

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, the NIV Study Bible Notes, and the Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC)

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 23:1-2 David's Last Words

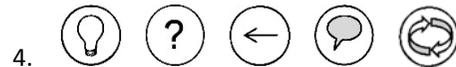
Notes Famous last words. Often the last words of people famous and not so famous are remembered far after their death. Often in the Bible God has preserved the final or near final words of His people. Here we find David's last public words at least. Whether he spoke these words before or after his final words to his son, Solomon, as recorded in 2 Kings 2:1-9 is uncertain.

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David's words follow his expression of God's strength, safety, and deliverance in chapter 22 (and Psalm 18). It is fitting that Israel's beloved king is remembered as the sweet Psalmist of Israel. No writer of praise songs for God's people to use in worship can claim the same divine authorship as David and the other Biblical song-writers. And, although Biblical songs are scattered throughout the Bible, no other collection can claim the same divine gathering and ordering as the Book of Psalms. Why would God's people think they could find any better words of praise?

What will your last words be? *Let those that have had long experience of God's goodness and the pleasantness of wisdom, when they come to finish their course, leave a record of that experience and bear their testimony to the truth of the promise.* (Henry)

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Why does God record some final words of His people?
 2. What were Jesus' last words (from memory)?
 3. What unique claim did David make about the Psalms?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 70a²
1. Thank God for David's songs for us to sing and for his last words
 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 1 Kings 2:10-12 So, David rested with his fathers...

Notes And now came the end for the sweet psalmist of Israel. Having reigned over Israel for forty years, and now having died, David was buried in his city, Jerusalem. He had captured this city in war with the Jebusites (2 Sam 5:6-10) Here his tomb would be known even to the people of Jesus' day (Acts 2:29)

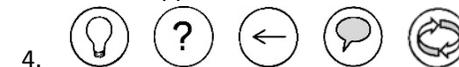
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His epitaph may be taken from 2 Sa. 23:1. Here lies David the son of Jesse, the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, adding his own words (Ps. 16:9), My flesh also shall rest in hope. (Henry)

WLC 84 Shall all men die? Death being threatened as the wages of sin, it is appointed unto all men once to die; for that all have sinned.

WLC 86 What is the communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death? The communion in glory with Christ which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls...

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Why do all men die?
 2. Why could David say his flesh would rest in hope?
 3. What happens when believers die?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 70a
1. Pray that you and your family will live well and die well, 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 1 Kings 2:1-4 I go the way of all the earth...

Notes
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We will now briefly come to the other recording of the last words of David. No controversy exists between the public last works of David in 2 Samuel and these private, to his son, last words. David knows death is near, that he will go as everyone on earth, but 3, has gone or will go. (But 3? Enoch (Gen 5:24, Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) and Jesus, who died, was raised to life, and ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9))

As he faces death, David desires to leave final instructions to Solomon. This was not the first time he had given Solomon these instructions. But this would be the last. In these last words he exhorts Solomon to be a man.

What is a real man, then? It is one who walks in God's ways and relies of God's promises. Although David does not here, as in 2 Sam 23, use the word covenant, he certainly refers to God's covenant promises and covenant relationship with His people. As much as David encouraged Solomon to, as much as Solomon might have wanted to, he would not be the one who would walk before God in truth with all his heart and all his soul.

No, only David's Greater Son, Jesus, would walk entirely pleasingly and truthfully before God. So, as for Solomon, it is for us to walk before God in obedience having first trusted in God for salvation through Jesus' perfect obedience for us.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why do all men die?
2. What is a real man?
3. How can we walk in truth before God?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 70a
1. Confess, with your family, your commitment to walk in truth before God by faith in Jesus
 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 23:3-4 He who rules over men...

Notes
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In these final words, David pens a *prophetic postscript to the preceding psalm (22:1-51) and perhaps to all those inspired songs penned by David in which the kingship of Christ is the focus.* (Keddie)

How fitting those Psalms speak of Christ as the ultimate king and ruler of men. David writes that the one who rules over men must be just, must fear God, and is to shine like the morning light. Yet how often do we despair of finding such rulers over men. *In brief and vivid strokes David portrays the ideal theocratic king – to be fully realised only in the rule of great David's greater Son, Jesus Christ.* (NIV)

With application to Christ, the Son of David, [this] must all be taken as a prophecy, and the original will bear it: There shall be a rule among men, or over men, that shall be just, and shall rule in the fear of God, that is, shall order the affairs of religion and divine worship according to his Father's will; and he shall be as the light to the morning, etc., for he is the light of the world, and as the tender grass, for he is the branch of the Lord, and the fruit of the earth, Isa. 11:1-5; 32:1, 2; Ps. 72:2. (Henry)

Even while we wait, as David did, to see this final just ruler, let any of us who have responsibility over others seek, by God's grace, to rule justly and in the fear of God.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who is the just ruler over men? How do we know?
2. How is this just ruler pictured here in David's last words?
3. How should those who have leadership duties rule?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 70a
1. Pray that you will lead your family justly and in the fear of God
 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 23:5 It is not so – or – Is it not so?

Notes
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The first phrase of verse 5 is translated in two general ways that seem to be opposite of each other. In the NKJV, “Although my house is not so with God...”, while in the ESV, “For does not my house stand so with God...”. Why the difference? It is a translation issue, not a text issue. In other words there is not a question about what words David used here, but about what exactly those words mean. It is better translated, “It is not so...” – or – “Is it not so?” The tension actually captures well the tension in the reality of our relationship with God by His covenant.

What true believer will not admit that even though my life left to myself is not what it should be with God, He has made a covenant with me. At the same time, by faith, a true believer can say, God sees me as righteous – as I should be – because He has made a covenant with me.

God’s covenant is the key. God’s work is the source of our righteousness and our hope for salvation. His covenant, that stands forever, has made it so, is making it increasingly so, and will make it so. This *covenant relates to the salvation of a ruined world by the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus.* (Keddie)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. On what basis did God make a covenant with David?
2. Because of His covenant how did God view David?
3. Because of His covenant, how does God view us?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 70a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to delight in and walk in covenant with God, 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 2 Samuel 23:6-7 Sons of rebellion

Notes
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David had expressed his hope and the hope for his house in God’s covenant relationship with him. Now he makes clear that not all are sons of the covenant. Even the rebellious ones will come to an end. Even they will meet the true and living God.

If David’s song ends on this dismal note, it is only the Lord’s way of driving home the point that He alone is able to save His people and that His covenant is no mere option for a more meaningful life, but is the great divide between the saved and the unsaved, in time and for all eternity. There is a window of grace, for the moment, through which the Lord is calling men and women to repent, believe in Christ and receive eternal life. But the time is short and death will make our decision final. The solemnity of the warning against intransigent unbelievers calls us to prepare to meet or God and highlights all the more brilliantly the joy and security of those who love the Lord and are resting upon His everlasting arms. (Keddie)

Are you ready? Are you calling others to be ready?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What happens to believers when they die?
2. What happens to unbelievers when they die?
3. How should we who believe in Christ, live?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 70a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Christ provides rescue and redemption for all who trust in Him
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member