

Horton Road Church of Christ

Home Devotional Guide

August 21-27, 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 Proverbs 3:13-35 and Matthew 5:1-16

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 – Proverbs 3:13-35

1. What is this section in Proverbs about?
2. From this section, what do you learn about how, or in what ways, godly wisdom should be understood and applied?
3. What examples does this writer give about the value of godly wisdom?
4. How do you value godly wisdom?

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

Tuesday – Matthew 5:1-16 (1-12)

1. Why do you think Jesus began his teaching with these “beatitudes”?
2. How important do you think these “beatitudes” are in relation to the rest of Jesus' teaching?
3. What would be different for you if you focused less on other things and more on the spiritual attitudes Jesus teaches here?

Prayer focus: For greater awareness of God in your life.

Wednesday – Matthew 5:1-16 (1-12)

1. What common themes run through this section?
2. Why do you think Jesus spoke more about the blessedness that comes as a result of being persecuted than about the blessedness that comes from the other “beatitudes”?
3. Which “beatitude” do you most struggle with? Why?

Prayer focus: For the fruit of righteousness to take root and blossom in our lives.

Thursday – Matthew 5:1-16 (13-16)

1. What three images does Jesus use to describe discipleship?
2. What do these three images have in common?
3. Which of the three images do you most identify with? Why?

Prayer focus: For more growth in discipleship in order to God's will.

Friday – Matthew 5:1-16 (13-16)

1. How does a person lose their “saltiness”?
2. What is the purpose of letting our light shine?
3. Are you more like a shining light or a covered lamp? What can you do differently?

Prayer focus: For greater obedience to the teachings of Jesus in order to be a light that shines to others.

Saturday – Read Proverbs 4:1-19 and Matthew 6:1-24

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.