

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 Psalms 15 and 19 and James 1

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 – Psalm 15

1. What is the central theme of this psalm?
2. How is a righteous person described?
3. What is the outcome of a righteous life?
4. Is your life a testimony to righteousness? If not, what do you need to change?

Prayer focus: For sincere and complete obedience to Jesus in your life.

Tuesday – Psalm 19

1. What two things provide evidence about God and his ways?
2. How does the evidence given by each differ from the other?
3. How does the evidence given by each complement the other?
4. Which of these two do you learn from best? Why? How can you learn from the other?

Prayer focus: For deeper knowledge of God from both creation and the Bible.

Wednesday – James 1:1-11

1. Why should trials be faced with joy?
2. What is the outcome of perseverance?
3. Why is it wrong to trust in riches?
4. How do you face trials?

Prayer focus: For perseverance and joy in life's trials and in trials of faith.

Thursday – James 1:12-21

1. What is the reward for perseverance?
2. What attitude should be avoided during trials? Why?
3. What two things about God's word are taught in this passage?
4. What have you learned from God's word that you need to apply?

Prayer focus: For God's word to grow in you and produce righteousness.

Friday – James 1:22-27

1. What is wrong with just listening to the word?
2. What is worthless religion?
3. What is pure religion?
4. Are you practising worthless or pure religion?

Prayer focus: To desire to practice pure religion and to see ways of doing so.

Saturday – Read Psalms 111 and 112 and James 2

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.