

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, you are encouraged, 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

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. tiny.cc/WkBbl or tiny.cc/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 drawn in part from commentaries on Exodus by John Calvin and Matthew Henry

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 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

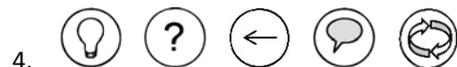
Reading Exodus 2:1-4 Moses' Ark

Notes Many of you know the trick question, "How many animals did Moses take into the ark?" Of course, the answer is supposed to be, "None." Because Moses didn't build an ark. But Moses was in an ark, like Noah, being kept safe from the waters below.

We see from 1:8 that there was trouble in Egypt for the Israelites. After Joseph saved Egypt during the famine Jacob's descendants were well regarded. But, just like today, memories of the past are short. And, there came a new king. He did not know Joseph and he did not trust the Israelites. He made life hard. And, he tried to kill their boy babies – first telling the midwives to put them to death, then commanding they be thrown into the river.

Moses was born – an extraordinary baby. And, his parents put Moses in the river – but in a little boat. Moses' ark was covered with tar and pitch and he was placed inside. It might have seemed to his mother that she was putting him in a floating coffin – but she had faith in something better. Moses' sister watched to see what might happen.

- Questions**
1. How many animals did Moses take into the ark?
 2. Why did the king of Egypt dislike the Israelites?
 3. What did Moses' mother do with him?



- Praise** Psalm 9a²
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to trust even in hard circumstances, 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*. The same selection is sung each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading Exodus 2:23-25 God heard. God remembered. God saw. God knew

Notes Back in Egypt the plight of the Israelites did not get any easier. Instead their burden grew heavier under the new ruler after Pharaoh died. In their distress they cried out to the Lord. How much we need to remember that crying out to the Lord should be our first, not our last option. Perhaps they thought God did not care. But they, and we, find otherwise.

God heard their groaning. He always does. He listens for and to the cries of His people. But not only did God hear, He remembered. Had He forgotten his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? No. God had determined He would deal graciously with His people. He had freely offered His promise of help to them in covenant promise with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now is the time to act.

God looked on His people. Moses had gone out from the finery of Egypt's palaces to look on his people, and he had tried to begin their rescue. What Moses could only try to do, God would now do. Finally, we are told that God knew, or acknowledged, his people. There is no greater comfort than God knowing us intimately. And, there is no greater danger than God saying, "I never knew you."

- Questions**
1. What happened when Pharaoh died?
 2. What 4 things did God do in response to His people's hardship?
 3. Doesn't God know everything? What does it mean He knew his people?



- Praise** Psalm 9a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that God hears and knows you
 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 Exodus 2:16-22 The "would be deliverer" settles down

Notes Moses flees to Midian – east and south of Egypt – in order to escape Pharaoh’s threat. He has to run from God’s people, but thankfully not from God. God took Moses to Midian, where he would stay for about 40 years as God prepared him to be the deliverer He wanted.

As he arrives in the country, he finds 7 daughters of a Midianite priest seeking to water their father’s flock. But the local shepherds drive them away. Were they scorned because they were women? Was their father held in contempt as a priest? Whatever the reason, Moses helps them and they in turn, at their father’s invitation, invite Moses to their father’s home. Was this Reuel a priest of the true God? It seems likely, although we are not told for certain.

No longer under threat, Moses settles here for now. Reuel gives one of his daughters to Moses as a wife and they begin a family. Here he would learn how to be God’s man. How to experience a long time of living in communion with God. How to let God prepare him to do what he thought he could do on his own. He lived here in Midian, but as a stranger – a pilgrim. Christians are also called pilgrims and strangers on the earth as we look forward to our home country of heaven.

- Questions**
1. Where did Moses find to settle down in Midian?
 2. Why did he have to wait to be Israel’s deliverer?
 3. In what way does Moses remember he is a stranger here?



- Praise** Psalm 9a
- Pray**
1. Confess, with your family, that you are but pilgrims and strangers here on the earth
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Exodus 2:5-10 Moses’ rescuer

Notes A baby in a basket in a river. Sounds like trouble. What sort of wild water creatures smelled this tasty treat? Who might find him? Would they throw him in the river in fear of Pharaoh’s law?

But God brought just the right person at just the right time. Pharaoh’s daughter came to the river to bathe. Seeing the ark, she had her female servants draw the ark out of the water. As she opened it, Moses cried. Her heart softened, even though she knew he was a Hebrew baby. Pharaoh cruelly sought to destroy Israel, but his own daughter had compassion on an Israelite baby boy. In God’s providence she rescued the one who would be Israel’s rescuer.

How Miriam, Moses’ sister who was watching, must have rejoiced. How Moses’ mother must have rejoiced when Miriam called her to come and meet the princess who would adopt her son, but permitted Moses’ birth mother to wean him.

How hard it would have been, then, when Moses grew up a bit that she had to again give him up. Pharaoh’s daughter took him as her son, naming him Moses since she drew him out of the water. The Psalmist would later (18:16) sing of God’s rescue – drawing him out of many waters. Rescuing him from sin and sinners. What joy to be drawn out – to be a Moses.

- Questions**
1. What could have happened to Moses in the river?
 2. What did happen to Moses in the river?
 3. How did God show kindness to Moses’ family?



- Praise** Psalm 9a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice if you and your family have been drawn out of the misery of sin and rescued by God
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Exodus 2:11-12, (optional Hebrews 11:23-27) Moses the rescuer

Notes Moses grew up. Although we are not told much here, we do see that he knows he is a Hebrew, not an Egyptian. Later, we're told he chose to be known as one of God's people rather than a prince of Egypt. It was far more than patriotic pride that moved him. It was faith in God's promises – which his parents must have taught him while still in their home as a young child. Though it's a mystery how much he understood, he chose Christ rather than treasures of Egypt, he chose to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin.

He had a sense that he was to be the rescuer. He thought he would draw out his people from slavery. And, he will. But he is about 40 years ahead of God's time table.

As he considers their hard circumstances, he sees injustice toward a Hebrew slave by an Egyptian and he takes matters literally into his own hand. He kills the Egyptian, looks to be sure that no one sees him, or so he thinks, and buries his body in the sand. But he was seen. And trouble will come.

Was God pleased with Moses' defence of his fellow Israelite? The Bible neither judges, nor excuses him. We are told, later, though, that God's battles are won, not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit. (Zechariah 4:6)

- Questions**
1. Why did Moses not choose Egypt's pleasures and treasures?
 2. How did Moses seek to begin to deliver Israel?
 3. How should we fight our battles?



- Praise** Psalm 9a
- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seek God's help in battles that you face
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

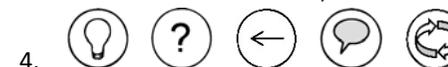
Reading Exodus 2:13-15, (optional Acts 7:20-25) Moses the Outlaw

Notes Moses finds out his fellow countrymen don't have the same certainty that he is their deliverer. And, he finds out that even when we think others don't see what we do, they often do. He continues to be compassionately concerned with his fellow Israelites' burdens. As he checks up on them, he finds two of them fighting. Not even Israelites are pure in heart and life. And often when we find ourselves in hard situations we lash out at those closest to us.

As Moses finds these two fighting he tries to intervene. He challenges the one in the wrong. "Why are you beating your fellow Hebrew?" he asks. Surely they would listen to their rescuer and be reasonable. This would not be the last time Moses would find out his countrymen didn't share his way of thinking. They didn't understand that he was God's deliverer for them. "Who made you judge?" the man asks. "Are you going to kill me like you did the Egyptian?"

Exposed and threatened with death by Pharaoh, Moses flees for his life. His hopes to be the rescuer are dashed. His opportunity for serving his fellow Hebrews is gone. Or is it. You'll have to keep reading.

- Questions**
1. What does Moses do with the two Israelites fighting?
 2. Was he doing the right thing? How did they take it?
 3. What did he have to do, rather than rescue Israel?



- Praise** Psalm 9a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God's ways are sure, even when it seems bleak
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member