

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 Daniel by John Calvin, Rodney Stolz, and James Smith, and notes from the HCSB Study Bible, and the Reformation Study Bible

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 Daniel 6:1-2 The Person of Daniel

Notes
(See back page for authors)






We all know about Daniel. But a few facts anyway. Daniel was born into a Jewish royal family (1:3). As a young man he was carried into Babylon along with other young royal sons to serve Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

Daniel was a contemporary of Ezekiel. He served 3 pagan kings of Babylon – a public ministry of some 70 or 80 years! (or 4 students of his book differ on the interpretation of 6:28) The book is bilingual (Hebrew (1:1–2:4a; 8:1–12:13) and the rest Aramaic). Half the book is historical and half prophetic. Along with Revelation, Daniel provides significant insight into the end (of Israel’s age, or of the world – opinions differ). Daniel’s place among the Old Testament books has varied between The Prophets and The Writings. Jesus referred to Daniel, the Prophet (Matt 24:15) in His own apocalyptic messages. Jesus also identifies Himself as Son of Man – a title clearly referring to Jesus from Daniel 7:13.

Smith notes that *Daniel records a cluster of miracles which God wrought during the period of the exile. This was the third of four Biblical periods of approximately forty years each in which God demonstrated his omnipotent power in the affairs of men.*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Daniel’s Babylonian name?
2. What 3, or 4, Babylonian kings did Daniel serve under?
3. Can you identify all 4 Bible periods where miracles cluster?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 133a²
1. Commit you and your family to learn from Daniel 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

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 Daniel 6:25-28 The Proclamation of the King

Notes
(All today’s notes are from Calvin’s commentary on Daniel)





Here Daniel adds the king’s edict, which he wished to be [published]. And by this edict he bore witness that he was so moved by the deliverance of Daniel, as to attribute the supreme glory to the God of Israel.

Meanwhile, I do not think this a proof of the king’s real piety, as some interpreters here extol King Darius without moderation, as if he had really repented and embraced the pure worship prescribed by the law of Moses. Nothing of this kind can be collected from the words of the edict—and this circumstance shews it—for his empire was never purged from its superstitions. King Darius still allowed his subjects to worship idols; and he did not refrain from polluting himself with such defilements; but he wished to place the God of Israel on the highest elevation, thus attempting to mingle fire and water!

We have previously discussed this point. For the [unbelieving] think they discharge their duty to the true God, if they do not openly despise him, but assign him some place or other; and, especially, if they prefer him to all idols, they think they have satisfied God. But this is all futile; for unless they abolish all superstitions, God by no means obtains his right, since he allows of no equals.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What did King Darius’s edict say?
2. What was good about this edict?
3. What was missing?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 133a
1. Pray that you and your family will worship God only and truly (and proclaim Him), 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

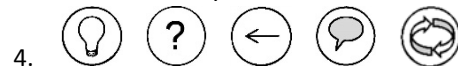
Reading Daniel 6:19-24 The Protection of Daniel

Notes (All today's notes are from Smith's commentary on Daniel)
As early as possible in the morning, Darius rushed to the lions' den. As he approached the place he cried out (lit., screamed), "Daniel, servant of the Living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Here is an advance in the God-consciousness of this monarch. He recognized Daniel's God as the Living God in contrast to the idols which were so prevalent in that land (6:19f.).

How relieved the king must have been when Daniel responded from the den. The prophet had survived his night with the wild beasts. God had sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions. The Supreme Judge had found Daniel innocent in respect both to his God and his king...Darius was very pleased that Daniel was unharmed...The text attributes this deliverance to the fact that Daniel "trusted in his God" (6:21-23).

Darius then vented his anger on the nobles who had accused Daniel. He realized now that they, not Daniel, had shown disdain for his sovereignty. These nobles could not deny their involvement in the plot since their seals appeared on the rock. The conspiracy boomeranged on them. True to Persian custom, both the nobles and their families were thrown to the lions. Before these victims had reached the bottom of the den, the lions overpowered and crushed them. The ravenous appetites of the lions underscored the miracle of Daniel's deliverance (6:24).

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)
 1. What did the king do first thing the next morning? Why?
 2. What was the result of Daniel's night in the lion's den?
 3. Will God always rescue us from "lions"? Why or why not?



Praise Pray Psalm 133a
 1. Confess, with your family, God's power and protection of you
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

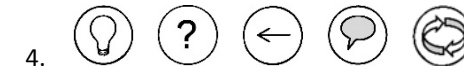
Reading Daniel 6:1-3 The Position of Daniel³

Notes (See back page for authors)
 Daniel rose to prominence under each of the Babylonian kings. He was clearly skilled in his work (Prov 22:29). The RSB notes that *the king appointed three administrators over the 120 satraps to assure that taxes would be properly collected without any embezzlement or corruption by the 120 government officials. For these positions, the king needed men with trustworthy reputations. So he chose Daniel as one of these officials. He must have heard of Daniel's reputation; perhaps he was even aware of Daniel's interpretation of the writing that had appeared on the wall the night Babylon fell.*

Smith notes that the prophet began to distinguish himself among the king's administrators. Daniel would be about eighty-two at this time. The text explains his excellence as due to the "extraordinary spirit" which he possessed. The prophet was filled with the Holy Spirit (5:12) as well as a human spirit saturated with the principles of divine Scripture. King Darius planned to appoint Daniel "over the entire kingdom," i.e., elevate him to be prime minister of the realm (6:3)

God is clearly still at work in this faithful servant. In old age He's still thriving and bearing fruit and proclaiming the righteousness of God (see Psalm 92:12-15)

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)
 1. What position did King Darius appoint Daniel to?
 2. Why did Daniel receive this appointment?
 3. How old was Daniel at this time?



Praise Pray Psalm 133a
 1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to faithful service to God, even in old age, 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

³ The divisions and titles for the rest of the week come from Smith's commentary

Reading Daniel 6:4-9 The Plot against Daniel

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Not all were happy with Daniel’s faithful public service – and the acknowledgement that it received from the King. The other (less faithful it seems) administrators and satraps (Governor who held jurisdiction over a number of provinces within the king’s domain., Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible) were envious of Daniel and began to plot against him.






However, his faithfulness proved a difficulty to them as they could find no negligence or corruption (v4 – suggesting that such was common among these public servants – as it often sadly is today). Daniel must have read Paul’s letter to Titus (2:7, 8 ;).

Smith comments *because Daniel was faithful to his God, he was also faithful to his king. No negligence or corruption could be found in him. His enemies realized that Daniel’s faith was the only point in which he might be vulnerable to their attack.*

So they did attack him at the point of his faith. They convinced Darius to make prayer to anyone except the king himself illegal for the next 30 days. What would we do if prayer was illegal? What will Daniel do? Let’s consider Calvin’s prayer: *Whenever Satan besieges us on every side, and the wicked lay snares for us, and we are attacked by the fierceness of wild beasts, may we remain safe under your protection, and even if we have to undergo a hundred deaths, may we learn to live and die to you, and may your name be glorified in us, through Christ our Lord.—Amen.*

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was Daniel’s character like?
2. How did Daniel’s opponents attack him?
3. What would you do if prayer were illegal?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 133a
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to godliness, 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 Daniel 6:10-18 The Punishment of Daniel

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Now that it was illegal to pray, what would Daniel do? *Three times a day he got down on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to his God, just as he had done before (v10)!* He didn’t start a protest prayer. He didn’t give up praying in fear of the law. He continued his pattern of praying openly and regularly to his God – the only True God!

Calvin comments that *now, with respect to the profession of piety, it was necessary to testify before men his perseverance in the worship of God. For if he had altered his habits at all, it would have been a partial [renunciation]; he would not have said that he openly despised God to please Darius; but that very difference in his conduct would have been a proof of [disloyal] defection. We know that God requires not only faith in the heart and the inward affections, but also the witness and confession of our piety.*

As a result, the king carries out the law and has Daniel thrown into the den of lions (reluctantly – and with a prayer of his own for Daniel’s protection by Daniel’s God). Smith asks *had Darius heard about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego? Be that as it may, the king was evidencing an initial step in his God-consciousness, viz., recognition of a power greater than his own.*

The king then spent a restless night, troubled about the harm he had brought to this faithful servant.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What did Daniel do now that prayer was illegal?
2. Why did Daniel not change his pattern of prayer and worship?
3. What was the king’s attitude when putting Daniel with lions?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 133a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that God is with you even in difficult things
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member