

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 total from *A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

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 Chronicles 6:12-13 How Solomon prayed

Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

Solomon prayed when the building of the temple was completed. His prayer teaches us about prayer and about God himself.

The postures he adopted tell us about his attitude as he drew near to God: Standing with his hands lifted to heaven emphasized the solemnity of the occasion. Solomon was approaching the mighty and exalted God...As Solomon was about to open his lips in prayer, he 'knelt down before the whole assembly' (6:13). It must have amazed the people to see their king, who bowed to no man, bowing on his knees before God.

Solomon's prayer was offered 'before the altar'. After the priests had sacrificed the burnt offerings Solomon took his stand before the altar. His work of intercession followed their work of mediation... Before we can be heard by God, the way must be opened by atonement (Heb. 10:19-22).

Solomon prayed on behalf of the whole community. In corporate prayer one person prays aloud, but the whole congregation prays with him...In holding out his opened hands towards heaven Solomon was drawing the people's thoughts beyond the temple, its builders and the worshippers. His focus was on the God who dwells in heaven.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What do we learn from Solomon's prayer about God?
2. What do we learn about prayer?
3. What do we learn about corporate prayer?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalm 101b²

1. Commit you and your family to prayer, 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 Chronicles 7:17-22 God's solemn warning

Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

God's response to Solomon's prayer ended on a solemn note. If Israel was unfaithful the temple would be taken from them...The Israelites forgot that their privileges were God's to give and God's to take away...These were covenant blessings and they came with conditions attached. God's people were to serve him only.

In spite of many warnings these are exactly the sins that the people of Israel committed. Generation after generation of provocation was brought to a conclusion when Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem in 587 B.C. and destroyed the city and the temple.

The majestic ruins of the temple forced people from many nations (not just the people of Judah) to ask questions. Why had the Lord done this to his own people? The answer is to be found in the justice of God. God will never overlook sin, not even the sin of his own people. If men will not worship God as he has commanded, then they cannot continue to enjoy the blessings that he bestows.

Sometimes we see the ruins of the lives of men and women who were once so full of promise for the Lord, but they have disintegrated because of spiritual failure...Or we may see in our own lives the ruins of plans that we once cherished, but we did not walk close to the Lord. These ruins are a daily reminder that God will hold us to account for unfaithfulness...Since God is a covenant-making God, he is being faithful to his word when he punishes us. We can also see that, even when he punishes, God is merciful.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How did Israel do in heeding God's solemn warning?
2. How are lives of professing Christians ruined?
3. What warning signs might we watch out for to avoid ruin?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalm 101b

1. Pray that you and your family will heed God's solemn warning
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 Chronicles 7:12-16 God's answer to a praying people

Notes
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

God's response to Solomon's prayer is found in 7:12-22. It begins with explicit references to the situations Solomon describes in his prayer. These words [in v14-16] summarize the message of the book of Chronicles...When the nation suffered invasion, drought and defeat, it was a consequence of their refusal to seek the Lord. When the nation enjoyed times of revival, reformation, peace and prosperity, it was because they humbled themselves and sought the Lord.

Christians today can find encouragement in this promise. God looks upon the church as his covenant people, enjoying the same promises of grace as were given to Israel in the Old Testament... One of the first signs that God is fulfilling these great promises is when he moves his people to pray earnestly and with true repentance...In these verses the Lord pointed out four aspects of repentant prayer: humbling before God, petitioning God for mercy, seeking God and turning from evil.

Are we willing to humble ourselves by acknowledging that we have done evil? Are we willing to be honest about our sins and seek forgiveness? Do we really want to have our lives changed by God? Are we willing to give up our sins?

God's response to such prayers would be twofold. First of all, God would 'hear from heaven and ... forgive their sin' ... Then, secondly, God would 'heal their land'.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What can we expect if we refuse to seek the Lord?
2. What are the 4 aspects of repentant prayer?
3. What is God's 2-fold response?

4.     

Praise Psalm 101b

- Pray**
1. Humble yourself with your family to seek God and turn from evil
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Chronicles 6:14-21 Why Solomon prayed

Notes
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

After preparing himself, Solomon opened his lips to speak to God.

God is unique...No other god is able to hear and answer prayer... The word [the Bible uses to describe the heathen gods] means 'mist' or 'vapour'. It describes something which appears to exist, but which upon closer examination disappears as rapidly as a morning mist. These gods are nothing more than a figment of the imagination

The Lord had made a covenant with his people... God makes promises to his chosen people simply because he is merciful. On the other hand, the covenant is conditional in its application, for there must be a willing response to God's mercy. God expects wholehearted faithfulness, not as a way of earning his favour, but as a way of continuing in his mercies.

Solomon answers a pressing question: 'But will God really dwell on earth with men?'... Solomon acknowledges that God could not be contained in a temple built by mere men...[But] the significance of the temple was that it was the one place on earth where God had promised to meet with his people... The temple itself was a pledge that God would listen to the prayers of his people.

When God hears the prayers of his people he is moved to respond to them...What a blessed linkage between God's hearing the prayers of his people and God's initiative to relieve their distress! Divine interest leads to divine action...when God's people acknowledge their sin they find that he is a forgiving God.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the difference between God and the heathen gods?
2. What is the 2-fold nature of God's covenant with his people?
3. What happens when we acknowledge our sin?

4.     

Praise Psalm 101b

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family to prayer to the One True 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 2 Chronicles 6:22-42 (alt. 22-25) May You hear in heaven and...

Notes
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

It is often easier to talk about praying than actually to pray. This is especially true when the situations about which we pray are particularly unpromising...Solomon envisaged that future generations would come to the temple to pray. He prayed that God would hear them, and as he did so he applied the principles of prayer that he had just outlined to seven very testing situations... Solomon described these situations in turn and followed them with the plea to God that he would 'hear from heaven' and act accordingly.

1. Taking judicial oaths (v22-23); 2. Defeat in war (v24-25); 3. Drought (v26-27); 4. Natural disaster (v28-31); 5. Foreigners come to the Lord (v32-33); 6. Going to war (v34-35); and 7. Captivity and exile (v36-40)

By way of summary, there are two lessons we can learn from Solomon's prayer. First of all, God's pledges do not make our prayers redundant...God knew the needs of his people even before they brought them to him. He knows the desires of their hearts... Yet this does not take away the urgency of our prayers.

Then secondly, our failings make prayer essential...In all the situations that Solomon surveyed in his prayer there was sin to be acknowledged. Yet the appropriate response was prayer offered to God, towards his holy place.

- Questions**
(see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What were the 7 situations for which Solomon prayed?
 2. What was Solomon's prayer for God to do in these 7?
 3. What lessons do we learn here from Solomon's prayer?
 4.     

- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 101b
1. Commit yourself and your family to prayer for God to hear from heaven and act, with His 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 Chronicles 7:1-11 The glory of the Lord filled the temple

Notes
Notes this week are drawn in total from A house of prayer: The message of 2 Chronicles, by Andrew Stewart

There are times when God draws especially near to men and women in order to accomplish his purposes. At conversion a person becomes very aware of the fact that he has offended God and has fallen far short of the glory of God. At first God's presence is a terror to him; but through the saving grace of God this sense of his presence becomes a great pleasure...We might call this God's saving presence, and this is a blessing that the believer will never lose.

Moreover, there is a special presence of God that is from time to time enjoyed by believers for a season. It is known during periods of revival within the church and within the individual believer. At such times God's presence is felt in a very palpable way. The weight of God's glory rests upon his people, and it is significant that the Old Testament word for 'glory' is derived from the verb which means 'to be heavy', even to the point of being burdensome.

This special presence of God was associated with the cloud that filled the temple when the priests brought the ark of the covenant into the temple. This was no ordinary cloud, for it was the glory that had descended upon the tabernacle when the Lord came down to dwell in it (Exod. 40:34-35). This cloud hung in the air like a heavy weight...It is an awesome thing to be in the presence of the living God. It is an unspeakable blessing when God hears our prayers and comes down into our lives to answer them.

- Questions**
(see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What is God's saving presence?
 2. What is God's special presence spoken of here?
 3. What does glory mean?
 4.     

- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 101b
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in your glorious God
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member