

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 Matthew by John Calvin and William Hendriksen

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 Matthew 4:1-4 First temptation

Notes “Then.” It is a similar sort of word to “therefore”, which, when we see it, we go backwards to find out what it is “there for.” Jesus has come. He is baptised by John in chapter 3 and He is identified by God himself as His well-pleasing Son.

Then, God the Father leads Jesus (later clearly identified as God the Son), by God the Holy Spirit, to be tempted. Do you hear the echoes of creation and the first Adam’s temptation?

The devil comes to Jesus while He is hungry from a 40-day fast. He tempts Him with bread, not forbidden fruit, saying that if Jesus is really God’s Son he could make bread from stones.

Eating bread after a fast is not, by itself, sinful. The devil seems to be attacking Jesus’ trust In God. How can God’s own Son be hungry? Isn’t God providing for Him? Later the tempter will put these words in the mouths of Jesus’ enemies, “He trusts in God, let God deliver Him.”

But Jesus will have none of that. He knows the Bible and quotes it to Satan. God’s word – His creative, energising, and sustaining power, not bread, is ultimately what man needs.

- Questions**
1. When was Jesus tempted?
 2. What was the devil’s first temptation?
 3. How did Jesus reply? And why?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b²

Pray

1. Commit you and your family in prayer to seek the Lord’s word more than food, 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 sermon 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 Matthew 4:23-25 The Kingdom of Compassion.

Notes In these few verses, using three words, Matthew summarises most of what he will, by the inspiration of God, tell us about Jesus’ public ministry. Teaching. Preaching. Healing.

Jesus went about teaching. At the end of this gospel book, Jesus tells His followers they too would teach – that a significant part of making disciples would be teaching people to follow all Jesus’ commands. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Closely related to teaching is preaching. Jesus also went about preaching the good news. Good news that the kingdom of God had come and that God had made a way for sinful people to enter that kingdom by faith and repentance.

Thirdly, Matthew tells us, Jesus had compassion on people with all sorts of sickness and healed them. In this world of sin we get sick. All sickness and eventually death comes because of sin. Every sickness is not due to specific sin – but some are. Part of the reason why Jesus compassionately healed so many of sickness was to demonstrate that He was able to forgive sin.

Teaching. Preaching. Healing. And the crowds flocked to Him. Some, we find out later,, only wanted temporary blessing from Jesus – what they could benefit from through His miraculous power. Others, by the power of His preaching and the power of His call, would follow Him.

- Questions**
1. What 3 things summarised Jesus’ earthly ministry?
 2. What 2 things did Jesus’ healing ministry demonstrate?
 3. How are you being taught by Jesus today?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b

Pray

1. Pray that you and your family will compassionately call others to follow Jesus.
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 Matthew 4:18-22 The Kingdom of Commitment

Notes Jesus continues his walking about ministry in Galilee. His intent was to train those who would take what they had learned from Him and commit His teachings to others, who would in turn, faithfully teach even more. That ministry is the means by which we came to follow Jesus and will continue until the end of time.

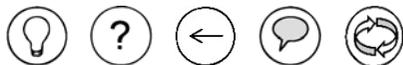
And it begins with two pairs of brothers; Peter and Andrew, James and John. What wonderful grace when physical family members are also spiritual family members – disciples of Jesus!

These 4 men are hard at their work of fishing when Jesus calls them. They will not follow Jesus while continuing in their normal work, as many of us are called to do. Instead, they are called to leave their regular jobs and follow Jesus – learning from Him how to catch men by the gospel instead of catching fish by their nets.

We notice how powerful Christ’s call to follow Him is. It is a call, we know from the rest of the Bible, that when accompanied by the work of God’s Spirit, will be obeyed.

We also notice how quickly they obey His call. “Follow me,” He says. And, both times we are told, they immediately left and followed Him.

- Questions**
1. What faithful person did God use to call you to follow Jesus?
 2. What ways can you and your family call others?
 3. How soon should we obey God’s call?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b

Pray

1. Commit you and your family in prayer to call others to follow Jesus, 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

Reading Matthew 4:5-7 Second temptation

Notes He failed in his first attempt, but the devil is not going to give up easily. He comes directly back – this time quoting the Bible himself. “So,” he seems to imply, “You trust God? Really? Prove it.”

He takes Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish historian, Josephus, says anyone looking down from there to the valley below would be giddy with the height (some 450ft/135 metres). “Jump!” the tempter tempts. “After all, God says in His Word that His angels will keep safe those who are His. Not only will they break your fall, but they will tenderly save you, not even letting your foot dash against a stone.” We are reminded that knowing God’s word is not enough. Even the devil knows it and mis-uses it for his purposes.

But again Jesus resists. Again He correctly uses the Word of God. We do well to spend our whole life learning the Bible better and learning how to use it better in battle with the devil.

Again Jesus says, “No.” Although Satan quotes the Bible accurately, he does not apply it correctly. To foolishly presume on God’s care in reckless action is to sinfully test God. God is not our personal genie to act according to our whims. God is God. Jesus submits to His Heavenly Father, and not to the devil.

- Questions**
1. What was the devil’s second temptation of Jesus?
 2. How did Jesus reply? And why?
 3. What is important beyond *knowing* God’s word?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b

Pray

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to learn His word and its correct use, 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

Reading Matthew 4:8-11 Third temptation

Notes The devil will not give up. Again he comes back. Again he tempts our Lord. Again he loses. We must remember that this is not merely teaching us how to respond to temptation. It is that, but much more. This is teaching us that Jesus defeated Satan. Had Jesus given in at the beginning of His earthly ministry He could not have saved anyone. But he did not give in. Ever.

The devil takes Jesus to a high mountain. There, he shows Him all the glory of all the kingdoms of this world. "I'll give them to you," promises the devil, "if you'll just worship me." All for the price of one bow. What a bargain! No need for a painful death on a cross in order to be given all authority. Just a bow.

Just two minor problems. (OK, two major problems.) First, the earth is the Lord's and all that it contains. (Psalm 24:1). Satan has been given some freedom in exerting his influence in the world – for a time. But it's all God's

Secondly, God alone is the right object of worship.

The devil left Jesus – for a time. Again and again he would tempt Jesus – in every way we are tempted. Heb. 4:15 But Jesus will never sin. So, he can sympathise with our temptation. More than that, He helps us resist temptation. Even better – he took our sin and gave us His perfection. So God is well pleased with us

- Questions**
1. What was the devil's third temptation of Jesus?
 2. How did Jesus reply? And why?
 3. What sort of things, which he can't really give, might the devil promise us when he tempts us?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b

Pray

1. Rejoice that Jesus' perfection is the source of you and your family's good standing with God
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Matthew 4:12-17 The Kingdom of Conversion

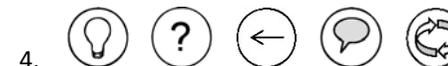
Notes Having defeated the devil for a time, Jesus begins his public ministry. Matthew's gospel presents Jesus in many ways – but particularly as the coming, promised, King. His is the true kingdom, no matter what the devil lyingly claims.

And, His kingdom is a kingdom of conversion. The northern tribes of Israel had continually strayed from obeying God. Because of that calamity had come – and finally they had been carried into captivity. As Jesus ministers in this northern area of Israel He reminds them of God's promise through Isaiah the prophet of light rather than darkness and death. Jesus, that promised light, has come!

And, He came with the call to enter His kingdom. In the exact same language of His forerunner, John the Baptist (3:2), Jesus urges these mixed race and mixed theology (2 Kings 17:33) northern Israelites to repent and enter His kingdom. His followers would later repeat the same message (10:7) – a message we must first believe, then repeat, as well.

Repent. Change your mind about yourself and about God. Believe God and His good news – the King, Jesus, has come. Is he your King?

- Questions**
1. Who is the true King of God's Kingdom?
 2. Where did Jesus first preach this gospel of the Kingdom?
 3. What must we do to enter Jesus' Kingdom?



4.

Praise Psalm 6b

Pray

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Jesus has made a way for you to enter His Kingdom.
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member