

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
February 13-19, 2011

It is important to worship the Lord together on Sundays, as the church of Christ gathers to pray, sing, share in remembrance and proclamation around the Lord's Table, and hear a portion of God's Word taught. But it is also important that the hearing of God's Word extends to our homes throughout the week. We have a responsibility—perhaps even an obligation—to read God's Word at home and obey it.

One outstanding way to do this is as a family. The Bible teaches us that fathers are to “bring them [their children] up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Combined with 1 Timothy 3:5 and Titus 1:6-7, which describe an elder as an effective manager of faith in his household, we learn that we have a responsibility to make sure that our faith is taught in our households.

This booklet is provided as an aid to reading and teaching the Bible in your homes. I recommend that you read each daily section and discuss both the reading and the questions. Conclude your time together with a prayer and perhaps also a song. There is no better way to spend an evening with your family than in Bible reading, discussion and prayer. This way, your fellowship with each other will also be seasoned with grace.

If you are already using another system in your family discipleship, please feel no need to switch to this booklet. I only provide this as a help to you, to help you regain the importance of Bible reading and prayer in your household. No matter what system you use to do this, the end result is God's glory as you learn more his ways and obedience to them.

Sunday – Read Ecclesiastes 9 and Philippians 3:12-4:1

1. What did you find most profitable in these scriptures? Why?
2. What did you find most profitable in this morning's sermon? Why?
3. How will you apply what you learned?

Prayer focus: Pray for the wisdom to understand God's word and to apply it to your life.

Monday – Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

1. What “evil” does the Teacher identify in 9:1-6 and what is his remedy for it?
2. Why does the Teacher keep going back to the idea of “enjoying your life” and the “portion” (or “lot”) that you have (9:7-10)?
3. How will you keep focused on the “here-and-now” so as to avoid distraction and worry about the future?

Prayer focus: Pray for dedication and commitment to God and his ways.

Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

1. What is the point of the parable (or example) the Teacher uses (9:13-16) and what is its interpretation?
2. Why is this interpretation true?
3. How will you avoid temptations to power and control and instead cultivate wisdom?

Prayer focus: Pray for godly wisdom and to discern how to avoid temptations.

Wednesday – Philippians 3:12-4:1

1. How does Paul understand his own spiritual growth?
2. What is the “one thing” Paul points to that he does (3:13)?
3. How do you focus your life? On what do you focus? What is *really* important? How do we really gauge our level of maturity?

Prayer focus: To keep your attention and focus on the main thing—knowledge of Christ and revealing him to others.

Thursday – Philippians 3:12-4:1

1. What criteria does Paul use in evaluating whether someone is worthy of imitation?
2. Compare and contrast life in Christ with life as an enemy of Christ, supposing that the “enemies” are Christians who are living the wrong way. What are the ultimate consequences of each?
3. How is imitation of other people useful for your own spiritual growth? Who might you imitate?

Prayer focus: To order your life around the priorities of God and so be imitable by others who want to follow God.

Friday – Philippians 3:12-4:1

1. What is a sign of heavenly citizenship?
2. How does “eagerly awaiting” Jesus' return affect the scope of the substance of your life?
3. If you are a citizen of heaven, you are an alien on earth. What impact should this have on your life? How will it?

Prayer focus: To live a life worthy of your heavenly citizenship, focused on the things of God and return of the Savior, the Lord Jesus.

Saturday – Read Ecclesiastes 10 and Philippians 4:2-9

1. What are the main themes of these sections of scripture?
2. How do these sections of scripture develop and extend the teaching from the earlier sections you studied this week?
3. How do they help you prepare for Sunday worship?

Prayer focus: To be prepared to hear the word of the Lord on Sunday.