

**Horton Road Church of Christ**  
**Home Devotional Guide**  
**May 15-21, 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 52 and 53 and James 3:1-12**

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 52**

1. What is the central theme of this psalm?
2. How is an unrighteous person described? A righteous one?
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 stronger trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

## **Tuesday – Psalm 53**

1. What is the writer of this psalm waiting for?
2. What is his criticism of the evildoers?
3. What attitude is at the heart of corruption and evil?
4. How do you tolerate the wickedness that you see around you? Do you wait upon the Lord?

Prayer focus: Pray a prayer acknowledging what you see around you and express your patient and expectant hope in God's deliverance.

## **Wednesday – James 3:1-12**

1. Why should not many become teachers?
2. What sins might teachers in particular become guilty of?
3. Why are sins of speech singled out by James?
4. Can we sin by not speaking?
5. What sins of speech are you most guilty of?

Prayer focus: For purity of speech before the Lord and others.

## **Thursday – James 3:1-12**

1. What two examples does James give that correspond to how the tongue works?
2. How is the tongue like a fire?
3. How can your tongue corrupt your whole body?
4. What can you do to practice greater godliness in your speech?

Prayer focus: For God's word to grow in you and produce righteousness, especially in the area of speech.

## **Friday – James 3:1-12**

1. Why does James say we cannot tame our tongues?
2. Is it possible to praise God while cursing other human beings? Why or why not?
3. What is the problem with cursing humans, according to James?
4. Are you guilty of praising God but cursing human beings? How do you need God to change you?

Prayer focus: For transformation from God that changes speech and thought patterns to reflect God's godliness and goodness.

## **Saturday – Read Psalms 91 and 92 and James 3:13-4:12**

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.