

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 Job by Derek Thomas and Matthew Henry

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 Job 23:1-3 Oh, that I could find Him

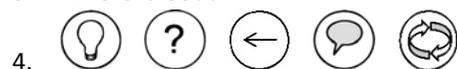
Notes Job answers (v.1) but in a sense he is not answering his critics/friends any more but appealing directly to God. As in all of the book of Job we have to sift carefully through the words.

Job admits what we readers already know – his complaint is bitter. He doesn't believe that God is, nor his friends (now critics) are, dealing with him rightly. His grief is depressing him, weighing him down, paralysing him. Some translations read "His hand is heavy on me." But these are not incompatible. It is the heavy hand of God that is weighing heavy on Job.

Although weary, Job desires to find God. He wants to make his case directly to Him. He has turned away from arguing directly with his friends and wants to make his case to God. But, he can't find Him. Where is God? I desperately need Him! He is not making the claim of the fool – God doesn't exist (Psalm 14:1). But rather the cry of a loved one for her lover (Song of Sol. 3:1-3)

We might know to some level Job's anguish. Yet we also know the fullness of God's promise in Christ that He will never leave us – that when we draw near to God, He will draw near to us – that when we seek Him, we will find Him.

- Questions**
1. How does Job measure his complaint?
 2. How are his difficulties affecting him physically?
 3. Where is God?



- Praise** Psalm 15a²
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to seek God
 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*. The same selection is sung each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading Job 23:15-17

Notes Job came to a good conclusion – God's ways are God's ways. But, then he "makes but a bad use of these good truths."³ He should have found comfort in God's control. Instead he was terrified.

But let's not be quick to condemn his fear. How like Job we are at times – even if our troubles are not as heavy as his were. But, let's resolve, with God's help, that we will trust in and find comfort in God's sovereignty.

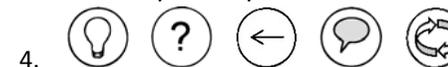
We need not fear His presence because He has loved us in Christ and perfect love casts our fear.

We need not be terrified because God is our shield.

We need not be weak in heart but rather "Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!" Psalm 27:14

Even the darkness need not cause us fear "For You will light my lamp; The LORD my God will enlighten my darkness." Psalm 18:28

- Questions**
1. What was Job's response to his realising God will do as He pleases?
 2. Why do we not need to fear?
 3. What is your only comfort in life and in death?



- Praise** Psalm 15a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will wait on the Lord and be of good courage – in good times and in bad, 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

³ Matthew Henry

Reading Job 23:13-14 His ways are His ways

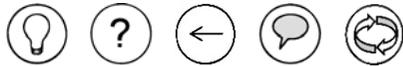
Notes What is your only comfort in life and in death? The Heidelberg Catechism answers this way. *“That I am not my Own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death- to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.”*

Job had this type of comfort. To be sure, he didn’t always find the comfort in these hard days as he needed – but he returns again here to such thoughts.

God’s ways are God’s ways. He will do what He pleases. With me – and with whatever He does. Good truths. Anchor thoughts that we should have. God’s ways are God’s ways. The prophet Isaiah will later say, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (55:8–9)

Such words should comfort, as Heidelberg teaches. Is Job comforted? We’ll have to keep reading...

- Questions**
1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?
 2. What was Job sure of?
 3. What do we know about God’s ways and God’s thoughts?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 15a
1. Confess, with your family, that God’s ways are higher than your ways – and find comfort in His ways.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Job 23:1-7 I’ll make my case

Notes Job longs to find God. If he could find God, he could make his case directly to Him, rather than to his critics/friends. Yet, of course, he can. We can. God permits us to bring our complaints and petitions to Him. Often, though, we do anything but.

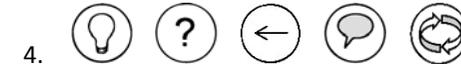
And, Job has a confidence that he will later lose. He is confident he could make – and win – his case before God. He is already thinking through all the words he will use to make his argument. And, he longs to hear God’s direct reply. Later (38-41) he will get what he asks for.

His confidence and hope is that God is a just judge – and that God will do what is right. When things don’t seem right, what other hope can we have?

Job knows life is hard. But he also knows God is in control. And, the things that don’t make sense now will make sense if and when I can hear about them from God. There is a court of heaven – in that heavenly court justice will prevail!

The world can only offer, “life is hard, then you die.” God says, “you die, and then comes judgment.” (Heb. 9.27) For the righteous, like Job, and like us if we are trusting Christ, that judgment will not bring condemnation.

- Questions**
1. What was Job going to do if he could find God?
 2. Can we make our case (for anything) before God? How?
 3. What happens at the end of our lives?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 15a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to “filling your mouth” with words to God, 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 Job 23:8-9 I don't understand!

Notes Do you understand why the things that happen to you do? Even if you are sure God is in control are His ways often a mystery to you? So it was with Job.

He is perplexed that he cannot see where God is or what He is doing. "I look forward and backwards," he says, "and side to side. But I can't find Him." He desired to appear before God as Judge – but God was nowhere to be found. Surely Job knew that God is everywhere present – but he wanted a specific indication where God was in his (Job's) circumstances.

If he could just find God he might have at least a clue to the mystery of God's providences in his life – might have some indication of how long things would continue as they are. Such a desire is good. There is nothing wrong with seeking to find God and understand His workings.

But, we must realise, as Job had to, that God's ways are not always clear to us. We will never serve as God's counsellor – he doesn't need to clear His plans with us first. At times, like Job, we might look for God in His working in our lives and come up empty handed.

Yet we also must know God is near to His people. Even when we are not aware of His presence He is close to us. He tells us He will never leave us nor forsake us. (Deut. 31:6)

- Questions**
1. Where did Job look for God? Did he find Him?
 2. If we can't see God does that mean he is far from us?
 3. What does God promise to His people?



4.

Praise Psalm 15a

Pray

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seeking to find God at work in your lives, 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 Job 23:10-12 God's test. Job's results.

Notes Even though Job could not find God anywhere during these trials, he was confident God could see Him. And, he seemed to understand that God was testing Him. And, this test, as hard as it has been, will be for his good. In fact, he says he will come from the test as gold. "I don't know what's happening; but He knows!" And, the Judge of all the earth will do what is right!

In addition to his confidence that God is at work in this trial, Job resolves that he will follow God's ways. What an important conviction to build in our hearts *before* trouble comes. I'll not take the Devil's shortcuts – I'll keep walking with God even when I don't understand what is happening nor why.

And, how do we know God's ways? How did Job know God's ways? From God's own commands. God has not left us to just try to figure out what pleases Him. He has given us His Word. That word, Job says, must be more precious to us than our necessary food.

How precious is God's word to you? Are you treasuring it in good times and in bad? Do you realise your life is in "every word that proceeds from the mouth of God?" (Deut. 8.3) Do you hold it in highest regard? Long for it? Delight in it? Only then can we begin to make sense of evil days.

- Questions**
1. What did Job understand God to be doing?
 2. How did he think he would do in this test?
 3. What 2 things was he committed to?



4.

Praise Psalm 15a

Pray

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God's precious word is a sure guide to your lives
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member