

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
April 3-9, 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 God's Word taught. But it is also important that God's Word is heard in our homes throughout the week.

In Acts 2:42-47, we learn that the early church met daily for fellowship, prayer, and teaching. 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 the faith is taught in our households.

This booklet is provided as an aid to reading and teaching the Bible in your homes.

How to Use this Booklet

As an individual

1. At a time when you can concentrate, read the assigned Bible passage for the day.
2. Consider using a journal where you can record your observations, notes, and answers to the questions. This will allow you to go back over time and note how you've grown in knowledge and wisdom, as well as give you more material to discuss with your family (if you are leading your family in this).
3. Use the daily prayer focus as a supplement to your regular prayers. Use the focus statement to pray for you and others.

As a family

1. The one leading the devotional time should read the assigned Bible passage ahead of time, preferably in the morning, making notes and writing down observations. This way, you will be ready to lead your family in discussion and prayer.
2. Gather your family together at a convenient time when all of you can concentrate. Each family member should have a Bible (preferably the same translation).
3. Read the passage out loud. This can be shared among a family by each person reading a verse or two, or one person can read the passage while the rest follow along in their own Bibles.
4. Discuss any thoughts or questions that arose from the reading.
5. Use the provided questions for further discussion. Focus the discussion on application. Be careful not to talk about doctrine only but teach and discuss application.
6. Use the daily prayer focus as a supplement to your family prayers. Use it to frame your prayer and focus the prayer requests from your family.

Sunday – Read James

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 – James 1

1. How and why should we consider trials as “pure job”?
2. What is the real difference between a “doer” of the word and a mere “hearer” (1:22-25)?
3. Why is double-mindedness a problem?
4. How does one care for widows and orphans (1:27)? What does “in their distress” mean?
5. What can you do today to follow this instruction?

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

Tuesday – James 2

1. What is the partiality James singles out (2:1-13)?
2. How do we avoid partiality?
3. What does it mean to be “justified by deeds” (2:14-26)?
4. Why are our deeds so important to our life of faith?
5. Which deeds have you neglected? (2:14-17)

Prayer focus: For true repentance and sincere faith in your life.

Wednesday – James 3

1. How do wisdom and understanding connect with the tongue?
2. Where does bitter envy and selfish ambition come from?
3. What is the goal of true wisdom and how is it obtained?
4. What is earthly wisdom (vs. 14-15)? Why is it a problem?
5. Which wisdom are you pursuing? How do you know?

Prayer focus: For godly wisdom, both in understanding and in deeds.

Thursday – James 4

1. Where do conflicts and disputes come from? Why are they so easy to get involved in?
2. Why does friendship with the world make one an enemy of God? What is friendship with the world?
3. How do we resist the devil and draw near to God (vs. 7-10)?
4. Have you ever prayed with wrong motives (vs. 2-3)? What did you ask for? How should we pray?

Prayer focus: For true and genuine love to indwell us and be worked out in service to others.

Friday – James 5

1. What is the proper attitude toward money (1-6)?
2. What is the proper attitude during suffering (7-12)? Why?
3. What is the “thread” running through each of the four situations in 5:13-16?
4. What is your responsibility to someone who is double-minded? How can your attempt to restore them actually save them?

Prayer focus: To learn and live godliness.

Saturday – Read Malachi 3:6-12 and 1 John 4

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.