

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.)

The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at ligonier.org/store/priest-with-dirty-clothes-hardcover

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 Zechariah 3:1

Notes
(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

MANY YEARS AGO IN A FARAWAY LAND, the people of a small village crowded into a large church. It was nighttime. The church was dark except for the candles that were lit inside, casting shadows on the high walls.

A young man named Jonathan was lying on the floor with his arms stretched out so that his body was in the shape of a cross. A great bishop prayed for him. This was the most important night of Jonathan’s life. He was about to become a priest.

At the end of the ceremony, the bishop gave Jonathan the special clothes of a priest. First, the bishop helped Jonathan put on a bright blue robe over his long brown robe made of scratchy wool. Then he placed a turban on Jonathan’s head and tied a white lace sash around his waist. Now Jonathan was a priest.

The very next week, Jonathan was invited to the castle of the king. He was to preach his first sermon to the royal household. Jonathan worked hard to prepare his sermon. He wanted it to be his very best.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why does Satan stand as an accuser?
2. Is our very best good enough for God?
3. Who is the Angel of the Lord?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 148a²

1. Pray you will live so as not to give ammunition to the accuser
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 Zechariah 3:1-10

Notes
(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

The king looked at Jonathan and frowned. “Why are you here again with dirty clothes?” the king asked. “I told you that you could not stand in front of me looking like that.”...

At that moment, someone came into the room. It was a man dressed in a scratchy brown robe, exactly like the robe Jonathan wore under his special clothes...At first, no one recognized the stranger. Then someone shouted, “It’s the great prince!”

...The prince said to Jonathan, “Take off your dirty clothes and give them to me.”...He gave his dirty clothes to the prince, and the prince put them on himself. Then the prince handed Jonathan...the beautiful clothes that belonged to [himself]. The prince smiled again at Jonathan and said: “These are the clean clothes I promised you. They are yours forever. They will never wear out. There is not a spot of dirt on them and nothing can make them dirty. They are perfect for you. Now put them on and preach your sermon.”

...Jonathan was filled with joy. “How can I ever thank you for being so kind to me?” he asked the prince. The prince said, “If you are really thankful, and if you want to show that you love me, then keep all the commandments that I give to you.”

“Oh, I will,” Jonathan said. “I want to be good enough to wear your clothes.” “But you cannot be good enough, Jonathan. You must live your whole life trusting in my goodness while you wear my clothes.”

On that day, Jonathan preached his best sermon ever. And he spent the rest of his life preaching about the great prince. He wore the prince’s perfect present until the day he died.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Where did Jonathan get his clean clothes?
2. How can we get clean from sin?
3. How should we respond to Jesus giving us clean “clothes”?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 148a

1. Pray that you will live for and tell of 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

Zechariah 3:1-5

Notes

(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

The prince listened quietly, then said to Jonathan, "I understand your problem, and I can help you...But first, come with me to the fireplace."

...Jonathan followed the prince to the corner of the room, where a small fire was burning in the fireplace. The prince pointed to a small branch at the edge of the fire. The branch had been partly burned, but it was no longer hot...Jonathan reached down and picked up the branch. He held it and looked at it. It was black and charred. ...Then the prince said, "Now look at your hand." Jonathan looked down and saw that his hand was black. It was covered with soot from the branch.

"Jonathan," the prince said, "you are like the branch you pulled from the fire. You are covered with black dirt. But the dirt is not just on your clothes. It is on your heart. Sin, the wrong things that you do, makes your heart dirty. No soap can make it clean." Then the prince said: "Jonathan, I can help you. Go to the castle next week and be ready to preach your sermon. Wear your dirty clothes. I will take care of them."

...When the next week came, Jonathan was both excited and a little afraid. He thought about not going to the castle at all. Then he remembered the promise the prince had made to him. "I will trust in the promise of the prince. I will go to the castle," he said to himself.

... When he got there, ... Malus stood up and shouted: "May bad things happen to you, O priest! You are still wearing dirty clothes!"

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

- How are our hearts like a black burned branch?
- How do you think the prince will help Jonathan?
- Why is it important for us to remember Jesus' promises?

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Praise Pray

Psalms 148a

- Commit in prayer to remembering Jesus' promises
- Pray for a member of your church
- Pray for your family
- Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading

Zechariah 3:1-2

Notes

(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

When it was time for Jonathan to go to the castle, it was raining very hard. Jonathan worried that his new special clothes would get wet as he rode his horse to the castle. He put on a cape with a hood to try to keep his new clothes dry.

As Jonathan and his horse made their way to the castle, the muddy road became more and more slippery. Suddenly, the horse slipped and stumbled, and Jonathan fell off.

Jonathan was not hurt. But he was muddy from head to toe. There was mud on his face and on his shoes. There was mud all over his blue robe. The white lace sash was no longer white, and his turban looked like a big mud cake. Jonathan was very upset.

Jonathan tried hard to clean himself off. But there was no way he could clean his clothes and get to the castle on time. He thought about running away. He didn't want to preach in front of the king in such dirty clothes. "The king just has to understand," he thought. So Jonathan kept going until he reached the castle.

When he arrived, Jonathan hurried into the castle. He looked for a place to clean himself, but the tower bells began to ring. It was time for the royal household to gather to hear Jonathan's sermon. Slowly, Jonathan walked to the place where he was to stand and opened his Bible.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

- How does the Lord respond to Satan's accusation?
- Why did Jonathan not want to preach with dirty clothes?
- What about us do we not want to be in front of the King?

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Praise Pray

Psalms 148a

- Confess in prayer the dirt that is in your life
- Pray for a member of your church
- Pray for your family
- Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Zechariah 3:1-3

Notes

(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

As soon as the people saw Jonathan’s dirty clothes, they began whispering...

At that very moment, the court magician, whose name was Malus, stood up and shouted: “Wait! This priest cannot preach before the king wearing those dirty clothes.” ...As soon as Malus shouted out against Jonathan, other people began to yell mean things about Jonathan, too. The king felt sorry for Jonathan. He didn’t like the way Malus was behaving. He was afraid that Malus might cause someone to harm the priest.

The king stood and said to the people: “Be calm, please. Stop talking. I will take care of this problem.” The people grew silent. Even Malus stopped talking. The king then asked Jonathan to come forward. When Jonathan walked up to him, the king said, “Why did you come here in these dirty clothes?”

Jonathan explained what had happened. The king nodded and said: “I understand. I am sorry that you had this accident. You cannot preach here today wearing such dirty clothes, but I will give you another chance. You may come back next week and preach—but only if you wear clean clothes.”

Jonathan left the castle as fast as he could. When he got home, the first thing he did was try to clean his clothes. But the stains were so deep he couldn’t get them out.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How did the Malus and the people respond to the dirty clothes?
2. How did the king respond?
3. Why can’t we be in front of the King with dirty clothes?

4.     

Praise

Psalms 148a

Pray

1. Confess in prayer the deep stains that are in your heart
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Zechariah 3:1-4

Notes

(The notes this week are excerpts from *The Priest with Dirty Clothes* by R.C. Sproul. Buy the book at bit.ly/PwDCrcs)

The next day, Jonathan took his special clothes to the town fuller. The fuller was a man who cleaned people’s dirty clothes. He had special soaps that could get mud out of clothing...When Jonathan returned to the fuller’s shop, the fuller said: “I am afraid that I cannot make your clothes clean. They are ruined forever. The only thing you can do is to get new clothes.”

...Jonathan didn’t think the bishop would give him a new set of clothes. But he had to ask. So he went straight to the bishop’s office. The bishop patiently listened to Jonathan’s story. Then he said: “This is a sad thing that has happened to you, Jonathan. But there is nothing I can do to help you...The rules are clear. There is nothing you can do on your own to earn a new set of clothes. The only person who can help you is the great prince. Perhaps you should speak to him.”

...When Jonathan saw the prince, he was amazed. The prince was dressed in a long purple robe with precious jewels on it. There was a band around his waist made of pure gold. He wore a turban that was as white as snow. His face seemed to shine like the sun. Jonathan had never seen anyone like him.

...Jonathan said: “O great prince, I am a new priest. I am to preach a sermon to the king’s household. But I have ruined my clothes, and I cannot stand in front of the king without clean clothes. No one has been able to make my clothes clean. Is there anything you can do to help me?”

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why couldn’t the fuller help Jonathan?
2. Why couldn’t the bishop help Jonathan?
3. Who can help clean our dirty lives?

4.     

Praise

Psalms 148a

Pray

1. Rejoice in prayer that Someone can make you clean
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member