

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](http://frankstonrp.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 the Psalms by John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon, and James Boice

# 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

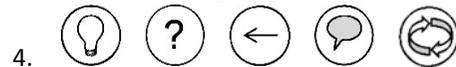
**Reading** Psalm 72:1-4 *The Character of the Kingdom: Righteousness* (Boice)

**Notes** Long live the King! Such pronouncement is made at the coronation of a new king. Psalm 72 is a coronation Psalm for David’s son. The ancient title subscribes the Psalm to Solomon. And Solomon was a great king. Yet even more, this Psalm speaks of the Kingdom of David’s Greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is the character of the Kingdom of Jesus? Righteousness. And, in some significant measure, especially early in his kingdom, Solomon ruled by the righteousness of God. But he failed, often and increasingly. Yet Christ did not, will not, and cannot fail to reign by God’s righteousness, as He is God. *Human rulers always let us down, which is why we look for the only upright, just, and entirely righteous rule of Jesus Christ.* (Boice)

When God’s righteousness is in the King, then his rule will be a righteous rule. Peace and righteousness and justice will flow from the king in his rule to the people of his kingdom. That peace and righteousness and justice will not be in full measure in any nation of the earth. Though we pray for it in our leaders, we find it only in Christ. Further, *it is Christ’s work actually to make people righteous since He gives them His own perfect righteousness.* (Boice)

- Questions**
1. Who is the King about which Psalm 72 is written?
  2. What will be the characteristic of His kingdom?
  3. How is the King’s righteousness seen in His kingdom?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b<sup>2</sup>
1. Pray for your rulers to be righteous. Rejoice that Jesus is King.
  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

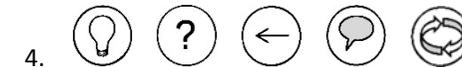
<sup>2</sup> Psalm selections are taken from the *Book of Psalms for Worship*. We encourage our congregation to sing the same selection each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

**Reading** Psalm 72:18-20 Blessed be God

**Notes** This psalm, and book 2 of the Psalter, ends with a doxology – a “glory word” to God. God’s praise and blessing is expressed by the Psalmist. *David, after having prayed for prosperity to his successors, breaks forth in praising God, because he was assured by the divine oracle that his prayers would not be in vain.*

*Moreover, as David, being endued with the Spirit of prophecy, was not ignorant that Satan would always continue to be a cruel enemy of the Church’s welfare, he doubtless knew that the grace of God, of which he presently speaks, would have great and arduous difficulties to overcome in order to continue for ever in his own nation. And the event afterwards unquestionably showed by how many miracles God accomplished his promises, whether we consider the return of his people from the captivity of Babylon, or the astonishing deliverances which followed until Christ as a tender branch sprung out of a dead tree. David, therefore, with good reason prays that the glory of the divine name may fill the whole earth, since that kingdom was to be extended even to the uttermost boundaries of the globe. And that all the godly, with earnest and ardent affection of heart, may unite with him in the same prayers, there is added a confirmation in the words, Amen, and Amen.* (Calvin)

- Questions**
1. What is a doxology?
  2. Why does the Psalmist bless God?
  3. How have we seen the earth filled with God’s glory?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b
1. With your family bless the Lord who alone does wondrous things
  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

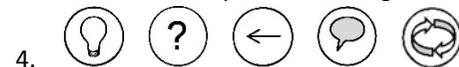
**Reading** Psalm 72:15-17 *The Blessing of the Kingdom: Prosperity* (Boice)

**Notes** *Each of the preceding stanzas has contributed to the ideal blessing that this kingdom will experience... All that has been preliminary... For now stanza five is given over wholly to the blessing that will come from Christ's rule... both material and spiritual.*

*The material prosperity described in this stanza (vv. 15-17) has to do with gold pouring in from Sheba and grain and fruit thriving even on the tops of the hills, the least productive parts of the land... This does not mean that Christians in every place will all become rich... But it does mean that wherever Jesus is honored and served, and wherever righteousness is pursued, there prosperous times will almost inevitably follow. Families will become stable. Parents will care for, educate, and promote the well-being of their children. Un-productive members of society will be reclaimed and assisted in becoming productive. Virtue will permeate the workplace...*

*As for spiritual blessing, the second half of verse 17 certainly refers to the promise of spiritual blessing God gave Abraham ... It was not through Abraham that this blessing came to human beings, however. It was through Jesus, Abraham's great descendant... This is real prosperity, of course. Not to be rich in this world's goods, though Christianity tends to advance people in the direction of material prosperity, but to be rich in those spiritual blessings that are ours because of Christ. (Boice)*

- Questions**
1. What is the image of material blessing in these verses?
  2. How should Christians promote prosperity?
  3. What are the spiritual blessings of King Jesus?



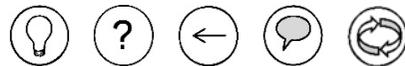
- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b
1. Confess, with your family, your tendency to seek material blessings at times more than spiritual prosperity
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Psalm 72:5-7 *The Duration of the Kingdom: Endless* (Boice)

**Notes** How long will Queen Elizabeth reign? On 20 Dec 07 she became the longest living British monarch. Should she rule until 9 Sep 15 she will become the longest ruling British monarch. The nations of the commonwealth celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> year of reigning last year. Maybe she will reign forever! Of course, that's silly.

Yet the King of Psalm 72 is going to reign forever. If the sun is still in the sky by day, if the moon is still in the sky by night, this King, and His Kingdom will still be in place. Jesus rules and will rule forever. *It is true that the kings of this world have not yet willingly bowed to Christ and acknowledged his sovereignty, though they will one day (Phil. 2:9-11) But Jesus rules nevertheless. By his sovereign power he controls all that is unfolding upon the great world stage, and by the power of his Spirit he calls men and women to loving submission to himself within the fellowship of the church.* (Boice) *The kings of the world were and are not; but Jesus forever is.* (Spurgeon)

And the blessing of this endless kingdom will fall on its subjects like rain falling on a grassy field and like showers that water the earth. Especially in a land of drought like Australia how refreshing this image. Oh, that this dry land would recognise, desire, and receive the blessings of King Jesus!

- Questions**
1. How long will Queen Elizabeth reign?
  2. How long will King Jesus reign?
  3. What is the result of Jesus' eternal reign?
4. 

- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to submit to Jesus' reign, 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

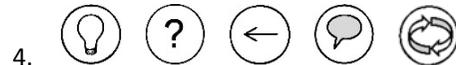
**Reading** Psalm 72:8-11 *The Expanse of the Kingdom: Universal* (Boice)

**Notes** *At its greatest extent, the British empire was known as the largest empire in history, as it covered ...approximately a quarter of the Earth's total land area, and controlled ... a quarter of the world's population. As a result, the legacy it imprinted on these conquered lands is tremendous in terms of political reform, cultural exchanges and way of life. ...The British empire is definitely one of the most influential empires ever to have existed in human history.* (bit.ly/10gtemp)

Yet this kingdom of King Jesus is universal. Not just one of the most influential, but the most significant empire that has or will exist. *These verses speak of all the lands, the Euphrates begin the farthest point the writer would think of to the east, Tarshish the farthest city to the west, and Sheba and Seba the farthest kingdoms to the south. In fact, so extensive is this kingdom that... even "the desert tribes will bow before him"* (Boice) All kings, all nations will serve Him.

Again we know this is the rule of Jesus. Though many do not acknowledge Him, He rules and will judge the world with righteousness. Revelation 11:15 Oh, that our nation would bow willingly to King Jesus! Oh, that our neighbours would bow willingly to King Jesus! Oh, that we will bow willingly and obediently to King Jesus.

- Questions**
1. What was the extent of the British Empire?
  2. What is the extent of Christ's Kingdom?
  3. What should we do as subjects of King Jesus?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b
1. Pray with your family for your nation and neighbourhood to submit to King Jesus.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Psalm 72:12-14 *The Nature of the Kingdom: Compassionate* (Boice)

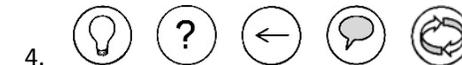
**Notes** *In the 1988 presidential campaign George Bush called repeatedly for a "kinder, gentler America." But America did not become kinder or gentler for all his good will or rhetoric. On the contrary, it is increasingly a harsh, mean, unkind, brutal, and even dangerous place in which to live.* (Boice)

But in marked contrast with the natural tendency of men and nations, this Kingdom of Jesus will be marked by compassion. This compassion is first from the King to his subjects. But then His compassion flows from them to those around them. "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ." Ephesians 4:32 (HCSB)

*Where Jesus rules his kindness becomes evident, and people are treated gently for his sake. Those who are needy and cry out receive help (v. 12) Those who are weak are pitied, and those in danger of death are saved (v. 13). People who have suffered oppression and have been victimised by violence are rescued by those who love and serve King Jesus. What an unacknowledged debt the world owes to those who are Christ's people!* (Boice)

Is the compassion of Jesus toward you reflected in your compassion toward the world around you? Do people know your King and His kindness?

- Questions**
1. How is the world in which we live a compassionate place?
  2. What evidences of King Jesus' compassion is shown in these verses
  3. How do Christians reflect the compassion of Jesus?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 61b
1. Pray with your family that you will reflect Jesus' compassion to the world, 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