

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Guide
June 26-July 2, 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 Psalm 119:73-96 and Elijah 2:1-18

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 119:73-96

1. What is this psalm about?
2. From this psalm, what do you learn about how, or in what ways, should the word of God be understood and applied?
3. What examples does this writer give about the value of God's word?
4. How do you value God's word?

Prayer focus: For God's word to lead you into greater faith.

Tuesday – 1 Kings 19:19-21

1. What was Elisha doing when Elijah called him to follow him?
2. How did Elisha respond?
3. What is the significance of Elisha slaughtering his oxen and burning the yokes?
4. What do you need to give up to follow God?

Prayer focus: For greater dedication in following God.

Wednesday – 2 Kings 2:1-18

1. What two distractions did Elisha have to deal with (multiple times)?
2. Why do you think Elisha did not allow either of these distractions to take him away from his focus of staying with Elijah?
3. What do you learn from his commitment?
4. Who or what is trying to take your focus away from God? How will you deal with this?

Prayer focus: For courage to stay committed to God even when other things try to pull us away.

Thursday – 2 Kings 2:1-18

1. What was Elisha's response after Elijah was taken away by God?
2. What did he do next?
3. How did the company of prophets respond to Elisha and why?
4. Are you ready and willing to follow God's lead in your life?

Prayer focus: To be ready and available to serve God when he calls.

Friday – 2 Kings 2:19-25

1. How did Elisha positively deal with the people of the city of Jericho?
2. How did Elisha deal with the young boys who ridiculed him? Why do you think he responded this way?
3. What do both stories teach about how God is working in and through Elisha?
4. What can you do to serve someone else?

Prayer focus: For insight into how to serve others sacrificially in order to reach them with the gospel.

Saturday – Read Psalm 119:97-120 and John 1:1-18

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.