

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 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 Joshua by John Calvin and Roger Ellsworth.

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 Joshua 1:1-4 The land God is giving

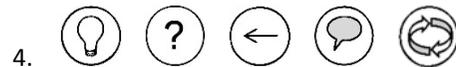
Notes For most of his life, Joshua had been being prepared for this moment. God had been preparing him, through Moses especially, to take over leadership of the Israelites. Yet no longer how long he had had to prepare, how could he be ready for such a task?

Yet we find God Himself commissioning him for the task now that Moses has died. As we will see throughout the chapter, Joshua needed courage and strength. And the Lord brought means to him to receive that courage and strength.

“I am giving you this land,” God said (3 times – v. 2,3,4). Joshua is called to believe the promises of God as he takes up this leadership. God had promised Moses the land would be Israel’s (Deut. 11:24). Even before that He had promised Abraham (Gen. 15:18ff). God always keeps His promises! How critical for Joshua – and for us – to remember that.

Sometimes Canaan is considered like heaven but it is better to consider it like the life of the Christian. Like Israel, we will still do battle with our enemies – including our own sin. Yet also, like Israel, we will find in the promises of God the strength and courage to do the work to which He calls us.

- Questions**
1. Why was Joshua taking over this leadership of Israel?
 2. How did God encourage Him for this task?
 3. What is the land of Canaan most like for the Christian?



Praise Psalm 43b²

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in God’s promises
 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 Joshua 1:16-18 We will obey.

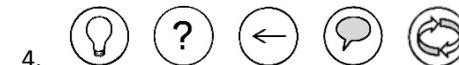
Notes As Joshua called the people to obedience, *much to his delight, he found that the spirit of obedience that had gripped his own heart was present in them, too. When God’s people unite around the core duty of obedience, they can rest assured that God will bless them in wonderful ways.* (Ellsworth)

They responded with a promise of committed obedience to Joshua and to Joshua’s God. “Whatever you tell us, we will do. Wherever you send us, we will go.” Do we have that same spirit of obedience to God?

They make this promise of willing obedience recognising God has placed Joshua to lead them. Their commitment was to obey him as they obeyed Moses. Now, we might at first think that promise wasn’t much, knowing the grumbling and disobedience that characterised the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. Yet we must remember these were the children of those who rebelled and who died in the desert.

The groundwork of their confidence is at the same time expressed in their wish or prayer, that God may be present to assist his servant Joshua as he assisted his servant Moses. (Calvin) So they call Joshua, and by inference, each other, to strength and courage. If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

- Questions**
1. How did the people respond to this call to obedience?
 2. How should we respond to God’s call to obedience?
 3. What is the basis of our submission to God’s leaders?



Praise Psalm 43b

- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will joyfully obey Him, and those leaders He has given you, with His 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

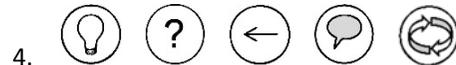
Reading Joshua 1:10-15 Trust and Obey

Notes Joshua immediately went to work following God’s instruction. He called the people to believe God’s promises and to take the action that God was calling them to take. First he spoke to the officers of the people. “Get ready,” he told them. “You are going to take possession of the land that the Lord is giving you.” In other words, “Believe that God is giving you the land and take it.”

Then he spoke to the 2 ½ tribes who had been granted land east of the Jordan – land already conquered. “God has given you land and rest, and He will now give your brother Israelites land and rest. You will help them take the land God is giving them and then return to your land.”

As they prepared to take the land God was giving them, we realise they are preparing for war – for an invasion of this land. While the taking of the land east of the Jordan was primarily a defensive war (see Numbers 21) they would be going on the offensive against the nations who lived in Canaan. We must understand this was God’s doing. God had promised Abraham that due to the wickedness of these people God would destroy them and give their land to His people. Yet we must also remember that we now battle, not flesh and blood, but spiritual forces of evil using spiritual weapons. (Eph. 6:10ff) Yet we face the same call to trust God’s promises and obey His commands.

- Questions**
1. What were Joshua’s instructions to the officers?
 2. What were his instructions to the 2 ½ “eastside” tribes?
 3. How is our warfare similar to and different from Israel’s?



- Praise** Psalm 43b
- Pray**
1. Rejoice, with your family, in God’s promises, and resolve to obey His commands
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

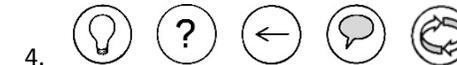
Reading Joshua 1:1-5 I will never leave you or forsake you

Notes Now, God adds a second critical means for Joshua to receive strength and courage. *What was Joshua thinking when he took up the mantle of leadership? Did he wonder how he could possibly follow a man as great as Moses? If that was his thought, he must have been tremendously relieved to hear the Lord say, ‘As I was with Moses, so I will be with you’ (v. 5). Moses’ greatness was not due to Moses but to the Lord. Joshua had nothing to worry about with Moses gone because the Lord was not gone.* (Ellsworth) Repeating another promise given to Moses (Deut. 7:24), God says no one will be able to stand against Joshua and the Israelites. Then he gives as the reason for this that God will never leave nor forsake His people.

What a glorious promise: the eternal God is with us! Why would we be afraid or anxious if God is with us? Why would we covet anything else when we have God? (see Hebrews 13:5) Sometimes, though, we are and we do. Maybe it is because we can see our enemies and we can’t see God.

Yet often the things that cause us to be most anxious or afraid are also not visible. Instead they are the frightened imaginations of our heart. “Maybe this will happen. Or that. Or...” How much better to fill our heart and mind with the promises of God – “I will **never** leave you or forsake you.”

- Questions**
1. What 2nd promise to Moses did God repeat to Joshua?
 2. What assurance with this promise did God give?
 3. Why are we at times afraid if God is always with us?



- Praise** Psalm 43b
- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to trust God’s “always presence”, 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 Joshua 1:6-9 Be strong and courageous

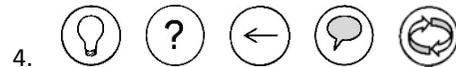
Notes Four times in this chapter we find the call to be strong and courageous. Again, we can understand that Joshua had some amount of fear and weakness in taking over the leadership from Moses and in taking the people into the promised land. God knows our fears and God graciously addresses them.

Like Joshua, *from this passage, therefore, let us learn that we can never be fit for executing difficult and arduous matters unless we exert our utmost endeavours, both because our abilities are weak, and Satan rudely assails us, and there is nothing we are more inclined to than to relax our efforts.* (Calvin)

Along with the call to strength, God brings assurance – and calls us to obedience. “You will inherit the land.” “You must obey my commandments.” “You must not fear.” God’s promises are for us an encouragement to action, not an invitation to laziness.

Are you weak? Are you afraid? Find strength and courage in the Lord’s promises and call to obedience. Our enemies will not win. Our God is with us. Like Paul, we can boast in our weakness because God’s power is made perfect in it. (2 Cor. 12:9-10) And, in our weakness, we can work with all our strength knowing it is God who works in us. (Phil. 2:13)

- Questions**
1. Why does God repeat the call to strength and courage?
 2. What promise comes with the encouragement?
 3. What commands come with the encouragement?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 43b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to find strength in 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 Joshua 1:6-9 God’s key to success

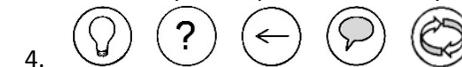
Notes In verse 8, God calls Joshua to commit himself to God’s own word. God’s law is not a means to salvation – not for Joshua, not for us, not for anyone, ever. But it is a means to guide the life of God’s people as we demonstrate our love to Him. (see John 14:15) *We are to keep close to ‘the Book’.* (Ellsworth) So, what does God call us to in relationship to His Word?

1. Keep it in our mouth and our mind. Don’t let it depart from our mouth. This doesn’t mean that we never talk about it – but rather than we never stop talking about it – to ourselves and to others. We meditate on it all the time. The word carries the sense of moaning or muttering. *Perhaps the Scripture was read half out loud in the process of meditation.* (Theological Word-book of the Old Testament)

2. Keep it in our actions. Be careful to do what it says. Sometimes we pride ourselves on knowing what the Word of God says, but fail to do it ourselves. Those of us who are most convinced of the “doctrines of Grace” are at times the most ungracious people. At times as Christians, we are inclined to say, “Do what I say, not what I do.” Such things should not be.

When God’s work is in our mouths, our minds, and our actions, God says we will have success. This is all of His grace.

- Questions**
1. How can you keep God’s word in your mouth?
 2. How can you keep God’s word in your mind?
 3. How can you keep God’s word in your actions?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 43b
1. Commit yourself and your family to know and do what God’s word says, 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