

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning October 19th

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):

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### II. Psalm 46 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	John 8:12-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	John 8:21-30
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 8:31-38
<b>Thursday</b>	Romans 3:9-20
<b>Friday</b>	Romans 3:19-28
<b>Saturday</b>	Jeremiah 31:31-34

### 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: *The Church's One Foundation* (Sing each day):** (For music, type "The Church's One Foundation" in your search engine.) One example is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQv4EAwMFoQ>

1. The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood He bought her, and for her life he died.

2. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4. Through toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heavenly chorus! Lord, saves us by your grace  
That, we like saints before us may see you face to face.

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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. 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).