

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Guide
May 22-28, 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 91 and 92 and James 3:13-4:12

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 91

1. What is this psalm about?
2. How can a person find security in the Lord?
3. Do you look to the Lord to find your refuge and security in him?
Why or why not?

Prayer focus: For strength, security and refuge in the Lord.

Tuesday – Psalm 92

1. Why does the writer praise the Lord in this psalm?
2. What contrasts are in this psalm between the wicked and the Lord, and between the wicked and the righteous?
3. What has the Lord done that makes you sing for joy and exalt him?

Prayer focus: To always find strength in the Lord.

Wednesday – James 3:13-4:12 (3:13-18)

1. How can you know who is wise and understanding among you?
2. What is the difference between godly and worldly wisdom?
3. Why do you think even many churches and Christians live more by worldly wisdom than by godly wisdom?
4. Which wisdom are you living by? What do you need to change?

Prayer focus: For godliness and to live godly wisdom.

Thursday – James 3:13-4:12 (4:1-6)

1. What causes fights and quarrels among you?
2. What is friendship of the world?
3. What does it mean that God is *jealous* for the spirit that lives in us?
4. How do we receive God's grace?
5. Are you filled with pride, or with humility?

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

Friday – James 3:13-4:12 (4:7-12)

1. How does one change from being a double-minded person to a single-minded person?
2. What is the problem with slandering another?
3. Why should we not judge others?
4. Which of the teachings in 4:7-10 is most applicable to you? Why?

Prayer focus: For submission to God in our thoughts and deeds.

Saturday – Read Psalms 1 and 49 and James 4:13-5:6

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.