

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 2 Kings by Matthew Henry, James E Smith, and Dale Ralph Davis

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 2 Kings 22:1-2 Godly young king Josiah

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Josiah became king at age 8. Although he had a wicked father and grandfather, instead of following in their ways, he lived obediently in God's presence. Davis tells us that Josiah *receives kudos from our writer (v. 2): he joins seven other kings of Judah who do 'what is right' in Yahweh's eyes, but only two others share with him a favorable comparison with David.*⁷ Josiah's steadfastness ('he did not turn to right or left,' v. 2b) places him in a league with Hezekiah (18:6). How good Yahweh is to send a Josiah after the Manasseh-Amon debacle.

Yet we might think that age 8 is too young to be a king and too young to be serious about the Lord. As we see in Josiah, it's not. Parents, what is your expectation from your 8 year olds? Are you seeing them do what is right in God's presence, turning not to the right nor left? Let us labour in prayer and in parenting for God to cause our children, from even before age 8, to walk before him. And, let us walk before God ourselves. Often, although God spared Josiah, children grow up following the faith, or lack of faith, of their parents.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How old was Josiah when he became king?
2. How was his life as king described?
3. What makes an 8 year old do right in God's sight?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 82a²
1. Pray that your children, whether still young, or older, will do right in God's sight, 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 2 Kings 23:25-30 No king like Josiah, nevertheless...

Notes
(See back page for authors)

Josiah and Judah had made remarkable reforms. They had cleaned out false worship and instituted true worship. Davis suggests vs. 1-25 are *describing perhaps Judah's finest hour. We read of a royal and national recommitment to Yahweh's covenant law (vv. 1-3), of extensive and thorough royal reforms (vv. 4-20), of a keeping of the Passover that eclipsed all others for centuries (vv. 21-23), of still more royal anti-paganism (v. 24), and—a superlative at the last—of a king without parallel: there was no one like Josiah for whole-heartedly shaping his life after God's law (v. 25).*

Nevertheless, judgement is coming. Nevertheless, God's wrath is not turned aside. None of this obedience seemed to do any good. Yet Josiah, knowing this ahead of time (22:16-17) lives and leads the people in a remarkably obedient life. Why?

We will face the same sort of questions. Do I obey God just because it will make a difference? Do I read the Bible and pray just so I will have a good day? Do I go to church just so I will have a good week? Or do I, as did Josiah, obey God with all my heart and with all my soul and will all my might because I love God with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my might?

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How well did Josiah obey God?
2. What difference did it make?
3. Why should we obey God?

4.     

Praise Pray

- Psalm 82a
1. Pray that you and your family will obey God, 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 2 Kings 23:4-20 The king commanded...

Notes (See back page for authors)
Worshipping God correctly requires removing all false worship. Davis suggests in these verses we have *Josiah's twelve-step 'de-Manassehification' program*.

1. Removing pagan vessels from temple (v4)
2. Depositing pagan clergy (v5)
3. Pulverizing the Asherah image (v6)
4. Wrecking the male prostitutes' temple apartments (v7)
5. Defiling Judah's high places, deposing their priests (v8-9)
6. Desecrating Tophet, the place of child sacrifice (v10)
7. Removing and destroying sun worship paraphernalia (v11)
8. Smashing royal idolatrous altars (v12)
9. Eliminating Solomon's folly (v13)
10. Destroying the props for fertility worship (v14)
11. Pulling down/defiling Jeroboam's Bethel worship center (v15-16)
12. Purge throughout northern cities (v19-20)

That's quite impressive and seems very thorough. And the practice of 'defiling' (vv. 8, 10, 13, and 16) underscores the thoroughness of Josiah's activity.

Are we as thorough to worship God only in the ways He has commanded? Are we on guard so that we worship God acceptably, believing that He cares?

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. In what ways had Judah practiced false worship?
2. Why should we care how we worship God?
3. How do we know what is acceptable to God in worship?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 82a

1. Confess, with your family, you will worship God only as he has commanded
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Kings 22:3-11 The king sent³...

Notes (See back page for authors)
Smith points out that *Josiah began his reform movement in his eighth year when he was but sixteen years old... The reformation gained momentum in Josiah's twelfth year (628 B.C.) when he began "to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, the Asherim, carved images, and molten images."* (2 Chr 34:1-3)... *The reformation reached its climax in the king's eighteenth year.*

In this 18th year, Josiah sent Shaphan to direct the high priest Hilkiah to count the offering. It seems likely that the people had brought money to the temple over these years, little by little, and now there was enough to fund needed repairs to the temple. The people had given generously and the workmen laboured so faithfully that there was not even a need for them to give an accounting of how they spent the repair funds.

As they cleaned up the damage, they found a book. Long ignored and disused, this ancient scroll of the law was found. M Henry says that *some think this book was the autograph, or original manuscript, of the five books of Moses, under his own hand; others think it was only an ancient and authentic copy.* Which ever it was, it was the powerful, living word of God. When Josiah hears God's word, he tears his clothes in anguish.

Where is your Bible? Lost in a corner? Or regularly read? And, when you read it, are you convicted of God's holiness and your sin?

Questions (see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What steps in reformation did Josiah take?
2. How faithful were the temple repairmen?
3. What was found and how did Josiah react? Why?

4.     

Praise Pray Psalm 82a

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to read and obey God's word, 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 Davis notes these divisions marked by "The king sent" or "The king commanded"

Reading 2 Kings 22:12-20 The King commanded...

Notes (See back page for authors)
When Josiah had heard God’s word, he knew Judah had disobeyed God. Woe to us! was his response. As Davis puts it, *He has a law word and now seeks a prophet word (v. 13), perhaps to discover how soon judgment will strike and if there is any hope of averting it.*

The answer is, there is no hope, but there is mercy. Judgement will come against Judah. But Josiah will be spared – the judgement will come after his death. M Henry notes that *what is hell itself but the fire of God’s wrath kindled against sinners?* And calls us to observe that 1) *It is so kindled that it shall not be quenched; the decree has gone forth; it is too late now to think of preventing it; Hell is unquenchable fire.* And 2) *God will be found no less terrible to impenitent sinners than his word makes him to be.* Yet, in wrath, God remembers mercy. Judgement will come, but it will be delayed for a generation.

Davis notes Josiah’s response to God’s word. *His heart is ‘soft’ (v. 19a), he tears his clothes and weeps. And Yahweh does not ignore this, rather he ‘hears’ (v. 19b), for here is a man doing exactly what Yahweh wants—trembling over his word (Isa. 66:2). Yahweh’s word can make a tremendous impression on a soft heart.*

What impression is God’s word making on your heart?

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How did Josiah respond to God’s word?
 2. When will God’s judgement come on Judah?
 3. How is Judah’s judgement like the final judgement to come?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 82a
1. Ask God to keep you from the coming judgement and to use you to call others to repentance and faith
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 2 Kings 23:1-3/12-25 The king sent/commanded...

Notes (See back page for authors)
How, do we think, Josiah will respond to the news of God’s terrible judgement? Will he think, “judgement is coming, but I am spared, so I might as well live a little?” Some think that might be the response to the good news a sinner receives of God’s salvation. “You mean, I’m saved forever, no matter what I do? Then I’ll just live like the devil now.” Yet the response to such a suggestion is for Josiah, and for the true Christian, *May it never be!*” Having understood grace, Josiah responds to grace with obedience and with worship.

Josiah calls the people to covenant renewal. They hear from the Word of God, then they respond with covenant obedience. God has said, “I will be your God.” In response, the people say, “We will be Your people.” Because of grace, they respond with obedience. All the people covenanted together with God. Such a national covenant takes place each time a good king of Judah is raised up following one or more bad kings. (Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah)

Having covenanted with God, they worship. They come together for the Passover. And what a Passover it was. Smith says *not since the days of Samuel had a Passover been so numerously attended and so meticulously observed.*

Have you understood grace? Have you received it? Are you covenanting with and worshipping God in His ways?

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. How does Josiah respond to the news of God’s judgement?
 2. How do the people respond?
 3. Why was the Passover so different from those in recent history?
 4.     

- Praise Pray** Psalm 82a
1. Rejoice with your family in prayer that grace drives obedience and worship
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member