additional reason for obedience. God will bless obedience. The immediate, promised blessing for Israel is rain for their crops and food for their livestock.

We moved to Australia in the middle of one of the worst droughts in the history of this dry and barren land. In April 2007, Prime Minister John Howard said publicly, “We should all, literally and without any irony, pray for rain over the next six to eight weeks.” Some pastors added to the call for prayer that we should not only pray for rain, but pray for repentance and forgiveness. Yet many in Australia scoffed that some divine being had anything to do with the drought. Seeking relief independent of God, 5 major ocean water desalination plants were built (near Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Melbourne). Yet God sent the rain, and in 2011-12 the drought broke. God sent so much rain that at present, 4 of the 5 desalination plants are sitting idle. Maybe there is a lesson there.

Like Israel, we are tempted toward worshipping other gods. But God calls us to worship Him only. And as we worship Him only and obey Him because we love Him, he will bless us. His blessing will come to His obedient, worshipping people, even in drought. (Jeremiah 17:8)

- Questions**
1. What reason does Moses give here for obeying God?
 2. What particular blessing was Israel promised?
 3. Why had God delivered Israel and why has He delivered us?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 44a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to obedient lives and thankful worship, 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 Deut. 11:18-21 Teach Him diligently to your children

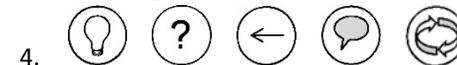
Notes Why do we have family worship? Why do parents take their children to church? And, is that enough?

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 v9 – 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 44a
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