

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Guide
November 6-12, 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 Joel 1 and 2 Kings 19-20

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 – Joel 1

1. What is this section in Joel about?
2. From this section, what do you learn about how God spoke through his prophets?
3. How does Joel encourage people to obey God? What does he say about people who are disobedient to God?
4. How do you obey God's word?

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

Tuesday – 2 Kings 19:14-19

1. What did Hezekiah do with the letter he received?
2. Summarize the content of his prayer.
3. How does his prayer demonstrate trust in God?
4. Do you pray to God when you are in despair? How does your prayer demonstrate trust in God?

Prayer focus: To grow in trust and confidence in the Lord.

Wednesday – 2 Kings 20:12-19

1. What did Hezekiah do with the visitors that came from Babylon?
2. Why do you think Isaiah questioned Hezekiah about this?
3. What was God's word to Hezekiah about this? How did Hezekiah respond?
4. Do you struggle with trusting God when you are not in a crisis? How can you learn to trust God more?

Prayer focus: To learn to trust God always, not only in crises.

Thursday – Matthew 26:36-44

1. What was Jesus' purpose in going to Gethsemane?
2. What was the content of his prayer?
3. How does Jesus prayer, and the timing of it, demonstrate complete trust in God?
4. What do you learn from Jesus' prayer about trust?

Prayer focus: To fully and completely trust God in your life.

Friday – Matthew 26:36-44

1. Contrast Hezekiah's trust in God in 2 Kings 19 with his lack of trust in 2 Kings 20. Why do you think he changed?
2. Compare Hezekiah to Jesus (Matt. 26). How does Jesus' prayer of trust differ from Hezekiah's?
3. When is it hardest for you trust God? Easiest? Why?
4. What have you learned this week about trusting God and how will you apply it?

Prayer focus: To live a life of trust in God.

Saturday – Read Joel 2:1-17 and 2 Timothy 4:1-18

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.