

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/WkBb1 or 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.

* 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 19:1-6 My friends are against me

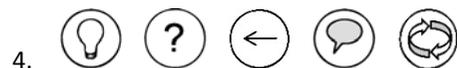
Notes Job's friends at first sat with him and shared his sorrow (2:13) without saying a word. Job would have been happier if they had continued in silence. Instead they began to take turns rebuking him – essentially saying he must have sinned or these bad things wouldn't be happening to him.

It's easy to think that when bad things happen to us or to others. God may discipline us by bringing difficult things into our lives – and when we face difficulty we should always pray for God to show us areas of sin. But to assume others' troubles are because of their sin is not a judgement we can make. (John 9:1-3

But Job's friends did. And he is feeling rejected and impatient with them. "Ten times," he says, "You have accused me! But you are wrong. I have not sinned against you. Even if I have made errors – they are," he seems to say, "mine alone."

Job complains that their response to his trouble is unjust. In fact, he is willing to admit error – but not the great sin they have claimed he must have sinned.

- Questions**
1. What was the initial response of Job's friends?
 2. What was their argument then, when they began to speak?
 3. What is Job's claim here?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 14a²
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to respond with compassion and carefulness to others' troubles, 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 Job 19:23-29 I know!

Notes How could we summarise Job's response so far? Derek Thomas puts it this way.

'You people are the limit! You insult me all the time. Can't you do anything else? God has wronged me! And when I cry out, nobody answers. It is true: he has taken everything that I have. My servants will not listen to me any more; even my wife has turned against me. All I want is some kindness from you.

'If only my words could be written down! But I know that my Redeemer lives and one day—yes, one day, he will make everything right again. I know this to be true.'

Despite the confusion of Job's thoughts, he remained convinced of God's existence. (And, God's redemption.)

Through the tragedies of life, there is an over-arching providence, a benevolent hand at work that sweeps all of human history to a climax: the mystery of the new heavens and the new earth. In that process great upheavals take place, but every single one of God's children will be brought safely to him to live with him for ever.

It is this vision that keeps us going through days of darkness, it is what sustained Job in his hour of need.⁶

- Questions**
1. What did Job know?
 2. What can we know in times of trouble?
 3. 

- Praise Pray** Psalm 14a
1. Pray that you and your family will remember, with His help, that God is in control at all times.
 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

⁶ Derek Thomas. *The Storm Breaks: Job Simply Explained*

Reading Job 19:23-29 My Redeemer Lives!

Notes It should not surprise us, given the depth of Job’s troubles and the poor advice of his friends, that Job at times seems to careen from side to side – almost out of control – now truth, now error. But it does.

After his pity party – after blaming God for injustice and everyone else for abandoning him, Job gives as clear a testimony of faith in His Redeemer as we’ll find in the pages of the Old Testament. Look at his confidence v23-24

“I want to write this in a way it will never be worn away.” This was no mere graffiti. ““Come,” says he, “Bring a sculptor’s chisel and engrave deeply the letters of the wondrous words, then take molten lead and fill the graven letters cut deeply upon the rock.” Now there they shine in silvery hue to the eternal ages! “MY REDEEMER LIVES.””⁵

Job was right. Job knew he needed a redeemer. He knew God alone could be his redeemer. He knew his redeemer was alive and he would one day see Him face to face.

Do you know your redeemer? Are you as confident as Job? Does your heart long for your redeemer?

- Questions**
- How did Job want to ensure his words stood throughout time?
 - What were his words?
 - Was he right? How do we know?
 -     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 14a
- Rejoice with your family in prayer that your Redeemer lives and you will one day see Him
 - Pray for a member of your church
 - Pray for your family
 - Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Job 19:6-12 God is against me

Notes Job’s friends would have done better to remain silent. Job would have too. The harder they accuse him, the harder he defends himself. And, in so doing, he has to blame someone. So, he blames God.

Job was unwilling to curse God – but he strays at times perilously close to judging God. “He has wronged me. He has rejected me.” He complains – suggesting that if God has done this it is without cause. And he is quickly overwhelmed with the images of God wrongly coming against him.

How delighted Satan must have been with Job in this moment. How delighted he is whenever he can get us to blame God or to make false accusations against God’s difficult providences.

How should Job have responded instead? How should we? We must realise:

What we desire is not necessarily what is best for us.

God works all things together for our good

*All of God’s dealings with us—even if he should hand us over to the devil for a season of testing—will only better help us on the road to heaven.*³

- Questions**
- Who did Job blame for his trouble?
 - What three things should he have realised instead?
 -     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 14a
- Commit yourself and your family in prayer to trust God’s working even in hard providences, with His help.
 - Pray for a member of your church
 - Pray for your family
 - Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

⁵ <http://bit.ly/ironPen>

³ Derek Thomas. The Storm Breaks: Job Simply Explained

Reading Job 19:13-20 Everyone is against me

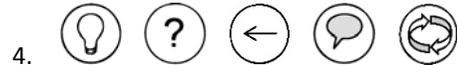
Notes My friends are against me. God is against me. Everyone is against me. Job flees to a full blown pity party. One by one, he names those against him; my brothers, my acquaintances, my relatives, my close friends, my servants. Even my wife is driven away by my rotting breath! Nobody loves me, everybody hates me!

It would be easy for us to judge Job. Maybe not as harshly as his three friends have been, but surely we would try to pull him up short here. "Come now, Job. It's not that bad," we might say.

But it feels that bad to Job. And it seems his friends have ceased weeping with him in his weeping. No longer did they share in his troubles. Sometimes, in trying to clarify things for other people we forget to care for them. We forget their pain. It can seem we are not with them any more, but against them.

Difficulties are full of traps for us in our weakness. When we face them it's too easy to blame everything and everyone - forgetting God has purposes about which we don't know. When others face difficulties it's too easy to forget they are suffering. It can be a cliché but a true one that people don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.

- Questions**
1. Who does Job think is against him?
 2. How does he describe his physical condition now?
 3. How should we care for people facing difficulties?



- Praise** Psalm 14a
- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to weep with those who weep, 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 19:21-22 Have pity on me

Notes Now Job asks his friends to join his pity party. In many ways his plea is out of context. His arguments have been – and continue to be – strong against what he is convinced is the wrong advice from his friends. But now he seems to turn from hostility toward them to pleading with them.

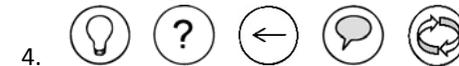
Perhaps he is just tired – tired of his misery and of feeling alone. "Take pity on me," he pleads. "Quit being unfair to me like God is."

If Job's friends can only stop persecuting him, he will be satisfied. He expects little from them—certainly not that they should actually take up his cause; all he wants is a little kindness. It is, perhaps, the most damning indictment of these counsellors that they showed no pity towards their friend. It is, alas, an indictment on the church since Job's day that such heartlessness has all too often been evident among its members too.⁴

Do we show pity? Are we kind to those in trouble? Are we quick to hear them and gentle and cautious when we speak?

And, to be sure, the weakness of Job's friends doesn't excuse Job blaming God of injustice. Let's be careful not to let the wrong doing of others become an excuse for our own sin.

- Questions**
1. What does Job now ask of his friends?
 2. How does his attitude seem to shift – at least for now?
 3. Is God unjust with Job? With us?



- Praise** Psalm 14a
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God is always good and just.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

⁴ Derek Thomas. The Storm Breaks: Job Simply Explained