

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/WTrpcf

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 commentaries on Luke by John Calvin, William Hendriksen and Kent Hughes, 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 Luke 22:1-6, 47-53 Betrayed!

Notes (See back page for authors) Luke presents the events leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion in rapid detail here. We’ll consider several of them this week – and will look at some of them in pairs. The first pair is Judas – his agreement to betray Jesus, then the actual betrayal.

“The devil made me do it,” is often viewed as a funny line. It can also be offered as an excuse. Yet it is a real problem for us – and a mystery as to our continuing responsibility. Was Judas responsible for betraying Jesus? Absolutely. Yet he had a strong ally.

Calvin notes that *though Satan drives us every day to crimes, and reigns in us, when he hurries us into a course of extraordinary wickedness; yet he is said to enter into the reprobate, when he takes possession of all their senses, overthrows the fear of God, extinguishes the light of reason, and destroys every feeling of shame.*

Having, in a sense, agreed with Satan, Judas now agrees with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus. When the opportunity comes in the garden, Judas pretends affection and betrays Jesus with a kiss. Be on guard against the devil who would enter all, if permitted, and lead us to destruction.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What was Satan’s role in Judas betraying Jesus?
 2. What was Judas’s role in betraying Jesus?
 3. How can we resist the devil?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 107a²
1. Seek God’s protection for you and your family from the devil
 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 Luke 22:39-46 Take this cup away from me, If You are willing

Notes (See back page for authors) Having instructed His disciples to pray, Jesus Himself prays. Hendriksen notes that *Luke alone mentions the angel who came to strengthen Jesus. It is [Luke] alone who refers to the sweat that became like thick drops of blood falling down upon the ground. It is Luke who, even more emphatically than Matthew and Mark, rivets our attention on the appalling horror to which the Savior was exposed, the frightful, soul-piercing anguish he experienced.*

As Jesus experiences this “soul-piercing” anguish, He pleads with the Father to remove this cup. Hughes comments that *Jesus’ words “if you are willing” addressed the disposition of his loving Father. Jesus was not praying to an impotent Father but the omnipotent Father, for whom all things are possible...God can do anything! ... Perhaps there could be a later appointed “hour” (cf. Mark 14:35). Perhaps there could be some other “cup”—some other way.*

Jesus’ Gethsemane prayer testifies to the authenticity of the Incarnation, that he was a real man (as well as truly God). As a man, Jesus had placed the exercise of his omniscience at the discretion of the Father. Jesus was genuinely saying that if there was any other way, he wanted the Father to use it. He was not seeking to disobey the will of God, but in his manhood he desired to not suffer the shame of the cross and all it entailed.

Yet we know there was no other way, and Jesus willingly took the cup of God’s just wrath so we might be saved!

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What does Jesus pray?
 2. How does Luke note the difficulty Jesus faced?
 3. Why was the Father not willing to take the cup away?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 107a
1. Rejoice with your family that Jesus was willing to die for 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 Luke 22:35-46 Ready for trouble

Notes
(See back page for authors)
Now, Jesus prepares His disciples for the trouble to come. Hughes comments that *Luke records two earlier occasions (9:3; 10:4) when Jesus sent his disciples out to preach the gospel of the kingdom having no provisions. And as Jesus suggested, they met with such receptiveness that their hearers provided everything they needed. But now, with his arrest, trial, and death imminent, Jesus knew that their ministry experience would change... The reality for his disciples was that because they followed him, they too would be regarded as transgressors or outlaws.*

So Jesus tells them to get ready. Yet literal swords would not be their weapons as is clear by Jesus' "that's enough!" response. See 2 Cor 10:3-5.

As we wage war in a spiritual way, our greatest weapon is prayer. Twice Jesus urges his disciples to prayer. Knowing that Jesus prays for us is not enough. His command is for us to pray. How else will we be ready for trouble? How else will we counter Satan's attacks? How else will we resist temptation? How else will we demolish strongholds and arguments against God?

But, Hughes notes, *the disciples gave themselves to post-Passover sleep, brought on by their emotional exhaustion, and perhaps by their Passover feast. They had been so eager to fight God's war with man's weapons (22:38), but they now fumbled with a more essential weapon—prayer.*

- Questions**
(see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What weapons do Jesus' disciples need?
 2. If Jesus prays for us, why should we pray?
 3. What is prayer?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 107a
1. Commit, with your family, to prayer, 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 Luke 22:7-23 The last and first supper

Notes
(See back page for authors)
After Judas's plot, but before he has carried it out, Jesus and his disciples prepare to eat the Passover together. For Jesus, this will be the last Passover he will eat – and for Jesus and his disciples it becomes the first "Lord's Supper."

Hughes comments on the details that *the counterintelligence-like secrecy was due to the fact that Jesus was quite aware of Judas' intention to betray him at a time when he and the disciples were isolated. If Jesus had let it be known where the rendezvous and meal would occur, Judas would have informed on them, the meal would never have taken place, and the institution of the Lord's Supper would never have been given to the Church. So Jesus himself had prearranged the place and the secret signs by which Peter and John would find it.*

Having made the preparations, Jesus and his disciples eat together. He makes clear this is a different Passover than ever before eaten as He shows them that the bread and the cup represent His body given and His blood shed for them. Hughes notes that *His heart also swelled at the thought of the next time he would eat with his own beyond history. Jesus' heart traveled beyond the sorrow and death to reunion with them in lavish festal joy... Whenever we celebrate the Lord's Table, we should eat with an eye to the ultimate Communion.*

- Questions**
(see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What details did Jesus arrange for this supper to take place?
 2. What did the bread and the cup represent?
 3. When will Jesus eat the Passover with His disciples again?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 107a
1. Rejoice with your family in Jesus' establishing His supper for His church
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Luke 22:23-30 Arguing over greatness

Notes (See back page for authors)
As Jesus tells His disciples one of them will betray Him, they begin to argue who it was going to be. Although Luke doesn't tell us the details, we can imagine they weren't arguing, "I'll do it!" More likely, "You'll be the one," or "I think it will be him."

Then, in an arrogance that astounds us, the argument became "which of us is the greatest?" Unlike the earlier argument, we can imagine this time they were arguing, "Me," "No, Me!" Hughes comments *Amazing! They had been his constant companions for three years. They had seen him live a life of service. This self-promoting conversation was an outrageous slap in the Savior's face.*

Then Jesus reminds them (far more gently than we would) that the way to greatness was in service. Hughes notes that although *He ended the discussion by reminding them of the authority that awaited them in the kingdom...the disciples' future kingdom authority would not be like the delusive authority of earthly kings who practice dominance and demand lordship. Jesus' followers' rule would be like His rule—"as one who serves."*

Let us be on guard against thinking, or arguing, that others will be the worst and we will be (or are) the best.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What was the disciples' first argument about?
 2. What was the disciples' second argument about?
 3. What was Jesus' response to their argument about greatness?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 107a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to serving others, as Jesus did, 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 Luke 22:31-34, 54-62 I'll never! ... I never!

Notes (See back page for authors)
Perhaps Peter's boastful claims rang loudest over the other disciples. Whatever the reason, Jesus addresses him, and warns him of Satan's desires for him.

Calvin notes that *the metaphor of sifting ... here simply means to toss up and down, or to shake with violence... the disciples will not only be attacked, but will nearly give way... Jesus expressly declares, that they will have a contest with Satan, and, at the same time, promises to them victory.*

Let us remember how the devil desires to destroy us. Let us be confident that the devil is more powerful than we are on our own. Yet, let us also be confident that because our Saviour prays for us our faith, though it may waver and bend, will not fail.

Peter's faith bent severely. He says with confidence, "I'll never deny you, Jesus. I'm ready to die with you." Yet, as Jesus knew and announced, just a few hours later, Peter would say, "I don't know Him!" and "I'm not (His disciple)!" and "With Him? I don't know what you're talking about!"

Calvin comments that *Peter's fall, which is here related, is a bright mirror of our weakness. In his repentance, also, a striking instance of the goodness and mercy of God is held out to us.*

Might we, in His grace, be slow to boast and slow to fall.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What was Peter's boast?
 2. What was Jesus' prediction?
 3. What do we learn from Peter here? From Jesus?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 107a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Jesus prays for you so your faith doesn't fail
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member