

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 Hebrews by Edgar Andrews, John Calvin, and Kent Hughes

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 Hebrews 1:1-2 Christ the message of God²

Notes
(See back page for authors)

God, who is there, is not silent. Some view God, if they allow He exists, as a distant creator who may have created the world, but has since left this world alone. But God is. And God has spoken.

The unknown human author writing to Hebrew (Jewish) Christians begins his message telling us some of how God has spoken. At various times/ways in time past vs. in these last days; to the fathers vs. to us; by the prophets vs. by His Son

By His Son. With those words the author introduces us to Jesus Christ, the messenger of God whom he will reveal in His glory and on His throne throughout this book. Yet Jesus is not only the messenger of God – He is God. And, He is also the message itself – *only by seeking Him can we discover what God has to say to us.* (Andrews)

Hebrews has a double dose of growth-producing power— first, because it presents the greatness of Christ as no other New Testament writing does, and, second, because it repeatedly demands a response from the reader. Seriously considered, Hebrews will make us grow and find a bigger Christ. (Hughes)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How and to whom has God spoken in times past?
2. How and to whom has God spoken in these last days?
3. What message has God communicated to us?

4.     

Praise Psalm 67c³

- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in Christ, God’s message
 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 Headings this week are from Andrews’ commentary

³ 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 Hebrews 2:1-4 Christ the Saviour

Notes
(See back page for authors)

This glorious Christ – the *Inheritor, Creator, Sustainer, Radiator, Representor, Purifier, Ruler* (Hughes) must be paid attention to. The things that we have heard about Him we must heed. Otherwise, we are in danger of drifting away. Do the following warnings of drifting stir recognition in you?

Many who were at one time professing, fine Christians imperceptibly drifted away from their earlier, better selves. They have kept up appearances, but the years have carried them far away from their devotion.

The initial venture into the mysteries of Christ will leave us exhilarated. But with the repeated journeys, some become bored tourists. It is natural for us to come to regard the familiar as commonplace.

We ... are busy people, and ... the thousand cares of each day can insulate us from the stupendous excellencies of Christ, causing us to begin a deadly drift. (Hughes)

And, if we drift away, if we reject this excellent Christ there is no escape because He is the only Saviour. *God would indeed have his gifts valued by us according to their worth. Then the more precious they are, the baser is our ingratitude when we do not value them. In a word, in proportion to the greatness of Christ will be the severity of God’s vengeance on all the despisers of his Gospel.* (Calvin)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the danger if we don’t pay attention to these words?
2. How might we drift away?
3. What hope is there for those who neglect Christ’s salvation?

4.     

Praise Psalm 67c

Pray

1. Pray that you and your family will not drift, 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

Hebrews 1:10-14 Christ the creator

Notes
(See back page for authors)

We continue to see the initial character of Jesus revealed in vs.2-3 unpacked in these later verses for our growth and for His glory. With quotations from the Psalms and the Prophets (Isaiah) God, through the human author shows how all the Bible is about Jesus (see Luke 24:44)

“In the beginning.” Such is the opening of our English Bibles and also of John’s gospel. Both introduce God – the creator, with John’s gospel giving us more detail that this reference was particularly to God the Son. Hebrews confirms this as it applies the same phrase from Psalm 102:25 to Jesus. God the Father acknowledges that God the Son is the creator of heavens and the earth.

And, not only did Christ create the worlds ‘in the beginning’, but He will outlive and outlast the created order... As we continue in Hebrews, we shall see that Jesus Christ, the ever-living Son and High Priest is brought constantly before our view. The idea that Christ is eternal in His nature is central to the whole epistle, for it is this that guarantees the timelessness of the new covenant. (Andrews)

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who was in the beginning?
2. What did this one do “in the beginning”?
3. How long will Christ the creator exist in relation to creation?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalms 67c

1. Confess, with your family, that Christ has made you and you owe him allegiance
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading

Hebrews 1:2-3 Christ the image of God

Notes
(See back page for authors)

This Son, in whom God has spoken is now revealed to us gloriously. *We see here Christ’s limitless inheritance, creative power, divine glory, perfect representation of the Father, awesome providence, single handed redemption, and exaltation to the throne of God.* (Andrews) Or, to put these in single words, *Christ is: Inheritor, Creator, Sustainer, Radiator, Representor, Purifier, Ruler.* (Hughes)

Space here does not permit unfolding each of those 7 characteristics. Let’s consider 4. Christ created the world. He was the Person of the Trinity through whom the world was created. Nothing that was made was not made by Him.

Not only did He create the world, but He keeps it going. He sustains every moment, every breath, every heartbeat, every political election, every event by His command. *No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, “What have You done?”* Dan. 4:35

Also, He represents God exactly – being the image of the invisible God. (Col. 1:15). The author’s purpose is *to build up our faith, so that we may learn that God is made known to us in no other way than in Christ* (Calvin)

Fourthly, He is the one who alone purified us from our sins. No one else could do it. The Old Testament sacrifices only pointed to an eventual fully effective sacrifice. Jesus did that. Do you know this Jesus? Has He purified your sins?

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What works and character of Jesus are presented here?
2. What can you add from the Bible to the 4 we considered?
3. What can you add from the Bible to the 3 we didn’t consider?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalms 67c

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to praise and honour this glorious Jesus Christ, 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 Hebrews 1:4-6 Christ the Son

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Jesus is presented in His excellence in Hebrews. This excellence, we are told here, is tied to His name. And what is that name? We might consider that the author has in mind His name, Jesus, so named because He would save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21).

Or the name, Christ – which is actually more His title, Messiah, than a name. As the Christ – He is the Anointed King – the one promised to come from God to redeem His people.

But, instead of these, the name the author of Hebrews has in mind is the name, Son. In our day, it is our surname that indicates our inherited name. For Jesus, the name, Son, indicates He is eternally God the Son. *Jesus had the name "Son" from all eternity, and it is the name he will always keep, as the perfect tense of the phrase "the name he has inherited" indicates.* (Hughes)

Although the angels are sometimes collectively called sons of God, and God's people are called collectively sons of God, God the Father has one begotten Son. As the Begotten Son, Jesus is *1) Christ the eternal son, being of the same essence or substance as the Father; 2) Christ the incarnate Son, the 'first-born' brought in to the world; and 3) Christ the first-born from the dead, referring to His resurrection.* (Andrews) This Son is worthy of worship – by all the angels and by you and me.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What name is more excellent than the angels' name? Why?
2. What is significant that Jesus is THE Son of God?
3. How can we become a son of God?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalm 67c

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to worship the Son, 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 Hebrews 1:7-9 Christ the King

Notes
(See back page for authors)

The author of Hebrews continues to compare and contrast Jesus with the angels. The angels are glorious, created beings. They exist to do God's bidding. Though normally invisible, they have been seen, appearing human-like although sometimes shining with glory. They are not to be worshipped.

What do they do? *1) Angels continuously worship and praise the God they serve. 2) Angels communicate God's message to man. 3) Angels minister to believers. 4) Angels will be God's agents in the final earthly judgments and Second Coming.* (Hughes)

As amazing as angels are, Christ is vastly superior! He is the eternally reigning King. He rules wielding his sceptre of righteousness eternally. Our author quotes from Psalm 72 – considered to be a wedding song for King Solomon as referring to Jesus. That Psalm may speak of Solomon, *but it cannot yet be denied but that what is here related, is much too high to be applied to Solomon.* (Calvin)

Angels, his servants, may at his request take on wondrous forms, become seraphim thirty feet high or men 300 feet high, and perform feats beyond not only the capacity but the imagination of mankind. But they are still servants. He is the eternally enthroned, sceptered, anointed sovereign. (Hughes)

The response to this righteously reigning King is joy. Are you rejoicing in Him?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What are angels and what do they do?
2. How is Jesus' superiority over the angels demonstrated here?
3. How are we to respond to this eternally reigning King?

4.     

Praise Pray

Psalm 67c

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Jesus rules and reigns
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member