

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 2:7-27 and Malachi 1:6:2-9

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 – Malachi 1:6-14

1. Earlier, the people wanted to know how God loved them. Now, wants to know if they love him. What form does his question take?
2. What complaint does God have against these priests?
3. Do you offer “impure sacrifices” in your worship of God? How?

Prayer focus: For purity of heart in worshiping God in both word (Sunday worship) and deed (during the week).

Tuesday – Malachi 1:6-14

1. What was wrong with the sacrifices the priests were offering to God?
2. What is God's point when he contrasts gifts given to him with gifts given to the governor?
3. How will you display the greatness of the King in worship?

Prayer focus: For God to be glorified in worship, both in word (Sunday worship) and deed (during the week).

Wednesday – Malachi 2:1-9

1. What was the role of a true priest to be?
2. Were these priests being true priests? How or how not?
3. How will you serve as a true priest to others? (1 Peter 2:4-5)

Prayer focus: To have purity of life in service to others that they learn the truth about God and his ways.

Thursday – 1 John 2:7-17

1. How is hatred of another believer incompatible with being in the light?
2. How is love of the world opposite of love of the Father?
3. What does it mean to love the world?
4. How will you maintain your love for the Lord?

Prayer focus: To understand clearly the difference between loving God and loving the world and to be true in your love of God.

Friday – 1 John 2:18-27

1. What is the lie that John points to?
2. What is the promise that was made “to us”?
3. What was “heard from the beginning”?
4. How we do we “abide” in this promise?

Prayer focus: To abide in the truth and love of God the Father.

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.