

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 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

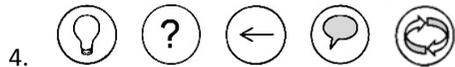
**Reading** 1 Chronicles 29:1-5 David's personal generosity

**Notes** *These verses describe the generous provision that David made for Solomon in the years to come. He had noted both Solomon's weaknesses and the magnitude of the task that awaited him. (v1). The task of building a temple to display the richness of God's mercy to sinners would daunt anyone with even an elementary understanding of God's greatness and mercy, and as David studied the plans revealed by the Lord in 28:19 his amazement could only have grown. So too did his willingness to give to the work.*

*He gave exhaustively. (v2). It is possible for wealthy people to give large amounts to the Lord's work, but not to give generously because they hold back far more than they give...David differed from [the] poor [, generous] widow (Mk 12:41-44) only in that he had far more to give, but with all his resources he gave to the Lord's work.*

*He gave personally. The gifts referred to in 29:2 did not come from the public purse, or from the spoils of war, which might not have been considered much of a sacrifice to David... These gifts came directly from David's personal wealth. There is the element of sacrifice that is the essence of true generosity.*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
- How did David give to the building of the Temple?
  - How should we give to God's work today?
  - What prevents us from giving generously to God's work?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 88b<sup>2</sup>
- Commit in prayer to generous giving, by God's help
  - Pray for a member of your church
  - Pray for your family
  - 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 Chronicles 29:21-30 David's prayers were answered

**Notes** *David's example, instruction and prayers were greatly used by God to mould the spiritual life of Israel. In verses 21-30 we consider the fruit of these blessed influences, for the people responded with gladness to David's pleas and acknowledged the Lord as their God.*

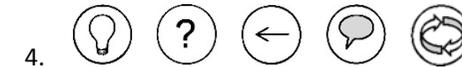
*Firstly, we read of the sacrifices and offerings they made before the Lord that day and note that they were made with 'great joy' (29:21-22). The more wholehearted the commitment of God's people, the greater will be their capacity to enjoy his presence.*

*Secondly, we read that Solomon was acknowledged 'as king a second time' while David was still alive (v22-25)... In spite of the palace coup to place David's son Adonijah on the throne in the place of Solomon (1 Kings 1) the affections of the people were with Solomon and he ruled with all the loyalty that David had enjoyed. If anything, Solomon enjoyed even more loyalty than David (v25)*

*Thirdly, the Chronicler attempts to summarize the life of David and describe how he was remembered after he died (29:26-30). These verses read like an obituary and show how David's memory was guarded and respected.*

*These three blessings were God's answers to David's prayers. In each case God used David as an instrument to bring about the answer to his own prayers. It is never sufficient to pray for a thing unless we are also willing for God to use us to pursue that end.*

- Questions** (see back page for explanation of symbols)
- How was David's prayer for a willing people answered?
  - How was David's prayer for a Son to finish the work answered?
  - How was David's reputation used to inspire future generations?



- Praise Pray**
- Psalm 88b
- Pray that you and your family will pray and live faithfully, with God's help
  - Pray for your family
  - Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member
  - Pray for the reading and preaching of God's word tomorrow

**Reading** 1 Chronicles 29:18-20 David prayed for his people

**Notes**

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

*From verse 18 onwards the thrust of David's prayer changes from acknowledgement to petition. David prayed for his people and for his son Solomon that they would continue in this spirit of generosity. The habits of giving to the Lord which David commended to his people were not just to be learned patterns of behaviour, but rather an outpouring of thankfulness from the heart. David prayed [for loyal devotion from the people and from Solomon] (v18,19)*

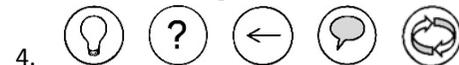
*The Chronicler took every opportunity to highlight the importance of wholeheartedness in whatever God's people do for him. If all that David has just acknowledged is true (that all that we possess comes from God) then the only appropriate response is 'wholehearted devotion'. It is from a heart at peace with God and completely devoted to him that true generosity flows. This is what the people acknowledged (v20)*

*Our gratitude to God ought to be deepened still further when we consider that God has given us 'his indescribable gift' in the person of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 9:15). Significantly, in that same chapter Paul had much to say about giving to the Lord's work; we ought 'to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver', for material generosity is one aspect of 'the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ' (2 Cor. 9:7, 13).*

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What did David pray for the people of Israel?
2. What did David pray for Solomon?
3. What is one significant evidence of wholehearted devotion?



**Praise**

Psalm 88b

**Pray**

1. Confess, with your family, the gratefulness you owe God
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 29:3-9 David's example in giving was followed

**Notes**

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

*Not only did David give exhaustively and exhaustively, but also he gave in an exemplary fashion*

*Not only David, but some of the leading families of the nation 'gave willingly' (29:6). Their gifts are listed in verses 7-8 and the Chronicler goes on to describe how the effect of David's generosity rippled out to influence many more: 'The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord' (29:9). David watched on as this infectious generosity spread: 'David the king also rejoiced greatly.'*

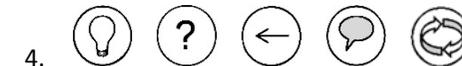
*We should not imagine that David's giving to the Lord's work was showy or ostentatious. God has no love for such giving and does not add his blessing to it (Matt. 6:1-4). But generosity such as David had shown could not have been hidden. The very movement of the funds mentioned in these verses would have attracted attention. Moreover, David challenged his people to focus their attention, not upon himself as an example, but upon the Lord as their Sovereign to be honoured: 'Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the Lord?' (29:5).*

*It is true that God's first concern is with our souls rather than our money, but our stewardship of money is a reflection of what our hearts are like. It was because David's heart was right with God that he was willing to give as generously as he did.*

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. What was the response of the people to David's giving?
2. How did David respond to their giving?
3. What does our stewardship of money reflect?



**Praise**

Psalm 88b

**Pray**

1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to faithful stewardship of worldly resources, 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 29:10-13 David praised God for who He is

**Notes**

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

*One of the features of the Chronicler's history is his emphasis on prayer, for he frequently quotes lengthy excerpts from the prayers of the people about whom he writes. These prayers are often comments on God's dealings with Israel and on the spiritual condition of the people.*

*David was never ashamed to show the depth of his devotion to God. As a younger man he had danced and rejoiced before the ark of the Lord (15:29); now as an older man he showed the same delight, only in a less energetic way. Before a large gathering of his subjects David prayed with great reverence: (v10)*

*David was not afraid to admit to his subjects that he himself was subject to a higher King. As the emotional intensity of his prayer rose David continued [to exalt God] (v11)*

*It is a testimony to the importance of such praise in the prayers of God's people that several phrases from these verses have become familiar to us through the Lord's prayer, which is our model in prayer. Its conclusion, 'For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever,' summarizes David's words of praise (Matt. 6:13; cf. Rev. 4:11; 5:13). Because wealth and honour come from God, David freely admits that all he has given is simply a thanksgiving to God for all that he has given him:*

*There is no room in this prayer for the pride of the self-made man!*

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. How did David express his devotion to God in this prayer?
2. What from this prayer is similar to the Lord's Prayer?
3. What should be our response to what God has done?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

Psalm 88b

1. Lead your family in praising God for who He is
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 29:14-17 David saw himself for what he was

**Notes**

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

*David recognized that neither he nor his people deserved the privileges they enjoyed (29:14-15). It was only because of God's goodness that they were any different from the heathen nations all around them who were still 'aliens and strangers' in God's eyes. God had taken the people of Israel out of spiritual darkness and entered into a covenant of life with them so that they might call him their Father. It was through the grace of God that they could contemplate building the temple, and it was because of God's generous provision that they had the resources to commence the work. (v16)*

*The realization that everything we have is a gift from God challenges every temptation to pride. David saw that God's generosity, as well as being a blessing, was a test of his people's hearts. God was like the master in the parable who gave talents to his servants and then called them to give an account of their service (Luke 19:11-26). What does God expect from his people? First of all, he expects us to acknowledge that everything we possess is from him. Then, secondly, he expects us to respond to his goodness with gratitude and generosity. This is what David did, both in his prayers and by his generous giving to the Lord's work.*

**Questions**

(see back page for explanation of symbols)

1. Why were David and Israel able to give to the Lord's work?
2. Where does everything we have come from?
3. What does God expect from His people?

4.     

**Praise Pray**

Psalm 88b

1. Rejoice with your family in prayer in all that God has given you
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member