

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.)

Notes this week are drawn in part from commentaries on 1 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 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 Greetings

Notes
(See back page for authors)






Several letters passed back and forth between Paul and the church at Corinth. It seems likely there were 4 from Paul to Corinth and at least one from Corinth to Paul. God has preserved in His Bible 2 – what we now know of as 1st and 2nd Corinthians.

As Kistemaker notes, *Paul chose to preach the gospel in provincial capitals, for example, Thessalonica in Macedonia and Corinth in Achaia. He considered capitals to be strategic centers where, in some cases, the traffic of the land met the traffic of the sea. From Corinth, the gospel ultimately spread to the surrounding rural villages and cities and to many parts of the Mediterranean world. More than to any other church, Paul gave his talents, time, and tears to the Corinthian congregation. The members received three visits (2 Cor. 13:1), sane counsel, lengthy letters, and perpetual prayer.*

This first letter addresses problems and challenges in the church such as division, moral failures, social and cultural concerns, worship matters, and doctrinal issues. God, through Paul, wrote this for Corinth – and for all churches since.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What 2 letters has God preserved between Paul and Corinth?
2. What issues are addressed in this first letter we have?
3. Who was this letter written to?

4.     

Praise Psalm 98b²

- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to learn from God's word, 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 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Notes
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Boasting is always bad. Christians should never boast, right? Not exactly. Paul ends this section by describing good and godly boasting. Like faith (faith in anything or anyone other than Jesus crucified is BAD faith), determining whether boasting is good or bad depends on the object of the boasting. To be sure, we are not to boast about our wisdom, about our strength, about our noble birth (if we have such).






In fact, many church people today would not like what Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth here. He doesn't merely tell them not to boast about such things, but tells them that, in fact, most of them are foolish, weak, and insignificant (maybe self-esteem is not the be-all and end-all that our culture makes it out to be?).

But God is making these otherwise insignificant people His very own. As Utley notes, *God Himself has chosen to manifest His power through the weak so that there will be no doubt who should receive the glory. The victory is in God's resources, not human achievement (cf. v. 29; Eph. 2:9) or social standing.*

Once they, and we, understand this, then we see that we do have something, or better stated, Someone to boast about. We boast in our Great and our Gracious God. Boast in Him, dear Christians. And, only in Him.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What sort of people had God saved in Corinth?
2. What should we not boast of or in?
3. What should we boast of?

4.     

Praise Psalm 98b

- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will boast only in the Lord, 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 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Christ is God's wisdom

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Paul continues emphasising Christ's supremacy. This supremacy is rejected by the world. The world seeks wisdom but rejects Christ. They declare themselves to be wise, but show themselves to be fools as they treat the message of the cross as foolishness. Calvin asks, *who would choose to despise the gospel at the expense of perishing? This statement, therefore, must be understood in this way: "However the preaching of the cross, as having nothing of human wisdom to recommend it to esteem, is reckoned foolishness by them that perish; in our view, notwithstanding, the wisdom of God clearly shines forth in it."*

The gospel is all we have to preach. Christ, crucified for sinners. If we ever think we need to have a more clever message, or think we have to work up a message to appease the world, we are missing what is most important.

At the same time, we don't want the foolishness to come from us. As Utley notes, *it is not the presentation, but the content of the gospel that is foolishness to the fallen mind (cf. 2:14)*. We seek to be wise in our presentation of the gospel. We seek to have God's wisdom in our interaction with non-Christians. But the message we have is, "Jesus, the crucified One."

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why does the cross seem foolishness to the unbeliever?
2. How might we wrongly make the presentation of the gospel foolish?
3. What is the gospel?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 98b
1. Confess, with your family, that Jesus is the only and your Saviour
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 To the Church

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Paul is a called minister of God's gospel. As such, he was given the duty of serving as a travelling missionary-pastor. He spent a year and a half in Corinth on his first missionary journey (Acts 18:12) and saw the church established there. God had protected him and encouraged him in his service there. (Acts 18:1-17)

Now he writes back to them, writing as he does in almost all of his letters, to a particular church. We lose sight in our western independent mindset of the connectedness of Christianity. Christianity is not to be lived in isolation – but in a local congregation of God's people – and with them, to the world. Here, the people addressed are in Corinth. This church, as is true of every true church, is made up of people in a given location who have been called by God to be believers in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

Utley notes that *God always takes the initiative in calling, electing, and wooing believers to Himself (cf. v. 12; John 6:44, 65; 15:16; Eph. 1:4–5, 11)*. The term "calling" is used in several theological senses: *Sinners are called to salvation by God through Christ; Sinners call on the name of the Lord to be saved; Believers are called to live Christlike lives; and Believers are called to ministry tasks.*

Have you been called? Are you faithfully living out your faith in the context of a local congregation? In that context, God grants Grace to you, and Peace.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who called Paul and to what?
2. Who calls believers and to what?
3. Where is the Christian life to be lived?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 98b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to faithful Christian living in the local church, 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 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 I always thank God for you

Notes
(See back page for authors)

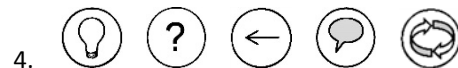
Paul is going to address some serious problems in the church at Corinth. However, as he writes in this section, he will do it in the context of Christian love and thankfulness to God. As Paul remembers the churches God has given him responsibility for, he always remembers them with thanksgiving. A church, even with problems, is still a church of Jesus Christ. Christians, even with problems, are still Christians. (Remembering, of course, that not every organisation that calls itself a church is a church of Jesus Christ and not every person who calls themselves a Christian is a true disciple of Jesus.)

To these true Christians in this true church (and, by extension, to all true Christians in all true churches) Paul writes with thanksgiving to God. He thanks God for His grace to these Christians – grace that enriched them in their mind and their mouth. This confirmed their testimony of belonging to Christ – as it will ours. This grace also grants all the spiritual gifts that are needed to serve Jesus in the church and in the world – from now to the end.

Dear Christian, as you serve Jesus in His world and His church, be encouraged that God who called you is faithful. Seek to be faithful in Him, but be encouraged that He is the Faithful One and He will make you blameless in Jesus.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is a true Christian and a true Church?
2. If problems don't make Churches/Christians no longer Churches/Christians, do these problems matter? Why/not?
3. How does God confirm our testimony to be Christ's?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 98b
1. Rejoice in Your faithful God and commit in prayer to be faithful to Him in Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 there should be no divisions among you...

Notes
(See back page for authors)

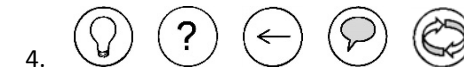
Now, Paul begins to address problems in this true Christian church. As Calvin notes, *after preparing their minds for receiving correction, acting the part of a good and skilful surgeon, who soothes the wound when about to apply a painful remedy, he begins to handle them with more severity. Even here, however, as we shall still farther see, he uses great moderation.*

This church had divisions and that is a bad thing. They were divided on who they were followers of. Instead, God wants His church to be together in understanding and in conviction. Kistemaker comments that *by undermining the unity of the church, the Corinthians are becoming an affront to Jesus Christ... The issue is that the Corinthians themselves have created groups within the church and even have associated these factions with specific persons. The irony, however, is that the persons whose names have been affixed to these parties (Paul, Apollos, and Cephas) repudiate such groups and quarrels.*

Instead, Christians in the church should be united in Christ, remember they were saved by Christ only, and were baptised into Christ. Baptism, though an important mark of belonging to Jesus in His church, was not the primary task Paul was given. He was to preach the saving gospel of Jesus.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was the problem Paul addresses here?
2. How should Christians be united?
3. Who and what saves? What role does Baptism play?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 98b
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Christ has saved you
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member