

**Horton Road Church of Christ**  
**Home Devotional Guide**  
**May 29-June 4, 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 God's Word taught. But it is also important that God's Word is heard in our homes throughout the week.

In Acts 2:42-47, we learn that the early church met daily for fellowship, prayer, and teaching. 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 the faith is taught in our households.

This booklet is provided as an aid to reading and teaching the Bible in your homes.

**How to Use this Booklet**

*As an individual*

1. At a time when you can concentrate, read the assigned Bible passage for the day.
2. Consider using a journal where you can record your observations, notes, and answers to the questions. This will allow you to go back over time and note how you've grown in knowledge and wisdom, as well as give you more material to discuss with your family (if you are leading your family in this).
3. Use the daily prayer focus as a supplement to your regular prayers. Use the focus statement to pray for you and others.

*As a family*

1. The one leading the devotional time should read the assigned Bible passage ahead of time, preferably in the morning, making notes and writing down observations. This way, you will be ready to lead your family in discussion and prayer.
2. Gather your family together at a convenient time when all of you can concentrate. Each family member should have a Bible (preferably the same translation).
3. Read the passage out loud. This can be shared among a family by each person reading a verse or two, or one person can read the passage while the rest follow along in their own Bibles.
4. Discuss any thoughts or questions that arose from the reading.
5. Use the provided questions for further discussion. Focus the discussion on application. Be careful not to talk about doctrine only but teach and discuss application.
6. Use the daily prayer focus as a supplement to your family prayers. Use it to frame your prayer and focus the prayer requests from your family.

**Sunday – Read Psalms 1 and 49 and James 4:13-5:6**

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 – Psalm 1**

1. What descriptions and images are given about the wicked?
2. What descriptions and images are given about the righteous?
3. What is the promise given to the righteous?
4. How is God's word helping you towards righteousness and maturity?

Prayer focus: For God's word to lead you into righteousness.

## **Tuesday – Psalm 49**

1. What happens when you trust in wealth (1-12)?
2. What warning does the writer give to those who are impressed by others' wealth (15-19)?
3. What spiritual attribute should we always be seeking (20)?
4. Do you seek understanding or do you trust in wealth?

Prayer focus: For God's understanding to lead and guide you.

## **Wednesday – James 4:13-5:6 (4:13-17)**

1. What spiritual problem is James addressing?
2. What point does he make as he teaches against worldly arrogance?
3. How would you live differently if you always saw your life as just a mist (or vapor)?

Prayer focus: For godliness and to live godly wisdom.

### **Thursday – James 4:13-5:6 (4:13-17)**

1. How should the arrogant people (4:13) respond to God?
2. What is different about this kind of response?
3. What “rule of faith” does James give?
4. How do you need to apply this teaching in your life?

Prayer focus: For knowledge and understanding to do what is right at all times.

### **Friday – James 4:13-5:6 (5:1-6)**

1. Which sins are these rich people guilty of?
2. How is this an illustration of Psalm 49 about why trusting in wealth does not work?
3. What can you do to have compassion on poor people and not oppress them?

Prayer focus: For guidance to be submissive to God and live favorably towards all people, especially those who are less fortunate than us.

### **Saturday – Read Psalms 119:1-24 and James 5:7-20**

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.