

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/WTrpcf

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 2 Corinthians by John Calvin, Simon Kistemaker, and Bob Utley, and notes from the HCSB Study Bible, and the Reformation Study Bible

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

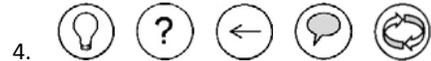
Reading 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 Whose letter are you?

Notes (See back page for authors) In this 2nd letter from Paul to the Corinthians which God has preserved for us, Paul writes much of his own ministry. The HCSB study notes comment that *of all Paul's letters, none is more personally revealing of his heart than 2 Corinthians... its greatest value may be that it reveals the heart and spirit of one of the most effective ministers of all time.*

As Paul writes, he gives his letters of recommendation. And, these letters are the Corinthians themselves! Their lives – and their service to the Lord in His church – are the evidence that the gospel which Paul preached is real – that it transforms lives. It seems likely that the false teachers (2:17) brought their letters of recommendation but Paul is arguing that gospel evidence is the best recommendation possible. As Kistemaker notes, *through Paul, the fledgling church of Corinth had come into being and now proved to be a miracle of a new creation in Christ (5:17).*

So, whose letter are you? In what ways does your life show effective gospel witness? Perhaps from the person who led you to Jesus. Hopefully from the elders who teach and shepherd you now in the church. How has God written gospel evidence on you?

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What is Paul writing about in this letter?
 2. Describe Paul's "letters of recommendation".
 3. How is your life a recommendation of your gospel preacher(s)?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 100d²
1. Commit you and your family to a life of evidence, 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 2 Corinthians 4:11-18 We do not give up

Notes (See back page for authors) In spite of the opposition. In spite of the burden of proclaiming the gospel and caring for God's people, Paul would not give up. This was not simply due to an internal tenacity in him. It was due to the saving and sanctifying work of Jesus – in Paul and in the Corinthians. Such gospel grace is at work today – must be at work today – in gospel preachers and gospel believing congregations.

So, like Paul, we don't give up because we have the gospel grace of Jesus. That makes everything bearable. Really.

People can hurt me, trouble can come, but deep inside is a reservoir of power and hope – Jesus in me! That reservoir is never emptied, but is in fact replenished every day.

So Christians can put up with deep trouble and distress and retain their hope. As the Heidelberg Catechism begins, *[my] only comfort in life and death [is] that I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Why didn't Paul give up?
 2. What is the inner source of strength for the Christian?
 3. What is our comfort in life and in death?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 100d
1. Pray that you and your family will always find hope in Jesus
 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 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 Treasure in clay jars

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Paul notes that this extraordinary treasure – the gospel of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord – is being preached by ordinary men. He’s but a bit of pottery. And, his detractors seemed to revel in that. Who is Paul? He’s but a weak, easily breakable, pottery jar!

Paul might have responded in building himself up to them. Instead, he wisely responds by holding up Jesus. It’s as if he says, “You’re right, I’m nothing. But God has entrusted me with an inestimable treasure and you’ll not stop me from displaying and proclaiming that treasure!” In a similar way any Christian preacher, and any Christian, has to say, “I am nothing. Christ in me is glorious!”

Only because Paul understood that he wasn’t the treasure, but Jesus is, could he face the constant opposition he did face. And, although understanding that gave him confidence, the opposition could, and did, wear him down. Here he expresses the fatigue of the battle of a Christian minister. And, remember, the opposition was often inside the church, not merely outside of it. Such opposition pressured Paul and perplexed him. He was persecuted and struck down. Yet as wearing as this opposition was, he was not crushed, not in despair, not abandoned, not destroyed.

Pray for your minister and elders. Pray God’s protection for them from opposition – inside and outside the church.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What might we keep in a clay (or maybe glass) jar?
2. What is the extraordinary treasure God kept in Paul?
3. How does opposition inside and outside the church wear on gospel ministers and shepherds?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 100d
1. Confess, with your family, the extraordinary treasure of Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Our competence is from God

Notes
(See back page for authors)

As Paul continues speaking of his ministry to the Corinthians, he expresses the basis of his confidence. He is confident in his ministry. Yet his confidence is not in himself, but in God through Jesus.

And, this confidence is worked out in his ministry on the basis of New Covenant grace. Over the rest of this chapter he contrasts the Old and New Covenants. Kistemaker points out these differences in parallel:

<i>Old Covenant</i>	<i>New Covenant</i>
<i>God writes the old covenant on tablets of stone; Moses’ ministry is of transient glory that is veiled; without the Spirit the letter kills, is condemnation and abolition.</i>	<i>Christ writes the new covenant on human hearts; Paul’s ministry is of surpassing glory that is revealed; the Spirit gives life, is righteousness and permanence.</i>

The Old Covenant was glorious. But all along it was pointing to a New Covenant to come. Now that the New had come, to hold on to the Old is death, while the new gives confident life in Christ. What Covenant are you holding on to?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. On what basis was Paul confident in His ministry?
2. What are some differences between the Old and New Cov’nt?
3. Was the Old Covenant bad? Why or why not?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 100d
1. Commit yourself and your family to confidence in New Covenant grace, 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 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 The veil is removed

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Paul speaks of the veil which blinds to the glory of New Covenant grace. This is explained in the context of a veil Moses wore after he had met with God and was giving God’s word to His people.

As Kistemaker explains, *The context of the passage in Exodus (34:29–35) teaches that the Israelites were unable to look at the glory that beamed from Moses’ face because their guilty consciences accused them. They had broken the covenant that God had made with them and that they had ratified (Exod. 24:3–8). Their sin made it impossible for them to look at the glory that represented God himself. The Israelites were afraid that the brilliance that Moses displayed might result in God executing vengeance on them.*

And, even now the Judaizers, those who still held to the Old Covenant, were blinded by the veil, not over Paul’s head, but over their hearts. As Utley notes, *only the grace of God can remove the blindness of tradition, self-righteousness, and sin. Religious people are as prone to spiritual blindness as non-religious people. Fallen mankind’s only hope is: 1. the unchanging mercy of the Father, 2. the full and finished atonement of the Son, and 3. the wooing/work of the Spirit.*

Has the Spirit given you freedom from the blindness of your heart? If so, when you look in the mirror of God’s transforming grace you will see, more and more, the image of Jesus!

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was the veil doing in Moses’ case?
2. What was the veil doing in Paul’s case?
3. What does the Spirit do in our salvation?
4.     

Praise Psalm 100d

- Pray**
1. Rejoice in prayer that the Spirit has removed the veil from 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 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 A Ministry from Saving Mercy

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Although our Bibles have a chapter break here, Paul clearly continues the thought and application of chapter 3. His ministry is not because of anything special in and of himself, but because God showed him saving mercy. Because of this mercy Paul does three closely related things:

First he does not give up. As Kistemaker notes, *he confidently looks ahead to the future and can say to his opponents and his readers that he is full of hope and joy. Paul and his associates have received from the Lord the ministry of the gospel. On that basis, Paul can say that he does not lose hope in preaching the Good News and teaching people.*

Secondly, he lives an open, obedient life. Utley points out that *there is a series of things which Paul personally refused to use in his own ministry: (1) underhanded means; (2) disgraceful methods; (3) cunning; (4) tampering with or watering down God’s message. Each of these methods reflect the false teachers’ charges or their actions.*

Thirdly, he proclaims Jesus. Kistemaker comments that *the apostle repeatedly stated that he preached the gospel message of the crucified Jesus (1 Cor. 1:17, 23; 2:2; 12:3; 15:3–5)...Paul proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord (Rom. 10:9; 1 Cor. 12:3; Phil. 2:10–11) and thus indicates that he and his associates are Christ’s servants. Is Jesus your Lord? Are you his willing slave?*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why doesn’t Paul give up?
2. How does Paul live an open, obedient life?
3. What are the implications that Jesus is Lord?
4.     

Praise Psalm 100d

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in God’s saving mercy
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member