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, you are encouraged, 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 in Frankston, Victoria, Australia. frankstonrp.org.au

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. tiny.cc/WkBbl or tiny.cc/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 drawn in part from commentaries on Isaiah by John Calvin and Ray Ortlund

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 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: Isaiah 55:1

Notes: Ho! What? Chapter 55 begins with an odd word in many translations, Ho. While some instead translate it “come” that doesn’t carry the sense as well as it could. Of course, “Ho” doesn’t really either since we don’t use that word. “Hey!” might be a better translation. The work carries surprise, importance, and sometimes, alarm. Here it is amazement and surprise. Hey! if you’re thirsty or hungry but you can’t afford it, come on! God has provided – at no cost (to you).

Hey! You who have deep, real, spiritual needs, but can’t provide for them – God has! Isaiah points to this great salvation of God which would be made known fully in Jesus Christ. And this great salvation provides abundantly what we need. But I have no doubt that under these words, “waters, milk, wine, bread,” Isaiah includes all that is necessary for spiritual life; for the metaphors are borrowed from those kinds of food which are in daily use amongst us. As we are nourished by “bread, wine, milk, and water,” so in like manner let us know that our souls are fed and supported by the doctrine of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit, and other gifts of Christ. (Calvin)

Questions
1. What is Isaiah seeking to do with the opening word?
2. What has God provided for us? And at what cost?
3. What do the waters, milk, wine, bread represent?
4. 

Praise Pray: Psalm 25b²
1. Delight with your family in prayer to in God’s salvation
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

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Reading: Isaiah 55:12-13

Notes: We don’t keep the hope of the gospel alive; this hope keeps us alive. Like the rain, it may take time for the new life fully to burst forth, but rain never fails. Neither does the promise of God to save sinners. In fact, in the end it will be better than we dreamed. (Ortlund)

The end which Isaiah illustrates in these closing verses is joy beyond belief. The creation will explode with joyful freedom when God brings His saving purpose to fulfilment. And, our salvation is not ours alone. God promises to renew everything. (Ortlund)

Isaiah tells Judah that this measure of joy they experience when released from captivity will be incredible. And we understand the complete work of bringing the joy and restoration of all things will only completely be fulfilled in Jesus. We know a little bit more than Isaiah did since Christ has now come. But, we along with his readers and hearers, wait for the full redemption of heaven and earth by the gracious salvation of our God.

And why is God’s salvation so gracious? So His Name will be glorified forever. Are you glorifying God’s name now? Are you glorifying and enjoying Him now as you anticipate forever?

Questions
1. How good is the effect of God’s salvation?
2. How will the created order respond to the fullness of God’s salvation?
3. Why does God so graciously save?
4. 

Praise Pray: Psalm 25b
1. Pray that you and your family will glorify and enjoy God – now and forever, 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

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
**Worshipping Together**

**Reading** Isaiah 55:10-11

**Notes**
What is the primary means of God bringing salvation? His Word. And, we can be certain that His word will be effective, as He desires it.

We understand, at least a little bit, what the effect of the rain and snow is. It waters the earth, things grow, life is possible. When we face drought, we appreciate better the life sustaining cycle of the rain and snow. It seems at times, maybe even now, we face a drought of God’s saving work. But, we can continue proclaiming His word, knowing that God rarely speaks with a sound from heaven, but sends His word out of His mouth by sending it out of our mouth. We can continue asking Him, in prayer, to make His word have its needed effect in our lives. We can, by His help, strive more and more for a life that is changed by His word.

And we can pray that His word, as we proclaim it to unbelievers around us, will make the seeds of the gospel we sow sprout and blossom.

Our task is to use the word. God’s task is to cause its effect as He pleases.

**Questions**
1. What is the primary means of God bringing salvation?
2. How is God’s word like the rain and snow?
3. How should we use God’s word?
4. 🤔➡️🤔➡️😊

**Praise**
**Pray**
1. Commit in prayer with your family that you will declare God’s word to unbelievers, 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

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**Weekly reading:** Isaiah 49-58

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**Worshipping Together**

**Reading** Isaiah 55:1-3

**Notes**
What is the alternative to receiving the free (to us) salvation that the Lord provides? Emptiness. Oh, to be sure, sometimes the bread of the world brings a short delight, but Isaiah reminds us anything other than God’s salvation will not ultimately satisfy.

We see this in the world around us. We live, in the western world, in a land of plenty. People have more things than at any time in history. Yet few are satisfied with life. “If we could just get a little bit more, that would do it,” we think. But it never does. It’s spending our grocery budget on plastic trinkets.

*Calvin and Hobbes discussed this one day in their comic strip. “Getting is better than having. When you get something, it’s new and exciting. When you have something, you take it for granted and it’s boring.” “But everything you get turns into something you have.”* (Ortlund)

Instead, listen to God and accept His invitation to come to Him. Enter, by His grace, into an eternal covenant relationship with Him. A relationship where your sin is not counted against you, but the righteousness of Jesus is counted for you instead.

**Questions**
1. What are some of salvation’s alternatives we seek after?
2. What is the ultimate result of such alternatives?
3. What happens in God’s eternal covenant into which we enter?
4. 🤔➡️🤔➡️😊

**Praise**
**Pray**
1. Commit yourself and your family in prayer to reckoning your satisfaction in God’s salvation, 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
Worshipping Together

Reading Isaiah 55:1-5

Notes Isaiah continues in vs 4-5 reminding us of the mercy of God through His Son. Puritan Pastor John Flavel with his antiquated English, helps us imagine the conversation between the Father and the Son in eternity past:

Father: My Son, here is a company of poor miserable souls, that have utterly undone themselves, and now lie open to my justice. Justice demands satisfaction for them or will satisfy itself in the eternal ruin of them. What shall be done for these souls?

Son: O my Father, such is my love and pity for them that, rather than they shall perish eternally, I will be responsible for them as their Surety. Bring in all thy bills, that I may see what they owe thee. Lord, bring them all in, that there may be no after-reckonings with them. At my hand shalt thou require it. I will rather choose to suffer thy wrath than they should suffer it. Upon me, my Father, upon me be all their debt.

Father: But my Son, if thou undertake for them, thou must reckon to pay the last cent. Expect no discounts. If I spare them, I will not spare thee.

Son: Content, Father. Let it be so. Charge it all to me. I am able to pay it. And though it prove a kind of undoing to me, though it impoverish all my riches, empty all my treasures, yet I am content to undertake it. (quoted in Ortland)

Questions
1. What does our sin demand from God?
2. What was the Son willing to undertake for us?
3. 
4. 

Praise Pray Psalm 25b
1. Bless God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in prayer with your family for God’s eternal covenant to save sinners like yourself.
2. Pray for a member of your church
3. Pray for your family
4. Pray for a non-Christian friend/family member

Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

Notes I think often when we read vs8-9 we take it as a general statement of God’s “otherness” than us. He is higher – we can understand Him in part, but never completely. And, God is higher than us. In every way. But, taken in context, vs8-9 remind us that this God of ours whose ways are so far beyond us figuring out is a God of gracious salvation.

We can never understand exactly why God chose to save us at all. That is the immediate context. What grace! The call is not to try to fully understand. The call is to repent and believe. Seek the Lord. Call upon Him. Forsake our wicked ways and thoughts. Repent and return.

Coming to the Lord for salvation can never be a halfway measure. The inclination of our heart, the thoughts of our mind, and the ways of our life must be changed. We can’t do it without God’s mercy, but we must do it with God’s mercy.

That is the message for us. And that is the prayer we should be praying for unbelievers around us. Praying that God will cause them to seek Him – to turn from sin and idols to the true and living God.

Questions
1. In what ways specifically are we told here God’s ways are higher than ours?
2. What changes when we are saved?
3. How should we pray for unbelievers?
4.

Praise Pray Psalm 25b
1. Pray with your family that your unbelieving friends and family members will seek the Lord, 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