

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 1 Peter by John Calvin, Wayne Grudem, and Simon Kistemaker

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 1 Peter 1:1-2 Elect Pilgrims

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Peter is writing to God's people, but not to those gathered in a particular place as most of Paul's letters were written. Instead he writes to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor (mostly modern Turkey). However, we must resist our modern individualistic tendency to assume this meant the letter was distributed, perhaps by whatever then would have been the equivalent of a mass email today, to scattered Christians living their individual lives in their individual homes.

These believers were scattered from Jerusalem into assembled churches throughout these regions. And so, in a real sense, this letter is to us Christians today assembled in churches, not just in Asia Minor, but all over the world. Peter writes to these believers, and to us, to live holy lives, by faith, even while suffering.

Peter identifies these believers as sojourners or temporary residents. Our permanent residence is in heaven, we're just here on earth temporarily. He also identifies them as elect – chosen by God's determination ahead of time. Those God chooses he sets apart by His Spirit for obedience in Jesus. Is Peter writing to you?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who has written this letter? What do we know about him?
2. To whom is he writing?
3. What is Peter's purpose in the letter?

4.     

Praise Psalm 71a²

- Pray**
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to live holy lives by faith
 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 Peter 1:22-25 Love each other forever

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Our holiness and obedience toward God because of our faith in Jesus' work does not only affect our relationship with God. Now Peter tells these Christians that it also affects their relationship with each other. *One of the first marks of genuine growth in holiness in individuals and in churches is earnest love for fellow Christians.* (Grudem)

This love is to be developed even further. Because you have come to love other Christians, love them even more. *The sense of the verse is... 'One you have begun to grow in holiness so that you have a genuine affection for one another, make your love for each other earnest, deep, and strong.'* (Grudem)

Why should we love each other? Because we have been born again. How long should we love each other? Forever, like the Word of God. Peter stresses the eternal state of our love for one another as a reflection of the eternal nature of the Word of God

This eternal Word, which leads to a holy, loving life, is the gospel. There is no gospel of salvation without growing holiness. There is no gospel of salvation without growing, genuine, love for other saved people with whom God draws us together in His church. How is your holiness? How is your love?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is the mark of genuine growth in holiness?
2. What would genuine love for each other look like?
3. How long does God's word last?

4.     

Praise Psalm 71a

- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will love sincerely the other Christians in your church, 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 Peter 1:17-21 Faith and Hope grounded in God

Notes (See back page for authors)
What is the believer’s relationship to God? He is our Father. And yet Peter, reminding us of this relationship calls us to conduct our stay as temporary residents with fear. Fear of our Father? This fear is not terror, but a respectful awareness that our sin displeases our Father and may cause Him to discipline us. Such fear motivates us to be holy.

Another reason we don’t want to sin and face His discipline is because of the great value of our redemption. God did not redeem us with money – not even with an incredibly large amount. No, our redemption was much more valuable than that. Our ransom payment was the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

This great redemption changes our lives. Even though they might have been handed down a tradition of such a life, the Christian is redeemed from *a lifestyle that is without purpose, unfruitful, and useless.* (Kistemaker)

God predetermined (form of the same word as v.2) before the world began that Christ would do this work of redemption and revealed His salvation to us who believe. So our faith and hope is reflected in holy obedient living, but is grounded in God Himself, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What reasons are given here for living holy obedient lives?
 2. What sort of lives are we redeemed from?
 3. What is the basis for our faith and hope?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 71a
1. Confess, with your family, that you have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus and you will therefore live holy, obedient lives
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 1 Peter 1:3-7 A living hope by faith

Notes (See back page for authors)
Peter writes much about our salvation. But here, as often in the Bible, writing about our salvation causes Peter, and us, to bless (praise) God. The word is where we get our English word, eulogy. While we often think of that as something we say at someone’s funeral, it literally means a “good word”. When we bless God, we speak good words about Him. True salvation causes us to speak more about God and how good He is.

This salvation is described as being born again. Believers have been born again into a hope that is alive and growing, *a hope fixed on the incorruptible kingdom of God.* (Calvin) But the hope is not just for the future. Although these *readers have been born anew... to obtain an inheritance in the eternal city of God away from which they now live as sojourners, v.1* (Grudem), their hope lives here and now – where they live.

This here and now, living hope is important because here and now is sometimes hard. This here and now may well contain various trials that cause distress and grief. The believer lives by faith in what will be in order to make sense of what is. The believer can endure, and even rejoice in, trials and tests because of the hope we have in Jesus coming back to take us to Himself! Until then, *we are being shielded during our brief stay on this earth, for God does not permit Satan to harm us.* (Kistemaker)

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What should salvation cause us to do?
 2. What is our hope in as believers?
 3. How can we endure tests and trials in this life?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 71a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to praise God for His wonderful salvation 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 1 Peter 1:8-12 Salvation of Souls

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Peter was an eyewitness of Jesus. However, these scattered Christians were not – and we are not. Yet one day we will see Him. But we love Him now because we believe in Him now. That loving belief gives us great joy. *Already in this present life believers experience indescribable joy; they do not have to wait until they leave this earthly scene. Even now they are filled with joy that is “inexpressible and glorious.”* (Kistemaker)

Even now our souls are saved. *The process described in v. 9 is the entire process of growth in the Christian life, the process of appropriating in one’s own life more and more of the blessings of salvation... Such day by day faith and joy produces an unexpected benefit: continual growth toward Christian maturity.* (Grudem)

This salvation that is coming to us has been long anticipated. The prophets of the Old Testament searched carefully to understand the significance of the salvation they wrote about. Though they shared in salvation by faith with us, they *did not always understand what their prophecies meant [so] they searched diligently and carefully to determine the meaning of God’s Word.* (Kistemaker)

So we have to remember that we have heard and we now preach a “whole Bible” salvation. Such a great salvation, planned from eternity, causes even the angels to want to see. Are they seeing this salvation in you and in our church?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How can we believe in Jesus whom we have not seen?
2. How and when are our souls saved?
3. How did the prophets and the angels regard salvation?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 71a
1. Ask God to give you and your family a growing, joyful, saving, faith
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 1 Peter 1:13-16 Be Holy

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Whenever we see the word “therefore” in the Bible, we need to look and see what it is “there for”. Verse 13 begins with therefore and points back to the great salvation we have in Jesus. Because we have this salvation in Jesus, we are to do something. What?

Several things – all summarised in the words “be holy.” God is holy and different from sinful people. Yet those who have received this great salvation are to be holy people as God is holy. We are to be, and thank God that we are being, made holy in all that we do.

So, what are the several things that are summarised as holiness? First, having our minds ready for action. In our day the words beginning v13 might be pictured as an athlete quickly pulling off his tear-away (or popper) pants so he can get in the game. Are you ready for action as a Christian?

Second, being sober. That is again a reference to our mind being alert, not mentally intoxicated. This alertness is maintained by a fixed, confident hope that Jesus will return and our blessings that are great in Him now will be even greater when he returns.

Thirdly, we are to be obedient children to our Father in Heaven. *Peter knows that the temptation for readers to return to their former conduct is real and that some of them may have succumbed. Therefore, he commands them to stop heeding sinful desires and to yield their lives instead in obedience and holiness to God.* (Kistemaker)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How can we keep our minds ready for Christian action?
2. What is our hope to rest on?
3. What is our holiness to look like?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 71a
1. Rejoice with your family that you are being called to holiness
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member