

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 Titus by William Hendriksen, Bryan Chapell, and David Campbell

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 Titus 2:1, 7-8, 15 Instructions for Titus

Notes (See back page for authors)
Paul gives Titus various instruction to give to various sorts of people, and includes particular instructions for Titus himself. As a pastor what sort of man is Titus to be? These instructions in many ways parallel the elder’s task in chapter 1 and are useful for elders, both teaching and ruling, today.

Titus is to speak what is proper or for or consistent with sound doctrine. Doctrine matters because it effects the way we live. *Doctrine and practice for a Christian are to keep in step with each other.* (Campbell) Titus’s words are to direct other believers to have right doctrine and right practice. But (v7) also Titus’s life is to be a pattern of right doctrine and right practice. His enemies should be ashamed because his life and words match up so well.

Finally notice that his relationship with his congregation is one of leadership. He is to speak words of grace (v11-15) in such a way that they are heard and obeyed by speaking with authority and living with integrity. Pray for your elders and consider how you respond to their preaching and teaching in your congregation.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How is Titus supposed to speak?
 2. How is Titus supposed to live?
 3. How should the congregation respond to the elders?

4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 66c²
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to pray for and submit to the teaching of your elders, 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*. We encourage our congregation to sing the same selection each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading Titus 2:13-14 Grace works (2)

Notes (See back page for authors)
V13-14 teach us that *The Grace of God in Christ is the Effective Preparer* and *The Grace of God in Christ is the Thorough-going Purifier*. (Hendriksen)

Learning how to live in this life (v12,14) is connected to preparing us for the life to come. We live now, hoping for something even better – the appearance of our Saviour! When our divine Saviour, who is God Himself, appears, our hope of glory will be made complete. When He appears to take us to Himself, our hope of comfort, no more tears, no more sickness, no more death, will be made complete.

And yet, we live in the meantime. And in this meantime, we live understanding why He ransomed us. *In practical terms [this] means that lawlessness in every form is to be shunned. It means being eager to do what is good. Specifically, in the context of Paul’s concerns in chapter 2, it means following the directives that he has given for the various different groups. We are not to think for one moment that these are merely Paul’s opinions. The truth is far otherwise. Christ died that we might live such lives. And it is our unchanging obligation to fall in with that purpose—to be what he has purposed we should be; to do what he has purposed we should do—until he comes.* (Campbell) May we, by His grace, be eager to do these things.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How does grace prepare us for this life?
 2. How does grace prepare us for the life to come?

3.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 66c
1. Pray that you and your family will be eager to do the works Jesus have given you to do, 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 Titus 2:11-12 Grace works (1)

Notes
(See back page for authors)
Paul closes this chapter with lessons on grace. V11-12 teach us that *The Grace of God in Christ is the Great Penetrator, Dispelling the Darkness for All and Bringing Salvation to All and The Grace of God in Christ is the Wise Pedagogue.* (Hendriksen)

This grace, God’s kindness when we deserve His punishment, has appeared, *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.*” Luke 1:79. This grace brought this salvation to “all men.” Here in Titus 2:11 the context makes the meaning very clear. *Male or female, old or young, rich or poor: all are guilty before God, and from them all God gathers his people... Grace did not bypass the aged because they are aged, nor women because they are women, nor slaves because they are merely slaves, etc. It dawned upon all, regardless of age, sex, or social standing. Hence, no one can derive, from the particular group or caste to which he belongs, a reason for not living a Christian life.* (Hendriksen)

And this grace teaches us. It teaches us how to say, “No” and how to say, “Yes.” “No” to ungodliness and the world’s passion for pleasure. Instead, grace teaches us to say “Yes” to self-control and Godliness and living the right way – that way which God has commanded. Has this grace saved you? Is it teaching you how to live the right way in this life? Can others see it?

Questions 1. How is Paul using the word “all” with regard to saving grace?

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

2. What does saving grace teach us not to do?

3. What does saving grace teach us to do?

4.     

Praise Psalm 66c

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in God bringing saving grace to penetrate your darkness and teach you how to live
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Titus 2:1-2, 6 Teaching for older and younger men

Notes
(See back page for authors)
Are you a young man? Or an older man? Either way, God cares about how you think and live – and you must too! Although no specific age is given, somewhere in the 40-50 year age one transitions from a younger to an older man.

Older men are *to be temperate or sober, that is, moderate with respect to the use of wine and in all their tastes and habits.* (Hendriksen) They are also to be dignified or respectable. *Older men are not to play the fool. There is to be a seriousness about them that reflects the seriousness of life and the seriousness of the things of God.* (Campbell) This respect comes from an older man being self-controlled, *prudently curb[ing] his desires and impulses.* (Chapell)

Then, although aging and perhaps facing poorer physical health, the older man is to be healthy in his faith, his love, and his endurance. *Their faith, in order to be sound, must be neither luke-warm nor mixed with error. Their love must not deteriorate into sentimentality nor must it be permitted to wax cold. And their endurance must not be replaced by either faint-heartedness on the one hand or obstinacy on the other.* (Hendriksen)

For the young men, only one instruction. Self-controlled in everything. *If then you would be sober-minded—a sensible, prudent Christian marked by sound judgement—steep your mind in the Word of God!* (Campbell)

Questions 1. How is an older man to think and to live?

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

2. How is a younger man to think and to live?

3. How do these instructions contrast with the world?

4.     

Praise Psalm 66c

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to God’s standard for your age and stage in life, 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 Titus 2:3-5 Teaching for older and younger women

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Women matter too in the church. How they think and how they live is just as important as men. Again, no specific age is given, but likely the older women’s children are now grown up.

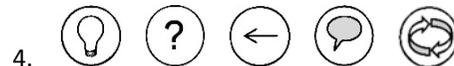
Older women are to behave reverently. *The Greek Christians would have understood Paul to be saying that a mature Christian woman should demonstrate the holiness of a heart that is near to God.* (Chapell) They are not to be slanderers or drunks – but are to control their tongues and their appetites. Having lived this way, they are then to teach what is good to the younger women

Young women are to be trained to love their husbands and children. Obviously love isn’t just what you feel, but what you do – and these young women were to be trained by the older women how to “do” love – first to husbands, then to children. They too are to be self-controlled, and pure rather than pursuing pleasure out of control as Titus’s world urged (and as ours does).

Then these older women are to teach the younger women to be busy at home, and to willingly let their husbands lead. That will likely raise a few eyebrows! *That does not mean that married women should never have a job outside the home. It does mean that for a young wife, her home is to have the priority. Old-fashioned as it may sound, it is the thing that is to come first—not her career.* (Campbell) The alternative is that God’s word is mocked.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How is an older woman to think and to live?
2. How is a younger woman to think and to live?
3. How do these instructions contrast with the world?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 66c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to God’s standard for your age and stage in life, 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 Titus 2:9-10 Teaching for Slaves

Notes
(See back page for authors)

You are a Christian in the workplace and asking the question: ‘How would God have me conduct myself as a Christian worker?’ In this section originally addressed to Christian slaves Paul lays down principles that are just as applicable to twenty-first century employment situations as they were to the work situations faced by slaves in the first century. (Campbell)

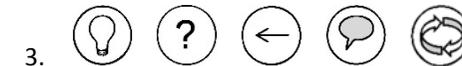
Workers are to be submissive to their boss. So long as it is not requiring you to sin, you have to do what they say, even if you don’t like it. But this is not to be reluctant obedience, but rather have as your motive the pleasure of your boss. Are they happy with you and your work? That is how it should be.

Don’t talk back. Do you grumble and complain about what you are given to do? Don’t steal from your employer – that could involve taking things that are your boss’s or stealing with sub-standard work, or stealing his reputation. Instead of these things show that you can be trusted.

Why? A sanctified life, which brings into clear perspective all the fruits of transforming grace—obedience, cheerfulness, integrity, etc.—scintillating like so many precious jewels, is an ornament to “the doctrine of God our Savior”, the Christian faith. It should cause masters to exclaim, “If the Christian religion does this even for slaves, it must be wonderful!” (Hendriksen)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How should Christian workers work?
2. Why does it matter?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 66c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to doing your work as unto the Lord, 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