

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 Romans by 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 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 Romans 10:1 Heart's desire and prayer

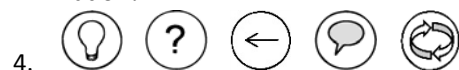
Notes What does your heart desire? We often think about relationships along with heart desire. For one hoping to be married much of their heart's desire is on their hoped for spouse. For expecting parents/grandparents it is for a safe and healthy birth.

Paul's heart's desire centred on relationships too. But not his. His desire was for his fellow Jews to become fellow Christians – that God would save them.

Hearts' desires are often seen by actions. Paul's were. Often in his letters he speaks of his speaking and people hearing and believing God's gospel.

What does your heart desire? Do you have a heart desire for the salvation of unbelieving family members, neighbours, work or school mates? Is it reflected by prayer and action? Is it reflected in genuine love for the lost whom God puts in your paths? Oh, that our hearts would burn with this desire and our knees would ache from kneeling to ask God to meet this desire!

- Questions**
1. What was Paul's heart's desire and prayer?
 2. How is a heart desire shown?
 3. How could you increase your heart's desire for others' salvation?



- Praise** Psalm 17a³
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to desire more and pray more for others' salvation, 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 We've switched Romans (9-16 this week, 1-8 next week) to fit in with our Guest Service on 6th May

³ 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 Romans 10:18-21 Rebellious people

Notes To each his own. Such an idea covers many topics but none more likely in our day than religion. "That Jesus stuff – if you like that stuff that's OK for you. I just don't need/like it myself." And while obviously we have to respect others – even in their unbelief – we have to know it's not just an optional thing to believe in Jesus.

With Israel – and with unbelievers today – God demands obedience to this gospel message. Some will continue to be rebellious but let's be sure we are aware of – and when possible tell them – the consequences for their unbelief.

To believe the gospel is to be saved. To reject the gospel is to be lost. Lost for eternity in hell rebelling against God forever.

Israel's rejection highlights God's grace to us who are not Israelites. Their rejection led to God showing mercy in sending the gospel to us and drawing us to believe. And, He did this. We weren't even looking for Him nor asking for Him. What grace!

- Questions**
1. Is belief in God an optional extra?
 2. What is the consequence of unbelief?
 3. How did God show mercy to non-Israelites after Israel's rejection of the gospel?



- Praise** Psalm 17a
- Pray**
1. Whether Jew or Gentile, rejoice with your family that God let you find Jesus even when you weren't looking.
 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 Romans 10:16-17 Faith and Hearing

Notes Does the previous sequence always “work?” In other words, will sent preachers telling of Jesus in the hearing of unbelievers always result in them believing?

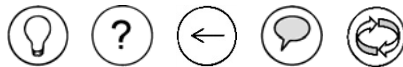
Paul comes back to Israel – to the unbelieving Jews for whom he desires and prays salvation. They have heard. But they haven’t all believed.

And most of us have told unbelieving friends, neighbours, loved ones about Jesus – often many times – and they still haven’t believed. Sometimes we get discouraged with that hard reality. Like the prophet Isaiah, we cry to God, “Lord, who has believed our message about Jesus?”

Which is exactly where we need to be – praying: before we tell them about Jesus, while we are telling them about Jesus, and after we have told them about Jesus. God can and does send us to tell them but only He can give them faith to believe. But He does that through us telling them God’s Word.

Praying and Telling = Hearing and Believing. That’s God’s way.

- Questions**
1. Does the sequence of sent->preach->hear->faith always work?
 2. Have you told someone recently about Jesus?
 3. Who first told you?



4.

Praise Psalm 17a

Pray

1. Pray with your family for someone you have told about Jesus that God will give them faith to believe what they have heard.
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Romans 10:2-8 That’s not going to work

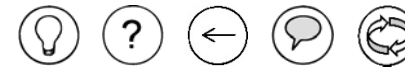
Notes These Jews for whom Paul desired and prayed for salvation were zealously religious people. Maybe the people we are around are not so. Maybe they are zealously non-religious. But we can still learn from their wrong ideas about salvation.

These people were convinced they could do whatever it took to please God. They viewed the law as something they were completely capable of keeping. Their righteousness was enough – they didn’t need God’s.

People around us might not use this language – but they still think they are doing just fine on their own, thank you very much! They don’t need God’s righteousness either – so they think. And, even though they may claim nothing happens after we die, we still hear over and over, “They’re better off now. They’re in a better place.” when people die.

They, like the Jews, are ignorant of how much they need God’s righteous and how it is available only by believing in the work of Christ. Paul applies Moses’ teaching to show us we can’t climb to Christ but He came to us. That is what we proclaim.

- Questions**
1. How is spiritual zeal shown by the Jews and by people around us? Is that zeal enough?
 2. What is not going to work to save us?
 3. What is the “word of faith” which we preach?



4.

Praise Psalm 17a

Pray

1. Commit you and your family in prayer to desire more and pray more for others’ salvation, 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

Reading Romans 10:9-13 Confess and believe

Notes What does it take to be saved? Paul lists 2 requirements.

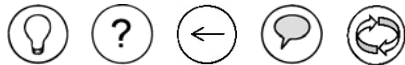
First, he says, we must confess Jesus is Lord. Not just “a” Lord but “our” Lord. We must submit to Him. He must rule in our hearts and lives by faith. Who’s in charge of your life? It must be Jesus.

Secondly, we must believe in the resurrected Jesus. Easter is a major cultural holiday in Australia. Both Friday and Monday are national work holidays. But how many of our 22 million people population really believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead. And, of course, the resurrection requires Jesus’ death – a death to satisfy God’s justice for sins, not Jesus’ own sins, but the sins of all those who would believe in Him.

That’s it! It really is that simple. And at the same time so majestic that those who come by faith to believe and confess this will spend the rest of our lives and all of eternity coming to better understand it.

And, that is the only way. It is a universal way of salvation. No one will be saved in any other way. No one who confesses and believes this will not be saved.

- Questions**
1. What 2 things are required for salvation?
 2. For whom are these 2 things necessary for salvation?
 3. What happens to those who make this confession and believe this?



4.

Praise Psalm 17a

Pray

1. Commit you and your family in prayer to desire more and pray more for others’ salvation, 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

Reading Romans 10:14-15 Beautiful feet

Notes If people are going to confess and believe how is it going to happen? What will be the chain of events for a person to call on the name of the Lord and be saved?

How will they call on the Lord if they don’t believe in Him? They won’t. And while the Bible makes clear that coming to believe in Him is God’s gift, there is in God’s plan a very important human part – as the next question addresses.

How will they believe if they haven’t heard of Jesus? Again, the implied, “They won’t,” answer points out how important it is that we believers are telling other people about Jesus.

That is the sense of the 3rd question. How will they hear if no one tells them? God could save people directly but he has chosen to use faulty Christians to tell others about Jesus. Have you told anyone lately?

The last question tells us that the preachers have to be sent. Since Pentecost preachers have been sent all over the world (including to their next door neighbours) so people will hear of Him. The Bible makes it clear there is formal sending for formally called Preachers and an informal sending for those who are saved to talk about the gospel where ever they go.

Those sent preachers, God says, have beautiful feet because they can be seen running hard to others to tell this good news.

- Questions**
1. What are the 4 rhetorical questions?
 2. What is the answer to each?
 3. How beautiful are your feet?



4.

Praise Psalm 17a

Pray

1. Pray with your family God might send you to tell someone about Jesus today
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member