

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/WkBbl](http://tiny.cc/WkBbl) or [tiny.cc/3yrBbl](http://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.*

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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

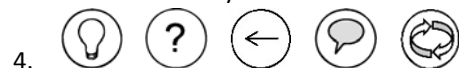
**Reading** Exodus 12:1-11 Passover Lamb

**Notes** This book of the Bible is named Exodus because the Israelites “exited” Egypt. God will deliver His people by His mighty power from Egypt. And He will give them a meal to remember His deliverance. They will remember that God alone had delivered them and only God should be their object of devotion. Their whole calendar would be ordered by this event.

The meal by which they would remember their exodus was roasted lamb. And if their family was too small they would share their lamb with another family. They would eat the lamb along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. Also, on this first Passover meal they were to do something unusual with the blood. Some of the blood of the lamb was to be spread on the side and top posts of their front door.

This was not a meal to eat in leisure. No, they were to eat it quickly, ready to leave. This meal was to remind them of the haste with which they left Egypt. After 400 years, they were ready to leave in a hurry!

- Questions**
1. Why is this book named Exodus?
  2. What would they eat for this memorial meal? And, how would they eat it?
  3. What were they to do with the blood of this lamb?



- Praise** Psalm 10a<sup>2</sup>
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God has provided a Lamb for your salvation
  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** Exodus 12:43-51 Remembering God’s Passover

**Notes** God is serious about remembering this Passover. For the third time in this chapter, but far from the last time in the Bible, He instructs Moses and Aaron of the regulations for annual feast of the Passover.

It was for all of God’s people, but not for the uncircumcised. Those from outside Israel could come, but only after they had been marked as belonging to God’s people. No one had an automatic right to partake (nor to be delivered from God’s wrath). Only those who by faith acknowledged God as their God could come – and must come. God honours His people with testimonies of His grace. And, all who are His, who have shared in His mercies, must join in thankful worship of Him as He instructs. And, once again we are told that Israel did as God had commanded.

We don’t celebrate the Passover today. When Jesus would celebrate Passover with His disciples just before His crucifixion, He would institute a different memorial meal. Like Israel of old, though, we come – those of faith in Jesus – and remember and proclaim His death and our deliverance.

- Questions**
1. What did God want Israel to remember?
  2. Who could participate in the Passover feast each year?
  3. Do we keep the Passover today? Why or why not?



- Praise** Psalm 10a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will remember God’s mercies, 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 12:34-42 Hasty Exodus

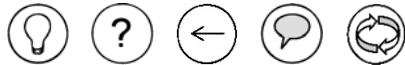
**Notes** So, the Exodus began. Hastily, with their dough still in the mixing bowls, God’s people went out of Egypt. But they didn’t go empty handed. So desirous were the Egyptians of them leaving – because of God’s judgement on their firstborn children – they sent them out with silver and gold and clothes.

From the 70 that came to Egypt with Jacob, now 600,000 men and their families, left with their flocks and herds as well. Even some non-Israelites joined in – perhaps having come to believe in the true God of Israel. What a sight it must have been. What a night to remember! 430 years since they arrived – once favoured, then enslaved, now feared by the Egyptians – they leave in haste by God’s deliverance.

God’s people throughout history are called to remember this night. “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” With those words God introduced His laws to his people.

You have likely never lived in Egypt. Yet, if you are a child of God by faith in Christ, our Passover Lamb, you have also been rescued from slavery to sin and death. What a great thing to remember. What a great God who gives His people Exodus.

- Questions**
1. How would the people eat their bread as they left Egypt?
  2. What did the Egyptians give to them to take? Why?
  3. How have we experienced an Exodus?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 10a

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer, to serve, by faith, the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Exodus 12:12-20 Passover Promised

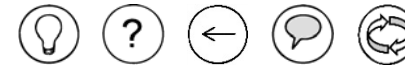
**Notes** God would pass through the land carrying out a terrible judgement on Egypt. But, on every house where He saw the blood stained doorposts, he would pass over and not bring death. Not for the last time, the blood of a lamb would bring salvation for God’s people.

But why? Why would God save His people, and destroy the Egyptians? Were they better than the Egyptians? Not at all. Although when Joseph and his brothers and father settled in Egypt they were separate, over these 400 years they had adopted more and more the behaviour of Egypt. God’s judgement was “against all the gods of Egypt” v12 yet we find later in the Bible (Josh. 24:15) that Israel was worshipping those false gods too!

This Passover was motivated by God’s grace. Although His own people had strayed from him and deserved death, God would accept the death of a substitute on their behalf. Their faith in this lamb’s blood covering their house would be seen by God and He would withhold His judgement in mercy.

This was so important that God required Israel to have an annual feast of remembrance. Each year they would set aside their regular work and regular food and remember the Passover.

- Questions**
1. How would the lamb’s blood lead to their salvation?
  2. Why did God Passover Israel and not kill their firstborn?
  3. How did God ensure His people would remember?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 10a

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God has provided a Lamb for your salvation
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Exodus 12:21-28 Passover Instructions

**Notes** As soon as God had told Moses what to do, he turned and told the leaders so they would tell all the people. So, God’s plan was explained to all His people. This was not an optional activity.

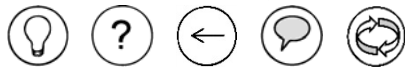
Some might have thought – I don’t much like eating lamb. Maybe I’ll just have a cheeseburger. Others could have decided to roast and eat the lamb, but the thought of spreading all that blood around their door was a bit much. Still others may have thought they could visit one last time with the Egyptian friends they had made. Anyone who was not safely inside a house whose doorway was painted with blood was not safe at all.

And, God’s people obeyed Him by faith. They believed God, they worshipped God, and they did what He said.

Later, as they remembered this Passover year by year, they were to remind themselves and to teach their children about God’s merciful passing over their homes which were protected by God’s sign.

Children – as you witness your parents worshipping God, are you asking, “What does this or that mean? Why do we worship God this way?” And, parents, are you teaching your children why we worship God in His way?

- Questions**
1. What did Moses do after God gave him the Passover instructions?
  2. Why were the details of what to do so important?
  3. Is there a question from a child about something we do in worship? Parents – can you answer?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 10a

**Pray**

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to obey God’s commands by faith, 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 12:29-33 Death of the Firstborn

**Notes** God had sent Moses to tell Pharaoh, “Let my people go!” (5:1ff) Pharaoh had refused and instead had placed them under even harsher treatment. So, God sent 9 dreadful plagues (chapters 7-11) on Egypt – each one, it is thought by many who have studied Egyptian culture, against the false gods of Egypt. As these plagues got progressively worse, Pharaoh would briefly consent, seeking relief from the plague. But over and over again, as each plague ended, his heart was hardened against God and he refused to let the people go.

Now comes the terrible tenth plague. The firstborn of each family and of all the animals, would die. And, God passed through the land. As he went, wherever there was no blood on the doorway, God put to death the firstborn of that house – from the prince to the prisoner to the pets – each firstborn child suddenly lay dead.

The Egyptians were awakened and the wailing of grief-stricken parents echoed through the night. Every house touched by death – but God’s people, by faith and by grace, were safe.

“Go!” Pharaoh said. “Go!” all the Egyptians said. Leave us, worship your God lest He kill us all. None can stand against the fearful, just, wrath of the almighty God.

- Questions**
1. What were the 9 earlier plagues God had sent on Egypt?
  2. Who was killed on this night at midnight?
  3. What was the response of Pharaoh and the people of Egypt?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 10a

**Pray**

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God’s just wrath has been turned aside for all who repent and believe in Christ
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member