

# **Horton Road Church of Christ**

## **Home Devotional Guide**

### **October 2-8, 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 Proverbs 7:1-23 and Psalm 109**

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 – Proverbs 7:1-23**

1. What is this section in Proverbs about?
2. From this section, what do you learn about how, or in what ways, godly wisdom should be understood and applied?
3. What examples does this writer give about the value of godly wisdom?
4. How do you value godly wisdom?

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

## **Tuesday – Psalm 109:1-20 (1-5)**

1. What problem has the writer encountered in his life?
2. How does he address God and what does he want God to do?
3. Have you been in similar situations as the writer? How have you responded?

Prayer focus: To trust God enough in our relational problems to pray to him and ask him for help.

## **Wednesday – Psalm 109:1-20 (6-20)**

1. What sorts of things does this writer wish upon his enemies?
2. What reasons does he give for his anger?
3. How do you feel about this person's anger and statements? Are you uncomfortable reading these things?
4. How do you process your anger and disappointment with other people?

Prayer focus: To learn how to trust the Lord with our anger and disappointment in other people.

## **Thursday – Psalm 109:21-31 (21-25)**

1. What is the difference between how the Lord deals with this person and how his enemies deal with him?
2. What reasons does he give for why he needs the Lord's help?
3. How do you view yourself before the Lord—as one who needs help, or as one who likes to direct the Lord *how* to help you?

Prayer focus: To keep proper focus and see ourselves as God sees us—in need of grace and mercy.

## **Friday – Psalm 109:21-31 (26-31)**

1. What results is this person looking for from the Lord?
2. What is his responsibility to the Lord?
3. Are you able to trust God in your most difficult relational problems? What keeps you from trusting him to resolve things?

Prayer focus: To find complete trust in God by surrendering our ideas of control and needing to be right in our relationships with others.

## **Saturday – Read Proverbs 7:24-8:11 and Romans 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.