

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, you are encouraged, 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. frankston.rpca.org.au

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. tiny.cc/WkBbl or tiny.cc/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 drawn in part from commentaries on Isaiah by John Calvin and Ray Ortlund

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 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 Isaiah 24:1-25:1 (24:21-25:1²) I will exalt you

Notes The prophet begins this chapter with a “song” of praise. But it comes in an interesting context. Three chapters earlier we are told of Jerusalem’s pending judgment. The immediately previous chapter tells of pending judgment on the earth. Yet at the end of those words of doom, we have the exaltation of the Lord. His elders, we are told, will see His glorious reign.

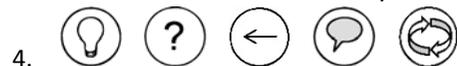
And so, the prophet exalts this great King. What are the particulars of his exaltation? And what can we learn from them?

First. You are my God. This exaltation is written by one of God’s people. Judgment will come. The haughty of the earth will be destroyed. But God’s people are secure.

And God has demonstrated that security over and over, wonderfully! To be sure, at times God’s people suffer horribly. In those times, in fact at all times, we do well to remember the wonderful things God has done for His people throughout time.

Finally, in this verse, we are encouraged that God is to be exalted because of His faithfulness and truth. Always and forever. God always has been true and always will be.

- Questions**
1. What is the context of Isaiah’s praise beginning chapter 25?
 2. What are reasons for him exalting the Lord?
 3. How do we know God is always faithful?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 27d³
1. Exalt the Lord, with your family, for His wonderful deeds
 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 Alternate shorter readings in ()’s

³ Psalm selections are taken from the *Book of Psalms for Worship*. The same selection is sung each day for a week to gain familiarity with the selection

Reading Isaiah 25:10-12 - Rejoicing in His judgment

Notes The rejoicing continues. But the reason for rejoicing shifts in these last verses. Having emphasised the joy in God’s salvation, the prophet now directs God’s people to rejoice in God’s judgment. The first phrase, it seems, continues the previous thought. God will rest His hand on His people on His holy mountain for good.

But then the image changes to the feet and hands of God bringing judgment on His enemies. Moab, we are told, will be trampled down by God’s feet as straw would be trampled down into the manure pile. Now, we know that God is Spirit – and does not have a body like men. Yet often God communicates to us in bodily form to make it easier for us to understand. And Moab, Israel’s close relative yet constant enemy pictures all the enemies of God and His people. They will be destroyed.

Then the image of a swimmer is used, stretching out his hands to swim. Calvin suggests the image is of the sometimes slow, yet steady progress a swimmer makes in the water. *The wicked are often brought to nothing by the hand of God, though he does not openly thunder from heaven.* (Calvin)

God will bring down the wicked. And the people of God can rejoice in that. Not in glee over their downfall, but in humble recognition that but for God’s grace we would be destroyed.

- Questions**
1. What different ways is God’s hand on His people and his enemies?
 2. Why is only Moab mentioned for destruction?
 3. How should God’s people respond to His judgment?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 27d
1. Pray that you and your family will ..., 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 Isaiah 25:9 - Rejoicing in His salvation

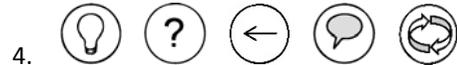
Notes Sometimes we speak of the experience we anticipate in heaven primarily as an extension of our human experience on earth. We speak of seeing this or that loved one again, or maybe of meeting one of the saints from the Bible. And, we will.

But far outshining those experiences will be the ultimate reality of being in the very presence of God. And, so Isaiah reminds us – in that day it will be said, “Behold, this is our God!” We will see Him face to face. We will be together with Him, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever.

He has saved us. He will save us. Our salvation is already but not yet. And we know that even better that these people of God did in Isaiah’s day. We now can look back and see Christ and His work while they had to look forward in hope. And the salvation which we have now in Christ will be made even better the day we are in His presence.

We wait our whole life long, once we are in Christ, for that wonderful day. Isaiah emphasizes the wait, twice reminding us that we have waited for Him. Let this waiting hope sustain us. Let this waiting hope invigorate us. Let this waiting hope fill us with such joy in believing that we live holy lives here and now.

- Questions**
1. What will be the best thing about heaven for God’s people?
 2. What does it mean that our salvation is already and not yet?
 3. How should we live as we wait for heaven?



- Praise** Psalm 27d
- Pray**
1. Confess, with your family, that you too often live for the here and now rather than living for eternity
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Isaiah 25:1-5 You take down and You raise up

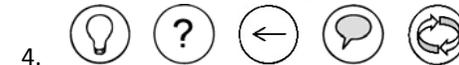
Notes Isaiah continues reminding us God is at work in the world for His own glory. Here we are again told God takes down the strong and rebellious and He lifts up the weak and humble.

In fact, God has made a strong, fortified city a ruin forever. What city? Isaiah doesn’t specify, but city after city have already been warned of God’s pending judgment. When kings fight against God, He laughs from heaven and warns them to love His Messiah or be destroyed. (Psalm 2)

And an eternal destruction will come. Hell will be filled with those whose rebellion deepens eternally. But for some, even for many, God’s judgment will bring them to glorify and fear the Lord. Some of those who were formerly opposed to God will be brought to “bend their neck” (Calvin) to the Lord. Let us pray for wicked people around us to be brought to fear the Lord in this life and glorify Him in repentance before it is too late.

At the same time God is judging the rebellious, He is lifting up the poor and needy. He gives strength to the weak. He protects them from the storm. But “they” are us, if we are in Christ. *The Lord raises us from the dead, and brings us, as it were, out of the grave, stretching out his hand to us from heaven, to rescue us even from hell.* (Calvin)

- Questions**
1. How does God’s judgment affect the proud and rebellious?
 2. What was our condition before God’s gracious salvation?
 3. Is it better to be strong or weak?



- Praise** Psalm 27d
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that God has rescued you from rebellion and from hell.
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Isaiah 25:6 A feast of fat things

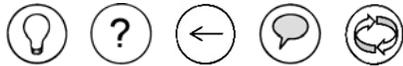
Notes The Lord God has raised up the poor and needy. But His grace is never stingy – rather He pours it out on His people exceedingly abundantly. Isaiah pictures that exceedingly abundant grace as a feast prepared by God for His people.

The Psalmist uses similar language in Psalm 22 – a Psalm about the means by which God’s grace is poured out on the nations; by the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus Christ - The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! Psalm 22:26

This feast is not to be for Israel only – rather for all the nations. Repeatedly in the Old Testament we are reminded that God’s plan for His people is that they will be from all the nations of the earth. So, all the nations will come to the feast of fat things. A feast which Isaiah describes by repetition and excess – not the drunkenness and gluttony of the world – but rich foods and drink in our Saviour.

But the feast will be held “on this mountain,” referring to Mount Zion (24:23). It does not belong to the city of man. God’s people had to wait all their lives to sit at this table, but it was worth the wait. This is the banquet of true salvation. All the guests are happy, and nothing can ever make them sad again. (Ortlund)

- Questions**
1. Who will God invite to this feast?
 2. What are ways in which a feast describes our salvation?
 3. When and where will this feast be held?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 27d
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to find your delight in Christ alone, 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 Isaiah 25:7-8 The pain is gone

Notes Continuing to speak of things to come, Isaiah moves from the image of a rich banquet to a healed world. We are reminded of when God will *lift the gloom that now hangs over all human experience*. (Ortlund) This begins to happen to us personally when God lifts the veil of blindness we have in our sin so that we see and respond to the grace of Christ. And, as good as it is to have Christ in this life – the life to come will be better by far!

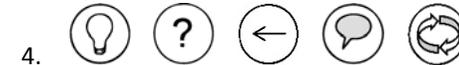
No more death. Gone forever. The sorrow that we experience when we gather by the casket of a loved one will be no more. The often painful (even though shepherded by the Lord) walk through the valley of the shadow of death will be gone.

No more tears, either. Again, gone forever. Those of us who are parents will recall many times we have wiped away the tears of our children telling them, “It will be OK.” And, maybe for the moment it was OK. But God will make it OK forever.

Having obtained here the beginnings of this happiness and glory, by being adopted by God, and beginning to bear the image of Christ, let us firmly and resolutely await the completion of it at the last day. (Calvin)

But, how can we be sure? Because this promise comes from the mouth of the eternal, covenant keeping God.

- Questions**
1. What two things will God do away with forever?
 2. When will this happen?
 3. What impact do these future promises have on our life now?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 27d
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that pain and sorrow and death is defeated by Jesus for all who are His
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member