

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
January 30-February 5, 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 6

1. What is the evil the Teacher identifies, and why is it evil?
2. How does 1 Timothy 6:6-10 correspond to and expand the ideas in Ecclesiastes 6?
3. How can you be more content in your life?

Prayer focus: To be more content in your life for the purpose of serving God more effectively.

Monday – Ecclesiastes 7:1-13

1. What is the purpose of the Teacher listing this series of contrasts?
2. How is wisdom central to the Teacher's view of the “good life”?
3. What are some ways you can pursue godly wisdom?

Prayer focus: To appreciate and desire God's wisdom for us and to put it into faithful practice.

Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 7:14-29

1. What is the reason given for humanity's inability to be content with God?
2. Why is it so difficult to maintain contentment before God that we pursue other things (even sinful things)?
3. What things are most likely to tempt you away from godly contentment?

Prayer focus: To focus on simple obedience and godly contentment so as not to fall into sin.

Wednesday – Philippians 2:19-30

1. What godly characteristics did Timothy and Epaphroditus display?
2. How are these characteristics related to the “mind of Christ” (2:5)?
3. In what ways do you need to be more obedient like Timothy and Epaphroditus were?

Prayer focus: To overcome grudges, look to others first, and learn humility.

Thursday – Philippians 2:19-30

1. Describe the characteristics of Paul's relationships with Timothy and Epaphroditus.
2. Do you think relationships are the best way to positively affect the life of another person? Why or why not?
3. Share some stories of people in this congregation (or in your life) who have impacted your life for work in the gospel.

Prayer focus: To learn to love each other and to be loved by others in gospel fellowship.

Friday – Philippians 2:19-30

1. What does it mean to “honor” people who are like Epaphroditus?
2. How do the examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus encourage you?
3. How can you encourage others in their own for the gospel?

Prayer focus: To recognize those who are working for the gospel and to encourage them in their work.

Saturday – Read Ecclesiastes 8 and Philippians 3:1-11

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.