

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 commentaries on Job by Derek Thomas 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.

* 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 38:1-41 (1-11²). I (God) will question you

Notes Job finally gets his wish (13:22, 31:35). The LORD will answer Him. Out of the whirlwind God speaks to Job – out of His word God speaks to us. Job’s wish has come to pass: we must be careful what we ask for, because sometimes we get it.³

God prepares Job – rebuking him for questioning (darkening) God’s ways and calling him to “man-up.” And then, God begins His questions. Question after question – 33 in our English Bible in this chapter alone. Job had planned to engage in dialog with God, presenting an orderly case and expecting to hold God accountable. Instead he listens. Then listens some more.

“Where were you,” God asks, “when I created the world?” Which part of creation were you accountable for. What part do you even understand? Then, what part of the creation today do you control? Can you control the darkness or light or rain or snow or storms? Can you order the stars?

Job begins to better understand, as we must, God’s absolute sovereign control over all things.

- Questions**
1. How does God prepare Job for His questions?
 2. Which parts of creation does God control? Job? You?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 16c⁴
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to listen to God more
 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 Alternate shorter readings in ()’s

³ Derek Thomas. The Storm Breaks: Job Simply Explained

⁴ 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 42:10-17 Restored!

Notes Now, having taught Job about His power and greatness and holiness and grace; having brought Job through great pain to the place of repentance and acceptance, God begins to restore what the Destroyer has destroyed.

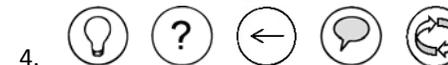
Spring came again to Job’s life. It was a spring of such beauty and fragrance that the bitterness of the past seemed almost forgotten. Hope and life and joy returned in abundance.⁶

Twice as much wealth. Twice as many children (think about it carefully). We would be foolish to expect that God’s double blessing to Job is precisely what we will get after suffering and loss. Jesus promised us a 100-fold increase – along with persecution – and eternal life! (Matt 19:29, Mark 10:30)

Job’s restoration gives us hope. The blessings God gives in this world are precious. We dare not desire them more than God Himself, but we receive His good gifts with thanksgiving.

And, whether God gives us much or little; whether God grants us many years on this earth or few; let us learn from Job that God can be trusted – always. Let us be convinced that “life is lived best when offered, humbly and submissively, to God through whatever pains he is pleased to send our way.”⁷

- Questions**
1. How did God restore Job?
 2. What is the best gift we can hope for from God?
 3. How has Job taught you to live?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 16c
1. Rejoice with your family in the good gifts God has given you
 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, 7} Derek Thomas

Reading Job 42:1-9 | (Job) repent in dust and ashes

Notes Again God stops to let Job have a word. And, again, Job says little. He has come to know God to a much greater degree than he previously did. And, in coming to know God better, he has come to know himself better. He knows he has sinned against God.

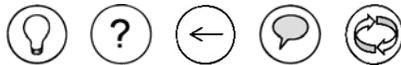
Job was identified by God as a maturely righteous man. (1:1) And his trials have not been because of his sin, as his friends accused him. But the trials have exposed sin in his heart that may have been hidden from men but was known to God. Even the fact that Job’s friends were wrong didn’t mean Job was right.

And after God’s thorough questioning of Job and Job better understanding God’s majesty and sovereign control of creation, Job sees his sin better too.

So he repents – humbling himself before God. He had previously been in dust and ashes due to his physical suffering (2:8) but now he, in a sense, sits in the ash heap due to his sin. We too, the better we come to know God, will all the better see our sin. We too, will often need to repent in dust and ashes.

But, Oh the Joy! God accepts repentant sinners. (v8-9) And then Job acts as a mediator for his friends, seeking God’s forgiveness for them too. In so doing, he points us to a greater Mediator, even Jesus, who had no sin of His own, and seeks God’s forgiveness and acceptance for us.

- Questions**
1. When Job gets an opportunity how does he reply to God?
 2. What helps us know ourselves better?
 3. How can we sinners be accepted before God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 16c
1. Confess, with your family, that you are sinners. Rejoice that you are accepted in Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Job 39:1-30 (1-9) Do you know?

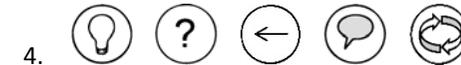
Notes God continues His questioning Job. He doesn’t ever explain why Job has suffered. Instead He continues to challenge Job. God gives Job a glimpse into the vastness of His knowledge while bringing Job to know how little he knows. Like Job, at times when we wonder at the providences of God, we need to simply consider how God’s ways are beyond finding out. (Rom 11:33)

“What do you know about the animals I have created, Job?” asks God. It’s as if He asks, “Do you understand the lion, the raven, the wild mountain goats, the wild donkey, the wild ox, the silly ostrich? The horse, the hawk, or the eagle? If you don’t understand all these (and more) then it ought not surprise you that you don’t understand my ways in your life.”

God holds the key to all unknown. And He will not give it to you.⁵

He understands and controls it all. Not one bit of the universe is outside of God’s wise providence. Despite sin its consequences, God wisely rules his world. And He calls Job to consider this world and acknowledge God’s control. If God so controls all these animals then certainly I can expect Him to take care of me!

- Questions**
1. What answers does God give Job? What questions?
 2. What is something you know about an animal? Does God know more?
 3. What does it matter that God controls all His creatures?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 16c
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God knows and controls all His creatures and all their actions.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

⁵ Derek Thomas

Reading Job 40:1-14 Job replies (briefly)

Notes God pauses briefly to let Job have a say. “You have rebuked and corrected me previously. What more do you want to say.”

Job claps his hand over his mouth and admits he should have kept quiet. “I am a little bit of nothing. I have no more to say.” Like Job we need to consider how small we are. Unworthy in ourselves. We fail God and dishonour Him with our careless words too.

Then, God tells him once more, “Brace yourself. Be a man. I have more questions for you.” And the questions continue. And, like Job, we need to stand in awe of our great God.

How dare Job, and how dare we, question God! We might not be as bold as Job sometimes was, but we think, “God shouldn’t have done that. I would do it much better myself.”

Is Job powerful enough to control the actions of men? Are you? Am I? If we can do that, then, God says, we can even save ourselves. But of course, Job knows by his difficult experience that he can’t save himself. He can’t heal himself. He can’t undo the bad things that have been happening to him and make it all good.

But, of course, God can.

- Questions**
1. When Job gets an opportunity how does he reply to God?
 2. What are ways that we question God’s judgement?
 3. What can God do? What can we do?



4.

Praise Psalm 16c

Pray

1. Repent with your family in prayer for ways in which you question God’s ways
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Job 40:15-41:34 (41:15-41:7) Look at my champions!

Notes Now God selects two of His “champions” of creation and in a sense asks Job to take them on. Behemoth and Leviathan – can you at least handle them?

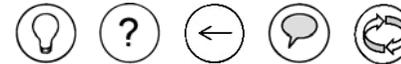
One of the tricky parts for us here is that we don’t really know what the Behemoth or Leviathan are. Some think the Behemoth is a hippopotamus or an elephant or maybe an extinct dinosaur. Some think the Leviathan is a crocodile or maybe even an extinct fire-breathing dragon.

We need to not spend so much time figuring out what the creatures are that we miss what the message is. Can Job, who has seemed quite willing to do battle with God, even engage in battle with these 2 great creatures God has made?

And, of course, the answer is no. Job can’t take on the creatures God has made so of course he can’t take on the Creator. Nor can we. But we can come with confidence to our Creator – trusting and worshipping Him.

We can do that because of another Champion. God created the worlds through His Son and His Son upholds them all by His powerful Word. (Hebrews 1:1-3) And His Son is the only Saviour.

- Questions**
1. What 2 champions of creation does God challenge Job with?
 2. If we can’t defeat God’s great creatures, what should we know about God?
 3. How should we come to our Creator?



4.

Praise Psalm 16c

Pray

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God’s Son created even the great land and sea creatures
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member