

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
March 20-26, 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. In Acts 2:42-47, we learn that the early church met daily for fellowship, prayer, and teaching. We have a responsibility—perhaps even an obligation—to read and teach 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 Malachi 2:10-16 and 1 John 2:28-3:10

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 – Malachi 2:10-16

1. How should our commonality from being created by God influence how we act towards others?
2. In which ways were the Israelites unfaithful?
3. How (why) was marrying foreign women a desecration? (See Ezra 9 for background)
4. If you think more broadly, in what ways can you be unfaithful to God by turning to “foreign” things?

Prayer focus: For purity of heart in worshiping God in both word (Sunday worship) and deed (during the week).

Tuesday – Malachi 2:10-16

1. What is the “second thing” (“another thing”) Judah (the Israelites) does?
2. A reason is provided in the Bible for why we sometimes don't receive what we seek from God. What is it? (See James 4:2-3 for background)
3. Do you seek God with “weeping and groaning”?

Prayer focus: For true repentance and sincere faith in your life.

Wednesday – Malachi 2:10-16

1. What reason is given why the Lord rejected the gifts of his people?
2. How does God view marriage?
3. What did God desire from marriage?
4. Are you fulfilling your marriage covenant to your spouse? What do you need to do differently?

Prayer focus: For godliness and obedience in your marriage as you seek to uphold your covenant with your spouse.

Thursday – 1 John 2:28-3:10

1. What kind of love has the Father given to us?
2. How shall we appear in heaven?
3. How does the hope of being like Christ motivate you toward Christian living?

Prayer focus: To anticipate your future life with God and to let that motivate you to love and serve him more.

Friday – 1 John 2:28-3:10

1. What is said concerning the relationship of Jesus to those who continue in sin?
2. What must we do to be righteous as he is righteous?
3. Who is of the devil?
4. Does being born of God mean that you will NEVER sin? What should you do when you sin? (See 1 John 1:5-10)

Prayer focus: To learn what true fellowship with the Father is and to grow in grace and truth.

Saturday – Read Malachi 2:17-3:5 and 1 John 3:11-24

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.