

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. frankston.rpca.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 John by John Calvin, William Hendriksen, and Kent Hughes. *The notes and reading this week are a repeat of the week of 23 Dec 2012*

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

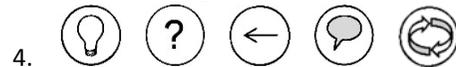
Reading John 14:1-6 I am the Way

Notes John devotes 5 chapters to the final meal and instruction time between Jesus and His closest disciples just before He goes to the cross to save sinners. As they are there, Jesus knows His disciples – He knows they have troubled hearts. Their Master, Teacher, Friend would soon die. One of these 12 closest would betray Jesus. One would deny knowing Him. All of them would fall away. Yet Jesus commands them to not continue to be troubled in heart.

And, why not? Because in the sad events to come, great things were happening. Jesus would leave His disciples for a time because He was preparing a better place for them. He had come to this earth and “tented” among us for a time, but He was going to prepare permanent living places for us with His Father in heaven. And, He will come back to take us to be there with Him.

Thomas asks the question we all need to have asked. “How do we get there?” Jesus answers that He is the sure and only way there. It is not simply a matter of following Jesus, but going through Jesus. He is the path to the Father. There is a better place. There is one and only one way to that place. We who are trusting in Christ will be in that place face to face with our Saviour.

- Questions**
1. Why were the disciples’ hearts troubled?
 2. Where would Jesus be going, and why?
 3. How can we get to the better place Jesus is preparing?



- Praise** Psalm 49a²
- Pray**
1. Rejoice with your family that Jesus is the only way
 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 John 14:25-31 Peace from Christ

Notes Jesus returns to the words with which He begins this chapter. “Don’t let your hearts be troubled.” We can sense the disciples are not listening to Jesus. Instead of becoming less troubled in heart they are becoming fearful as well, timid, cowardly. Soon this would be demonstrated as they will all abandon Jesus.

But Jesus promises that the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will remind them of His teaching. This reminder will keep them from troubled and fearful hearts. The Holy Spirit will remind Jesus’ followers that He gives peace. *“This peace,” says Jesus as it were, “is both a legacy which I leave behind and a treasure which I give.”* (Hendriksen)

This peace is for us now – not just when He returns. And, this peace is for real – not the false peace of the world. The world gives the illusion of peace through sinful compromise, or mind numbing chemicals, or denial. Jesus gives peace through the *inner assurance which is the reflection of the smile of God in the heart of his child.* (Hendriksen)

This true peace would be the only thing that would keep the fearful disciples following Jesus. Though they would soon, for the moment, fall away, they would see and be assured in His victory over death and over the devil that because He does the Father’s will, so can they. And, for the same reason, so can we.

- Questions**
1. What does the Holy Spirit remind Jesus’ disciples of?
 2. How does the world give peace?
 3. How does Jesus give peace?



- Praise** Psalm 49a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will fully know Jesus’ peace
 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 John 14:19-24 If you love Jesus, you will obey Him

Notes Jesus is, in just a little while – in just a few hours from this time teaching His disciples – going to die. Yet He promises His disciples that because He lives, they will also live. As He has said all along, death could not contain Him. He rose from the dead, then went to His Father just as He has been promising He would do.

And even when He is no longer physically visible His disciples will, by the promised Holy Spirit, still see Him at work, still experience His presence and His love. And in the Holy Spirit, the required evidence of love for Jesus is possible. For Jesus again says that if we claim to love Him, we must demonstrate that by obeying Him. He couldn't be clearer. The one who keeps His word loves Him. (v21) The one who loves Him, keeps His word. (v23) The one who doesn't love Him doesn't keep His/His Fathers' word.

Do you love Jesus? Then, with God the Holy Spirit's (who lives in you) help, obey Him. To claim to love Him yet to deliberately disobey Him is to be living a lie. Yet to love Him and demonstrate that love by Holy Spirit assisted obedience is to open ourselves up to knowing Jesus' love to the full.

As we love and obey Jesus, we see Jesus in us. As we love and obey Jesus, we know the love of the Father. As we love and obey Jesus, the Father – and the Son – by the Spirit – make a home with us here and now while we wait for the Son to come back and take us to His Father's home!

- Questions**
1. What does obeying Jesus's words show?
 2. What does disobeying Jesus' words show?
 3. What happens as we love and obey Jesus?
 4.     

- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 49a
1. Resolve with your family in prayer to love and obey Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading John 14:7-11 Show us the Father

Notes Jesus has told His disciples that *it is a foolish and [destructive] curiosity, when men, not satisfied with him, attempt to go to God by indirect and crooked paths.* He now *blames the disciples for not acknowledging that the fullness of the Godhead was [made visible] in him...* teaching that *God is now plainly exhibited to them if they would but open their eyes.* (Calvin)

Yet Philip asks, "Show us the Father." He apparently longed for a physical appearance of God as a few of the Old Testament saints had seen. *He did not seem to realize that a far greater privilege than that which Moses enjoyed while on earth, had been given to him!* (Hendriksen) God the Son had become man in order to reveal the fullness of God to him – and to us – to all who believe Jesus word and works.

This revelation of God the Father through God the Son takes place because the Father and the Son (and the Spirit v16,17, 26), though distinct persons are one God. *Whenever Jesus speaks, the Father works by means of this speaking. Every word of Jesus is a work of the Father! This, however, does not mean that the Father is acting like a ventriloquist who speaks through his dummy. On the contrary, the Son speaks the mind of the Father because this is also his own mind.* (Hendriksen) Jesus tells the disciples, and by application tells us, to keep on believing this.

- Questions**
1. Is there more than one God?
 2. How many persons are in the one God?
 3. How can we see God?
 4.     

- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 49a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seeing God in Jesus by faith, 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 John 14:12-14 You will do greater works

Notes Jesus now makes a solemn promise to His troubled, weak-faith disciples. "Those who believe in Me will do greater works than I have done." And these greater works will be done, not in spite of Jesus going away to the Father, but because of it. Our minds might immediately go to His miracles, remembering John's record of His 7 signs: 2:1-11, water into wine, 4:46-54. Healed the nobleman's son without going to him – just a word, 5:1-15 – healed the man paralysed 38 years, 6:1-15 – feeding the 5000, 6:16-21 – walking on the sea of Galilee, 9:1-7 – healing the man born blind, 11:1-44 – raising Lazarus from the dead.

In spite of the many miracles recorded in Acts, it would still be difficult to be certain that those were truly, truly greater than those of Jesus. If we focus only on his physical miracles we would be missing the point. What is Jesus' greatest work? Salvation. His promise to his disciples, and through them to His church – you will have a greater impact on the gospel mission which my father sent me to initiate than even I do.

It is as if He says, "You think the work will end with my leaving? I solemnly tell you it will not only not end, it will explode." So, let's pursue the means of doing these greater works – prayer. Let's pray that Jesus will do the work of saving souls through our gospel ministry.

- Questions**
1. What great works did John record Jesus doing?
 2. What greater works can believers in Jesus do?
 3. What is Jesus' plan for extending salvation to the world?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 49a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to the greater work of taking the gospel to the world, 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 John 14:15-18 The Father will send another Helper

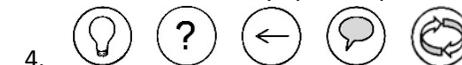
Notes How could Jesus disciples ever do the greater works He had solemnly promised they would do? We saw in v13-14 that one means was prayer. Now, John reveals two additional means.

The first is obedience. We demonstrate our love for Jesus by obeying Him (v15, 21, 23, 24). If we are living wilfully disobedient lives we will have no peace, no joy, and no gospel fruit. But as we obey Him, we have a life testimony – evidence of the gospel power. Yet we have something even greater.

We have a helper, sent by the Father. Jesus went to the Father, so He could send the Holy Spirit. We don't actually do the greater work. Jesus does the work in us by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives in us. Christians all over this globe have Christ with them – just as truly as the disciples did. How? Even Christ, in His human existence, could only be with a few, or at most, many, at any one time. Yet Jesus promises to come to His followers, not leaving them as orphans.

He does this through the Holy Spirit – the Helper, or Comforter. The word carries the sense of a legal advocate, but is used more in John's writings as a comforter, a helper, one who gives us aid. In the Holy Spirit, we have Jesus' presence with us. He will help us do the greater works Jesus calls us to do.

- Questions**
1. How does obeying Jesus help us do greater works?
 2. How in Christ in and with us now?
 3. How does the Holy Spirit help us do greater works?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 49a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that the Holy Spirit lives in you
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member