

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
March 6-12, 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 1 John 1:1-2:6 and Malachi 1:1-5

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 – 1 John 1 (1-4)

1. According to John, what is fellowship and who is it with?
2. Why is John writing this letter (1:4)?
3. Do you find joy in your fellowship with God and other believers? Why or why not?

Prayer focus: Pray for a proper understanding of fellowship and to find joy in your fellowship with God and other believers.

Tuesday – 1 John 1 (5-10)

1. What is the message John is proclaiming?
2. What is the significance of the two categories “light” and “darkness” in this paragraph?
3. Do you confess your sins to God? What is the role of confession of sin, according to John?
4. How do you walk in the light?

Prayer focus: Pray for discernment to walk in the light.

Wednesday – 1 John 2:1-6

1. How are we able to know that we “know” God?
2. How can we be assured that we are in him?
3. Are you assured that you are “in him”? Why or why not?

Prayer focus: To gain knowledge of God and assurance of being found in him.

Thursday – Malachi 1:1-5

1. What example does the Lord give to show that he loved his people?
2. What does it mean for God to say he “loved Jacob but hated Esau”?
3. In what ways has God chosen his church and shown love to his church?
4. Is it okay to question God? Why or why not?

Prayer focus: To understand God's love and choosing.

Friday – Malachi 1:1-5

1. According to scripture, was it fair for God to choose Jacob and not Esau? Why or why not?
2. How will Edom's destruction reveal God's love to and of Israel?
3. What are some ways that God's love has been revealed to you?

Prayer focus: To gain knowledge of God and an assurance of his love.

Saturday – Read 1 John 2:7-27 and Malachi 1:6-2:9

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.