

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?

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*Worshipping Together* is part of the vision and is a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Frankston, Victoria, Australia. [frankston.rpca.org.au](http://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](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [tiny.cc/WkBb1](http://tiny.cc/WkBb1) or [tiny.cc/3yrBb1](http://tiny.cc/3yrBb1)

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 a commentary on Job by Derek Thomas and sermons on Job by John Calvin

# 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.*

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\* 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** Job 1:1-5 Job's Devotion

**Notes** Job is a book about "Why?" Why do hard things happen? What should we do when they happen to us? When they happen to others? Believers in God have turned to this book of the Bible for centuries to seek some understanding and help in hard times.

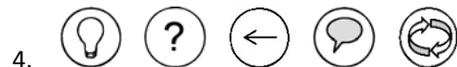
We meet Job right away. The first thing we are told is that Job had an extraordinary Godly character. He needed to be wise to answer the why's and we are told he feared God – what the Bible tells us in many places is the beginning of wisdom.

He is described as blameless and upright. He wasn't perfect in the sense of being sinless, but his faith in God was grown-up and drew him toward God's ways and away from evil ways.

The second thing we are told about is Job's large family and extraordinary wealth. Although it is hard for a rich man to enter heaven (Matthew 19:24) it's not impossible when God works. Job's wealth was not a hindrance to his faith.

And he was not content with a private faith, but regularly sought God's favour for his family as well – asking God's forgiveness if they had sinned. We can imitate much of Job.

- Questions**
1. What questions does the book of Job address?
  2. What are we told about Job's relationship with God?
  3. What are we told about Job's life circumstances?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 13a<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to fear God, by His help
  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*. The same selection is sung each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

**Reading** Job 2:7-10 Job's Integrity

**Notes** Skin for skin. Take away our good health and we'll gripe and complain, moan and groan, and Satan believes, will curse God. Would Job? (Would you and I?)

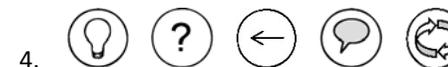
Satan tries his best. Although we don't know exactly what the sickness Job had was, we know it was painful from tip to toe. Painful sores covered him from his head to his feet.

The symptoms given in the book include the following: aching, rotting bones (30:17)—though this may well be just a description of acute deep-seated pain; dark (and peeling) skin (30:28, 30); wart-like eruptions (7:5); anorexia (19:20); fever (30:30); depression (7:16; 30:15); weeping (16:16); sleeplessness (7:4); nightmares (7:14); putrid breath (19:17; cf. 17:1); failing vision (16:16); rotting teeth (19:20). He evidently looked awful! 'They could hardly recognize him' (2:12).<sup>3</sup>

The only relief Job could get was to sit in a heap of ashes and scratch and scrape his painful, sore covered body with broken pieces of pottery. His wife joins forces with Satan – "Curse God!" she says, "and die!"

But Job will not. He will accept hardship from His Father in heaven as humbly as he accepted good.

- Questions**
1. How do you respond when you are really sick?
  2. What did Job's wife say he should do?
  3. What did Job do?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 13a
1. Pray that you and your family will accept hardship, 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

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, Derek (1995). *The Storm Breaks: Job Simply Explained*.

**Reading** Job 2:1-6 Satan's second attack

**Notes** God holds a second council. Again He calls His angels to report. And, once again, Satan comes. And, once again, God asks Satan about his activities – and about His righteous servant Job. Although Satan had predicted Job's cursing response to hard suffering, God reminds him of Job's continued integrity. The dictionary says integrity is the quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high moral principles or standards

Job certainly has demonstrated integrity in spite of Satan's attacks. But, Satan is not satisfied (he never is). "Skin for skin!" he says. Once the suffering touches his flesh – not just his possessions or even his family – then he'll curse God.

And, again, God in His providence permits Satan to attack Job's health. "You can't kill him," God said, "but you can injure him."

Sickness and pain. They've been with us since Adam sinned in the garden. And, the Bible tells us, they will be with us until this world ends. The promise that there will come a day when God will wipe away every tear from the eye of His children; There will come a day when there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. (Revelation 21:4)

There will come such a day. But that day wasn't there yet for Job. And it's not here yet for us.

- Questions**
1. Who comes to meet with God?
  2. What reason does Satan give for Job's continued godliness?
  3. What will God permit Satan to do?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 13a

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God will completely wipe out pain one day for His children.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Job 1:6-12 Satan's first attack

**Notes** We are told about a mysterious council God holds with the angels (sons of God). Here we are first introduced to the mystery of God's ways – His completely holy, wise, and powerful preserving all preserving and governing every creature and every action. God's ways are in many ways incomprehensible to us because God Himself is in many ways incomprehensible to us. Just as we know God only in part, so we understand God's ways only in part.

God holds this council and Satan (the accuser) comes. God asks Satan about his activities (even Satan is under God's control) and if he has considered God's righteous servant, Job. Satan says the only reason Job fears God is because God has such a hedge of protection around him.

It is sometimes easier to worship and love God when all goes well. (Although it is often under persecution that the church grown most.) Satan is sure Job would curse, not bless, God if things were going badly. So, God gives Satan permission to harm Job's family and possessions, but not Job himself. Job will be severely tested, and God uses Satan to do it.

No matter what happens – to Job nor to us – we can be sure God is in control and will work it for our good.

- Questions**
1. Who comes to meet with God?
  2. What reason does Satan give for Job's godliness?
  3. Who is responsible for the hard things that are going to happen to Job?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 13a

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that even Satan is bound by God's control.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

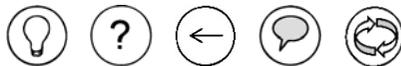
**Reading** Job 1:13-19 Job loses (almost) all

**Notes** Pain comes fast and furiously to Job. No warning, no explanation, no letup. Just one horrible thing after another – seemingly all on one day. One after another servants come to Job with bad news – and each one comes while the previous one was still speaking. Job’s livestock stolen or killed! His servants killed! And then the worst! His ten children – all together in the oldest brother’s house when a windstorm destroyed the house and all ten killed! “Wow!” doesn’t seem strong enough (even repeated backwards).

It’s not likely any of us have had such terrible trouble. But, we all have trouble. And, our trouble is our trouble. It is the trouble we have to deal with. While we can sympathise with the trouble of others and learn from how they respond, we have to deal with our own trouble. We can make our trouble harder by trying to compare ourselves to others – or by “borrowing trouble from tomorrow. Each day, Jesus says, has enough trouble of its own. And Job’s day of trouble had plenty!

God’s people face trouble. No one is exempt – and no specific suffering is ruled out. Suffering might be discipline for sin – but it isn’t always. When we suffer, how will we respond? How will Job respond?

- Questions**
1. What sorts of trouble did Job face?
  2. What sort of trouble has your family faced?
  3. What are some lessons we can learn from Job’s trouble?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 13a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seek God in times of trouble, 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** Job 1:20-22 Job’s submission

**Notes** When we suffer, how will we respond? How do we respond to great loss – of finances, jobs, family members? How will Job respond? Remember Satan’s scornful words about Job to God. “Stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

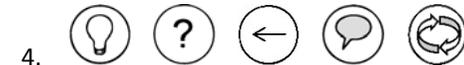
Will that be Job’s response? Not at all.

Pastor John Calvin said God’s providences should cause us to respond with meekness and reverence. Job certainly responded that way. He grieved, to be sure. He ripped up his clothes, shaved off his hair, and fell to the ground – likely with cries and groans. Yet as he fell, he worshipped God and humbly submitted to God’s mysterious providence.

How well we can learn from his reply. “The Lord gave (all that I had), the Lord has taken away (all that I have lost). Blessed be the name of the Lord.” Curse God? Job blesses God. Faced with such unimaginable horror, Job worships his God and submits to His will.

Would I? Would you? Let us learn from Job so that we too might glorify God in every providence. Let us remember that no providence, no matter how difficult it seems, no matter how troubled it tempts us to be; not one providence is without the eternal, unchanging love of our Father in Heaven.

- Questions**
1. How did Job express his sorrow?
  2. How did Job express his devotion to God?
  3. How did Job express his submission to God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 13a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that no trial, no matter how difficult, will separate God’s people from Himself.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member