

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning on March 30

Being in relationship with God is more than just a once a week event. Just like any relationship, regular communication is needed. I challenge you to create a daily routine to prepare your hearts for God's word. This is something that can be done in less than 20 minutes per day. It just requires a time and place of quiet (before the day begins or after the day has ended or even on the train coming home from work).

**Instructions:** - Monday through Saturday follow each step. Don't forget that the Bible is not a newspaper – it is God's word. Reading the same psalm for six days gives God a chance to speak to you with the same words but in six different days (and, potentially, six different circumstances).

### I. Invocation (Pray this each day):

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### II. Psalm 31:9-16 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Matthew 21:1-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 42:1-7
<b>Wednesday</b>	Isaiah 49:1-6
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 50:4-7
<b>Friday</b>	Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
<b>Saturday</b>	Philippians 2:5-11

### IV. Prayers

<b>Monday</b>	For those in need of healing from <i>Yellow Pages</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	For those serving in military and vets
<b>Wednesday</b>	For our shut-ins and caregivers and families in grief
<b>Thursday</b>	For our leaders in government and church
<b>Friday</b>	For family members and neighbors
<b>Saturday</b>	For yourself

**V. Reflection**      Silent and/or written

**VI: Hymn: *My Song Is Love Unknown* – ELW 343 (Sing each day):** (For music, use this link.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0>

My song is love unknown, My Saviors love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take, frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed for Christ would know:  
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
Who at my need His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way, And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King:  
Then Crucify! is all their breath,  
And for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they saved, The Prince of life they slay,  
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,  
That He His foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King! Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in Whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

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### VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Go forth into this day with the strong name of Jesus Christ to sustain you.  
Amen.

The general idea and often the words of the benediction are taken from: *A Guide to Prayer* by Rueben Job and Norman Shawchuck, (The Upper Room: Nashville, 1983).