

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 total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

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 Chronicles 1:1-28 (1-4) The family of Adam
(alternate, shorter readings, are noted in parentheses)






Notes As the book of Chronicles charts the development of God's gracious plans it introduces us to many human players in the drama. We shall find long lists of priests and Levites, sons and daughters, wives, workers and kings. This is especially true of the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. As we begin our study of this book we are struck by its rather unusual introduction. The book begins with a list of names: 'Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, Noah' (1:1-3).

Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

When we read the list of names in this chapter we read our own family tree—whatever our racial origin. This is not exclusively Jewish; it is also universal history. Adam and Noah are fathers of us all. The families of Noah's three sons are listed in verses 4-27. The last-mentioned and most famous of Shem's descendants was Abraham (1:27). His family is listed in 1:28-37, in three sections according to his three wives, Hagar, Keturah and Sarah. Abraham is the spiritual father of all those whose faith rests in the Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:29)

Let us consider what lessons these lists contain for us. People are important. All humanity is God's stage. Hostility faces God's people

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. Who begins these lists of names?
 2. Who are other significant names in today's list?
 3. What are some lessons from these lists?

4.     

- Praise** Psalm 86a²
- Pray**
1. Rejoice in prayer in your ancient family tree
 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 1 Chronicles 6:31-47 Ministers of Music

Notes Just as in a beehive each member of the hive has its work assigned to it, so each member of the tribe of Levi had a particular task assigned by God. Some were given a special ministry of organizing the temple music, and one of the distinctive features of the Chronicler's history is the special mention made of their work. They were not self-appointed musicians following the dictates of popular taste and fashion. Rather, they 'performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them' by David the servant of the Lord (6:32; cf. 25:1-31).

Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

Three outstanding figures were appointed by David to organize the worship of God's people: Heman, Asaph and Ethan. As well as training singers and leading the nation in praise to God, these men and their sons left behind them songs of praise that have been preserved for us in the book of Psalms. Heman wrote Psalm 88, Asaph Psalms 73-83, the sons of Korah (6:22, 37) Psalms 84-85 and Ethan Psalm 89. In these psalms we have a rich spiritual treasury and the purpose of the lists in 6:33-46 is to establish the legitimacy of these three musical families (Kohathites in verses 33-38, Gershonites in verses 39-43 and Merarites in verses 44-47). As descendants of Levi and men appointed by King David, who was responsible for the spiritual as well as the political leadership of the Old Testament people of God, their work established a pattern which was intended to exercise a lasting influence upon the worship of God's people.

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
1. On what basis did OT musicians perform in worship?
 2. Which Levites mentioned were Psalm writers?
 3. Who wrote songs for God's people in NT worship?

4.     

- Praise** Psalm 86a
- Pray**
1. Pray that you and your family will sing with joy to the Lord, 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 Chronicles 6:1-15, 49-53 (1-3, 49-53) The family of Levi

Notes *Of all the tribes of Israel, the Levites had the greatest reason to be interested in genealogies. Although the punishment of their father Levi's sin had been that his descendants would be scattered throughout Israel (Gen. 49:7), God turned this into a blessing. Levi became the priestly tribe, with an influence that spread throughout the whole nation of Israel... Apart from the sons of David who continued the royal line, this is the only family line that stretches without interruption from the patriarchs to the exile.*

Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart



There were..., imperfections amongst the human priests mentioned... in this list... Because [Aaron's two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu] added to God's express commands they provoked a fearful display of his anger and were thereby blotted from the priestly line.

From Aaron down to Azariah, 'who served as priest in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem' (6:10) there are twelve generations... Yet from Azariah to ...the return from the exile and beginning to rebuild the temple—only ten generations are recorded. This lack of symmetry is an important feature of the list, for this list of priests is incomplete.

God's great deliverance of his people was not to be found in the restoration of animal sacrifices in an earthly temple at the centre of a merely earthly kingdom. Rather the history of salvation... reaches its climax when the Son of God..., made the sacrifice of himself and entered heaven to make everlasting intercession for his people (Heb. 9:24–28). The very gaps of Old Testament history are a blessed testimony to one 'who comes in the name of the Lord' (Ps. 118:26).

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was the significance of the tribe of Levi?
2. Why were Aaron's two oldest sons killed by God?
3. Why is the list of priests incomplete at the end?

4.     

Praise Psalm 86a

- Pray**
1. Confess, with your family, your Great High Priest, Jesus
 2. Pray for a member of your church
 3. Pray for your family
 4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading 1 Chronicles 2:1-15 (1-2, 12-15) The family of Israel

Notes *By the time that the Chronicler wrote his history of God's people it was clear that although there were twelve tribes in Israel, some were of greater importance than others, and especially that Judah was no ordinary tribe. He begins this section with a list of Jacob's twelve sons, who were the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of Israel. Interestingly, the list ... starts in the same order as in Gen 35:23–26, ... but when the Chronicler expands his list to outline the descendants of the patriarchs pride of place goes ...to Judah.*






Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

Judah ... figures most prominently in the history that will be unfolded in the book of Chronicles. In the family tree of Judah we meet many interesting and important people who left their mark on the nation's history. These heroes are what made Judah such an important tribe, and the significance of Judah is emphasized by the wealth of information we have about these people.

The family line of Boaz leads us to the high point in the genealogy of the tribe of Judah. The fact that Judah brought forth the royal line of King David accounts for the prominence it is given by the Chronicler... The family of David's father Jesse is listed in 2:13–15, including the older... brothers who were passed over in favour of the youngest & least experienced. We are reminded that it is not because of our worthiness that God calls us into his service, but because of our calling God equips us so that we are fitted for his service.

Questions
(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Who is the most important of Israel's tribes/sons? Why
2. What are some of the blemishes noted in Judah's line?
3. What is the connection to our calling and giftedness?

4.     

Praise Psalm 86a

- Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to serve as God has gifted you, 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 Chronicles 3:1-9 The family of David

Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

Even King David, whose name and family dominate this chapter, and from whose family the Messiah was to come, came to a time of painful failure when he sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba. The sons she gave to David are listed in 3:5, where she is known by the Hebrew name Bathshua. It seems that by using this form of the name (which has unsavoury connotations in the light of 2:3) the Chronicler is showing that the sins of the past will come back to haunt the house of Judah!






It is also interesting to note that one of the four sons born to David and Bathsheba was called Nathan (3:5). This was the name of the prophet who had rebuked David for his sin and warned him that the son conceived through his adultery would die in infancy. Nathan's rebuke brought home to David the awfulness of his sin and plunged him into the depths of despair...David was gracious enough to listen to Nathan, and from the fact that he named a subsequent son by Bathsheba after him, it would seem that he learned from him.

The lesson, however, that the Chronicler is most keen to apply to his readers is that sin brings painful consequences in the lives of those who commit it. God's people must never be allowed to think that they are free to sin and forget the consequences, just because God is gracious.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How does the Chronicler tie David back to earlier sin of Judah?
2. What lessons did David learn from Nathan?
3. What lesson must we learn from the line of David?

4.     

Praise Psalm 86a

Pray

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to flee sin, 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 Chronicles 4:9-10 The Prayer of Jabez

Notes

Notes this week are drawn in total from *A Family Tree: The Message of 1 Chronicles*, by Andrew Stewart

There is an honourable..., example of believing prayer in the example of Jabez in 4:9–10. We are told that Jabez stood out from his contemporaries... He shows us what blessings we so often forfeit when we do not take an issue to the Lord in prayer.

Jabez did not have to seek his sorrows. The abiding memory that his mother had of the day he was born was one of unusual pain in childbirth. She 'gave birth to him in pain'... His name—which means 'pain'—may have been a cruel taunt among the boys with whom he played as a child. These are the hurtful circumstances in which Jabez cried to God.






Jabez did not cry out to some deity or 'god out there', as many irreligious people do in time of trouble..., but to the covenant God of Israel, who had revealed himself in the Scriptures and whom Jabez honoured and loved... Jabez's confidence was grounded on what he had discovered of the faithfulness of God, both by special revelation and (we may presume) by personal experience.

Jabez's prayer arose out of his circumstances... Jabez brought to God the desires that burdened him most. He sought release from his physical pain. He also ... [prayed] that God would enlarge his territory... There is nothing wrong in praying for physical health and earthly blessing so long as we recognize that it may not be God's will to grant us all we seek, and so long as we realize that such physical and material gifts are useless without corresponding spiritual blessings.

Questions

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What were Jabez's circumstances?
2. What was Jabez's confidence? What was his petition?
3. What was God's response?

4.     

Praise Psalm 86a

Pray

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer you can offer up your desires in prayer to God, in agreement with His will
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member