

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 Matthew by John Calvin, William Hendriksen, and Iain Campbell

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

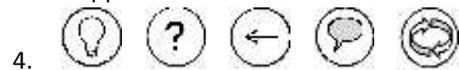
Reading Matthew 28:16-20 Obedience, worship and doubt

Notes (See back page for authors)
The King is leaving. He is not dying – for He has died – and risen again and death has no hold on Him. But, as He told His disciples, He would leave to return to His Father. Now, Matthew records one of His last times on earth with His followers (see Mk 16, Lk 24, Acts 1, 1 Cor 15) As He prepares them one last time for His departure, we see them respond – with obedience, with worship, and with doubt for some. And similar responses continue today.

The disciples obey and meet with Jesus on a mountain. (Mountains are a theme throughout Matthew’s gospel – 4:8, 5:1, 8:1, 14:23, 17:1, 26:30). As they meet Him, they worship Him. Campbell says *that Matthew wants us to learn that there is no incongruity between worshipping that one true God and offering our worship to Jesus. Worship of Jesus is worship of God.*

Yet some doubted. Did they doubt this one approaching was the risen Messiah (Calvin, Hendriksen)? Such seems likely. Yet Jesus drew near and instructed them. Cast your doubts aside, draw near to Christ, worship and obey Him, dear saint.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Where did the disciples meet Jesus? Why?
 2. Why might they have doubted? Why might we?
 3. How could they worship Jesus when only God is to be worshipped?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 79b²
1. Commit you and your family in prayer to believe, obey, and worship Jesus, 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

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 Matthew 28:16-20 I am with you always

Notes (See back page for authors)
Following His Great Claim of all authority, His Great Commission of making disciples, Jesus concludes with a promise of Great Comfort. He will be with His disciple-making, command-observing, authority-submitting followers. He will be with them, not merely most of the time, not just in the good times, but always.

“I am with you. Always.” How much we need that! How much we want that! We glibly promise to those we love, “I’ll always be here for you.” But we fail. Sometimes it’s simply part of our human limitations – we can’t be two places at once. Sometimes it’s due to our sin – we can break our promises as easily as we make them. Yet we have in Jesus an always with us King!

Calvin says, *As Christ gave to the apostles a commission which they were unable to discharge by reliance on merely human power, he encourages them by the assurance of his heavenly protection... The pronoun I must be viewed as emphatic; as if he had said that the apostles, if they wished zealously to perform their duty, must not consider what they are able to do, but must rely on the invincible power of those under whose banner they fight. The nature of that presence which the Lord promises to his followers ought to be understood spiritually; for it is not necessary that he should descend from heaven in order to assist us, since he can assist us by the grace of his Spirit, as if he stretched out his hand from heaven. Be with us, Jesus!*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. What is Jesus’ Great Comfort?
 2. Why do we need His always presence?
 3. How do we receive His always presence?



- Praise Pray** Psalm 79b
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 Matthew 28:16-20 Make disciples, teaching them...

Notes
(See back page for authors)

As you are going, make disciples, baptising them and teaching them. These two activities – baptising and teaching – are critical ingredients to making disciples. The order is not merely chronological. But baptism happens once and teaching goes on for a whole lifetime.

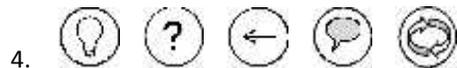
What are we to teach these disciples we are making. The answer makes clear this is Jesus' work, not ours and that we are to be making disciples of Jesus, not of us. So, we are to be teaching these disciples the things that Jesus has commanded. Hendriksen suggests we should be thinking of *all of Christ's marvelous discourses. All of his parables..., [His] precious "sayings,"... predictions and promises or assurances... [all His] lessons... [and] even the narrative of Christ's sojourn on earth.*

And, of course, we know to go even further as Jesus clearly tells us that all of the Bible is about Him (Lk 24:27, 45). So the portions in our Bibles both before and after the Gospel accounts, understood in the light of the life, death, and resurrection of our Saviour, are also the things Jesus has commanded.

Of these teachings, some are of first importance (1 Cor 15:3ff). Others are secondary. Some are even of third importance. But, ALL are important. Making disciples involves teaching disciples to observe ALL that Jesus has commanded. (see <http://bit.ly/cjib> for more).

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What two activities are critical ingredients to disciple-making?
2. What are we to be teaching these disciples?
3. Where do we find all that Jesus has commanded?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 79b
1. Confess, with your family, you will observe all Jesus commands
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Matthew 28:16-20 All Authority

Notes
(See back page for authors)

As Jesus comes near to His disciples for these last words with them, He begins with a great claim. All Authority is His. All Authority is His. All of it. It is His now. Not one single solitary molecule in this world is outside of His authority. Campbell reminds us that *Jesus' claim to possess universal authority comes at the end of a Gospel where this has been a recurring theme. ... (7:29, 8:27, and 9:7) ... Now, however, his claim is absolute: all authority is his, in heaven and on earth.*

This authority had been granted to Him by His Father in Jesus' role as Resurrected, Mediatorial King. There is no other King who rules over all His enemies and at the same time brings those who were formerly His enemies willingly into His Kingdom.

Calvin writes that Jesus *expressly calls himself the Lord and King of heaven and earth, because, by constraining men to obey him in the preaching of the gospel, he establishes his throne on the earth; and, by regenerating his people to a new life, and inviting them to the hope of salvation, he opens heaven to admit to a blessed immortality with angels those who formerly had not only crawled on the world, but had been plunged in the abyss of death.*

Jesus has all authority. All. Are you submitting to Him willingly? Are you obeying Him on earth as one who has been by Him invited into heaven?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How much authority does Jesus have?
2. Where is His authority carried out? How?
3. How is submission to His authority shown by us?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 79b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to submitting to Jesus' authority and gospel, 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 Matthew 28:16-20 As you go, make disciples

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Jesus' words following His Great Claim of all authority are often called His Great Commission. In these words He commissions His disciples to do His work for Him on earth as He is from heaven. What is His work? To go and make disciples. In Australia the question, "How are you going?" is more common than the American, "How are you doing?" Perhaps that can serve as a good reminder to us Christians. How are you going? As you are going, make disciples – of the nations. Notice there is nowhere the gospel should not go. Nowhere that the authority of Christ is not to be pressed.

Hendriksen says that "Go" also implies that the disciples—and this holds for God's children in general—must not concentrate all their thought on "coming" to church. They must also "go" to bring the precious tidings to others. Of course, they cannot "go" unless they have first of all "come," and unless they keep coming as well as going.

And, as they go, Jesus' disciples are to reproduce – they are to make more disciples. Campbell says that *the church is ... not merely to evangelize and make converts, but to teach and make disciples... We make disciples as we preach the gospel and present men and women with the claims of Christ on their lives. We have learned that the nature of discipleship is to be like the Master (10:25) and to belong to the family of Jesus (12:49).*

Are you a disciple? Are you a disciple-making disciple?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How are we disciples supposed to be going?
2. Are we to invite unbelievers to church or go to them?
3. What is a disciple?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 79b
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to Go and Make Disciples, 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 Matthew 28:16-20 Make disciples, baptising them...

Notes
(See back page for authors)

"As you are going, make disciples," Jesus says. Then He specifies two important ingredients to making disciples – baptising them and teaching them. We'll consider the first one today.

Baptising them. Baptism is, Campbell points out, *a foundational, primary and initiatory rite of discipleship*. In this act, the one who is by nature an enemy of Jesus is marked as a friend. The one who is filthily polluted by sin from the womb is marked as one washed white as snow. The one who has been far off, is designated as one brought near. This sign of God's grace marks the one receiving it as part of Christ's visible body, His church.

Hendriksen notes that *the baptizing must be into the name—note the singular: one name; hence one God—of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. A name...represents the one who bears it. "Being baptized into the name of," therefore means "being brought into vital relationship with" that One, viewed as he has revealed himself.*

This baptism is for all who profess the true religion and for their children (see Acts 2:39, <http://bit.ly/BaptInf> for more)

Finally as the Westminster Confession notes, *by the right use of this ordinance, the grace promised is not only offered, but really exhibited, and conferred, by the Holy Ghost, to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs unto, according to the counsel of God's own will, in His appointed time.*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What does baptism do?
2. Who is to be baptized?
3. What makes baptism effective?



Praise Pray

- Psalm 79b
1. Rejoice with your family in the grace of God in your baptism
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member