

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 Revelation by Ralph Bass 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 Revelation 4:1-3 and One sat on the throne

Notes
(See back page for authors)

John has been given a revelation from Jesus (chapter 1) to be sent to the churches in Asia Minor (chapter 2-3). The revelation continues with a new vision. The voice which had originally spoken to him, Jesus Himself (1:10) calls to John to come up through a door (again, Jesus Himself (John 10:7,9)) into heaven. There he would be told additional things which would take place.

While worshipping God in the Spirit, he is transported into heaven – whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows (2 Cor 12:2) – directly into the throne room of God. Here he observes One seated on the throne. *But the one seated on the throne is too awesome to describe. Hence the seer can only speak about someone sitting on the throne (vv. 2, 3, 9, 10; 5:1, 7, 13), and that someone is God Almighty.* (Kistemaker)

God Almighty, revealed in the brilliance of precious jewels and an emerald-hued rainbow, is on the throne. He will judge justly. John, from heaven, teaches us *saints on earth that in spite of all the onslaughts of evil by Satan and his minions, God's rule is supreme.* (Kistemaker)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who calls John to come up to heaven and how does he enter?
2. Where in heaven does John go?
3. What do we learn about God in His throne room from John?

4.     

Praise
Pray

- Psalm 73c²
1. Rejoice with your family that God is on the throne
 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 Revelation 5:11-14 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Notes
(See back page for authors)

A 28-voice choir is not nearly enough to proclaim the great worth of Jesus. An innumerable company of angels (cf Heb 12:22) now encircles the throne of God and of the Lamb. *The voice (5:11) John hears consists of an innumerable choir and the great number of the voices surprises John. He stops to note with awe the tens of millions who join in the song.* (Bass)

Qualities that belong to God are now ascribed to the Lamb. These qualities are power as inner strength; wealth that comes from God; and wisdom that God freely gives to his people. Strength is a synonym of power, and honor and glory frequently appear as a pair (e.g., Ps. 8:5). God grants these qualities to his people, and they in turn express their thanksgiving to him and the Lamb. (Kistemaker)

To the first multitude is added an additional chorus of voices. Every created thing (5:13) joins in worship to the Lamb (5:13). Why this unusual focus on praise, power, worship, and eternal dominion? The Church in St. John's day was about to experience a time of severe testing and persecution... These Christians needed to understand history as something not ruled by chance or evil men or even the devil, but ruled instead from God's Throne by Jesus Christ... They needed to see themselves in the true light: Not as forgotten troops in a lonely outpost fighting a losing battle, but as kings and priests already, waging war and overcoming, predestined to victory, with the absolute assurance of conquest and dominion with the High King over the earth. (Bass)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What 2 groups join in this heavenly worship of King Jesus?
2. Why is Jesus worthy of such worship?
3. What did John's audience need to know? Do we need the same?

4.     

Praise
Pray

- Psalm 73c
1. Pray that you will praise and live in confidence with King Jesus
 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 Revelation 5:8-10 You have redeemed us

Notes
(See back page for authors)

As Jesus shows His worthiness by taking the scroll from His Father's hand, the 4 living creatures and the 24 elders, who moments ago had worshipped God the Father, now fall down before God the Son and worship Him. *Again, nothing could be clearer at this point than is the deity of Jesus Christ. Such behavior on the part of the heavenly court would be nothing short of treason if Christ were anything other than God Himself. How strange it is that so many find it so hard to discover the deity of Christ in Scripture.* (Bass)

The 24 elders bring not only their own worship of Jesus, but the prayers of the saints with them. And together they sing a new song to the Lamb. Perhaps it was the new song of Psalm 33 or 96 or 98 – newly recognising this Lamb slain and risen as the Glorious God who has brought salvation to the ends of the earth (Ps 98:3).

Jesus is praised and worshipped with this new song because He is worthy. As the sinless Son of God, He is worthy to pronounce judgement. He has redeemed His people from the ends of the earth (every tribe, tongue, people, nation cf 7:9, 11:9, 14:6). *He paid the penalty that God had placed on Adam and Eve and their descendants (Gen. 2:17) and set them free... He instructs them to be citizens in his kingdom and serve him as dedicated priests. This charge is for time and eternity, for this present life and the life to come. The present rule of the saints on earth will continue with Christ on the renewed earth.* (Kistemaker)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What do the 4 and 24 do when Jesus takes the scroll? Why
2. Why would a new song be sung to Jesus?
3. What has Jesus done for His people?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 73c
1. Confess, with your family that Jesus is worthy. Praise Him
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Revelation 4:4-8 Holy, Holy, Holy

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Next John introduces us to others in God's throne room. Around the God's throne sits a square of thrones – 6 to a side. On these 24 thrones sit 24 elders. *Perhaps they are the sons of Jacob and the Apostles of Christ... perhaps it is simply 24 glorious heroes of the faith... What St. John sees is simply the Presbytery of Heaven: the representative assembly of the Royal Priesthood, the Church.* (Bass)

Thunder and lightning surround the throne. *When God came down to Mt. Sinai to establish His covenant with Israel we read of similar phenomenon.* (Bass. see Exod. 19:16-19) God the Spirit joins the Father and the Son here in His throne room as He rules.

The triune God and this heavenly Presbytery is joined by 4 living creatures. John's words and our imaginations are not sufficient to understand all John saw. These 4 creatures have appearances like angelic creatures seen by Isaiah (chap. 6) and Ezekiel (chap 1). Surrounding the throne they pronounce without rest the holy, powerful, and eternal character of God.

We too will one day come into God's presence. We too will declare Him to be Holy, Holy, Holy. We too will acknowledge Him to be the supreme, Almighty, Ruler. We too will speak in awe of His eternal nature. But why wait until heaven? Worship the holy, all powerful, and eternal God now – and declare him to others.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who else is in the throne room of God?
2. How will God's saints rule with Him?
3. What are we told about God by these 4 living creatures?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 73c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to worship and announce the holy, all powerful, eternal God
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Revelation 4:9-11 You are worthy, O Lord

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Worship. It's far more than singing! Worship is declaring God's worth – showing and telling Him how valuable He is to us. The 4 living creatures surrounding the throne of God ascribe worth to Him.

The words glory (4:11) δόξα (dóxa) and honour (4:11) τιμῆ (timé), and thanks (4:11) εὐχαριστέω (eucharisteō) are instructive in how God is properly worshiped. One problem associated with prayer is that man often approaches God in the "gimmee, gimmee" mode. It is certainly not wrong to ask things from God. However, if things start going well in that person's life, prayers often diminish. This passage is instructive of the importance and centrality of worship in prayer. (Bass)

As the 4 living creatures worship, the 24 elders join them. They cast themselves and their crowns at the foot of the throne, acknowledging that God alone is ultimate ruler. *It is remarkable how many times in the Apocalypse the twenty-four elders are mentioned falling before the one seated on the throne to worship him (5:8, 14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4). (Kistemaker)*

The elders declare the worthiness of God as creator. Nothing exists that He did not make. Nothing came to be except He willed and caused it to be. *The Creator has made all things from the smallest particle to the largest star. (Kistemaker)* Will you join these 24 and 4 in declaring to God His great worth?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is worship?
2. How did the 4 living creatures worship God?
3. How did the 24 elders worship God?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 73c
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to worship and thank 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 Revelation 5:1-7 Who is worthy?

Notes
(See back page for authors)

John continues revealing us the dramatic heavenly throne-room of God. God the Father, seated on His throne, holds in His hand a scroll. (Now, we know from the Bible that God is Spirit, therefore He has no literal hand. However, again John uses language we can understand to describe events which are beyond our limits.)

This scroll, or book, or certificate (Mark 10:4) is written on both sides and is sealed with 7 seals. It seems this is a 7-fold judgement being pronounced in this heavenly court-room. (see Lev. 26:18, 21, 24, 28) But, it seems, to John's overwhelming sadness, that there is no one in all of creation worthy to open this sealed pronouncement of sin and punishment.

No one, that is, except One Who is without sin Himself. God the Son, the Lamb who was slain, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, is worthy. So, God the Father hands this certificate of judgement to God the Son.

Notice the great description given to Jesus. He *has overcome or "conquered" and thereby [is] worthy. Jesus is the Lamb of God with respect to His sacrificial role and the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the self-assured and authoritative ruler. Horns are ... used with the number seven to make the point that Christ is omnipotent. Likewise ... the seven fold eyes being symbolic of His omniscience. (Bass)* John shows us the worth and deity of Jesus – He is worthy!

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What is God holding in His right hand?
2. Who is worthy to open the scroll?
3. Why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 73c
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that Jesus, God the Son, is the Lamb slain for your sin and is worthy
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member