

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
February 27-March 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. In Acts 2:42-47, we learn that the early church met daily for fellowship, prayer, and teaching. We have a responsibility—perhaps even an obligation—to read and teach 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 – Read Ecclesiastes 11-12 and Philippians 4:10-23

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 – Ecclesiastes 11

1. What warning does the Teacher offer in 11:8-9?
2. If the ways of our heart lead us into God's judgment, how are then to live?
3. How will you test your desires and interests to make sure they are godly?

Prayer focus: Pray for dedication and commitment to God and his ways.

Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 12

1. How is the teaching in the entire book of Ecclesiastes described in 12:9-14?
2. How do the statements “much study wearies the body” and “fear God and keep his commandments” work together?
3. Knowing it is your duty, how will you “fear God and keep his commandments”?

Prayer focus: Pray for knowledge and insight to learn and practice the commandments of God, and thus fear him.

Wednesday – Philippians 4:10-23

1. What does Paul mean by “I can do all this through him who gives me strength”? Could this be misapplied out of context? How?
2. What does Paul mean that he has learned to be content (4:11)?
3. In what ways are you least content? How will you learn to find your contentment in Christ?

Prayer focus: To keep our attention and focus on Christ and on being content in him.

Thursday – Philippians 4:10-23

1. Even though Paul has everything he needs, why does he encourage them to keep giving (4:17)? What benefit does their giving have to themselves?
2. What does Paul mean that “God will meet all [their] needs”? What is its context? What are the greatest human needs?
3. How will you look to God to meet all of your needs?

Prayer focus: To learn that our sufficiency is found in God alone and to rest in him.

Friday – Philippians 4:10-23

1. What are Paul’s main points in Philippians?
2. What is the most important thing you learned?
3. What will you do about what you learned?

Prayer focus: To develop the attitude of humility and the practice of gospel work that God taught through his word in Philippians.

Saturday – Read 1 John 1:1-2:6 and Malachi 1:1-5

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.