

**Horton Road Church of Christ**  
**Home Devotional Booklet**  
**January 23-29, 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. We have a responsibility—perhaps even an obligation—to read 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 – Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 (5:1-3)**

1. What two commands are given in 5:1-3, and what reasons does the Teacher give for these commands?
2. Why do you think the Teacher focused on these commands, in light of what you know about the rest of this book?
3. In what specific ways can you obey these commands?

Prayer focus: To have purity of heart and speech.

## **Monday – Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 (5:4-7)**

1. What two commands are given in 5:4-6, and what reasons are given for these commands?
2. Why is it easier to *make* plans than to *follow through* on plans, even when these plans are for the Lord?
3. In what specific ways can you maintain your fear of the Lord even while planning work for him?

Prayer focus: To have a greater understanding of the fear of the Lord in your life.

## **Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 5:8-20**

1. What does the Teacher identify as some of the dangers of pursuing wealth for its own sake?
2. Why do you think the Bible often holds up money as a potential idol in the lives of believers?
3. In what ways do you need to learn to be content with the “lot” (5:18) God has given you?

Prayer focus: To have contentment with the “lot” God has given you.

### **Wednesday – Philippians 2:12-18 (2:12-13)**

1. What command is given by Paul, and what is the basis of that command?
2. How do these two things—the command and the basis for the command—work together (2:13)?
3. How will you “continue to work out your own salvation”?

Prayer focus: To learn obedience and to receive grace to fulfill God's good purpose.

### **Thursday – Philippians 2:12-18 (2:12-13)**

1. How is God's work described?
2. How does God work “to will and to act” in you, and why?
3. In what ways is God working in you, and how can you yield to him?

Prayer focus: To recognize the work of God in you and live it out in obedience.

### **Friday – Philippians 2:12-18 (2:14-18)**

1. What is the main command in 2:14-18 and what are the results of obedience to this command?
2. Why is grumbling something that God's people had to be regularly cautioned against throughout the Bible?

Prayer focus: To stop grumbling and thus shine God's light to others.

**Saturday – Read Ecclesiastes 6-7 and Philippians 2:19-30**

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.