

Horton Road Church of Christ
Home Devotional Booklet
February 20-26, 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 a portion of God's Word taught. But it is also important that the hearing of God's Word extends to our homes throughout the week. In Acts 2:42-47, we learn that the early church met daily for fellowship, prayer, and teaching. We have a responsibility—perhaps even an obligation—to read and teach God's Word at home and obey it.

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 our faith is taught in our households.

This booklet is provided as an aid to reading and teaching the Bible in your homes. I recommend that you read each daily section and discuss both the reading and the questions. Conclude your time together with a prayer and perhaps also a song. There is no better way to spend an evening with your family than in Bible reading, discussion and prayer. This way, your fellowship with each other will also be seasoned with grace.

If you are already using another system in your family discipleship, please feel no need to switch to this booklet. I only provide this as a help to you, to help you regain the importance of Bible reading and prayer in your household. No matter what system you use to do this, the end result is God's glory as you learn more his ways and obedience to them.

Sunday – Read Ecclesiastes 10 and Philippians 4:2-9

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 – Ecclesiastes 10

1. Which of these proverbs do you find most interesting or striking? Why?
2. How do proverbs teach truth?
3. How will you apply yourself to wisdom?

Prayer focus: Pray for dedication and commitment to God and his ways.

Tuesday – Ecclesiastes 10

1. What is the difference between the wise and the foolish?
2. Can one who is wise become foolish? How?
3. How will you pursue wisdom and avoid foolishness?

Prayer focus: Pray for godly wisdom and to discern how to avoid foolishness.

Wednesday – Philippians 4:2-9

1. Based on Paul's instructions in 4:1-3, who is responsible for resolving conflicts in the church?
2. How are Euodia and Syntyche negatives examples of the gospel, the cross, and Jesus?
3. How can conflict be resolved?

Prayer focus: To keep our attention and focus on Christ and humility and to avoid selfish conflict.

Thursday – Philippians 4:2-9

1. How does worry affect your joy and spiritual life? How does Paul's advice on prayer help you? How will you practice this?
2. How can Christians rejoice always? What does Paul mean?
3. How will you rejoice more and worry less?

Prayer focus: To order your life around the priorities of God and worry less while rejoicing more.

Friday – Philippians 4:2-9

1. What does Paul mean by the "peace of God"? How do we obtain that peace?
2. What effect would living out 4:8-9 have on our relationships, both with believers and non-believers?
3. How will you "think about" the things in 4:8-9?

Prayer focus: To develop the fruit of the Spirit and the virtues taught in this section.

Saturday – Read Ecclesiastes 11-12 and Philippians 4:10-23

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.