

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 entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile.

# 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 John 1:1-2 Personally experienced

**Notes**  
(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*John tells us of this mysterious and mystical reality that he and others have personally encountered: 'That which was from the beginning ...' (v. 1). It is unclear what 'that' is from this phrase alone. But we see its antiquity. It's old. It existed from or before the beginning.*

*Though ancient, as old as the beginning, it is not far off. It is available to John's senses. In these four descriptions we see an increasing intimacy. This experience moves from being something John heard about to something he himself has seen and of which he is now an eyewitness. And something not just seen but looked at, studied, and observed. And not just looked at, but actually touched... What is this 'that' John...has experienced so fully, completely, and personally?*

*The 'that' of verse 1 gets clarified at the end of the verse as 'the Word of life,' which gets clarified a bit further in verse two as 'the eternal life.' John handled and experienced life itself. This life is Jesus... Life appeared. Man tried to crucify it. But in indestructible power it rose from the grave and now reigns. It is this life John encountered. And it is this life that changed his.*

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

1. What was from the beginning?
2. How had John personally experienced this 'Eternal Life'?
3. How have you personally experienced this 'Eternal Life'?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 72e<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to knowing Eternal Life through Jesus, by 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

<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 John 1:8-10 Denial or Confession

**Notes**  
(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*John sees two ways people may respond to the truth of His message. One strategy is denial—to deny the truth. John mentions a series of denials. The first is in verse 6; we may deny the nature of reality (saying light and darkness can coexist). We may deny the truth about ourselves and so be deceived. (v. 8) Or, we may deny the truthfulness of God, claiming Him to be the liar because He is wrong about our ever having sinned. (v. 10)*

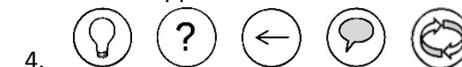
*But if people respond with any of these denials, they only show that His truth has not invaded their souls, that they have not experienced the life that has come into the world. Each of these denials is an abandonment of the truth... Denial leads to darkness as well as death and destruction.*

*But confession leads to life and light through the blood of Jesus... If we confess (v. 9)—that is, agree with God that we have sinned, that we do sin, and that we cannot live in both sin and fellowship with Him—then God, who is light, is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and purify us of some unrighteousness. No, all unrighteousness. He keeps His promise to save all those who hope in Jesus alone.*

*The sinner who turns from his or her sins and turns to God through faith in Jesus turns to a God who keeps His promise to forgive. He will do just what He says; He will cleanse the sinner of all unrighteousness, guilt, and shame from sin. This is good news!*

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

1. What denials do people make about God and sin?
2. What is the right response rather than denial?
3. What happens to the sinner who confesses his or her sins?



**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 72e
1. Confess your sin with your family, claiming God's forgiveness
  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 John 1:7 forgiveness and fellowship

**Notes**  
(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*We know we have fellowship with God if we walk in the light, in holiness, where He lives. If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus shed on the cross purifies us. Does the text say the blood purifies us of some of our sins? Really small sins? Unintentional sins? The understandable sins? Past sins? No, the blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary's cross for His rebellious people atones for, covers over, cleanses, **all** sin!*

*Notice something about all the pronouns in 1 John 1:1-10. Except when referring to Jesus, all the pronouns are plural—'we,' 'us,' 'our.' Spiritual fellowship with God is a profoundly group experience; it is a public experience. Verse 7 is striking. The verse begins with 'But if we walk in the light ... .' You would think, given the way the verse starts, that John would say, 'we have fellowship with Him' (with God). But he doesn't. He concludes, 'we have fellowship with one another.' Our walking in the light where Christ is leads to fellowship with other Christians!*

*We enter the faith individually and personally, but we live the faith corporately and publicly. We know the life of God in our own souls personally, but we share that life with everyone else who knows it... These verses tell us that we are fundamentally sharers together in the same life of God in the soul—and that we are to express and live that life together through vibrant relationships in the church.*

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

1. What can we do with our sins?
2. What happens when we walk in God's light?
3. What is the context of living the faith?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 72e
1. Confess, with your family, that you need the church
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

**Reading**

1 John 1:1-4 Shared relationally

**Notes**  
(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*Notice how many times John says 'we proclaim to you.' ... Five times in ten verses John mentions the apostolic activity of proclaiming that this life has come, that they have seen it, and experienced it. Why is John so urgently proclaiming this life to those receiving this letter and to us?*

*Why? Because this glorious life has entered the world not only that John may personally experience it, but that this very life might be shared with and experienced by others. The life of God ought to be shared in relationship with others in the church.*

*The main goal of gospel preaching is that men be brought to fellowship with God and His Son and with each other... This fellowship has its power and essence in the nature of God... It's a sharing in the life of God in the soul of men that binds us together in a profound and new reality. This spiritual fellowship provides a binding more profound, thicker, stronger, and longer lasting than even blood ties.*

*The reason the apostles preached the message of Jesus Christ was not for individual conversion alone. The apostles did not preach so that there simply would be a new me, but so that there would be a new we. They didn't preach simply for a new you, but for a new us... To have fellowship with the Father and the Son is to be loved by the Father and to have Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the Eternal Life living in us.*

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

1. Why is John so urgently proclaiming this life to others?
2. How is the life of God to be shared?
3. What is this fellowship?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 72e
1. Rejoice in the fellowship you have with God and His church
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

### Reading

1 John 1:4-5 The goal: joy and holiness

### Notes

(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*The goals of this fellowship are joy and holiness... John clarifies the message of the gospel for his readers and for us. He proclaims his message so that our joy would be filled out, swelled to fullness, complete, overflowing, bursting forth—so that nothing would be lacking in our experience of joy! ... This is what the end of the gospel brings—joy for the sinner who now looks to His Saviour face-to-face.*

*This joy is not light, happy-clappy, back-slappy silliness—all jokes, trifling and no substance... This is a blood-bought joy. It's not that kind of joy that wears a mask of fakery and pretend happiness. It's not temporary, momentary, fleeting, or easily crushed by hardship in this life... This is an indestructible joy because it flows out of the indestructible life of God beating in the hearts of men.*

*Moreover, this spiritual fellowship aims at producing holiness... God is absolute, perfect light... The flesh speaks of holiness as burden, not as joy... But, beloved, holiness is beauty. It's goodness, righteousness. Holiness is light. True holiness contains the kind of joy that brings no shame, no embarrassment. Holiness is the kind of joy that knows freedom instead of captivity... When we walk holy as God is holy, we live without fear of being exposed, shamed, or of dying the slow death of sin. We walk in a boundless, free, and glorious joy because the life of God is light in our soul.*

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What are the two goals of this spiritual fellowship?
2. What is joy?
3. What is holiness?

4.     

### Praise

#### Pray

Psalm 72e

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to joyful holiness, 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 John 1:5-7 Light and Darkness

### Notes

(Notes this week are drawn entirely from chapter 1 in the book, *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church* by Thabiti Anyabwile)

*John writes at a time when people claimed the body is evil while the spirit is good. Assuming this division between body and spirit, they concluded that it doesn't matter what we do with our bodies. We can devote our bodies to any kind of evil or lust because our spirits remain clean... The apostle writes clearly to dispel all of this. John says it is impossible to have fellowship with God and at the same time walk in darkness. Light and darkness cannot coexist. Light chases away darkness the way the rising sun chases away the night. Darkness vanishes before the growing glow of God's light*

*God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. The life of God in the soul of man chases away darkness. Conversion to Christ is just that radical and thorough. Whoever follows Jesus will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

*The Bible denies—from the Great Apostle, Jesus Christ Himself, to the last apostle, the beloved John—that a person can have fellowship with God and with other Christians while walking habitually in the darkness of sin.*

*Light and darkness cannot coexist. All of us have sinned and do sin. That creates a major problem, does it not? God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Yet all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). What will we do with our sins? How can we enter and maintain fellowship with God? How will we be able to come to Him and know Him and receive His holy joy?*

### Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why does it matter what we do with our bodies?
2. What is true of light and darkness?
3. What does conversion do to the darkness?

4.     

### Praise

#### Pray

Psalm 72e

1. Rejoice with your family that you have come to His light
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member