

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](http://frankstonrp.org.au) [bit.ly/WTrpcaf](http://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](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [bit.ly/WkBbl](http://bit.ly/WkBbl) or [bit.ly/3yrBbl](http://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 commentaries on Proverbs by Matthew Henry, James Smith, Derek Kidner, and notes from the HCSB Study Bible, and the Reformation Study Bible

# 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** Proverbs 10:1-3 Solomon’s Proverbs

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

After several long proverbs passages Solomon begins the short, usually 2-line, mostly unconnected statements that we often think of as proverbs. We’ll just take a proverb by proverb stroll through them this week.






V1. A constant theme in Proverbs is wise sons. How wise or foolish they are impacts their parents for good or ill. Jesus of course was the supremely wise Son and children are called to wisdom and obedience in the Lord.

V2. Even if sin leads to material profit it is tainted. As Jesus said, what does it profit a man who gains the whole world and loses His soul.

V3. We know Jesus taught us to ask God for our daily bread. The implication is, as this proverb offers, the needs will be met. We know if not in this life, these truths will be certain in the life to come. As Kidner puts it, *such sayings (v2-3) are true at four levels – logical, providential, spiritual, eternal – though the fourth is beyond the normal horizon of Proverbs.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How are sons to be and why?
2. Do the wicked ever get rich? Why/not?
3. What do we know for sure about our daily bread?

4.     

**Praise** Psalm 115a<sup>2</sup>

- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to wisdom and righteousness, 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

<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*. We encourage our congregation to sing the same selection each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

**Reading** Proverbs 10:27-32 Righteousness is the best security

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

These 6 verses also contrast the righteous with the wicked. Here the way of the righteous is the focus. Smith notes the following:

1. *The righteous have a glorious prospect (v27–28). “The fear of Yahweh prolongs days” because it is the beginning of knowledge (1:7) and of wisdom (9:10), and thus furnishes to people the correct rule of living (cf. 3:2; 9:11). The promise of long life as the reward of a believer is often found in this book, where temporal retribution is set forth...when their hope is realized they are glad.*






2. *The righteous have a glorious refuge (v29–30). Those who walk in the way which the Lord has mapped out will find courage to face difficulties in life... [They] are able to withstand both the [variations] of life and the attacks of the wicked.*

3. *The righteous have a glorious testimony (v31–32). “The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom” as a tree brings forth flowers and fruit. It has a positive influence on others... [The righteous] speaks what will please God and edify his neighbor.*

These are descriptions of righteousness by faith lived out.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the glorious prospect of the righteous?
2. What is the glorious refuge of the righteous?
3. What is the glorious testimony of the righteous?

4.     

**Praise** Psalm 115a

- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will live out your righteousness by faith, 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** Proverbs 10:22-26 God's blessing vs the wicked's folly

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

V22. *Smith notes that When one's good fortune is a blessing from God, he is free of the anxieties which ill-gotten riches create for their possessor...This proverb is clearly intended to color the interpretation of all the preceding verses. For example, Yahweh is the source of the wealth mentioned in vv. 15-16; he is the source of the "blessing" mentioned in vv. 6-7. The diligence which "makes rich" in v. 4 will not succeed without the blessing of the Lord.*

V23-26 all focus on the actions and motive of the wicked. Smith notes the following:

*The wicked sin lightly (v23). ... he finds amusement and satisfaction in that which is wrong. His moral superficiality enables him to enjoy sin. His conscience does not bother him.*






*The wicked worry correctly (v24). Though the wicked lightly carries on his evil practices, he is troubled with the thought of the retribution which awaits him.*

*The wicked are destroyed completely (v25). His life is like an unstable building which is swept away by a storm (cf. Matt 7:24).*

*The wicked offend constantly (v26). Vinegar causes irritation to the teeth just as smoke causes irritation to the eyes. Those who entrust important business to a sluggard, i.e., a lazy person, will likewise be irritated by his inability to get the job done in a timely manner.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How does God's blessing affect everything?
2. What do we learn about the wicked?
3. What do we learn about the righteous?

4.     

**Praise** Psalm 115a

- Pray**
1. Confess, with your family, your wickedness and commit to living righteously by faith
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** Proverbs 10:4-9 Outcomes now and eternally

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Though one proverb is often unconnected, we find as well, as we do here, related pairs of paired proverb statements.

V4-5. Kidner notes that *the two sayings are happily paired...You might retort to verse 4 that you are not interested in getting rich, to which verse 5 replies that if poverty is no disgrace, slackness is; and you have the good name of others to consider (son) besides your own.*






V6-7. The blessings that the righteous experience are reflected even in remembering them after their death. In contrast, the wicked are violent, then forgotten. Henry comments that *both the just and the wicked, when their days are fulfilled, must die. Between their bodies in the grave there is no visible difference; between the souls of the one and the other, in the world of spirits, there is a vast difference, and so there is, or ought to be, between their memories, which survive them.*

V8 contrasts, according to Kidner, *the obedient and the opinionated.* The RSB notes that *the wise person is teachable and receives the commands of wisdom. Fools do not know when to be silent and listen... and promote their own downfall.*

V9. Henry notes that *we are here told, and we may depend upon it, That men's integrity will be their security... That men's dishonesty will be their shame.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Should we seek riches? Why/not?
2. How does thinking eternally affect how we live now?
3. Why is it important to accept commands?

4.     

**Praise** Psalm 115a

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to living teachable, obedient lives, 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** Proverbs 10:10-15 Wisdom and folly

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

V10. Smith notes that *the winking of the eye here, as in 6:13, is a sign of craft, malice and complicity with other wicked comrades. The last half of the verse is repeated from v. 8 but is used in a different way...Here the damage done to others by the chatterer is in view.*

V11. This verse continues the theme of damage (or good) caused by our mouths. Smith calls this *enlivening vs. deadly speech*. Henry draws out other uses of the mouth than speaking – *Joab kissed and killed, Judas kissed and betrayed.*

V12. Sin and conflict will come in relationships. But our heart affects the outcome. Smith notes that *hatred stirs up strifes by focusing on faults...[while] love puts shortcomings out of sight.*






V13. Kidner notes man is either *God’s mouthpiece or God’s mule...If your mind is enlightened wisdom will overflow into your words...If [it] is closed, God will still deal with you, but by force.*

V14. The RSB notes that *the wise person, though no longer the pupil, will continue to learn...the fool is portrayed as a babbler... Knowing when to speak and when to keep silent is a prominent wisdom theme.*

V15. Kidner comments that *you may be called to forgo wealth; you must certainly rate it below honesty. But don’t affect to despise it; don’t embrace poverty out of laziness or romanticism.*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What are ways our body parts are used for good or evil?
2. How should we deal with sin and conflict? Why?
3. What are we told about wisdom/being wise in these verses?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 115a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to living wise lives, 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** Proverbs 10:16-21 Living and speaking – for good or ill

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

V16. Kidner says to *note the contrast between life and sin, underlining the spiritual connotation of the former. The lesson is that one is not to blame poverty or wealth for the quality of one’s life. A man uses his possessions according to his character.*






V17. Again the contrast between the one who learns and the one who knows it all. Henry notes *that those are in the right that do not only receive instruction, but retain it... those are in the wrong that do not only not receive instruction, but wilfully and obstinately refuse it when it is offered them.*

V18. Although most of the proverbs in this chapter are contrasts, here we see the 2<sup>nd</sup> line building on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Smith notes that *the picture is of one who professes a friendship which he does not feel. He thus becomes hypocritical in his speech. Even worse [is to spread slander] because ... sooner or later the truth will be known.*

V19-21 also deal with words – used for good or for bad. As Kidner notes, *Use them sparingly! They are worth what you are worth. (Note the parallelism between tongue and heart.) They are what you make of them. (The righteous will get nourishment enough to feed others; the fool not enough even for himself.)*

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What leads to life?
2. Rather than being hypocritical, we should just speak openly about our displeasure with someone. Right or wrong? Why?
3. How are words used for good or for bad?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 115a
1. Ask God in prayer to make your life and your words for good
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member