

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 Romans by John Calvin and a meditation on Leviticus 1 by David Murray [bit.ly/TSBeMe](http://bit.ly/TSBeMe)

# 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** Leviticus 1:1-3 The Volunteer

**Notes** *Baruch was meditating on Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac to God. Convicted by his own half-heartedness, he dedicated himself anew to Jehovah and promised to be more whole-hearted in his faith and life.*

*In token of this promise, and to seal it to his own conscience, he decided to bring a burnt-offering to the Tabernacle that day. He rose from his knees, went through the tent door, and started walking towards a small pen containing livestock. Every step was full of cheerful willingness. There was no reluctance nor compulsion, no formalism nor hypocrisy – simply the eager happy service of a believer who desired a closer walk with Jehovah. He went to "offer it of his own voluntary will."<sup>2</sup>*

In Leviticus God reveals how sinful people can be accepted by a Holy God. Even though this sacrificial system has been completed there is much to profit us in studying it. All of these sacrifices point to Christ and remind us of His perfection by which the just anger of God is placed on Another for us. David Murray's meditation is titled appropriately, *That should be me.*

- Questions**
1. Why is there a sacrificial system?
  2. What does it teach us about ourselves?
  3. What does it teach us about Jesus?



- Praise** Psalm 19a<sup>3</sup>
- Pray**
1. Express to God your desire that you come voluntarily to Him
  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> In the notes this week the italicised portions are from David Murray [bit.ly/TSBeMe](http://bit.ly/TSBeMe)

<sup>3</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** Leviticus 1:9,13,17 The Acceptance

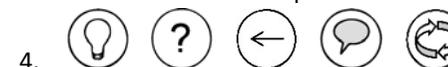
**Notes** *As he left the Tabernacle, the image of the lamb consumed by the flames was burned into Baruch's mind. That evening, he not only prayed for the Final Perfect Sacrifice, but also for what the sacrifice symbolized: whole-person devotion to God, "Lord, make me burn for you. Take all I am and have and use it for your glory" (Rom. 12:1).*

Three times in Leviticus 1 the burnt offering is described as a sweet aroma to the Lord. When we throw a steak on the barbecue we likely find it a sweet aroma. If we think that is why the burnt offering was a sweet aroma to the Lord we drastically misunderstand God.

The offering was a sweet aroma to God because His justice was satisfied. In accepting the death of Another His wrath was turned aside. In putting Christ to death for sinners God demonstrated that He is both just and justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:26)

But, Oh, the wonder that it pleased the Lord to bruise Jesus for us! (Isaiah 53:10) Oh, the wonder that Christ endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him! (Hebrews 12:2) Oh, the wonder that God is satisfied and accepts us as we put our faith in Christ's sacrifice! How can we then do anything other than to live for Him?

- Questions**
1. How do we know God accepted these burnt offerings?
  2. In what way is God satisfied with Christ's sacrifice for us?
  3. What is to be our response to our salvation?



- Praise** Psalm 19a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will live no longer in sin, 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** Leviticus 1:7-9, 11-13, 15-17 The Burning

**Notes** *The moment was always awesome and solemn. The priest used long forks to manoeuvre the body parts into the flames, stoking the fire higher and hotter. Baruch watched entranced as the life of the lamb was turned to ashes in the fierce heat. "That should be me...that should be me..." he whispered.*

The sacrifice was already dead. Its blood poured out and sprinkled on the altar. Why then did it have to be burned?

Calvin suggests the fire represents the effectiveness of the work of the Spirit of God on which the profit of the sacrifice depends. Certainly unless the Spirit of God applies the gospel grace of the sacrifice of Christ none will be saved. Rejoice that God the Spirit applied the sacrifice of Christ to you in order to bring you to repent and believe the gospel.

It seems likely that the fire also represents the eternal fire of Hell which we all deserve. It's not just that sinners will die physically but all whose sin is not covered by Jesus' sacrifice, "anyone not found written in the Book of Life [is] cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15

Christ suffered the agony of Hell for us. Calvin says, "If Christ had died only a bodily death, it would have been ineffectual. ... For this reason, he must also grapple hand to hand with the armies of hell and the dread of everlasting death."

- Questions**
1. What happened to the sacrifice in addition to being killed?
  2. Why was the sacrifice burned?
  3. What can you do so unbelievers you know don't go to Hell?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 19a

**Pray**

1. Confess, with your family, that you deserve Hell for your sin. Rejoice that Christ suffered for 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 1:3,10,14 The Value

**Notes** *Standing by the fence, [Baruch] surveyed the few animals he possessed. What would he offer to express his devotion and surrender to God? His eyes passed over the handful of doves. "Too little," he thought. He looked at his one bull. The flesh started lusting against the spirit, suggesting many reasons why he should not offer it this time. "Yes," he reasoned, "I will reserve my bull for another day." So, it had to be a sheep or a goat. Again, temptation started getting the better of him. "Remember that old, weak-looking sheep which has not been gaining weight?" suggested an inner voice. "No," Baruch replied out loud. "If I want this to be a real turning-point in my spiritual life, I will offer my best lamb." Looking at the possible options, the choice was clear.*

Offerings were to be without blemish. This again points to Christ's perfection. Only in His perfect righteousness could we be forgiven. Also in offering to God a sacrifice without blemish the worshipper is reminded that God demands holiness from them as well. To offer a legally acceptable sacrifice with a heart that is far from God is to despise the God we pretend to worship.

Our sacrifice to God today is to be the living sacrifice of a transformed and renewed mind. (Romans 12:1-2)

- Questions**
1. What sort of sacrifice does God desire? Why?
  2. Since Christ is our perfect sacrifice, God demands nothing of us, right? Why or why not?
  3. How are you tempted to give "blemished sacrifices" today?



4.

**Praise** Psalm 19a

**Pray**

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to giving God your wholehearted living sacrifice, 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** Leviticus 1:4 The Transfer

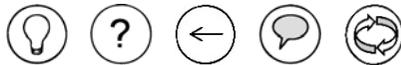
**Notes** *Approaching the door of the Tabernacle, [Baruch] paused. Turning to the lamb, he placed his hand on its head and confessed, "O Jehovah, I deeply regret my lukewarmness and half-heartedness in your service...I want to be wholly and completely yours..." As his tears began to flow, and his passion for God overflowed, his hand pressed ever heavier on the lamb's head.*

Guilty. That is God's judgement of us. The need for sacrifice was made intimate to the worshipper as they put their hand on the head of the sacrifice which they were bringing. This was not some distant experience, but up close and personal. This animal, this very one which the worshipper was touching, would soon be dead and burning up on the altar.

*That should be me.* That should be you. We deserve death because of our sin. Yet God, in His mercy, accepted the death of Another. God accepted the death of these animals to make the worshipper once again at one with God – in spite of their sin. Yet we also know that "it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins," (Heb 10.4) but pointed to Another.

Though we did not touch Jesus, as those eyewitnesses of His life on earth did (1 John 1:1) we must come close. We dare not distance ourselves from our guilt borne by Christ in our place.

- Questions**
1. What did the worshipper have to do with the offering?
  2. Why does our sin deserve death?
  3. In what ways can we come close to Christ's sacrifice?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 19a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to draw close to your Saviour and His sacrifice for you, 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 1:5-6 The Killing

**Notes** *Baruch dreaded this part of the ritual. He looked into the eyes of the lamb he had helped deliver into this world, the lamb he had fed and cared for, the lamb he treasured above all the others. "Must you die for me?" he whispered. As he took the knife and began to cut, he cried out with deep longing, "Oh, for the Lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world...and the need for all these sacrifices?"*

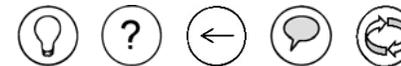
*Life drained from the lamb, the priest gathered the blood in a basin and sprinkled it on the altar, as Baruch repeated again and again, "Precious blood, precious blood, precious blood..."*

*As Baruch dissected the carcass of the lamb and washed the various parts, his trained eye could see the value of each and every part more clearly. He wondered how the value of the ultimate sacrifice for sin would be measured and publicly displayed.*

The actions here of the worshipper and the priest are closely related. Each action reminds the worshipper of the value of the sacrifice, the debt of death which is owed, and the grace of God that permitted and accepted it. Even the blood was too precious to be merely drained away, but was sprinkled on the altar where it too would be burned up as a sweet aroma to God.

The redemption of souls is costly. Psalm 49:8a

- Questions**
1. Who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?
  2. Why did the sacrifice have to die?
  3. What was to be done with the blood? Why?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 19a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that The Lamb of God died to take away your sin
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member