

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

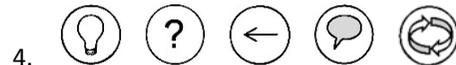
Reading Deut. 30:1-3 Return to the Lord

Notes Moses has just finished (chap. 28) giving the details of the blessings and cursings God promised His people. Then he reminded them of their covenant obligations before God and the warning that God takes obedience seriously. To neglect Him is to face His just anger. That anger would be felt as God scattered His people to a distant land.

Yet, even there, there is hope. Even there, with the Lord, there is forgiveness. Moses reminds the people *that God never so severely afflicts His Church as not to be ready to return to mercy; nay, that by their punishments, however cruel in appearance, the afflicted, who were destroying themselves as if their hearts were bent upon it, are invited to repentance, so as to obtain pardon.* (Calvin)

If we stray, then we repent, God will pardon. But if we are ever tempted to stray, counting on later repentance and pardon, we must be warned repentance might not come. (Heb 12:16-17) If you've sinned, repent and return to your gracious God. If you're tempted to sin, flee that temptation for your life!

- Questions**
1. If we have sinned and repent, will God always forgive us?
 2. If we sin, will we always come to repentance?
 3. What motivates God to forgive us again and again?



Praise Psalm 46c²

- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to flee sin, by 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

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. 30:15-20 Choose Life

Notes God gives His people a choice, and explains it through Moses in three contrasting pairs. Life or death? Good or evil? Blessings or curses? Which would Israel choose? Which will we choose? To choose God, and His righteous commandments is the only choice that makes any sense at all.

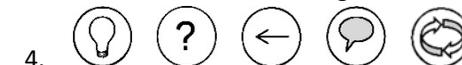
Yet, how can we? How can we faithfully do God's commands? How can we fully love God? Is this another so called case of righteousness by the law? No. We have to remember that more has been revealed to us.

When, therefore, [Moses] speaks of keeping the Commandments, he does not exclude the two-fold grace of Christ, that believers, being regenerated by the Spirit, should aspire to the obedience of righteousness, and at the same time should be reconciled freely to God through the forgiveness of their sins. (Calvin)

Are you choosing life? Are you living in that grace of Christ that saved you and teaches you to say "no" to unrighteousness and "yes" to obedience as you await Christ's return? (see Titus 2:11-14) No other choice makes any sense at all.

So, be zealous to obey God, remembering He has purified you, forgiven you, and accepted you in Christ.

- Questions**
1. What are the three contrasting pairs that illustrate our choice?
 2. What is the right choice?
 3. How can we make this right choice??



Praise Psalm 46c

- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will choose life, 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 Romans 10:4-13 Confess, Believe, Be Saved

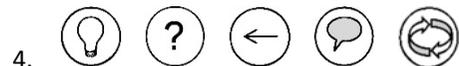
Notes We take a detour from Deut. 30 today, following God’s signs. In Romans 10, Paul takes our verses from yesterday and explains them more fully in the light of the gospel. *Moses speaks of the doctrine of the law, and Paul applies it to evangelic promises. The whole of God’s truth... includes in it the gospel.* (Calvin)

If we seek a righteousness by the law, we must perfectly obey – doing all and only the things that God commands. But we can’t. So, we are reminded that God’s way of righteousness by faith is different.

Moses mentions heaven and the sea, as places remote and difficult of access to men. But Paul... applies them to the death and resurrection of Christ. The assurance of our salvation lies on two foundations, that is, when we understand, that life has been obtained for us, and death has been conquered for us...Christ, by dying, destroyed death, and by rising again he obtained life in his own power. The benefit of Christ’s death and resurrection is now communicated to us by the gospel: there is then no reason for us to seek anything farther. (Calvin)

The evidence of believing that we need to seek nothing else, is that our heart and mouth respond to this good news. We confess with our mouth that Jesus is our Lord, we believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, and we are saved. There is no other way.

- Questions**
1. How does Paul apply Moses’s words to the gospel promise?
 2. What alone are we to seek for salvation?
 3. What is the role of our heart and our mouth?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 46c
1. Confess, with your family, that Jesus is your Lord
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

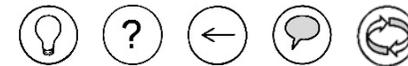
Reading Deut. 30:4-6 The Lord will circumcise your heart

Notes Moses continues his encouragement to the people to repent, return, and be restored to God. No matter how deep our sin, nor how far it has removed us from God (often the removal may even be by His hand, as with Israel) He will bring us back. For Israel, the return is to the physical land. (But, always remember they were looking for a better, eternal, land. Heb 11:13-16) For us, the return is to fellowship with God with His people in Christ’s church – and heaven eventually.

But, what is the hope that we have? It is not simply that we can repent and return after we sin, but that we will sin less and obey more. The only hope for that which we have is the work of God in us. Moses gives the promise that, *lest the Israelites should... fall back from time to time into new rebellions, a divine remedy was needed, i.e., that God should renew and mould their hearts.* (Calvin)

This work of God applying the sign of the covenant (circumcision in the Old Testament, baptism in the New) to the heart is at the core of our hope. Oh, that God would cleanse us from the inside – washing our hearts, cutting away what is sinful and contrary to our renewed character in Jesus! He will! And, He does!

- Questions**
1. What do we do when we have fallen into sin?
 2. What hope do we have to sin less and less?
 3. How does God work holiness into us?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 46c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to the pursuit of holiness, 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. 30:7-10 The Lord will rejoice over you for good

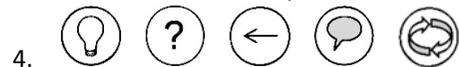
Notes Moses continues encouraging the people of God in renewed obedience to the Lord their God. Twelve times in vs. 1-10 he repeats the title, "The Lord your God". This is a description of people in a personal relationship with the living God.

In this section, the people are both called to obedience and promised that they will obey. Moses *argues from their certainty of obtaining pardon, that they should not hesitate to return to God, nay, rather that they should set about it with a cheerful and ready mind; and then that they should constantly proceed in the course of obedience.* (Calvin)

It is easy for us to rejoice in this personal, sanctifying grace-filled relationship between God and His people. Even more amazing is that God rejoices over this relationship. For all who are His, in Jesus Christ, God Himself rejoices in them. And His rejoicing is for our good.

With God Himself rejoicing in us, why would we do anything other than obey Him, keep His commands, and turn to Him with all of our being?

- Questions**
1. What title of God is used repeatedly in these verses? What does it tell us about God?
 2. Why does God rejoice in us?
 3. What is to be our response to God rejoicing in us?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 46c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to obey God, 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. 30:11-14 God's commands are close to us

Notes Now, Moses reminds the people of God that God's commandments are near to them. He gives a series of three things that God's commandments are not.

They are not too mysterious. Often we try to figure out things about God's will for our lives that He has never said He would tell us. There are things revealed so that we may do them. The secret things belong to God. (29:29). Rather than trying to find the mysteries of God's secret will, let's set out hearts to obeying His revealed will.

They are not far off in heaven. All of the world religions, except the true religion, Christianity, demonstrate man's effort to get to God. Christianity shows us how God came to us. If we had to get to heaven first, find God, then determine His will, we could not do it. But God's commands are not far off in heaven.

Finally, His commands are not far off beyond the sea. His people did not need to *go beyond sea, as the philosophers did, that travelled through many and distant regions in pursuit of learning.* (Henry, M) God had brought His commands near to them. They were in their mouth as they spoke about them all the time (6:7, 11:19). But even more they were to be in their hearts. God's promise to circumcise their hearts (v.6) would cause their heart to receive His commands and do them.

- Questions**
1. What is mysterious about God's will? What is not?
 2. Why don't we have to go to heaven to find God's will?
 3. What causes God's word to be in our mouths and hearts?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 46c
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God writes His law on your heart
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member