

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.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 from commentaries on Joshua by John Calvin, Warren Wiersbe, 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

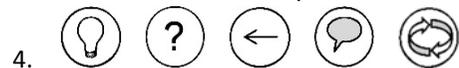
Reading Joshua 11:1-15 The Lord delivered

Notes *Some are ‘put off’ by the gory details of Israel putting Canaanites to death during the conquest. We must keep in mind that these nations were utterly corrupt. They practised every perversion conceivable, even to the point of sacrificing their own children to their idols. We should also remember that these same nations were given every opportunity to turn from their wicked ways, as Rahab did (Josh. 2), but adamantly refused to do so (Gen. 15:16).*

The judgement of these Canaanites was a declaration that God is righteous and will ultimately judge all sin. His patience ensures that his judgement comes slowly, but his righteousness guarantees that his judgement comes surely. Instead of lamenting the judgement of ancient Canaanites, we would do well to lament the judgement that will come our way if we do not repent.

Joshua brims with example after example of the faithfulness of God. The passage before us is just one more example. Each of Israel’s conquests was a testimony to the ability of God to keep his promises. (Ellsworth)

- Questions**
1. Why did God deliver Canaan into Israel’s hands?
 2. How will God judge and deliver the unrepentant?
 3. What are Israel’s conquests a testimony of?



- Praise** Psalm 51a²
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that the Lord gives His people victory
 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

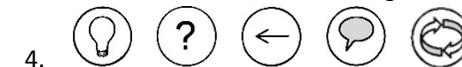
Reading Joshua 14:6-15 Now, give me this mountain

Notes *Another great testimony of faith came from Caleb, the man who, along with Joshua, had spied it out some forty years earlier and had urged the taking of it at that time. Now eighty-five, Caleb asked Joshua to give him a mountain that had giants and fortified cities! Caleb’s confidence that he would be able to conquer this land was based on this: ‘the LORD said’ (14:12; see 15:13–14). (Ellsworth)*

Caleb was eighty-five years old, but he didn’t look for an easy task, suited to an “old man.” He asked Joshua for mountains to climb and giants to conquer! His strength was in the Lord, and he knew that God would never fail him. The secret of Caleb’s life is found in a phrase that’s repeated six times in Scripture: “he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel” (Josh. 14:14; also see Num. 14:24; 32:12; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8–9). Caleb was an over-comer because he had faith in the Lord (1 John 5:4).

In Joshua 15:13–19, we see Caleb providing for the next generation. Some of Caleb’s daring faith rubbed off on his son-in-law Othniel, who later became a judge in the land (Jud. 3:7–11). Caleb’s faith also touched his daughter, for she had the faith to ask her father for a field and then for springs of water to irrigate the land. Caleb’s example of faith was more valuable to his family than the property he claimed for them. (Wiersbe)

- Questions**
1. What was Caleb’s confidence in taking his inheritance?
 2. What was the pattern of Caleb’s life?
 3. If God is for us, who can be against us?



- Praise** Psalm 51a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will wholly follow the God of Israel, 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 14:1-5 and they divided the land

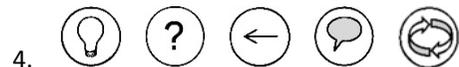
Notes *After the prompting of the Lord, Joshua set out to divide the land among the tribes of Israel. The fact that the land had not yet been entirely conquered did not keep Joshua from giving it to the various tribes. This was an act of faith on his part. It expressed his firm belief that the land would most certainly be conquered. He acted as if the land were already Israel's because it would eventually be Israel's.*

Along with the strong faith of Joshua and Caleb, we see weak faith. The people were not able to conquer Jerusalem, which belonged to the Jebusites (15:63)—as if the God of Jericho could not possibly be the God of Jerusalem! By the way, Jerusalem would eventually be conquered by King David. God would prove sufficient for it after all!

There were other lapses in faith as well (16:9–10; 17:16–18). Such lapses caused Joshua to rebuke some of the people: 'How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?' (18:3).

We do not respond to the grace of God with perfect faithfulness. The grace that gives us faith also allows us from time to time to see how weak our faith can be. So our faith is never of an even quality. It is subject to degrees. When our faith is great, we must praise God. When it is weak, we must not despair (weak faith is still faith), but cry to God for greater grace. (Ellsworth)

- Questions**
1. How did we see strong faith from Joshua in dividing the land?
 2. How did we see weak faith from Israel in taking the land?
 3. What lessons can we learn about the strength of our faith?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 51a
1. Confess, with your family, your weak faith and your strong God
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Joshua 11:16-23 A long war

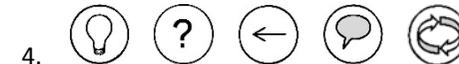
Notes *The war against the Canaanites continues for a long time. Two things stand out in this record: It was the Lord who gave the victory (10:30, 32, 42; 11:6, 8); and Joshua obeyed the Lord by utterly destroying the enemy, just as Moses had commanded (11:9, 12, 15, 20). The only exception was Gibeon (11:19). (Wiersbe)*

Part of God's judgement is his hardening of human hearts. Instead of surrendering to Israel and seeking mercy, the Canaanites continued to 'come against Israel in battle' (11:20). When we keep rejecting God's truth, he judges us by hardening our hearts against the truth.

Special mention is made of the fact that Joshua and Israel defeated the Anakim (vv. 21–22). These giants, who had so terrified the Israelites forty years earlier (Num. 13:22, 33), proved to be no match at all for Israel.

Forty years earlier, these very giants had so terrorized the Israelites that they refused to conquer the land. The giants had not shrunk when the new crop of Israelites came on the scene. The difference was that the new Israelites believed that their God was greater than giants. The same God who was sufficient for Israel then is equally sufficient for his people today, no matter what their circumstances or difficulties. (Ellsworth)

- Questions**
1. How did God harden the hearts of the Canaanites?
 2. What happened to the giants of whom Israel had been so afraid?
 3. Who conquered the land of Canaan?



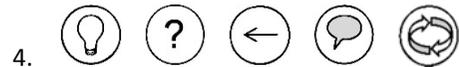
- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 51a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to trust and obey the Lord, with His help.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Joshua 12:1-24 The kings conquered by Moses and Joshua

Notes *This chapter enumerates the kings of whose territories the Israelites gained possession. Two of them are beyond the Jordan, Og and Sihon, whose rule was extensive; in the land of Canaan there are thirty-one. But though each of those now summarily mentioned was previously given more in detail, there is very good reason for here placing before our eyes as it were a living picture of the goodness of God, proving that there had been a complete ratification and performance of the covenant made with Abraham as given in the words, "Unto your seed will I give this land." (Gen. 12:7; 13:5; 15:18.) This living image of the grace of God is here set before us as if God were putting us actually upon the spot to make us see the thing with our own eyes.*

In all this conquest it was visibly manifest, as is said in the Psalm, (Ps. 44:3,) "For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them." The design of enumerating the places and districts is to let us know that the work which God had begun he continued to carry on without interruption. (Calvin)

- Questions**
1. What kings did Moses conquer?
 2. What kings did Joshua conquer?
 3. Who actually conquered these kings? Why?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 51a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to give God glory for His many victories, 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

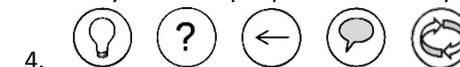
Reading Joshua 13:1-7 Divide the land

Notes *The apparent contradiction between verses 11:23 and 13:1 can easily be explained. Joshua and his army did take control of the whole land by destroying the key cities with their kings and people. Israel...did enough to break the power of the enemy and establish control over the land. Once this was accomplished and there was rest in the land, Joshua was able to assign each tribe its inheritance; and within each inheritance, the tribes had to gain mastery over the remaining inhabitants who were still there.*

Now [Joshua] had to...divide the land so that each tribe could claim its inheritance and enjoy what God had given them (v. 6). (See Num. 34-35.) The word inheritance is found over fifty times in chapters 13-21 and is a very important word. The Jews inherited their land. They didn't win their land as spoils of battle or purchase their land as in a business transaction. The Lord, who was the sole owner, leased the land to them... Imagine having God for your landlord!

The "rent" God required was simply Israel's obedience to His Law. As long as the Jewish people honored the Lord with their worship and obedience, He would bless them. The Land was a gift of God's love; and if the Israelites loved the Lord, they would want to obey Him and please Him in the way they used His land (Deut. 4:37-39). (Wiersbe)

- Questions**
1. Had Joshua taken the whole land, or was there much yet to be taken?
 2. What "rent" did God require of Israel for the land?
 3. Why do God's people want to obey and please Him?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 51a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God has loved you
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member