

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 33:1-6 Depart and Go!

Notes It was a low point in Israel's history. They had just turned from God to idols. While Moses was on the mountain receiving the 10 commandments and other instructions from God, Aaron was making a golden calf and proclaiming it to be Israel's God. (32:4) The people turned from God – and God said He would turn from them.

“Go to your land,” God said. “I’ll still give it to you. I’ll give you an angel to guide you. I’ll drive out the inhabitants. But, I will not go with you lest I destroy you.” Bad news indeed!

Although the people were quick to leave God, they were aghast that God might leave them. How like them we are! Yet, with God's threat, they also seemed to realise that good things from God are not so good without God Himself. Do we desire things from God, or do we desire God more?

Israel mourned God's threat. They removed their ornamental jewellery. (It is likely this was what the Egyptians had given them at the Exodus – what they hadn't made into the gold calf.) And they waited to see what God would do. What will He do?

- Questions**
1. What had the people worshipped instead of God?
 2. What was God's response to this wicked sin?
 3. What is the value of good things without God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 12²
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to desire and enjoy God, not merely His goodness, 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 34:4-9 Seeing God's Glory

Notes So, Moses goes up the mountain with the replacement stone tablets. There God meets him and reveals Himself to him. What will Moses see? Even protected from God's full glory, what a magnificent image Moses would be sure to describe to us, right?

Actually he tells us nothing about what God looks like. Instead God tells Him and us what He IS like – which is more important by far. And what is God like?

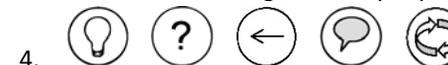
God is a promise making and promise keeping God. Twice for emphasis He is identified as LORD. (All caps representing God's covenant name by which he first revealed Himself to Moses.) (3:14-15) And what is the glory of our covenant God? That He is gracious, forgiving, longsuffering, merciful, and true.

Paul will later write (Ephesians 1) that God predestined us to salvation, brought us to salvation, and keeps us in salvation. All three of these, are to the praise of the Glory of His Grace.

God's glory IS His grace. That the Almighty God, maker of Heaven and Earth, would make a way for sinful people to be forgiven and bless them with His presence is a glorious wonder of our glorious God.

Yet the guilty will not go unpunished. And, God's just punishment on all who reject His Saviour, is also to His glory. But none of us will want to see that.

- Questions**
1. What does Moses record about seeing God's glory?
 2. What does Moses record about God's character?
 3. How does God forgive sinful people?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 12
1. Pray that you and your family will both know and proclaim God's glorious grace, 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

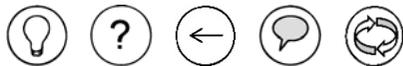
Reading Exodus 34:1-4 Come up

Notes God tells Moses to come again up on the mountain to meet with Him. "Bring with you," God says, "two tablets of stone." God had written His commandments on two tablets (24:12) but Moses had smashed them in his righteous anger at the people's idolatry. God will not leave His people without His law. Even though God will forgive His people they still need His laws to guide their lives. He will once again write His law on these replacement tablets. Yet, a "scar" would remain to remind the people of their sin. God had made the first two tablets. These would be made by Moses.

Later, God will promise, in His new covenant relationship with His people, to write His law, not on tablets of stone, but on the hearts of His people. (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 8:10)

Once again, Moses is to come alone. He would meet with God as Israel's mediator. No one may approach His holy place except by God's invitation. Later that would be shown by the restrictions on the holy place and most holy place in the Tabernacle and the Temple. Sometimes people think now we can just approach God on our own. Yet even now we need a Mediator. Only in Christ can we approach God.

- Questions**
1. Where will Moses meet with God?
 2. What is he to bring with him?
 3. Can we approach God on our own? Why or why not?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 12
1. Confess, with your family, your need for a Mediator. Rejoice that you can come to God in Jesus' name.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

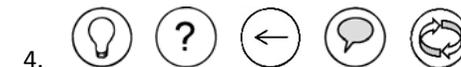
Reading Exodus 33:7-11 God removes His Presence

Notes Moses took a tent and moved it far outside Israel's camp. God would not dwell in the midst of these stubborn, rebellious people. No, only in this tent would God meet with Moses – and only far removed from Israel. Later another Mediator would go outside the camp but God would forsake Him instead of His people.

God had demonstrated His presence with His people so far in their exodus by a smoky pillar stretching from their midst up to the sky. Now this pillar would come down on Moses' tent as God would meet with him. The people watched and worshipped. Some even went outside the camp toward the tent and sought God themselves. Perhaps God was moving them to repentance. Perhaps those who by grace had not given in to this idol worship were seeking God, along with Moses, for the people.

God continued to meet with Moses at this tent. Moses was blessed with an extraordinary means of God's revealing Himself. Face to face, but of course still never in the fullness of His glory. Not even Moses, God's friend, could stand in the full presence of the glory of God.

- Questions**
1. Where did Moses set up this tent?
 2. What would Moses do there?
 3. How did God reveal Himself to Moses?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 12
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seek God and His presence, 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 Exodus 33:12-17 God once again promises His presence

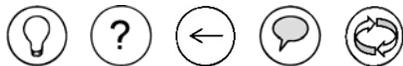
Notes As Moses meets with God he clearly has all of Israel on his heart. He continues to serve as their mediator – approaching God on their behalf. So he asks God to show his grace to them. Indeed, he says he can't lead the people without knowing God's grace is with them.

His request is based on God's promise. God declares He knows Moses intimately. He claims to have given Moses grace. Moses seeks to be sure. He fears that going without God's presence will mean going without God's grace. Three times he either reminds God of His promise, or else asks God to confirm His promise.

In fact Moses asks God to demonstrate that he and the people have found grace in God's sight by letting them find grace in God's sight. You get the idea this is important to Moses. In fact Moses says that is the only thing that makes God's people different to the rest of the people in the world – the presence and grace of God.

And it is important to God – for He both confirms His Presence will go with Moses and the people and they will find rest. In spite of their great sin, God will show them mercy. Though their sin separates them from God, God will once again be with them.

- Questions**
1. What does Moses ask God?
 2. Why is it important to Moses that God go with them?
 3. What is God's response to Moses' request?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 12
1. Rejoice with your family that God has shown grace to you. Ask that you will continue to find grace in His sight.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Exodus 33:18-23 Show me Your glory

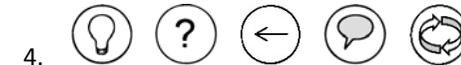
Notes Moses has one additional request of God. "Show me your glory," he asks. "Let me see more of you, God." Perhaps his request was improper. We need not see God, nor a form by which we consider God. In fact, sinful men and women can't see God in His fullness and live. When Jesus lived on this earth His followers saw His glory – but even then it was veiled. Only in heaven will we see Him face to face – as He is.

Yet God was gracious once again with Moses. It is God's privilege to be gracious as He desires to be and on whom He desires to be. Let us never presume God owes us grace! We may ask – even beg God for it as Moses did – but let us never demand it.

God, in His grace, promised to show Moses His goodness. He would protect Moses from the full blaze of His glory and hide him in a crevice in the rocks. There, protected by the hand of God from the full brightness of the glory of God, Moses, standing on "the rock" (Christ? Or just a rock on the mountainside? Hard to say...) would see a glimpse of God. He would see a God-presented image of the invisible God, He would see this from his protected spot as God moved away.

What would he see? We'll keep reading tomorrow...

- Questions**
1. What does Moses ask God this time?
 2. What was God's answer?
 3. Why is God gracious and compassionate?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 12
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God has been compassionate and gracious to you.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member