

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 closely from John Calvin’s commentary on the Harmony of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

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 Luke 24:1-12 He is not here, but is risen!

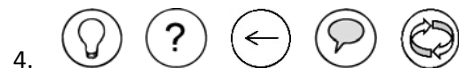
Notes *We now come to the closing scene of our redemption.* (Calvin) We receive assurance from the resurrection that we have been reconciled with God, that we have been raised from judgment and death. Paul reminds us that the gospel is invalid and our faith in salvation is empty unless Christ has risen from the dead (1 Cor. 15:14)

Christ obtained our righteousness, our adoption as children of God, our access into heaven by rising from the dead. We might have had a host of witnesses to see Him coming from death to life, but we know He did what is best. The empty tomb was the first witness, then He chose to appear to different ones in different ways.

His first appearance was to these devout women who had supported His ministry (8:2-3). He gave them temporarily the role of apostles – telling them to go and tell His disciples. Perhaps in doing this He was rebuking the disciples for not believing His continued instruction that He would suffer these things and then rise again.

Even the women had forgotten, until the angels reminded them. We dare not forget our Saviour is risen indeed.

- Questions**
1. What did Christ's resurrection show?
 2. Who told the women Christ was risen?
 3. What did the women do? What did Peter do?



- Praise** Psalm 42d²
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that Christ has risen from the dead
 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 Luke 24:49-53 He was parted from them

Notes After giving them a great commission to be His witnesses, He gave them a great promise – His continuing presence with them by the Promised Holy Spirit. They had to wait for a time (until the day of Pentecost) for the promise to be fulfilled. In so doing, Jesus claims for Himself equality with God. *To invest feeble men with heavenly power, is a part of that glory which God swears that he will not give to another: and, therefore, if it belongs to Christ, it follows that he is that God who formerly spoke by the mouth of the prophet, (Isa. 42:8.)* Calvin

And it continues today – who can be a witness for Christ unless God Himself clothes them with power from Heaven. Pray God will bless you with that power as you informally preach Christ. Pray for your elders and ministers who formally preach Him.

Then, Luke records that He blessed them and was parted from them. His bodily presence would not continue on the earth. He departed for His Father's presence. Yet He will continue with both His blessing and His presence of His disciples until the end of time. For now, that blessing is by His Holy Spirit with us. Then it will be face to face.

No wonder the disciples continued in worship and praising God. No wonder that we continue in worship and praising God today. With Luke, we proclaim, "Amen – this is the truth!"

- Questions**
1. What did Jesus promise the disciples?
 2. How could Jesus fulfil the promise that God Himself gave?
 3. What should our response be to our risen and ascended Saviour?



- Praise** Psalm 42d
- 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 Luke 24:44-48 You are witnesses of these things

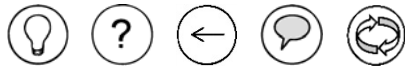
Notes Jesus continues to meet with the disciples and continues to correct their forgetfulness and lack of faith. He says, as it were, *“Why do you hesitate as if this had been a new and unexpected occurrence, while it is only what I frequently predicted to you? Why do you not rather remember my words?”* Calvin

Yet at the same time He works in their dull hearts and minds so they understand what was written. How like them we are. How much we need His opening our minds so we can understand. Although the Word of God is a lamp (Psalm 119:105), until the Spirit opens our eyes (Psalm 146:8) it shines brightly in the darkness. How regularly we must pray, *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.* Psalm 119:18

As the whole Bible tells us, Jesus had to suffer and die – and rise again from the dead. And that message – in its horror and its glory is the basis of preaching repentance and forgiveness of sin. Only in the Name of Jesus can such repentance and forgiveness come. No other Name. No other Way. No other Saviour.

Then, to these fearful, denying, slow to understand disciples Jesus gives the great honour of proclaiming Him to the whole world. “You are witnesses of these things,” He tells them. And, we, though not eyewitnesses have a similar honour to speak to others of the powerful and saving name and work of Jesus.

- Questions**
1. What has to happen for us to understand the Bible?
 2. What is the central message of the Bible?
 3. What is the honour these disciples – and we – were given?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42d
1. Confess, with your family, that Jesus’ death and resurrection is the only basis for your repentance and forgiveness
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

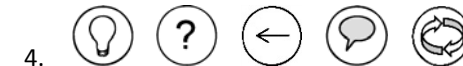
Reading Luke 24:13-27 He explained the Scriptures concerning Himself

Notes Here we have two witnesses to whom Jesus chooses to reveal Himself. Luke names one, Cleopas, leaving us to think neither of them were of His twelve, now eleven, closest. They were intently and sadly talking about the things that had happened. Even though they too missed what Christ had clearly taught about His death and resurrection we can learn from them the usefulness of speaking about Christ to each other.

When Jesus came to them they didn’t recognize Him. This was not, it seems, due to a change in His appearance, so much as the weakness of even our physical senses. Until Christ opened their physical eyes and until He opens our spiritual eyes they and we cannot recognise Him.

Before He opened their eyes, he revealed Himself through the Law and the prophets. As Jesus teaches better than any other, the Gospel is contained in the Old Testament. We must guard against some who *by suppressing the [Old Testament], wickedly mutilate the Gospel; as if God intended that any testimony which he has ever given respecting his Son should become useless.* (Calvin) To be sure, we have even now a fuller revelation of Him and His work, but we can see Him often in the Law and Prophets.

- Questions**
1. Who were these two who Jesus met on the road?
 2. What was their conversation about when He joined them?
 3. Where do we find Jesus and the gospel in the Bible?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42d
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seek Jesus in the whole Bible, 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 Luke 24:28-35 Burning Hearts

Notes As these two and Jesus near the village He indicates He will go on. Yet they urge Him to stay – and He did for a time. So they came together to eat supper. Luke tells us it was as Jesus broke and blessed bread they recognised Him. While some think this to be a communion meal, Luke does not seem to suggest anything other than an ordinary meal with an extraordinary Saviour. When He had fed the multitude He had blessed and broken the bread (9:16) and likely other times with His followers. A pattern we follow even today.

Perhaps they saw His nail scarred hands – we don't know. We do know the veil was lifted from their eyes, they saw Him, then He was gone. By His presence they recognised His resurrection, by His departure they learned it would not continue to be in this world that they would successfully seek Him.

Once having recognised Him they realised they should have known sooner. Their hearts burned with the witness of the Saviour and of the Spirit. *They begin to consider the grace which they had formerly, as it were, swallowed without tasting it, and perceive that they were stupid.* (Calvin) But they did not linger long on those thoughts but quickly went back to Jerusalem to tell the eleven they had seen the risen Lord. Who have you told?

- Questions**
1. When did these two disciples recognise Jesus?
 2. What did they discuss when He vanished from them?
 3. What did they do then?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42d
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to tell others about the risen Saviour, 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 Luke 24:36-43 Peace to you

Notes As these two disciples were talking to the eleven (less Thomas John 20:24) Jesus suddenly appeared in the room with them. Though He greeted them with Peace they were instead terrified. Rather than happiness and prosperity, they felt terror and fear.

Though compassionate, Christ gently scolds them. "Why are you frightened? Why do you have doubts?" We may need those gently scolding words today. Why do we let things frighten us when our God reigns? Why do we doubt our Saviour's promised, always, presence with us?

Jesus immediately assures them He is with them in the flesh, inviting them to touch His resurrected body. He permits them to see His scars from the sword and the cross. *As to the wounds, we ought to look upon this as a proof by which it was intended to prove to us all, that Christ rose rather for us than for himself; since, after having vanquished death, and obtained a blessed and heavenly immortality, yet, on our account, he continued for a time to bear some remaining marks of the cross.* Calvin

Though filled with joy, they still had trouble believing. So, Jesus ate to give them further proof He was there in His resurrected body. How gently Jesus deals with their weak faith. Yet, we are even greater blessed as He has caused us to believe without seeing Him in the flesh.

- Questions**
1. What did Jesus offer as He greeted the disciples?
 2. What did they have instead? Why?
 3. How did Jesus encourage their faith? How does He encourage ours?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 42d
1. Rejoice with your family in the Peace we have from Christ
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member