

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 commentaries on Proverbs by Matthew Henry, Jim Newheiser, James Smith, 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** Proverbs 1:1-6 The proverbs of Solomon






**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Proverbs – a book of short, sometimes unconnected, wisdom sayings. Newheiser comments that *Proverbs equips the reader with moral skill for holy living, and Proverbs imparts mental discernment... The wisdom offered by the book of Proverbs is skill for living. Wisdom is not merely intellectual or academic; it is primarily moral. Solomon, as the wisest man on earth, demonstrated wisdom and skill as a naturalist, an administrator, and a judge (1 Kings 4:21–34; 3:6–28). The book of Proverbs teaches you how to live skilfully in every area of your life including family, finances, friendships, speech, and work. The goal of wisdom is that you might achieve a life of beauty and significance so that at the end of your days you will have accomplished something worthwhile and lasting. Jesus is the one who exemplifies wisdom, as he lived on earth with perfect skill. It is through Christ that we are made wise and gain the ability to live wisely.*

Oh, that we would receive wisdom from Jesus in them!

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What does Solomon say the proverbs are for?
2. What is the nature of the wisdom found in Proverbs?
3. Where do we find the ability to live wisely?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 114a<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to learning wisdom, 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

<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** Proverbs 1:24-33 They will search but not find me

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

These verses, as do many places in the Bible, make clear the danger of thinking we'll get right with God eventually, we'll repent at some point, we'll get wisdom before it's too late. Today is always the day to listen to the wisdom of God and be saved. 2 Cor 6:1-2






As Newheiser notes, *God's patience with fools who refuse to listen to Wisdom's voice will finally run out (vv. 24–25). Judgement will come suddenly and unexpectedly like a storm. Wisdom will have the last laugh, as those who mocked wisdom will themselves become the object of mocking (vv. 26–27; see also 3:34; Ps. 2:4; Deut. 28:63).*

*On the Day of Judgement, the wicked will have passed the point of no return (vv. 28–30). Those under God's judgement in hell will not be able to seek wisdom or call out to God in repentance but rather will merely cry out for deliverance from the terrible consequences of their folly (Luke 16:24). The knowledge of their refusal to listen when they had the opportunity will compound their misery (Isa. 66:4). They will reap what they have sown (Prov. 1:31–32; Gal. 6:7–8).*

Or, as the RSB notes, *true wisdom is an aspect of God's saving grace, and there comes a point of no return for those who reject it. This truth reinforces the urgency of the message. No one can expect God's favor and at the same time scorn the gifts He offers (Deut. 1:45; 1 Sam. 28:6; Ps. 18:41).*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. When must we listen to Wisdom?
2. What may happen if we delay?
3. What is the connection between knowledge and fearing God?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 114a
1. Pray that you and your family will listen to wisdom today, 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

Proverbs 1:20-23 Wisdom calls out...

### Notes

(See back page for authors)

Proverbs personifies wisdom. That is, wisdom is not just talked about as an idea, but as a person. And, although Proverbs presents this person of wisdom as a “she” we know that ultimately the Person of wisdom is “He”, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. 1 Cor 1:30

This wisdom caller in Proverbs, the RSB notes, *is portrayed as an open-air preacher similar to the caller in Is. 55. Personified as a woman, she calls on the simple to repent of folly and to seek wisdom before it is too late. Personification of wisdom is found also in 3:14–18; 8:1–36; 9:1–12.*

Newheiser points out that wisdom speaks to four kinds of people. *The naive is committed neither to good nor evil (vv. 4, 10, 22; 8:5; 27:12). Because he has not devoted himself to wisdom, he is vulnerable to seduction by Madame Folly (7:7; 9:4).*

*The fool (Hebrew keciyl) has rejected wisdom and has become morally insensitive. He is so occupied with the things of the world that the things of God are of no concern to him.*

*A stronger word for fool (Hebrew eviyl) is used in Proverbs 1:7. This man is not merely dull like the keciyl; he loves folly and ‘despises wisdom and instruction’.*





*The scoffer is on the faculty of the graduate School of Folly. He is the ‘free-thinking’ cynic who mocks at God, sin, and judgement. He is hardened against any reproof (9:7–8). He is not content with his own folly but recruits followers as he strives to undermine wisdom by drawing the naive away from God.*

The wisdom of Christ keeps us from being, and from being persuaded by, these four types or people.

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How is wisdom pictured in Proverbs?
2. Who is the Person of wisdom?
3. Who does Wisdom call instruction to?

4.     

### Praise Pray

Psalm 114a

1. Rejoice in Christ, our wisdom. Commit to learn from Him
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

### Reading

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord

### Notes

(See back page for authors)

Where does knowledge begin? In the fear of the Lord. But what does that mean? The RSB notes that *this idea is the controlling principle of Proverbs, and is ancient Israel’s decisive contribution to the human quest for knowledge and understanding. The fear of the Lord is the only basis of true knowledge. This “fear” is not distrustful terror of God, but rather the reverent awe and worshipful response of faith to the God who reveals Himself as Creator, Savior, and Judge.*

To fear God is to know Him and submit to Him, believing that His ways are always best. To fear God is to lovingly know Him. To fear God is to know, full stop.

Do you want knowledge? Seek to grow in this reverent awe and worshipful response of faith to God. Do you not want or care so much about knowledge? God says you are a fool!

Newheiser comments that *God imparts wisdom to those who seek him (James 1:5). The early chapters of Proverbs plead with the naive reader to earnestly pursue wisdom. The New Testament reveals that the ultimate expression of wisdom is found in Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:30–31). You cannot discern the true nature of life and the world apart from the LORD who is the root of all knowledge. The one who tries to be wise apart from God is a branch cut off from the root. For this reason, only the godly are truly wise.*

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What principally helps us have knowledge?
2. What does it mean to fear God?
3. What are we apart from fearing God and loving knowledge?

4.     

### Praise Pray

Psalm 114a

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to fearing God and growing in knowledge, 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** Proverbs 1:8-9 Listen, my son...






**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Many of the proverbs are sayings from Solomon to his son and are wisdom for parents today and for sons and daughters today. Newheiser notes that *in Western culture, the primary influences in the lives of young people include their teachers, their school-mates, and the entertainment industry. But God's plan is that parents are to be the primary teachers of wisdom. In Proverbs we have a beautiful picture of a godly family at work. It is assumed that the parents willingly take on their duty to instruct their children and that they carry it out well. A major purpose of the book of Proverbs is to prepare a young man to wisely and effectively assume the responsibilities of adult life.*

And, as the whole of the Bible, and these verses make clear, both father and mother take part in the instruction of their children. And, while by nature children often resist this instruction, in the Lord, they can, and must, delight and receive this instruction. And when they do, God says it is a noticeable, and beautiful, thing.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who should sons and daughters listen to for instruction?
2. Where does the motive for obeying parents come from?
3. What is the result of obeying parents' instruction?

4.     

**Praise  
Pray**

- Psalm 114a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to parents teaching in love and children listening and obeying 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** Proverbs 1:10-19 Don't be persuaded...

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Sinners love company! While people do sin when alone, many who are planning to sin love little more than to get others to join with them in their sin. This gang or mob mindset often pulls in the unsuspecting and unprepared. The wise parent warns their sons and daughters, preparing them to suspect and to resist such invitations.

Such wisdom is good for all of us. *If sinners entice you, don't be persuaded.* And, sinners will entice. And, their enticements will often seem persuasive. It is for those reasons that both in the physical family and in the church family we call others to be on guard. We encourage daily so that no one is hardened by sin's deception, (Heb 3:13) enticed by sinners' persuasion.

Newheiser comments that this passage *reads as if it could have been written today about temptations facing our young people.* And we often read about this or that person joining in with the persuasive sinner who is set for violence. The one persuaded to join in is often not desiring or intending such violent sin, but is led astray. Such being led astray is never an excuse for sin. Instead, listen to such instruction as given here and find grace to obey God and resist the devil and his workers.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why is sin so enticing and persuasive?
2. How must we respond when urged to sin?
3. How can we help others resist sin's persuasiveness?

4.     

**Praise  
Pray**

- Psalm 114a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God turns His people from sin to righteousness
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member