

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Guide
June 19-25, 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 Psalm 119:49-72 and Matthew 25:31-46

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 119:49-72

1. What is this psalm about?
2. From this psalm, what do you learn about how, or in what ways, should the word of God be understood and applied?
3. What examples does this writer give about the value of God's word?
4. How do you value God's word?

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

Tuesday – Acts 8:1-4

1. Why were the believers scattered from Jerusalem?
2. What did those who were scattered do?
3. How much responsibility does each believer bear for taking the gospel to others?
4. How do you do this? How *will* you do this?

Prayer focus: For grace and courage, a love for those without Jesus, and the means to reach out to them in love.

Wednesday – Hebrews 13:1-3

1. What three instructions does the writer give?
2. How can the gospel be taught to people through these methods?
3. What can you do today to love another or to show hospitality to someone?

Prayer focus: For courage to learn how to share our very selves with others in order to share God's love and message of salvation with them.

Thursday – Matthew 25:31-46

1. What does Jesus identify as a sign of faithfulness to him?
2. What does Jesus identify as a sign of unfaithfulness to him?
3. What barriers and reasons exist that cause believers to not live this way?
4. What do you need to do differently to get on God's mission?

Prayer focus: To see others as God sees them, and as though they were Jesus himself.

Friday – Romans 12:9-21

1. What do these instructions teach you about what is important to God?
2. How many of these can be done at a surface level without really getting involved with people?
3. What will do you reach out to others in love and care?
4. What sacrifices do you need to make?

Prayer focus: For insight into how to serve others sacrificially in order to reach them with the gospel.

Saturday – Read Psalm 119:73-96 and Ephesians 4:11-16

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.