

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](http://frankston.rpca.org.au) [bit.ly/WTrpcaf](http://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](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [bit.ly/WkBbl](http://bit.ly/WkBbl) or [bit.ly/3yrBbl](http://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 Judges by Matthew Henry, Simon Robinson, and Warren Wiersbe.

# 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** Judges 2:1-5 Weeping – but Godly sorrow?

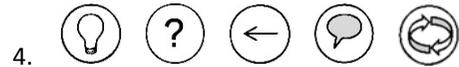
**Notes** The book of Judges is filled with stories of intrigue, drama, murder, betrayal, and superhuman strength fill the pages. Yet Judges is not just about ancient Israel – it is about us.

God gathers His people to speak to them. (The Angel of the Lord in the OT is nearly always referring to a visible appearance of the Lord to His people.) He reminds them of His favour to them – and painfully, of their dishonour of Him. They had responded to His goodness to them with disobedience. God asks, rightly, as He does whenever we sin, “Why have you done this?”

Further, God declares that he will not drive out all the nations but will leave them to test (v21-22) Israel. Will they walk in God’s ways, or the ways of the nations? Will we?

The people wept in response. They named the place “Weeping.” *Had they kept close to God and their duty, no voice but that of singing would have been heard in their congregation; but by their sin and folly they had made other work for themselves, and now nothing is to be heard but the voice of weeping.* (Henry) Will this be godly sorrow that brings forth repentance? (1 Cor 7.10)

- Questions**
1. Who spoke to the people of Israel?
  2. What was God’s message to them?
  3. What was Israel’s response to God’s message?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 55a<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to walk in His ways, 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

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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** Judges 2:20-23 God’s test

**Notes** God determines to test His people. Since they were not willing to, as it were, drive out the nations’ gods, God would not drive out the nations. The remnants of the wicked Canaanites would remain and be a test for Israel. Would they walk in God’s ways or not?

Will we walk in God’s ways or not? We, like Israel, are surrounded by the nations and their false gods. Whom will we serve? When the psalmist reviewed the period of the Judges (Ps. 106:40–46), he concluded with a prayer that we need to pray today: (Wiersbe) Save us, O LORD our God, And gather us from among the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise. Psalm 106:47

Like Israel, left to ourselves, we will fail God’s test time and time again. Who will deliver us? Thanks be to God who has given us a Saviour in whom we have perfect obedience and by whom we can live in increasing obedience.

- Questions**
1. How did God test His people?
  2. What do we know about testings we face, like those Israel faced?
  3. What is our hope for passing these tests?
  4. 

- Praise Pray** Psalm 55a
1. Pray that you and your family will rest in and obey in Jesus, 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** Judges 2:16-19 Deliverers!

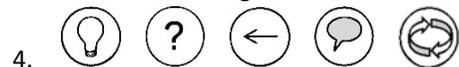
**Notes** The Lord was moved to pity by the miserable plight of His people’s distress. Where we might be inclined to say, “leave them there, they deserve what they get,” God responds with compassion and raises up deliverers. Twelve “Judges” (6 “major” and 6 “minor”) are raised up throughout the book to deliver and lead Israel. These judges held not only judicial function but were also rulers. They led the people in overthrowing their enemies, then led the people in following God.

The account is not completely chronological. And not all of Israel was under each judge. But most significantly we see that not one of them was completely the ideal judge.

Israel was, in part, rescued, and influenced to godliness by these judges. But even while they lived, Israel turned from God to idols. And, after each judge died, Israel reverted back to even more disobedience. Not only did the cycle repeat, it was worse – each generation more corrupt than their fathers.

They needed, and we need, an eternal, omnipresent, Judge. And we have one in Jesus. He is our only hope for breaking our cycle of sin. *Our Lord Jesus, though he spoiled principalities and powers, yet did not complete his victory at first. We see not yet all things put under him; there are remains of Satan’s interest in the church, as there were of the Canaanites in the land; but our Joshua lives for ever, and will in the great day perfect his conquest.* (Henry)

- Questions**
1. Who did God raise up to deliver His people?
  2. How did Israel respond during and after each judge?
  3. What sort of Judge did Israel need? do we have?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 55a
1. Rejoice with your family in God’s deliverer, Jesus
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

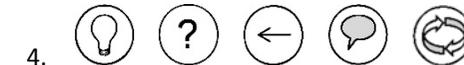
**Reading** Judges 2:6-9 Remembering Joshua and his God

**Notes** It seems the author of Judges now takes a mini-flashback – back to before Joshua’s death. Joshua had dismissed the people from his final words (Josh 24) to their inheritance. God had given His people this land due to the increasing wickedness of the people. How would they respond?

The initial response was good. The people served the Lord. They remembered the great works which He had done for them. *The historian undertakes to show that they were so, and, that this may appear the more clear, he looks back a little, and takes notice, 1. Of their happy settlement in the land of Canaan. Joshua, having distributed this land among them, dismissed them to the quiet and comfortable possession of it (v. 6): He sent them away, not only every tribe, but every man to his inheritance, no doubt giving them his blessing. 2. Of their continuance in the faith and fear of God’s holy name as long as Joshua lived.* (Henry)

They needed what we need – good leaders and good memories. As Joshua had and the elders who followed him did, they needed examples of living by faith and constant reminders of the great works of God. Who are you following? Who are you setting an example for? What great works of God are you remembering and telling other of?

- Questions**
1. What had Joshua done just prior to his death?
  2. What did Joshua and the elders who outlived him provide for the people?
  3. What great works has God done for you?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 55a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to remembering God’s works and imitating Godly leaders, 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

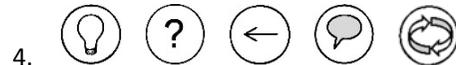
**Reading** Judges 2:10 Another generation arose...

**Notes** How long does it take to forget? For Israel it was about 40 years. The godly generation of Joshua’s days *wore off, their good instructions and examples died and were buried with them, and there arose another generation of Israelites who had so little sense of religion, and were in so little care about it, that, notwithstanding all the advantages of their education, one might truly say that they knew not the Lord, knew him not aright, knew him not as he had revealed himself, else they would not have forsaken him. They were so entirely devoted to the world, so intent upon the business of it or so indulgent of the flesh in ease and luxury, that they never minded the true God and his holy religion, and so were easily drawn aside to false gods and their abominable superstitions.* (Henry)

Parents – will this happen to your children? grandchildren? It can’t happen all at once. For a generation to grow up not knowing the Lord nor what He has done requires the previous generation not teaching and reminding them what God has done, not living visibly and confessedly by His grace.

Instead, may our homes be marked by this: And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 and this: My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; Proverbs 1:8

- Questions**
1. How does a generation develop that knows not the Lord?
  2. What must fathers and mothers do to avoid this?
  3. What must children do to avoid this?



- Praise** Psalm 55a  
**Pray**
1. Commit in prayer to your and your children’s faithfulness and seeking God’s sustaining grace for generations to come
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Judges 2:11-15 Disobedience, discipline, despair

**Notes** Having forgotten what the Lord had done for them, *the people of Israel forsook the God of Israel, and gave that worship and honour to the dunghill deities of the Canaanites which was due to him alone.* (Henry) Jeremiah speaks of the shock of such a decision. Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate,” says the LORD. “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:11–13

Now the historian gives us a preview of what the rest of the book of Judges will describe – increasingly negative cycles of disobedience, discipline, distress, then deliverance.

Israel will serve someone. If not the true God, then the gods of the nations. So will we. (So will everyone!) Repeatedly Israel turns from God to idols. *If disobedience isn’t followed by divine discipline, then the person is not truly a child of God; for God chastens all of His children (Heb. 12:3–13).* (Wiersbe)

God’s discipline for Israel was to hand them over to their enemies where they found that their enemies, like their enemies’ gods, were cruel masters. So they suffer in distress.

- Questions**
1. What was Israel’s disobedience?
  2. What was God’s discipline?
  3. How did this lead to Israel’s distress?



- Praise** Psalm 55a  
**Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God can break cycles of disobedience, discipline, and distress
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member