

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?

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*Worshipping Together* is part of the vision and is a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Frankston, Victoria, Australia. [frankston.rpca.org.au](http://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](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [tiny.cc/WkBb1](http://tiny.cc/WkBb1) or [tiny.cc/3yrBb1](http://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 1 Corinthians by Simon Kistemaker and Derek Prime

# 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.*

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\* 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

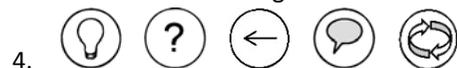
**Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 From Paul the Apostle

**Notes** Paul begins this first letter to the church at Corinth (in modern-day Greece) by identifying himself. He could have used one of several different identifications including; slave of Jesus, missionary, and pastor-teacher. But he uses his most common greeting identification – an Apostle of Jesus Christ. Paul does not make this formal, sent-authority claim out of pride. Later in this book (15:8-9) he states that he was the last and the least of the apostles. He understood his was not a voluntary service – he was bought by His Lord and called to His service.

As he also often does, Paul identifies by name one of his partners in the gospel, Sosthenes. Sosthenes may have been the synagogue ruler at Corinth, with the same name, who was beaten (Acts 18.17), although we don't know for sure. He was clearly known to the church in Corinth and although not an apostle was a brother in Christ and in Christ's service.

And, Paul greets this church with Grace and Peace. Such a greeting is also common with Paul. Grace is always first, Peace is always second. As we receive God's grace through Jesus, we come to experience God's peace.

- Questions**
1. How does Paul identify himself in this letter?
  2. Why was Paul an apostle?
  3. With what did Paul greet the church?



- Praise** Psalm 22a<sup>2</sup>
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family if you know God's grace and peace
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</sup> 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

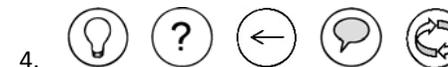
**Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 You're not much – but you are in Jesus

**Notes** You didn't become a Christian because you were smart, nor powerful, nor born of a regal line. You became a Christian in spite of whatever you were. And, God will not save those who think their birth status or intellect or strength is the means of salvation. Rather God saves those who often are seen by the world as weak, foolish, nothings.

Such teaching humbles us. We can never pretend in ourselves we are something – especially in the presence of God. But humbling is not the same as humiliating. The reason it is not humiliating is that God chooses to save these people who are weak and foolish and looked down on by the world. Many times the options are stark in their respective eternal value. Which would you prefer – prestige from the world or salvation from God?

It seems the Corinthians had forgotten this. They wanted it both ways – to glory in human achievements and status and to have Christ. And, even to boast in their relationship to Christ depending on which preacher they followed. God says, in effect, through Paul, "Enough. Boast in God alone." *Should there be anyone who wishes to boast, he can do so only by boasting in the Lord and by giving thanks to God the Father for the person and work of Christ.* (Kistemaker)

- Questions**
1. What are not reasons why God saved you?
  2. What does the world think of Christians?
  3. How can we boast in the Lord?



- Praise** Psalm 22a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will boast only in the Lord, 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

**Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 We preach Christ crucified

**Notes** What are the gospel claims the church makes (and which division mars)? Christ crucified. (And, all that that means.)

The world doesn't like that message. It is foolishness and a scandalous message. But no matter what they think, we must continue to proclaim that believing in Jesus crucified for you is essential to be saved, and to reject Jesus crucified is to perish.

And, we must remember that. Otherwise, we might be inclined to change the message. To offer a different message that would be easier to accept. Over the course of Church history such attempts have been made. But to change the message is to deny Jesus and to quit being His church.

So, we keep preaching the same message, and pray for the power of God to overpower the foolishness of worldly wisdom and call sinners – Jews, Greeks, Irishmen, Aussies, Americans, Africans, etc – to believe this good news and turn from their sin to Jesus as Saviour. Of course, God can do that. He did it for us. He is doing it every day for others.

As we preach this message, we do our best to respond to the objections that others may have toward the gospel. If we can't answer their intellectual arguments we should do 2 things. 1 – keep trying to learn more about God and the gospel of Jesus so we can answer them. 2 – keep praying God will powerfully save!

- Questions**
1. What does the world think of the gospel message, generally?
  2. What should we do when they have wise-sounding objections?
  3. Summarise in 1-2 minutes what "Christ crucified" means.



4.

**Praise** Psalm 22a

**Pray**

1. Confess, with your family, that you believe and will keep proclaiming Christ crucified
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 To the Church of God at Corinth

**Notes** Paul writes, as God's ambassador, to God's church. But not to the world-wide, time-unbound, "invisible" church. Rather to the local, visible, time-bound, particular, Church of God at Corinth. Such particular churches are the object of most of God's letters by Paul's hand. Note the specific identifiers of such a church.

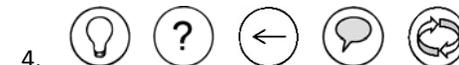
Church of God at Corinth: The Church is God's church. God the Son, Jesus, is building His church.

Those who are sanctified in Jesus: God's church is called in Jesus to be set apart, to be dedicated, to be holy. Even though Paul will address several problems in this church through this letter, it is still a letter to people Jesus is making holy.

Called to be saints: These followers of Jesus are doubly reminded of their calling to be a holy people. It is not just a title, but a description – describing "their consecration, dedication, or inclusion in the inner circle of what is holy, because of their association in some way with God" (D. Prime)

With all who call on the name of the Lord Jesus: Even though the church is local, time-bound, and particular, it is also world-wide, time-unbound, and universal. Everyone who calls on Jesus in faith and repentance is both to be a member of a local congregation and is together with the whole Church of Jesus.

- Questions**
1. To what church is this letter written?
  2. How is this church identified?
  3. Is the church local or universal?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 22a

**Pray**

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to serve Jesus in a local congregation of His church, 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** 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Thanks and Prayer

**Notes** *“For all the spiritual and material blessings that he and the recipients of his letters possess, Paul faithfully expresses thanks to God. In the opening verses of his epistles, he invariably voices words of gratitude on behalf of the people he addresses.”* (S. Kistemaker) Do we thank God for other Christians in our churches this way? We should!

What specifically does He thank God for in this prayer? For God’s grace given to them in Jesus. Salvation – by grace alone – given as a free gift. Thank God for the grace of salvation he has given to others in your congregation.

And, having saved His own, God freely gives untold riches. Not financial or material riches – but something far better – spiritual riches. These riches include understanding the gospel of Christ spoken to them. Having believed in Jesus, their salvation was visible in them. And this Jesus who saved them was making them better, changing them to be more like Him; a work He would complete so they would be blameless in “the day” (when He would take them to Heaven). If saved, as these in Corinth, we too have such hope!

- Questions**
1. What is Paul’s pattern following his greeting to churches to which he writes?
  2. What do you thank God for about your salvation?
  3. What should you thank God for about other Christians in your church?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 22a

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to give thanks for other church members, 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** 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Division in Christ?

**Notes** Paul now begins to address one of the problems in the church at Corinth – division. Jesus desires all those in His church to be just as unified as He and God the Father are! (John 17:21)

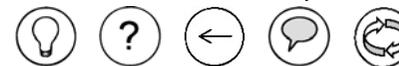
The church at Corinth wasn’t there – not nearly. Nor are we. But we must strive for that – unity of heart and mouth. Paul pleads with them to be harmonious, not divisive. Their divisions threaten to tear the church apart, something we see far too often.

The church at Corinth was divided over what church leaders they preferred. Some were Paul’s followers, some Peter’s, some Apollos’s. But as they fought for who to follow, they forgot Jesus. Who is Paul, or Apollos, or Peter? Only servants of Jesus. It is Jesus we follow, not men. As churches and as churchmen and churchwomen are we following Jesus? Do our churches teach and practice what we believe Jesus calls us to teach and practice?

Paul reminds them that their baptism was not into Paul, but into Jesus (and His church). He downplays any baptisms in the Corinthian church that he had performed. It is not that baptism isn’t important – it is a required obedience of those in the visible church – but who does the baptism is of no importance.

Divisions dishonour Jesus, destroy His church, and give the world reason to scoff about our gospel claims.

- Questions**
1. What problem in Corinth did Paul address here?
  2. What ways might we see disunity in our churches?
  3. Is it important that we have unity in our local church? How can we better work at unity?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 22a

- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to seek to grow in unity in your local church
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member