

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 Leviticus by John Calvin 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

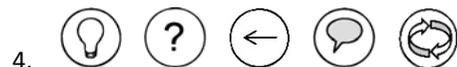
Reading Leviticus 19:1-8 Be holy for I am holy

Notes We considered earlier that Leviticus is concerned with the topic of how sinful people can be accepted by a Holy God. Much of the book is filled with descriptions of God’s ways of making sinners who repent to be at one with Him.

But chapter 19 deals with behaviour. But, as always is the case in the Bible, moral behaviour is not the means to, but the result of, being forgiven for sin and made right with God. And the result of salvation by grace is always good works. God is the standard, not us. Verse 2 sums it up. “Be holy,” God says, “because I am holy.” And, this is the New Testament law as well, as Peter repeats this in 1 Peter 1:15-16.

The other reason given for holy living is, “I am the Lord your God.” Forty-five verses in Leviticus remind the reader, “I (God) am the Lord.” Count this week to see how many times “I am the Lord” shows up in this chapter. This reminder of God as the eternal promise making and promise keeping God is a powerful incentive to holiness. Are you striving after holiness in the grace of the Lord your God?

- Questions**
1. How are sinners made holy?
 2. How do sinners that are made holy live?
 3. What is to be the standard of our holiness?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 21a²
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to pursuing holiness, 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*. The same selection is sung each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading Leviticus 19:32-37 I am the Lord your God

Notes We close the chapter with a section that is not as difficult as those just before it. Honour the elderly – it’s not just good manners, it pleases God. And it is less and less remembered in our culture today.

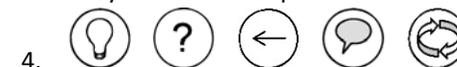
Treat strangers with kindness - remembering God’s kindness to you. What strangers do you regularly come into contact with? How are you showing God’s kindness to them?

Be just in all your dealings. When you buy and sell, work and play, do people know you as one who is just – who does what is right? Or do you cheat? Are you willing to compromise right and wrong for a financial benefit? God sets himself against all evil and illicit means of gain. “I (God) am the Lord your God.”

Over and over we are reminded that the God who has made a way for our sins to be atoned for has a way for us to live. Saved by faith. Saved to do good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Let’s seek to better understand all God’s statutes and God’s judgments. As we do, let’s seek to better perform them because He is our Lord.

- Questions**
1. What laws are given in this section?
 2. How might we keep them today?
 3. Why should we keep God’s laws?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 21a
1. Pray that you and your family will understand and do all God has commanded, 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 Leviticus 19:26-31 More hard laws

Notes Again, we are reminded that some parts of the Bible are less plain than others. And, that we need to be sure we consider the context in which we find certain teachings.

Many of these practices seem to be a reflection of the false worship practices of the nations around Israel. Divination (witchcraft or sorcery) is clearly of the Evil one and not of God. Seeking communion with the dead is also forbidden.

But how about tattoos? Although there seem to be some good reasons to avoid this “fashion” trend today, it’s hard to be sure that v. 28 is the absolute prohibition we might prefer. It’s hard if for no other reason than the difficulty in being sure what exactly is forbidden in v. 27 as the immediate context. Again there seems to be here a connection to the practices of the nations around Israel. The ways of the wicked are never to be the ways in which God’s people walk. (Psalm 1:1)

(Regarding tattoos, one pastor writes that when he counsels a young person who wants to get a tattoo he asks about their heart in the decision – their motives, their parents’ wishes, their contentment, their view of modesty and dishonourable nakedness. Wrestling with those thoughts should produce a better outcome than merely pointing to this verse.)

- Questions**
1. What are some obvious practices of the wicked today which Christians should avoid?
 2. How many times are we reminded in these verses, “I am the Lord”?

3.     

Praise Psalm 21a

Pray

1. Confess, with your family, the difficulty in understanding some of the Bible. Ask God to guide you.
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Leviticus 19:9-14 You shall not steal, nor lie

Notes One of the difficulties in Old Testament law-code is understanding which laws governed Israel as a nation, which were part of the ceremonial system completed in Christ, and which laws are lasting moral commands. This chapter seems to have all 3 mixed in together. But even those civil laws for Israel as a nation are instructive to us. We may no longer be bound, for instance, to the specific gleaning laws, but it’s easy for us to understand the context of right living toward our neighbour.

Don’t steal from them. Don’t lie to them. Don’t deal falsely. Don’t cheat them. Don’t rob them. Don’t mock those less blessed. And, why not? Because “I am the Lord.”

It’s easy to read lists like these and quickly say, “Oh, I never do such things.” But instead we should take time to consider carefully our heart and our words and our actions. Generally God gives us prohibitions because left to ourselves we would tend to do those things.

Why else does bullying take place – physical, verbal, and now – cyber-bullying? Why do we have more lawyers than doctors? Why are our jails and prisons overcrowded? Because, unlike God, left to ourselves, we are not holy and we cause harm rather than good.

- Questions**
1. What things are we not to do to our neighbour? Why not?
 2. Is not doing bad things to others enough? Why or why not?
 3. How many times are we reminded in these verses, “I am the Lord”?

4.     

Praise Psalm 21a

Pray

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to treat others with kindness and justice, 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 Leviticus 19:15-18 Love your neighbour as yourself

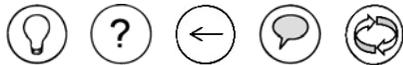
Notes Jesus tells us in the New Testament that the second greatest commandment is “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” This great command, which many see as summarising the 2nd half of the ten commandments comes from verse 18. Before you read this chapter, did you know that? This is good reminder not to think certain parts of God’s word are not valuable to us today. All scripture is God-breathed and useful.

This section continues on from the last – with specific commands how not to act toward our neighbour, but with additional positive commands as well. Judge them in righteousness. Rebuke in love. Love your neighbour. And, how? As we already love our self.

The things that we want for ourselves, the treatment we prefer, the wants and needs we want (and need) met: all those are to be the measure of how we are doing at loving our brother and loving our neighbour. And, again, the motive and means for doing good in this way is that the Lord is our God.

And, as always, God is concerned not just with our actions, but also with our heart. In our secret thoughts do we love – or do we hate our brother and our neighbour? It’s easy to claim, “I don’t hate my brother/neighbour.” But, do our actions match up?

- Questions**
1. What negative commands are given here?
 2. What positive commands are given here?
 3. How does what is in our heart show up?



4.

- Praise Pray** Psalm 21a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to love your brother and your neighbour, 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 Leviticus 19:19-25 Hard Laws

Notes The Westminster Confession reads: *All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all: yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.* WCF 1:7

These verses are neither plain nor clear. But they are from God and are useful to us. Some writers think cross-breeding animals and plants was imitating the nations around Israel in their worship practices. Others believe they were a particular reminder that Israel was to be physically separate from the nations around them.

And clearly God cares about sexual morality. Even when we struggle to understand the role of concubines and the differing punishments for sexual sin we can see that it offends our Holy God. Yet even for offensive sins, God provides a means of atonement

Finally, in this section, there are prohibitions against harvesting fruit trees too early. Is the practice of the first three years merely wise horticulture? Perhaps. And the fourth year offered to the Lord challenges us to consider what we give to the Lord and at what cost to us. Hard laws, but worth thinking about.

- Questions**
1. What three different situations were laws given for here?
 2. What do we know about all things in the Bible?
 3. What should we do when we don’t understand the Bible?



4.

- Praise Pray** Psalm 21a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God’s word is plain enough for your salvation
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member