

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, Matthew Henry, 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

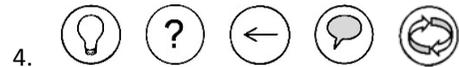
Reading 2 Samuel 11:26-27 (11:1-27) Displeasing the Lord

Notes (See back page for authors)
David, God’s choice for the king over Israel... David, God’s choice for a covenant relationship that points to Jesus... David, a man after God’s heart... David, the sweet singer of Israel... David, the adulterer... David, the murderer...

Nearly everyone who knows anything about the Bible knows about David and Bathsheba. (If you don’t, then read all of chapter 11). David, when he would normally be leading his army, instead was idle at home, saw a woman, desired her, took her intimately to himself, got her pregnant, brought her husband home from the war to cover up his sin, then when the husband wouldn’t be intimate with his wife because his mates were fighting the war ordered his death in the battle.

Now, after a suitable time of Bathsheba’s mourning, David takes her as his wife. Maybe no one will calculate how soon after the wedding the baby comes. It seems all is well – maybe he got away with it after all. Or maybe not. “The thing that David had done displeased the Lord.” God, in His mercy, will not leave His people in their sin. The story is not nearly over.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What was God’s response to David’s sin?
 2. What had David done to displease the Lord?
 3. What happens when we try to cover up our sin?



- Praise** Psalm 69a²
- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to flee from sin, 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 2 Samuel 12:24-25 Peace and Love from God

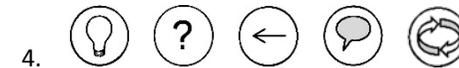
Notes (See back page for authors)
The Lord did not leave David and Bathsheba in their grief and loss. The God who demands perfect obedience has received it for all His people through the perfect Messiah. Though for David this Jesus, the Christ, was yet to come, God brings His blessings to David now. Though their union had begun in sin and had received God’s strong discipline, the peace and love of God would now be strongly shown.

Another child was born. *They called him Solomon—peaceful, because his birth was a token of God’s being at peace with them, because of the prosperity which was entailed upon him, and because he was to be a type of Christ, the prince of peace.* (Henry)

This son would not be the ancestor of Christ – that honour would be for another of Bathsheba’s sons aptly named Nathan (1 Chron 3:5, Luke 3:31). Yet even so this son would foreshadow that son as God gave him a second name – Jedidiah. *And, in this name, he typified Jesus Christ, that blessed Jedidiah, the son of God’s love, concerning whom God declared again and again, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* (Henry)

Life goes on. But *life does not merely ‘go on’! It goes on to a God-ordained goal that overflows with blessing for those He is saving from sin to be His own people!* (Keddie) Do you know this blessing – this peace and love from God?

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What is significant about this child’s name, Solomon?
 2. What is significant about this child’s name, Jedidiah?
 3. How can a sinner have peace and love from God?



- Praise** Psalm 69a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will know God’s peace and love
 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 12:15-23 I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Nathan leaves, and God brought a severe illness to the child born of Bathsheba. Even though David was forgiven, he was (and so was his wife) to be disciplined by His loving heavenly Father.

As the child lay sick, David pleaded with the Lord that the child might yet live. *He knew that the Lord often proclaimed judgement in order all the more to show his compassion to those who call on Him and plead for Him to answer in terms of His mercy. No matter how inevitable some future eventuality may seem, we are never prohibited from praying that the Lord would arrest it and return a blessing... He is the hearer of prayer.* (Keddie)

Yet the child did die, as God had promised. David's servants were afraid to tell him because he was so overwhelmed with grief as he prayed for the child to live. Yet they must have been surprised to see David's response when he heard the news. David submitted by faith to the judgement of the Lord. Having mourned and pleaded, David now worshipped. No matter what your grief, no matter what your trouble, there is no better response than to go the house of the Lord and worship!

David holds hope in His covenant keeping God that he will be reunited with this child. All through the Bible God promises to be God to His people and their descendants. So His people hope for even the salvation of infants who die – not on the basis of some "innocence" but on the basis of God's electing grace.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How did David respond while the child was sick? Why?
2. How did David respond when the child died? Why?
3. What is the basis for our hope in our children's salvation?

4.     

Praise Psalm 69a, 51b

- Pray**
1. Plead with your family for God's electing grace be on them all
 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 12:1-6 There were two men...

Notes
(See back page for authors)

"Then the Lord sent Nathan to David." *The Great King sends his emissary to rebuke and announce judgment on the king He had enthroned over His people.* (NIV) God, in His mercy, will not leave His people in their sin. Although some months had passed – maybe even longer, the story is not nearly over.

How was David going during this time? Had he seared his conscience so much that he rarely, if ever, thought of his guilt? Or did his words in Psalm 32:3-4 capture this time in his life? *We may well suppose his comforts and the exercises of his graces were suspended, and his communion with God interrupted; during all that time, it is certain, he penned no psalms, his harp was out of tune, and his soul like a tree in winter, that has life in the root only.* (Henry) How is your soul? Your communion with God?

God would not let him remain in that unconvicted and unconfessed condition. So, he sent Nathan to confront him. Nathan came with a story rather than direct confrontation. A rich man callously took the pet lamb of a poor man to make a meal for visiting friends rather than taking one from his own flock.

David burned with anger at this story. We are often most angry with the sins in others that are most like the sins we won't acknowledge within ourselves.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why did God send Nathan to David?
2. What happens when we try to cover up our sin?
3. How did David respond to Nathan's story? Why?

4.     

Praise
Pray

Psalm 69a, 32c

1. Rejoice with your family that God will not leave you in your sin. Ask God to reveal your sin by His Spirit and His Word.
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 12:7-12 You are the man!

Notes
(See back page for authors)

In response to David’s angry judgment of the rich man, Nathan pronounces David’s guilt, “You are the man!” You are the one who has taken from your poor neighbour what was not yours. You are the one who has despised the goodness and kindness – even the commandment of the Lord. *This is the spring and this is the malignity of sin, that it is making light of the divine law and the law-maker; as if the obligation of it were weak, the precepts of it trifling, and the threats not at all formidable.* (Henry)

Rather than responding to God’s kindness and appointment with love and obedience, David took advantage of his power, ignored God and His word, and would now pay the heavy price. *David’s sentence of fourfold retribution against that man (v6) came true in his own experience. As a result of his engineering Uriah’s death, David lost four of his sons.* (NIV – see v19, 13:32-33, 18:14, 1 Ki 2:24-25) Also, David’s adultery would be paid back in greater measure – his secret sin to be judged by a public sin against him and his wives.

How difficult a task to confront another for their sin. *How costly it is to rebuke from God’s Word and to work lovingly for the repentance and restoration of the wayward! This is, of course, of the essence of pastoral oversight – applying the disciplines of the Word of God in the lives of the people of God.* (Keddie)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Nathan’s pronouncement against David?
2. What would be God’s discipline of David?
3. What are the difficulties of confronting another for their sin?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 69a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to respond to God’s kindness with loving obedience, 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 2 Samuel 12:13-15 I have sinned against the Lord

Notes
(See back page for authors)

David’s sin is exposed – but not merely to God, not even merely to Nathan. David’s sin is exposed to himself. And his response is not one of excuses nor of continued denial. Rather it is, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Although David sinned greatly against Uriah and Bathsheba, he understood that ultimately it was against God that he had sinned (Psalm 51:3-4)

How rare it is for any sinner unreservedly to accept rebuke! The more usual response, even in the few cases where culpability is admitted, is to reserve a portion of blame for someone else, or else offer mitigating factors to reduce the degree of guilt. ‘Well, you have a point, but...,’ we stammer, ‘I didn’t intend things to work out that way...’ (Keddie)

And, Nathan quickly pronounces God’s forgiveness. “The Lord has put away your sin. You shall not die.” No words can be sweeter to hear! “The Lord has put away your sin.” And put it away He does – as far as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:12 God puts our sin away from repentant sinners because He put it on Christ. (Isaiah 53:6) Are you a repentant and forgiven sinner?

Yet even forgiven sinners may well face consequences for their sin. God, though He forgives, disciplines those He loves. David would not die for his sin, but the child, born of this adultery and murder that would cause God’s enemies to blaspheme, would die.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was David’s response to his sin?
2. What does God do with the sin of a repentant sinner?
3. Why did the child die if David was forgiven?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 69a, 51a
1. Acknowledge with your family that you have sinned against God, repent, and rejoice that you are forgiven
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member