

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Guide
April 17-23, 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 Malachi 3:13-4:6 and 1 John 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 – Malachi 3:13-4:6 (3:13-15)

1. What did the people say against God that God considered arrogant?
2. What is wrong about their statements?
3. When are you most tempted to not keep God's commands? Why?

Prayer focus: For purity of thought and speech towards and about God.

Tuesday – Malachi 3:13-4:6 (3:16-18)

1. What three things happened among those who feared the Lord after the Lord's declarations against his people?
2. What did the Lord promise as a result of their faithfulness?
3. How will you serve the Lord in righteousness?

Prayer focus: Give thanks to God for being his “treasured possession.”

Wednesday – Malachi 3:13-4:6 (4:1-6)

1. What will happen to the wicked on the day that God acts? What will happen to the righteous?
2. How can the righteous remain righteous and faithful?
3. What is the role of Elijah?
4. What are you doing in your family and in your church to maintain covenant relationship with God?

Prayer focus: For faithfulness that lasts and endures.

Thursday – 1 John 5:1-12

1. How do we know that we love God? How do we know that we love the children of God?
2. Where is eternal life found?
3. Where do *you* look for eternal life? Does your life match up with your testimony?

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

Friday – 1 John 5:13-21

1. What assurances do we have in asking things of God?
2. How does a person who has been “born of God” live?
3. Why do you think John ends his letter, not with a farewell, but with a warning to “keep yourselves from idols”?
4. How has your faith grown from reading and studying 1 John?

Prayer focus: To learn and live true Christian love.

Saturday – Read Mark 1:1-20; Mark 8-10; and Mark 16:1-8.

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.