

The Swedish Method

During August, Ben will be preaching through a number of passages 'about God'.

We will use this time to get familiar with a very simple way of reading the Bible with others: the Swedish method.

It is a simple method of reading and observing, and then sharing those observations with each other. A brief explanation can be found at this website: <http://thebriefing.com.au/2009/01/the-swedish-method/>

In this method, you follow these steps:

- Pray together.
- Read the passage together.
- Spend some time filling in the pictures individually (see the next page).
- Share your observations together.
- Pray together.

This is a really simple way of learning how to read and grapple with God's word yourself.



**Study 5:
About God singing
Psalm 131**

A Davidic song of ascents.

LORD, my heart is not proud;
my eyes are not haughty.

I do not get involved with things too great or too difficult for me.

² Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself like a little weaned child with its mother;

I am like a little child.

³ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
both now and forever.



Swedish Bible-study method

A ‘light bulb’ is anything that ‘shines’ through in the passage. What stood out? What struck you? What grabbed your attention? It could be an idea, a literary device, a fact...



A ‘question mark’ is anything that puzzles you, or raises a question for you (however basic or simple). It is extra important to ask how this might connect to the rest of the Bible.



The ‘cross’ is how this passage relates to Jesus. Where is Jesus in this passage? How does this passage help us understand his nature, his work, his purpose? How does this passage help you know Jesus?



The ‘arrow’ is ‘so what?’ This is where we think about application. How might this change my life? A useful acronym is SPECK: a SIN to avoid, a PROMISE to know, an EXAMPLE to follow, a COMMAND to obey, KNOWLEDGE of God or self.



The ‘bubble’ is a reminder to talk to others of what you have learned in this passage. Think of a specific person, and a specific truth, and pray for an opportunity to share what God has taught you through his word.

Study 1:
Anna and the King
Luke 2:21-38

²¹ When the eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named JESUS-- the name given by the angel before He was conceived. ²² And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (just as it is written in the law of the Lord: Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons). ²⁵ There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple complex. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for Him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took Him up in his arms, praised God, and said: ²⁹ Now, Master, You can dismiss Your slave in peace, according to Your word. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation. ³¹ You have prepared *it* in the presence of all peoples-- ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel. ³³ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and told His mother Mary: "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed-- ³⁵ and a sword will pierce your own soul-- that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and was a widow for 84 years. She did not leave the temple complex, serving God night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about Him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.



Study 4:
About outrageous grace
Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed what we have heard?
 And who has the arm of the LORD been revealed to?
² He grew up before Him like a young plant
 and like a root out of dry ground.
 He had no form or splendor that we should look at Him,
 no appearance that we should desire Him.
³ He was despised and rejected by men,
 a man of suffering who knew what sickness was.
 He was like one people turned away from;
 He was despised, and we didn't value Him.
⁴ Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,
 and He carried our pains;
 but we in turn regarded Him stricken,
 struck down by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But He was pierced because of our transgressions,
 crushed because of our iniquities;
 punishment for our peace was on Him,
 and we are healed by His wounds.
⁶ We all went astray like sheep;
 we all have turned to our own way;
 and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.



**Study 2:
About God coming—then and now
Genesis 3:1-11**

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"⁴ "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵

"In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate *it*; she also gave *some* to her husband, *who was with her*, and he ate *it*.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ And he said, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."¹¹ Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I had commanded you not to eat from?"



Study 3:
About God weeping
Genesis 3:1-24

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"⁴ "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate *it*; she also gave some to her husband, *who was with her*, and he ate *it*.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"¹⁰ And he said, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."¹¹ Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I had commanded you not to eat from?"¹² Then the man replied, "The woman You gave to be with me-- she gave me *some fruit* from the tree, and I ate."¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "It was the serpent. He deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ Then the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.¹⁶ He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you.¹⁷ And He said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from

the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life.¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.¹⁹ You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.²¹ The LORD God made clothing out of skins for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.²² The LORD God said, "Since man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, and also take from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.²⁴ He drove man out, and east of the garden of Eden He stationed cherubim with a flaming, whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.