

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/WkBb1](http://tiny.cc/WkBb1) or [tiny.cc/3yrBb1](http://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.*

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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** Romans 3:1-4 What advantage?

**Notes** Paul has explained in chapters 1 and 2 that both Jews and Gentiles are guilty. That leads to his opening question here. “What advantage is there to being a Jew?” There are many, the most significant is that God revealed His Word to them first. In another place God tells us through Paul that the Jews had God’s covenants of promise and citizenship in His commonwealth. (Eph 2.:12)

But this advantage carries with it a great responsibility too. In a similar way today, many are brought up with the Word of God. They have a great advantage and responsibility as well.

Have you been brought up with the Word of God, the Bible? Are you believing the gospel and submitting to God through Christ as Lord?

Many of the Jews and many brought up with the Word of God today have rejected God and His gospel. Yet God still remains faithful in spite of their unbelief. His judgement will come and will be just and true. The unbelief of any, even many, does not change the powerful gospel promises God gave – to the Jew first and also to the Gentile.

- Questions**
1. What is the advantage that the Jews had?
  2. What ways has God shown you similar advantages?
  3. What responsibility comes with those advantages?



- Praise** Psalm 18a<sup>2</sup>
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in the advantages God has given you to respond to the gospel
  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** Romans 3:27-31

**Notes** Three more questions conclude this chapter. First, what room does anyone who is saved have to boast? None at all. It is unthinkable that we might boast. If we had provided anything other than our sin to our salvation we could boast. But that is all we brought. God provided all the rest. God made us just by faith, not by our good works.

Secondly, is God only God for the Jews? Nope. Everyone who is saved, Jew or Gentile, is saved the same way. Even today some think God had one plan for the Jews and a different one for non-Jews. We all sinned and we all deserve God’s just wrath. But God brought salvation to Jew and Gentile through one gospel and one Saviour.

Finally, since we are saved by faith, do we throw out the law? Of course not. It is only when we are saved that we can really begin to keep the law. And, as saved people, we keep it because we love the God who gave it to us – first to show us how sinful we are; how much we have turned away from God, then to show us how God wants us to live. Even that law-keeping which we do as Christians we do by faith.

- Questions**
1. What room do we have to boast? Why?
  2. How many different plans of salvation does God have? What are they?
  3. What is the role of the law in connection to salvation?



- Praise** Psalm 18a
- Pray**
1. Commit your family in prayer to keep God’s law in response to His saving you by faith, with 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** Romans 3:25-26 Propitiated by Jesus' blood

**Notes** Paul isn't afraid of big words and we don't have to be either. When we come across words in the Bible we don't understand we need to study, read, ask others, etc. until we do understand them. Propitiation is a big word. And an important one.

It means to turn aside anger. If I buy flowers for my wife because I have done something to make her mad and I hope they will make her quit being angry I am buying propitiation flowers. Pagan religious ideas have a similar idea. The gods, they believe, are angry with us and we must satisfy them with our sacrifice.

But, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And "the gods" or our wives might be justly angry or might just be moody or bad-tempered. The true God is justly angry with our sin. Nothing we can do will satisfy God's requirement for perfect righteousness. We can't satisfy Him by ourselves. God provided the sacrifice Himself. "God directed toward Himself, in the person of His Son, the full weight of the wrath we deserved."<sup>4</sup>

God did this to show that He is just in punishing sinners and also just in justifying sinners who trust in His Son whom God punished for them.

- Questions**
1. What is propitiation?
  2. How does the real thing differ from how we might try to appease someone who is angry with us?
  3. How is God's justice satisfied when He forgives sinners?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 18a
1. Confess, with your family, that you deserve God's wrath. Rejoice that Christ took it for you.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

<sup>4</sup> Hughes.

**Reading** Romans 3:5-8 Is God unjust?

**Notes** Paul continues his discussion with a trio of rhetorical questions. In essence all three ask the same thing. Calvin summarised the questions this way, "If God seeks nothing else, but to be glorified by men, why does He punish them, when they offend, since by offending they glorify Him? Without cause then surely is He offended, if He derives the reason of his displeasure from that by which he is glorified."

The sense is almost that the sinner is helping God out. But, we are told, that is nonsense. In fact, by the time he gets to the third nonsense argument, Paul doesn't even give an answer but simply states "their condemnation is just." God is glorified in spite of the sinner, not by their intent. How much better that we willingly glorify God by submitting to His will and believing His gospel.

The question we should be asking is; "Is man right to sin against God?" Of course the answer to that question is no. And for those of us who have the advantages we considered yesterday we have even more reason not to sin. So, surely there are some good people after all, right? We'll have to keep reading.

- Questions**
1. What are the three questions Paul responds to?
  2. What is the answer?
  3. How do we best glorify God?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 18a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to willingly glorifying God, with His 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 3:9-20 The not so good guys

**Notes** Often when a person commits a horrible crime, friends and neighbours of the criminal express shock and surprise. “He (or she) was such a nice person.” Everybody is basically good, right?

Not exactly, God says. Not everybody is good. And, when we honestly think about it, that doesn’t surprise us. But what God fully says might. It’s not just that some people are bad – but everyone is. Not all are equally bad, but all are without exception bad. No one is good in themselves.

“Wait a minute!” we protest. “I know good people. In fact, I am a pretty good person myself.” No, you’re not. No, I’m not. “If the color of sin were blue, every aspect of us would be some shade of blue.”<sup>3</sup>

Left to ourselves we’d seek God like a driver seeks a policeman after committing a crime. Which of us can claim never to have spoken poisonous words to or about someone else? Never told a lie – even just a “little” one? Not one of us can claim to even fully keep our own standards of goodness – let alone God’s.

God’s standards – His law – shows us just how much we do and say and think wrongly. Since God demands perfection, we are all – in ourselves – doomed.

- Questions**
1. Who is good?
  2. In what ways are we not good?
  3. What does it take to be good enough?
  4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 18a
1. Rejoice with your family that God did not leave you in your badness.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Romans 3:21-24 All have sinned

**Notes** If, in fact, no one is good, as we read yesterday, then what is our hope? Or is there any? Actually there is much! And it begins with the little word, “but.” No one is good. No one can keep the law. But there is a righteousness that is sufficient.

Where does that righteousness come from? I want it. I need it! It comes from God. The whole Bible has told us about it. What at times was only hinted at is now revealed in fullness. This righteousness from God is 1) the only righteousness that is enough and 2) available for all who believe in Jesus. To believe in Jesus is to believe He was perfect, fully God who became at the same time a man. As the God-man he perfectly obeyed. He was righteous. He sought after God – always doing His will. To believe in Jesus is to believe that He offers forgiveness of all our wrongdoing if we believe in Him.

And, we’re told again in v.23 that all have sinned. This verse is often used to illustrate universal sin – a shorthand for vs 10-18. But in its immediate context it is more an argument that everyone who is saved is saved by faith in Christ. Not one single person who is justified is justified by anything other than by faith alone in Christ alone. Everyone who is (and will be) saved was a sinner who fell far short of God’s standard and God’s glory.

- Questions**
1. What is the hope for unrighteous people?
  2. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?
  3. Who is v.23 specifically talking about? And what is it saying about them?
  4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 18a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God’s righteousness is given to all who believe in Jesus.
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

<sup>3</sup> Kent Hughes - Romans