

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 2 Samuel by Gordon Keddie, John Calvin, and the NIV Study Bible Notes

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 2 Samuel 7:1-3 Do what is in your heart

Notes
(See back page for authors)






David was now settled into his kingship. He had been given victory over his enemies. *The stability and prosperity achieved by David in finally removing the threat of Philistine incursion into the promised land and also in rooting out the last pockets of Canaanite influence represent fulfilment of the covenant promises. Now some substance is given to the covenant summary, "I will be your God and our will be my people."* (Keddie)

In this peace, David's heart turns to God's honour, not his own comfort. He was concerned with the state of God's house. The tabernacle – God's designed tent where He met with His people – was some 450 years old. Centuries of wear and tear had moved David to desire to build God a more permanent house.

Seeking wise counsel, David shares his heart with Nathan, the prophet, who encourages him to do what his heart longs to do. When God's people are walking faithfully with God, following our heart is not a bad thing. Sometimes, like this time, as we'll see, God's word directs otherwise. And God's word must always have the last word.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Where did David's heart turn in his time of peace?
2. How does Nathan's counsel instruct our hearts today?
3. What is the essence of God's covenant with his people?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 68b², 89a³
1. Ask God to direct the thoughts and intents of your heart
 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

³ However, Psalm 89 is in a sense a commentary on 2 Samuel 7, so have added it this week

Reading 2 Samuel 7:25-29 God, keep your promises!

Notes
(See back page for authors)

David concludes this praise and prayer by asking God to keep His promises. Although at first this may seem inappropriate, we find throughout the Bible that God's people pray on the basis of what God has promised – seeking that He will do as He has promised. *The promises of God are, as Charles Simeon has said, 'our warrant for asking' and 'our security for receiving.'* (Keddie)






We see the author of Psalm 89 praying, as God directs his heart to review His covenant with David, that God will keep His promises. *Lord, where are the former acts of Your faithful love that You swore to David in Your faithfulness? Remember, Lord, the ridicule against Your servants— in my heart I carry abuse from all the peoples.* Psalm 89:49–50 (HCSB) We too would do well to know, to remember, and to pray on the basis of God's promises to His people.

Notice in v27 that this prayer does not merely come from David's lips, but from his heart. *That prayer which is found in the tongue only will not please God; it must be found in the heart; the heart must be lifted up and poured out before God.* (Henry)

When God makes His promises and God's people know His promises and prayerfully plead with God to keep His promises He is glorified and we are blessed.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why does David ask God to keep His promises?
2. Where should our prayers come from? Why don't they at times?
3. What promises of God are you praying?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 68b, 89fg
1. Pray with your family that you will remember and that God will keep His promises
 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 2 Samuel 7:20-24 There is none like You, O Lord God

Notes
(See back page for authors)

David continues in praise and worship before God. He acknowledges that God has known him and chosen to place his favour on him. *The promises of the covenant of grace are framed by Him that knows us, and therefore knows how to adapt them to every branch of our necessity. He knows us better than we know ourselves; and therefore let us be satisfied with the provision He has made for us. What can we say more for ourselves in our prayers than He has said for us in His promises?* (Henry)






This covenant promise is again voiced by David in its essence – “You have made us Your people, You have become our God.” (v24) It is on the basis of this covenant that God deals graciously with His people. *Israel’s uniqueness did not consist in her national achievements but in God’s choice of her to be His own people.* (NIV)

Only because of this covenant mercy was there anything to note about Israel. Only because of this covenant mercy was there anything to note about David. Only because of this covenant mercy is there anything to note about us.

Yet the thing that this covenant mercy causes us to note most is that our God is great. There is only One God and He is our God. Are we praising and worshipping this, the only true God? Are we declaring His greatness to Him, to ourselves, and to the world around us?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the essence of God’s covenant relationship with us?
2. Why did God choose to place His favour on His people?
3. What is the right response to God’s greatness?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 68b, 89e
1. Confess, with your family, your commitment to proclaim the greatness of God to him, to each other, and to the world
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Samuel 7:4-11 God will plant His people

Notes
(See back page for authors)






Now, we find Nathan bringing God’s Word to bear on David’s heart’s desires – as we must always do. *David’s purpose to build God a house is superseded. God took notice of that purpose, for he knows what is in man; and he was well pleased with it, as appears 1 Ki. 8:18, Thou didst well that it was in thy heart; yet he forbade him to go on with his purpose.* (Henry) In those days of old God spoke at various times and in various ways through the prophets (Heb 1:1). Now we have His Son’s Word, the completed Bible, to search, along with wise and godly counsellors, so as to examine and direct our heart’s desires.

God is aware, of course, of His people’s wanderings. He has moved with them in His tent. And, He has not yet required that they build Him a permanent house. And, in the worship of God, *we must be content to do His will as He has specifically revealed it and not add things, however good they may seem to us to be in themselves.* (Keddie)

So, God reveals that He is in the process of planting His people in this promised land, and securing for them peace from their enemies. He had called David to the Kingship from the sheep paddocks for this purpose. And God will complete His purpose for His people – the work He has begun in us, He will bring to completion. (Phil 1:6)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How should we examine and direct our hearts’ desires?
2. What are we to do in worshipping God?
3. What will God do with the word that He begins in His people?

4.     

Praise Pray






- Psalm 68b, 89b
1. Rejoice that God is always with His people and will complete His work
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Samuel 7:11b-17 God will make David a house

Notes (See back page for authors)
Now, the tables are turned. *In a beautiful play on words God says that David is not to build Him a house (temple), rather God will build David's house (royal dynasty) that will last forever.* (NIV) David's son is the one who will build God's house.

We know, in looking forward from David in history, that Solomon will be the one who builds the temple at God's direction. Yet we also know that he, and his descendants, sinned against God time and time again. And, as God promised here, they were disciplined by God's hand. Yet God is promising David an eternal dynasty so that David's house, and David's throne, and David's kingdom would be established forever.

Of course, we now know, as Paul Harvey would say, "the rest of the story." For it was indeed David's Son who would be the One God would use to build David's everlasting house. He would be the One on whom God would declare His Sonship (Matt 3:17, Heb 1:5) He would be – He is the One who would not commit any wrong, yet who would be punished with the rod of men and beaten with human hands. Even more, He would be rejected by His Father, and punished for the sins of David's believing sons and daughters so that we might inherit His eternal kingdom.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Who would build whose house?
 2. What is promised about David's house God would build?
 3. How has Jesus fulfilled these promises as David's Son?
 4.     






- Praise Pray** Psalm 68b, 89c
1. Rejoice with your family that God has built His eternal house in Jesus and given you a place in it
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Samuel 7:18-19 God's usual way of dealing with men

Notes (See back page for authors)
David's response to God's promise to build his house is humble praise. He came before God, probably in the same tent he had desired to replace. He sat there in God's presence and prayed. *He begins to pray by confessing the basis of his approach to the Lord. This is that God is sovereign and full of grace. With a humility appropriate to the Lord's most recent dealings with him, he acknowledges the Lord's goodness to his family both with respect to the past and the future.* (Keddie) Do we reflect this appropriate humility whenever we sit (or stand or kneel or lie) before the Lord to pray? Do we *begin as one astonished* (Henry) by God's grace?

The phrase at the end of v19 is variously translated as a question or a statement. When translated as a question the implied, "Yes," answer confirms the same truth. "This is a revelation for mankind, Lord GOD." (HCSB) *What he means is that since we are by nature so deserving of divine judgment, then the blessings he is receiving are unutterably 'unusual', in that they are all of undeserved favour, i.e. free grace. They are above and beyond what we might normally expect!* (Keddie)

Of course, although "unusual" in the sense of "undeserved" this is indeed God's way of dealing with His people. David didn't, and we don't deserve God's kindness and God's eternal Kingdom.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How did David approach God in response to His promise?
 2. When we pray, do we being as one astonished by grace?
 3. What is God's way of dealing with mankind?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 68b, 89d
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in God's way of grace
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member