

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning July 13

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):

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

II. Psalm 86 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Tuesday	Matthew 13:24-30
Wednesday	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Thursday	Isaiah 44:6-8
Friday	Romans 8:1-11
Saturday	Romans 8:12-25

IV. Prayers

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

V. Reflection Silent and/or written

VI: Hymn: *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast* ELW #516 (Sing each day): (For music, type "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" in your search engine.) One example is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1c2mjT5schA>

Almighty God, your word is cast
like seed upon the ground,
now let the dew of heaven descend
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly, satanic foe
this holy seed remove:
but give it root in every heart,
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundred-fold
the fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,
life-giving grace bestow;
that all whose souls the truth receive
its saving power may know.

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Live today in Christ's presence, remembering he is near and will sustain you as you serve in his name.

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).