

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning August 3

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):

O God, our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### II. Psalm 85 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Matthew 13:54 – 14:12
<b>Tuesday</b>	Matthew 14:13-21
<b>Wednesday</b>	Matthew 14:22-36
<b>Thursday</b>	I Kings 18:16-46
<b>Friday</b>	I Kings 19:1-9
<b>Saturday</b>	I Kings 19:10-18

### 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: *How Can I Keep from Singing* ELW #763 (Sing each day).**

**Click here to hear it sung:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BifkC92nT8>

1. My life flows on in endless song;  
Above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn  
That hails a new creation.

*Refrain - No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
How can I keep from singing?*

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? - *Refrain*

3. What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth,  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night He giveth. - *Refrain*

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
A fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am His!  
How can I keep from singing? - *Refrain*

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

Send me, Lord, as an evangel of hope and security to those whose paths will cross with mine this day. 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).