

Horton Road Church of Christ

Home Devotional Guide

July 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 Psalm 119:145-176 and Hebrews 11

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 119:145-176

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 – Hebrews 11:1-7

1. How is faith described in Hebrews 11:1-3?
2. Who are the three faithful examples given in 11:4-7 and what did their faith cause them to do?
3. What commendation did each of these receive for their faith?
4. How does your faith line up with the faith of these men?

Prayer focus: For a stronger faith that trusts God in all things.

Wednesday – Hebrews 11:1-7

1. What is the connection between faith and hope?
2. Is faith belief only or is it the expression of our beliefs? (11:4-7)
3. How does God reward those who seek him?
4. What do you learn from the faith of Abel, Enoch, and Noah,?

Prayer focus: For grace and courage to be a witness of your faith in Jesus to others.

Thursday – Hebrews 11:8-40

1. With which action is Abraham's faith described (8)?
2. What characteristic of faith did Abraham and Sarah display (13-16)?
3. Did Abraham have anything concrete to hold onto when he was willing to sacrifice his son at God's command?
4. How does Abraham's attitude of faith encourage or challenge you?

Prayer focus: For a living and active faith.

Friday – Hebrews 11:8-40

1. What is the relationship between faith and action in the examples given in 11:23-31?
2. Why does Hebrews tell about the negative things that happened to some who lived by faith (36-38)?
3. How do verses 39-40 summarize this chapter?
4. How are you encouraged by and challenged by these examples of faith?

Prayer focus: To be strong in faith even in difficult times.

Saturday – Read Proverbs 1:1-19 and John 2:1-22

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.