

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

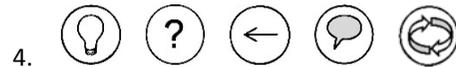
Reading Deut. 18:1-2 The priests' inheritance

Notes We have no priests today in Christ's church. However, some of the OT priestly laws carry over to God's ministers today. The priests, and ministers today, are not to be entangled with the cares of this world, but with the things of heaven. Their work is spiritual and is *enough to fill their hands both with work and profit and to content them.* (M Henry) The LORD is their inheritance.

However, this does not translate into the view that ministers of the gospel are to take a vow of poverty, as some might think. Instead, God's people are to willingly pay their tithes to the Lord in significant part to provide for the needs of those who minister the gospel. *Though God, who is a Spirit, is their inheritance, it does not therefore follow that they must live upon the air.* (Henry)

Instead God calls on the people to recognise that the labourer is worthy of his hire. *It was of great importance that the people should be assured that God accounted as received by Himself what He had assigned to the Levites; not only lest any portion should be withheld from them, but also that every one should willingly pay the lawful dues of God's ministers.* (Calvin)

- Questions**
1. What is the inheritance of the priests?
 2. How are ministers of the gospel today like priests?
 3. How did God intend His ministers would be provided for?



- Praise** Psalm 45b²
- Pray**
1. Give thanks to God for establishing ministers for His people
 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. 18:15-22 A Prophet like Moses (part 2)

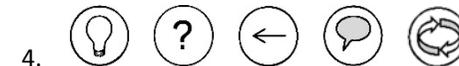
Notes Moses was going to die soon. Yet, God promised to raise up another Prophet like Moses to speak to His people. We looked yesterday at those Old Testament prophets who spoke for God to His people. Yet, this promise has a greater fulfilment.

Many of our English translations of the Bible have this "Prophet like Moses" with a capital P, to indicate this is not a merely human prophet. In fact, we know from the New Testament that God's promised Prophet was Jesus Himself. (Acts 3:20-26)

We sometimes have the mistaken idea that we can approach God entirely on our own – that we need no prophet to speak from God to us nor a mediator to speak to God for us. Yet we still do. We still need to be in awe of God and wary of approaching Him on our own. We no longer need a *merely* human prophet nor mediator. Yet we need Jesus – our Prophet from God and Mediator for us before God.

And, we must listen to Him. Over and over we are told to listen to Jesus, God's beloved and appointed Son. Him we must hear. Him we must obey. And, though He is not physically present with us, He is still with us by His word (the whole Bible – not just the "red-letter" words) and His Spirit. So, when Jesus is preached tomorrow at your church, listen to Him.

- Questions**
1. Who was the ultimate Prophet like Moses that God sent?
 2. How do we know Jesus is this Prophet?
 3. How do we hear Him today?



- Praise** Psalm 45b
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will listen to Jesus, 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. 18:15-22 A prophet like Moses (part 1)

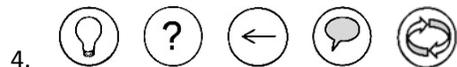
Notes Moses would soon die. He was not to enter the promised land with Israel because of his sin in the wilderness. (Numbers 20) But God would not leave His people without a word from Him. Instead God would raise up another prophet like Moses. First, this tells us that God would continue to call men from Israel to speak His words to His people. These prophets were to be listened to by God’s people. (We’ll look at the 2nd lesson tomorrow)

When the people heard God’s voice directly at Mt. Sinai they were terrified and asked God to speak to them through a man, and not directly. So God spoke through Moses, and after Moses, would continue to speak through His prophets. Many of those were writing prophets – the last 17 books of our English Old Testament. But between Malachi and John the Baptist there was a period of 400 years of silence when God did not speak through a prophet to His people.

In these times of silence, or even when God’s prophets were speaking, false prophets arose too. How were the people to know the true from the false? When a prophet spoke in God’s name yet what he said did not come to pass, God was revealing him as a fraud.

So, today, ministers who speak in God’s name are to be heard and obeyed – as if God Himself were speaking. And their words must be measured by God’s word to see if they are true.

- Questions**
1. Why did God speak to His people through prophets?
 2. How were God’s people to listen to His spokesmen?
 3. How are a minister’s words to be tested today?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 45b
1. Commit with your family to listen to God’s ministers
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

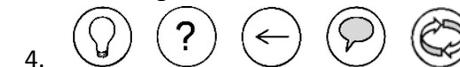
Reading Deut. 18:3-5 This is the priest’s due

Notes Providing for the needs of the priest was a duty God gave to His people and which continues with ministers today. God commands, and regulates, the portion to be given to the priests. On one hand, this was to prevent the people from begrudging what the priests received. On the other hand, it was to prevent the priests from taking more than their share.

Although God gives precise details for the OT priests – the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach of the animals offered were to be given to them – the details for NT ministers are less defined. But guidelines are given. The elders who teach and preach are worthy of a double honorarium. (1 Tim. 5:17-18, cf. Deut 25:4, 24:15) but are not to be greedy for money. (1 Tim 3:3) Those who preach the gospel may make a living from it. (1 Cor. 9:14) Those who receive the word are to support those who preach it. (Gal. 6:6)

Working out the details of this in the church today is not easy, but should be the goal of those who are Christ’s. Ministers shouldn’t be living lavishly at the expense of the congregation, nor should they be struggling to get by. One church of which I know took an income survey among the congregation, disregarded the top and bottom 10%, and sought to establish the minister’s salary at the average of the remaining 80%.

- Questions**
1. Why did God give details for the priests to be provided for?
 2. What principles do we have in the NT for providing for gospel ministers?
 3. How might churches measure their minister’s provision?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 45b
1. Pray that your minister will be provided for by your church
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Deut. 18:5-8 The Lord has chosen him

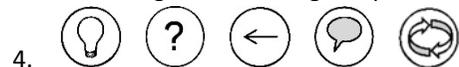
Notes In case any were still wondering why the people needed to provide for the priests and Levites who served in God’s house, God gives three reasons through Moses.

First, God has chosen His ministers. Let not a priest or Levite, nor a minister of the gospel today, call or appoint himself to service. *The Lord your God has chosen him...* v5 So, today, a man is to be called by God’s people, (Acts 14:23 *the term to appoint actually means to approve by a show of hands in a congregational meeting.* Kistemaker, Exposition of the Acts of the Apostles), sent by God, (Romans 10:15) and ordained to the task by the Presbytery (1 Tim. 4:14)

Secondly, God has chosen him to minister in the name of the Lord. The work of a minister is to teach Christ. Paul determined to know and preach nothing except Christ crucified. (1 Cor. 2:2) A minister’s job is not to give good advice, but to declare good news – the name of Jesus by which men might be saved.

Thirdly, these men give up legitimate gain in order to serve God’s people. Levites might, as God called them, give up their usual place in Israel and come to serve in God’s house. Then they, having given up their usual inheritance, would be provided for along with the priests. So today, God calls men to give up what would likely be more income in order to preach Christ.

- Questions**
1. What does it mean that God chooses priests and ministers?
 2. What is the work of these men to be?
 3. What might a minister give up to take this call of God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 45b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to faithfully pray for your minister and elders in the work God chose for them
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Deut. 18:9-14 Do not follow the nations

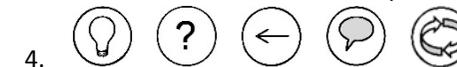
Notes As God was preparing His people for entry to the land He had promised, He knew they would be tempted at times by the lives of the people He was driving out. *God expressly commands the Israelites to beware, lest, when they come into the land of Canaan, they should catch any infection from its inhabitants.* (Calvin)

Though it might seem impossible *that a people so blessed with divine institutions should ever admit the brutish and barbarous inventions of men and devils,* (M Henry) they, and we, need to be warned against the danger of following the ways of the wicked around us.

The danger is (at least) twofold. First, that we abandon the God we profess to follow and follow instead the ways of the world. Jesus warned about those who hear the word, but it does not take deep root, and they fall away. (Matthew 13). Hebrews 6 warns against those who taste of Christ, but then fall away. So, we must be on guard that the world does not lead us away from God.

The second danger, one to which Israel fell repeatedly, is that we don’t abandon God, but instead attempt to mix the ways of the world with His ways. We want to have God and yet have a little of the world too. But God says, we must be blameless, living only in the way He has appointed.

- Questions**
1. How are we tempted to abandon God and follow the world?
 2. How are we tempted to mix the world’s ways with God’s?
 3. How can we be in the world, yet not of it?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 45b
1. Pray with your family that God keeps you from the world’s ways
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member