

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, Simon Kistemaker, Ken Gentry, and Andrew Corbett.

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 19:1-3 He has judged the great harlot

Notes (See back page for authors)
John comes now to a multi-fold praise of God. Alleluias are spoken 4 times (v1,2,4,6) for God’s righteous judgement. Alleluia (or Hallelujah) is the English spelling of the Greek spelling of the Hebrew word הללויה. Praise Yahweh! This word occurs only in the Psalms and in Revelation 19. Jubilant praise is raised to our covenant God!

Why? Because *deliverance from enemies, and majesty, and might, are to be ascribed to God, and he is to be praised on account of them.* (Bass) And, how has He shows this deliverance?

He has judged the great harlot. The smoke from her destruction rises forever. This great harlot, once the holy city of Jerusalem, now *the unfaithful wife of God, suffers capital punishment as a spiritual adulteress for denying her Messiah (notice her harlotrous immorality, v. 2). Her destruction avenges “the blood of his servants” (19:1-2; cf. 6:10-11; also Matt. 23:34-36; 1 Thess. 2:14-16), causing the saints to rejoice in witnessing the conquering of the first great enemy of Christ and his people.* (Gentry)

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What does Alleluia/Hallelujah mean?
2. Why is God being praised here?
3. Why would Jerusalem’s destruction be a cause of rejoicing?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 74a²

1. Commit you and your family in prayer to praise God for His righteous judgement
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 19:17-21 The beast and the false prophet destroyed

Notes (See back page for authors)
Not only is the harlot destroyed (v2-3) but now the beast and his armies are destroyed by the Faithful and True one. Time and space does not permit a detailed description, but the beast of v19 appears to be Rome in general, and Nero in particular. Although Christ used Rome to destroy Jerusalem, they too were His enemy and would be destroyed.

Two parties are principally judged by Christ at this point: Jerusalem (“Sodom and Egypt”, Rev. 11:8; “the Beast from the Land”, Rev. 13:11; “the Harlot in Scarlet”, Rev. 17:4; “Babylon”, Rev. 17:5), and Rome (“the Beast from across the sea”, Rev. 13:1; Dan. 7:3, 6) because they both opposed Christ and His servants. (Corbett) God often used wicked nations to punish His people – often to the confusion and dismay of His people (see Habakkuk 1).

Nero and the High Priest of Jerusalem clearly died in and around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem... the Lake of Fire is [John’s] symbolic description of the utter defeat and complete destruction of these enemies in their attempt to seize the Kingdom: The evil personifications of pagan Rome, like Sodom, is destroyed by fire and brimstone; Israel’s false prophets, like Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, are swallowed up alive. ... [And] we are told that the victory was from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse (19:21). With these comments the story of Jerusalem’s destruction is complete. (Bass) Christ has conquered!

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who is judged in Revelation 19?
2. Who was the ultimate agent of their judgement?
3. What will happen to all who oppose Christ?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 74a

1. Rejoice in Christ’s righteous judgement of all His enemies
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 19:11-16 King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Notes
(See back page for authors)

The bride having been presented, the bridegroom now comes. However, the imagery changes. He comes not dressed for the feast but dressed for war. *This is a Judgement Coming, not the Second Coming.* (Bass) *Christ gloriously appears as a warrior-bridegroom, punishing faithless Jerusalem and taking a new bride.* (Gentry)

Coming as the righteous judge who will one day judge ALL those who rebel against Him, Christ comes to judge Israel, a judgement which ended with her destruction in 70 AD. His blood splattered robe (v3, cf Isa 63:2-3) is evidence of His just wrath being poured out.

The vision of Christ's "many crowns" (Rev. 19:12) is the apocalyptic way of affirming that he has "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), that he is "far above all rule and authority, power and dominion" (Eph. 1:21), that has "the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9), and that "angels, authorities and powers [are] in submission to him" (1 Peter 3:22). In short, as John forthrightly declares at the beginning of Revelation, already in the first century Christ is "the ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev. 1:5). (Gentry)

To this ruler – the Word of God, the Lord of Lords – all must willing bow, or be destroyed. (v15 cf Psalm 2)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who comes? And why? And when?
2. What names is Christ given here?
3. What is the evidence of His authority?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 74a
1. Confess, with your family, that Jesus is Lord and King
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Revelation 19:4-6 The Lord God Omnipotent Reigns!

Notes
(See back page for authors)

The Alleluias continue. God, who alone is justified in taking vengeance is praised by the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures surrounding the throne. *Here we see the church, the true Israel, led by its leaders praising God for the destruction of Babylon.* (Bass)

And, as in chapters 4-5 this 28 voice "choir" is too small. They join a multitude in heaven (v1) and are joined by all those who fear the Lord. God Himself calls from His throne to those small and great – His servants to join in the praise. *The saints around the throne praise him continually day and night (7:15), but the saints on earth need exhortation. The admonition for every believer is to serve God and to fear him...Fearing God means showing him reverence and rendering him praise (Eccles. 12:13).* (Kistemaker)

This great multitude in heaven and on earth, sounding like crashing waves or waterfalls and also like thunder, praises God, the all-powerful one who reigns. *The full establishment of Christ's Kingdom as expressed in His Church is publicly secured and instituted at this point in the destruction of the Church's first great enemy and Christ's unfaithful wife, Judaism, with these words: For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns (19:6 cf Mark 9:1).* (Bass)

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who are all the parties praising our Lord?
2. How are God's servants described?
3. Who reigns now over men and nations?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 74a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to serve and fear your Omnipotent Lord, 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 Revelation 19:7-8 The marriage of the Lamb has come

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Many view these verses as describing the ultimate joining of Christ and His bride, the church at the end of all time (which will come about!). However, fitting with the destruction of the harlot it is better to understand this as the marriage of Christ to His church that is true now. (see Eph 5:22-33).

Following the judgment of prostitute-Jerusalem as an unfaithful wife, heaven announces the marriage supper of the Lamb (19:6-10). The merging of a king's victory celebration with a joyous nuptial feast reminds us of the royal wedding song in Psalm 45, which probably serves as the backdrop to Revelation 19. The punishment of God's unfaithful wife (19:1-5) publicly and securely establishes Christ's kingdom (19:6), leading to the announcement of the festal presentation of the Lord's new bride (19:7-8; cf. chap. 21). (Gentry)

This bride is made beautiful by Christ Himself. He made us ready by granting us His righteousness – pictured here as fine linen garments. Most weddings in our modern days have the bride wearing a radiant white dress. If you are a Christian, you are clothed in Christ's righteousness and are to live with His visible church in Christ's righteousness.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What has just preceded Christ taking His bride?
2. Who is the bride of Christ?
3. How is the bride made beautiful?
4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 74a
1. Rejoice in Christ, your Husband, who has made you beautiful in His righteousness by faith.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Revelation 19:9-10 Called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Notes
(See back page for authors)

The wedding festivities continue in John's revelation of Jesus Christ. *The marriage supper is a metaphor for the final repudiation of the harlot and the introduction of the bride. This is the covenant meal or marriage supper, which seals the new relationship. It is accomplished when the Bridegroom overthrows the unfaithful wife and punishes her lovers, the kings of the land with whom she has committed adultery.* (Bass)

And, although many refuse the invitation to come, the wedding hall will be filled with guests (Matt 22:10, cf 5:9, 7:9, 11:9, 14:6) What blessedness comes to those who are called! This invitation came to the faithful saints to whom John writes, many suffering tribulations. It comes to us as we believe in and are married to Christ. Each time we celebrate the Lord's supper, we come to His marriage supper.

John, not for the first time, nor for the last, is overwhelmed with this wonder. In response, he falls at the feet of the messenger telling and showing him these things. However, the messenger quickly rejects this worship. God alone is to be worshipped.

Those who have come to Jesus, been married to Him, worship Him, and listen to His words, now have His testimony to proclaim to the world. We proclaim to them, "Come! Join in the marriage supper of the Lamb."

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. When is Christ's marriage to His church?
2. What blessing comes to those called to His marriage supper?
3. What is the testimony He has given us, His bride?
4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 74a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that you have been called to Christ's wedding supper
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member