

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](http://frankstonrp.org.au) [bit.ly/WTrpcaf](http://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](http://airdrierpcs.org)

The readings are from Tim Chester’s 3-year weekly reading plan. [bit.ly/WkBbl](http://bit.ly/WkBbl) or [bit.ly/3yrBbl](http://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 Kings by Matthew Henry and James Smith

# 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 Kings 3:1-4 Solomon loved the Lord, except...

**Notes** (See back page for authors)  
Solomon is firmly established as king. He had his rivals put to death or exiled (chapters 2-3). Now his reign begins. First we are told of his marriage. Though it seems to have been a political marriage and to an idol-worshiper from Israel's enemy, Egypt, we are not told it was sinful of Solomon. Some presume Pharaoh's daughter gave up her idols to worship the true God.

We are also told that Solomon loved the Lord. He was loved by the Lord (2 Sam. 12:24) and he returned that love. Furthermore, his love was reflected in his actions. Because he loved the Lord he walked in His ways, following the statutes his father David had. Too often, people claim to love the Lord, yet don't walk in His ways. Jesus tells us that to love Him is to obey Him (Jn 14:15)

Back to Solomon... He loved the Lord, walked in His ways – but... How often does that describe us? We love the Lord, but... We obey the Lord, but... He walked in the ways his father walked, except he burned incense and sacrificed at the high places (where the Canaanites had worshipped their idols). *He showed thereby a great zeal for sacrificing, but to obey would have been better.* (Henry, M)

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Who did Solomon marry? Should this concern us?
  2. How did Solomon show his love for the Lord?
  3. What is the "except" about Solomon's love for God?

4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 75a<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit to love and obey God, by His help
  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> 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 Kings 10:6-13 Happy are your men! Blessed be your God!

**Notes** (See back page for authors)  
The report the Queen of Sheba had heard of Solomon's wisdom and prosperity had been unbelievable. So unbelievable, in fact, that she had to hear and see for herself. Now, having been stunned by the reality, she states that as amazing as the report that she heard had been, it hadn't captured half of the reality.

*Those who, through grace, are brought to experience the delights of communion with God will say that the one-half was not told them of the pleasures of Wisdom's ways and the advantages of her gates. Glorified saints, much more, will say that it was a true report which they heard of the happiness of heaven, but that the thousandth part was not told them, 1 Co. 2:9. (Henry)*

This Queen made 2 particular observations in response:

Happy are your men! Does the amazing way with which God deals with us show to those around us? Do others delight to listen to our wisdom? Even though we aren't as wise as Solomon, has the fear of the Lord given us at least the beginning of a wisdom worth sharing with others?

Secondly, Blessed be the Lord your God! Do God's dealings with us bring others to praise Him? Does our faith and do our good works (which are made possible by our faith – Eph 2:8-10) cause others to glorify God? (Matt. 5:16) Do those around us say, "The Lord has done great things for them!"? (Ps 126:2)

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What 2 responses did the Queen make to Solomon?
  2. How might others make similar responses to us?
  3. What do we have to look forward to seeing and hearing?

4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 75a
1. Pray that you and your family will anticipate the glories and happiness of eternity, 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 Kings 10:1-5 When the Queen of Sheba heard...

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

We continue with additional evidence of Solomon's wisdom. He receives a visit from the Queen of Sheba. Some believe she was Queen in Africa, others from a country in southern Arabia. She travelled a long distance in response to all she had heard about this Solomon. She wanted to hear for herself if these things were true.

*Part of her reason for going to Jerusalem was to test the king by means of enigmatic riddles in order to see for herself if he had supernatural wisdom. Such tests of practical sagacity were part of the diplomatic encounters of that time. A king's wit and poetic skill were evidence of the extent to which he was conversant with affairs and culture in the world of his day. Josephus records a similar battle of wits between Solomon and Hiram.* (Smith)

She spoke with Solomon freely and he could answer all her questions. When she heard all that he had to say and saw his wisdom, his worship of God, and the state of the affairs of his government, it took her breath away. (v5) *She had never seen the like.* (Henry) It was for her an amazing visit! And it would have been amazing for us. Yet an even more amazing King would come on the scene hundreds of years later! Jesus said this queen would condemn Israel in His day because "a greater than Solomon was here." (Mt 12:42) We can know and have our breath taken away, and receive a new Spirit from this One greater than Solomon.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who came to visit Solomon and why?
2. What did she see and hear and what was her reaction?
3. Who is the One Greater than Solomon?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 75a
1. Confess, with your family, the One greater than Solomon is your Lord and Saviour
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** 1 Kings 3:4-9 What shall I give you?

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

Solomon encounters God in a dream at night. *The young king was instructed to name whatever it was he might desire from God.* (Smith) What might you have asked for? What might I have asked for? Not some make-believe genie, but God, the creator of heaven and earth and owner of all that it contains, invites Solomon to ask what he will.

Sometimes God's people have refused His gracious offer to ask. Sometimes we are too proud of our "humility" to be truly humble and ask when God tells us to. We are to ask for our daily bread. (Mt. 6:11) We can ask for all we need. (Mt. 7.7) Sometimes we don't have because we don't ask or because we ask with wrong motives (James 4:2-3).

Solomon asks. He asks with humility and piety. *He acknowledges God's great goodness to his father David... He speaks honourably of his father's piety... [He] had a humble sense of his own deficiency... He begs of God to give him wisdom.* (Henry)

His desire for wisdom was not for his own benefit. *Solomon asked God to give him a discerning heart (lit., a hearing heart) that would qualify him to judge (i.e., rule) the people to God, to know the difference between what was true and false.* (Smith)

What are you asking God for?

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What did God invite from Solomon?
2. What did Solomon ask for and why?
3. Will God give us whatever we ask for? Why or why not?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 75a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to ask, seek, knock, for wisdom from God
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading** 1 Kings 3:10-15 Solomon's request pleased the Lord

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

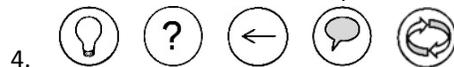
We don't have to wonder what Solomon might have asked for because God tells us. He might have asked for riches, for long life, for victory in battle, for honour. Those things would not have been wrong in themselves. To be sure, Solomon could have asked, and we can ask, with wrong motives, but having been invited by God to ask, Solomon had the freedom to ask for these things.

Yet in his humility, Solomon asked for understanding to discern justice. He started so well in his reign. He loved God. He walked in His ways. He humbly asked for wisdom. Are you a good starter? When confronted with a task, do you prayerfully get at it? Solomon did. He asked God to give him wisdom to rule well. *By this choice Solomon made it appear that he desired to be good more than great, and to serve God's honour more than to advance his own.* (Henry)

God was pleased to answer Solomon's request. And more. He would not only have wisdom, but unsurpassed wisdom. (4:29-31) And he would have unsurpassed riches and honour as well. Even long life would be given to him – so long as he would walk in God's ways. *He failed in the condition; and therefore, though he had riches and honour, he did not live so long to enjoy them as in the course of nature he might have done.* (Henry)

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why was God pleased with Solomon's request?
2. What might Solomon have asked for?
3. What condition does God place on His blessings to us?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 75a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to rejoice in God's gifts, and walk in God's ways, 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** 1 Kings 3:16-28 The wisdom of God to administer justice

**Notes**  
(See back page for authors)

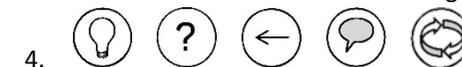
Now the writer gives us a glimpse of Solomon's wisdom. A sad and difficult problem is presented to him. Two harlots *had given birth to children out of wedlock within three days of one another. No third party was present at the births, hence independent collaboration was impossible. The plaintiff charged that her friend had smothered her child one night. She then allegedly switched her dead baby for the living one which was sleeping at the side of his mother. In the morning light the plaintiff discovered that the dead baby was not her own. The defendant naturally disputed all these contentions. She tenaciously maintained that the living child was really hers. Back and forth the women made their claims and counter claims* (3:16–22).

*Solomon... first summarized the problem as it had been presented to him. Then he ordered a sword to be brought. The child would be divided and half given to each woman. The real mother... was emotionally stirred by the decision which in effect would leave her son dead. In desperation she cried out to the king to spare the child and give it to her rival. She preferred to lose her case and see her rival rewarded than to have the child killed. The defendant... was perfectly content to allow the execution to take place. She did not really love the child. Her only objective had been to deprive her rival of the fruit of her womb* (3:23–26). (Smith)

The people saw God's wisdom in Solomon and honoured him.

**Questions**  
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was the problem these two women brought to Solomon?
2. How did he propose to solve it?
3. What was the result of Israel seeing God's wisdom in Solomon?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 75a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God grants wisdom
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member