

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 11:1-3 But Solomon loved many foreign women...

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

*If chapters 9–10 describe the fame of Solomon, chapter 11 sets forth his shame.* (Smith) It seemed troubling enough when Solomon took Pharaoh’s daughter as his wife. Now, God exposes the depth of Solomon’s slide. Not one foreign wife, but many. Many from the nations out of which the Lord had forbidden his people to marry. This was not an ethnic or racist concern, but a spiritual concern. God knows in the intimacy of a marriage relationship much influence exists. And, God knows that an unbelieving spouse is very likely to draw the heart of a believing spouse away from God and toward idols.

And, Solomon, with his unsurpassed wisdom, was foolish enough to think, it seems, he might be an exception to what God knows to be true. But he is no exception – his wives turned away his heart from God. (v3) *Instead of clinging to God as commanded in the law (Deut 4:4; 10:20; 30:20), Solomon chose to cling to his women!* (Smith) Even though extra-biblical evidence exists that suggest Solomon’s actions were not unlike other kings of his day, God’s standard has never been and will never be how like those who don’t follow him can we be.

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

1. How many wives did Solomon have?
2. How many wives should a man have?
3. What was the result of Solomon loving these foreign wives?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 76a<sup>2</sup>
1. Commit in prayer to follow God, not the world, 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

<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 11:41-43 Then Solomon died

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

*We have here the conclusion of Solomon’s story, and in it, 1. Reference is had to another history then [in existence], but (not being divinely inspired) since lost, the Book of the Acts of Solomon, v. 41. Probably this book was written by a chronologer or historiographer, whom Solomon employed to write his annals, out of which the sacred writer extracted what God saw fit to transmit to the church.*

*2. A summary of the years of his reign (v. 42): He reigned in Jerusalem (not, as his father, part of his time in Hebron and part in Jerusalem), over all Israel (not as his son, and his father in the beginning of his time, over Judah only), forty years. His reign was as long as his father’s, but not his life. Sin shortened his days.*

*3. His death and burial, and his successor, v. 43. (1.) He followed his fathers to the grave, slept with them, and was buried in David’s burying-place, with honour no doubt. (2.) His son followed him in the throne. Thus the graves are filling with the generations that go off, and houses are filling with those that are growing up. As the grave cries, “Give, give, ’ so land is never lost for want of an heir. (Henry)*

What will be said at the conclusion of our story? Might there be more a testimony of God’s grace working out in our lives and those of our descendants. Pray earnestly for such grace.

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

1. What three things are we told at the end of Solomon’s life?
2. Why do all men die?
3. What is our only hope in life and in death?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 76a
1. Pray that you and your family will live and die in grace, 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 11:26-40 I will tear the kingdom out of Solomon’s hand

**Notes** (See back page for authors)  
Now, Jeroboam is raised up in rebellion against Solomon. Though a trusted servant he would not only rebel, but would tear the kingdom from Solomon – except the tribe of Benjamin who would stay with Judah as the Kingdom over which Solomon’s son would reign.

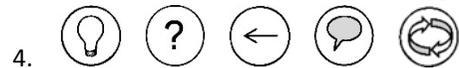
God sent a prophet to Jeroboam to tell him of his plan to tear 10 tribes from Solomon and give them to Jeroboam like 10 of the torn pieces of his garment. This judgement was due to Israel’s idolatry which Solomon had led them into. The prophet also told Jeroboam that God would prosper his reign and establish him a dynasty like David’s – if he would walk in God’s ways. Sadly, though, Jeroboam would be remembered over and over again as the king who sinned and who caused Israel to sin. While the righteous kings of Judah would be few, not one of the kings of Israel would follow after God, but would instead follow after the sins of Jeroboam.

Fathers – who are your children following? Are they following you in righteousness or are they following you in sin?

God also tells Jeroboam that He will keep David’s line reigning in Judah because of His covenant promises to David. In wrath, God remembers mercy and preserves the line of the Saviour.

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

1. Who was Jeroboam before he became King in Israel?
2. What did God promise Jeroboam and on what condition?
3. Why did God not take all of the kingdom from Solomon’s son?



**Praise Pray** Psalm 76a

1. Confess, with your family, your tendency to sin like your fathers did (so) and ask His help to live rightly
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 11:4-8 His heart was not loyal to the Lord his God

**Notes** (See back page for authors)  
*Shall Solomon fall, that was the beauty of Israel, and so great a blessing of his generation? Yes, it is too true, and the scripture is faithful in relating it, and repeating it, and referring to it long after, Neh. 13:26. ... Is this Solomon? Have all his wisdom and devotion come to this at last? Never was gallant ship so wrecked; never was crown so profaned.* (Henry)

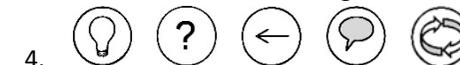
Not content with foreign wives, Solomon began to love foreign gods as well. He made his sin worse as his heart was not loyal to God. Notice the progression – from a heart not fully committed to God it was a short step to actions that were evilly opposed to God’s ways. We have to wonder if he wrote this proverb after learning this hard lesson, or if it was a case of not practicing what he preached? *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.* Prov. 4:23

How’s your heart? How are your actions? You surely don’t have 1000 wives. You likely don’t have shrines to foreign gods set up. But is your heart completely loyal to the Lord your God? What temptations are you allowing to come between you and God?

*Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. We see how weak we are of ourselves, without the grace of God; let us therefore live in a constant dependence on that grace.* (Henry)

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

1. What was the progression Solomon followed?
2. What is the connection between heart and actions?
3. How can we avoid sinning like Solomon?



**Praise Pray** Psalm 76a

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to striving for a heart loyal to God, 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** 1 Kings 11:9-13 Because you have done this...

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

Be not deceived, God is not mocked. (Gal. 6:7) Solomon now finds this truth as God comes to him, not to give answers to prayer beyond what he could ask or imagine, but to give divine judgement on Solomon for his sin and rebellion against God. Though there is a saying, "third time lucky," this third visit from God to Solomon brought neither luck nor good.

Instead God would tear the kingdom away from Solomon. His servant rather than his son would rule the Kingdom. *God tempered the judgment with two gracious and merciful limitations. (1) The blow would not fall until after the death of Solomon; and (2) the disruption would only be partial. One tribe, Judah, would remain under the Davidic dynasty. Two reasons are given for these merciful limitations. Judgment would be mitigated (1) for David's sake, i.e., because of the promises made to David (cf. 2 Sam 7:13); and (2) for Jerusalem's sake. (Smith)*

We see in Solomon's sin and God's justice our own sin. Often we fail to keep what the Lord commands. We too can anger God and deserve His judgement. We also see that Solomon would not be the offspring of David who would always obey God's commands and who would reign eternally. That good king which righteous Israelites longed for will come in Jesus.

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

1. What had God revealed to Solomon the first 2 visits (3:5; 9:2)?
2. What did God reveal to Solomon this visit?
3. What do we see in Solomon's sin?
4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 76a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to seek to keep God's commands, 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 11:14-25 The Lord raised up adversaries

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

Once God determined to discipline Solomon His discipline began. Often through history we find God using the actions of sinful men to bring discipline to His people. We might wonder why, as did Habakkuk (1:13) yet must remember that 1) the Lord disciplines those He loves (Prov 3:11-12); 2) the just shall/must live by faith (Hab 2:4); 3) evil-doers are still guilty of their sin even when carrying out God's plan (Acts 2:23); and 4) God will in the end judge all evildoers. (Rev. 21:8)

*While Solomon kept closely to God and to his duty there was no adversary nor evil occurrence (ch.5:4), nothing to create him any disturbance or uneasiness in the least; but here we have an account of two adversaries that appeared against him, inconsiderable, and that could not have done any thing worth taking notice of if Solomon had not first made God his enemy. What hurt could Hadad or Rezon have done to so great and powerful a king as Solomon was if he had not, by sin, made himself mean and weak? (Henry)*

What are the righteous to do, then, when faced with adversity? Repent of any known sin. Ask God to save from distress. Pray even for your persecutors. Rest in God's sovereignty. We can wonder "what if" Solomon had responded in this way. Yet we would be better profited to be sure that we respond this way.

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

1. Who came against Solomon as adversaries?
2. If God raised up these adversaries is He to blame?
3. How should we respond to adversity?
4.     

**Praise Pray**

- Psalm 76a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that you will respond in and with grace to adversity
  2. Pray for a member of your church
  3. Pray for your family
  4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member