

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
March 27-April 2, 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 2:17-3:5 and 1 John 3:11-24

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 2:17-3:5

1. What is the Lord's accusation against the people?
2. How have they been guilty of this accusation?
3. Using a study Bible or an online aid, what do you think these accusations mean?
4. Have you wearied the Lord with your words? How?

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

Tuesday – Malachi 2:17-3:5

1. How will the Lord respond to his people?
2. What will his messenger be like?
3. How will this be seen among the people?
4. What will the results be?
5. Who is God's messenger? How are you being refined as you await his return?

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

Wednesday – Malachi 2:17-3:5

1. What will the Lord do and be?
2. What is the main reason given for why one will fall under the Lord's judgment?
3. Is it better to be refined by the Lord or judged by him? Why?
4. How will you escape the Lord's judgment?

Prayer focus: Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the rescue we have through Jesus.

Thursday – 1 John 3:11-34

1. What is the foundation of the message we have received?
2. How did Cain fail in this and what does that teach us?
3. According to 3:15, why is genuine love so important?
4. How will you work to love others more?

Prayer focus: For true and genuine love to indwell us and for it to work out in service to others.

Friday – 1 John 3:11-24

1. How do we know what love is?
2. What should that experience of love compel us to do?
3. How can we know that God's love abides in us?
4. How are you loving others in deed and truth?

Prayer focus: To learn what true love is and to apply it.

Saturday – Read Malachi 3:6-12 and 1 John 4

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.