

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 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

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. bit.ly/WkBbl or 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 1-2 Timothy by William Hendriksen, Kent Hughes, and 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 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 2 Timothy 1:1-2 Paul's Beloved Son

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Paul is in a tough place – imprisoned, cold (4:13), alone (4:9-11) and expecting execution (4:6). Timothy is in a tough place – false teachers still plague the church in Ephesus and it appears from this letter it is going to get worse. So, Paul writes this *last will and testament*, "written," as Calvin said, "not merely in ink but in Paul's life blood." (Hughes)

Paul writes as God's apostle to Timothy (and likely Ephesus, where this letter would be publicly read). Paul understood that his apostleship was from God and for a particular purpose. *Thus also he points out the design of his apostleship, namely, to bring men to Christ, that in him they may find life.* (Calvin)

But, Paul does not write merely to a pastor who needs instruction and encouragement to keep on in hard times. No, he writes to his beloved son in the faith. *The cold and lonely old apostle was warmed by the thought of his beloved young disciple and penned this triple blessing, which is a promise and a prayer: "Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Hughes) Such grace, mercy, and peace is not restricted to Timothy. But is for us, too.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What were Paul's circumstances in writing 2 Timothy?
2. What was the purpose of Paul's apostleship?
3. What was Timothy's relationship to Paul?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 65a²
1. Rejoice with your family in God's grace, mercy, and peace
 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*. We encourage our congregation to sing the same selection each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading 2 Timothy 3:16-17 God's breathed out useful Word

Notes
(See back page for authors)
WSC = Westminster Shorter Catechism

For Paul and Timothy, the Scriptures (writings) were primarily the Old Testament. Now, for us, God has added the New Testament. These words are not mere words – they are breathed into by God – the human writers carried by God's Spirit (2 Pet 1:20-21)

As such, the Bible – all of it – is useful. Its end result is our perfection. A perfection we, if we share Timothy's genuine faith, long for in increasing measure. This perfection will not be entirely in this side of heaven, but the word of God works that perfection in us verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book.

How does the Bible work that perfection in the Christian? By giving them true doctrine. Remember, doctrine matters. *The Scriptures principally teach, what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.* (WSC 3) Since we don't always believe and do what is right, the Bible also rebukes us – telling us where we have done wrong. When you read the Bible, when it is preached to you in church, do you see and hear rebukes and think, "He means me, it's serious, I'm sorry?" (Pastor Ted Donnelly) The Bible then corrects us – showing us how to repent and change to do what is right. And it continues training us instructions in how to live God's right way.

Is the Bible working this way in your life?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the end result of the work of God's Word in us?
2. How does the Bible teach and rebuke us?
3. How does the Bible correct and train us?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 65a
1. Pray that you and your family will be perfected today by God's word and by His 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

2 Timothy 3:14-15 Learning the Bible as a baby

Notes

(See back page for authors)
All notes today are from Hughes

Timothy had become convinced of the gospel through the instruction of three people—his beloved mother Lois, his grandmother Eunice, and his closest friend, the Apostle Paul. ...[Timothy's] Hebrew mother and grandmother had educated him in the Old Testament Scriptures. When Paul came preaching the gospel from the Old Testament, they believed in Christ and, with Paul's aid, then instructed Timothy, so that he too believed.

Think what it would mean if we could say [v. 14] to all our children... "You know your pastors, you know your Sunday school teachers, you know your fathers and mothers and grandparents. You know what they have taught you, and you know that their lives match the teaching of their lips. So continue in the gospel because you know from whom you learned it."

Lois and Eunice began to teach Timothy from the earliest possible age the substance of the Old Testament. His first stories were Bible stories... Timothy was blessed by the beautiful oral tellings and retellings by those godly women. From them he learned of the great events and grand passages of the Old Testament. And building on that, they taught him the Bible's precepts and principles.

Timothy's knowledge of the Scriptures from infancy on formed a substantial ground and reason to continue in the gospel. He could see how it all fit together, how everything culminated in Christ, and that salvation through Christ alone was the answer.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

- Who had Timothy learned the gospel from?
- How can an infant learn the Bible?
- Is knowing the Bible enough? Why or why not?

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Praise Pray

Psalms 65a

- Commit to teach your family the Bible, with God's help
- Pray for a member of your church
- Pray for your family
- Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading

2 Timothy 1:3-5 Genuine, generational faith

Notes

(See back page for authors)

Isn't a face to face visit with a dear family member so exciting? Margaret Thatcher was quoted in the late 1990s as saying, "When my daughter-in-law sends me photographs of the grandchildren, apart from seeing them in the flesh, that is the greatest pleasure I have in the whole year, far exceeding everything else." (quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald <http://bit.ly/MTfnrl>) Paul longs to see Timothy face to face. Thought he prays for him daily, he knows if he can see him his joy will abound.

This joy is not merely that of a spiritual father reflecting on a spiritual son, but also of an apostle reflecting on genuine, generational faith. Timothy's faith was genuine. *He might be young, he might be weak, he might be shy, but he and his faith were genuine. And he was totally sincere. His whole heart was in it...The transcending point is that Paul believed in Timothy's faith, and he believed in Timothy. This kind of confidence in another is heartening.* (Hughes)

Timothy's faith was also generational – that is, he learned this genuine faith from his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. It appears that Timothy's father was an unbelieving Greek, but his mother and grandmother had come to faith in Jesus.

Who are your "faith ancestors?" If you have descendants, are you seeing them imitate your genuine faith?

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

- Why did Paul want to see Timothy face to face?
- What was significant about Timothy's faith?
- How does God normally develop generational faith?

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Praise Pray

Psalms 65a

- Give thanks to God for your "faith ancestors" and ask Him to continue your genuine faith in your "faith descendants."
- Pray for a member of your church
- Pray for your family
- Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Timothy 1:6-7 Fan your gift into flame

Notes
(See back page for authors)

The gifts God gives us are to be used for His church. Yet, we may be slack or selfish in the use of our gifts, and Satan tries to make them, and us, ineffective. *We ought, therefore, ...to strive to bring to perfection everything that is good in us, and to kindle what is languid [slack/sluggish]; for the metaphor, which Paul employs, is taken from a fire which was feeble, or that was in course of being gradually extinguished, if strength and flame were not added, by blowing upon it and by supplying new fuel. Let us therefore remember that we ought to apply to use the gifts of God, lest, being unemployed and concealed, they gather rust. Let us also remember that we should diligently profit by them, lest they be extinguished by our slothfulness.* (Calvin)

Timothy's particular gift was the application of God's Spirit to make him a faithful gospel minister. And *the flame of Timothy's ministerial office needed attention... The gist of Paul's argument, then, would seem to be as follows: "My dear child, Timothy, fight that tendency of yours toward fearfulness. The Holy Spirit, given to you ... is not the Spirit of timidity but of power and love and self-discipline. Avail yourself of that limitless, never-failing power ... and you will proclaim God's truth; of that intelligent, purposeful love ...and you will comfort God's children... and of that ever-necessary self-discipline or self-control ...and you will wage God's battle against cowardice, taking yourself in hand."* (Hendriksen)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What can happen to the gifts God gives us and why?
2. How can we fan our gifts into flame?
3.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 65a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to fan God's gifts to you into flame, with God's help and for His glory
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Timothy 3:10-13 You have carefully followed me

Notes
(See back page for authors)

We jump on in Paul's letter now to another reflection of Timothy's genuine, generational faith. Timothy had followed, and was continuing to follow, even if timidly at times, the faith of his spiritual father, Paul, and his mother and grandmother. He had followed what Paul believed and taught and how Paul lived. He imitated Paul's love for others and purpose in ministry. He even knew Paul's patient endurance in the face of persecutions and afflictions – and he knew such persecution would continue to follow him. And such persecution will follow us, if we are serving Jesus.

Even though evil men and false teachers would continue to plague the church and even get worse, Timothy had learned from Paul to be confident in God's sovereign deliverance. *There was positive recollection to boot—"Yet the Lord rescued me from them all of them" (v. 11b). This is a near quotation of Psalm 34:19, where King David celebrated his deliverance. The only way Paul was going to get released from his dungeon was by going to his death, and he was at peace with that. But God had rescued him time and time again, which meant that he would do it for Timothy again and again if he willed to do so. Actually God always rescues his people—either in this life or by taking them to Heaven! And God's final rescue of Paul was the best of all.* (Hughes)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What particulars had Timothy learned from Paul's life?
2. Why are Christians persecuted?
3. How had God rescued Paul from persecutions?
4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 65a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God will deliver his people from trouble
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member