

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning October 26th

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, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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 34 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Matthew 5:1-12
<b>Tuesday</b>	John 11:32-44
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 John 3:1-3
<b>Thursday</b>	Isaiah 25:6-9
<b>Friday</b>	Revelation 7:8-17
<b>Saturday</b>	Revelation 21:1-6a

### 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: *Blest Are They* ELW #728 (Sing each day):** (For music, type "Blest Are They" in your search engine.) One example is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzH-Vo4ocRo>

1. Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.  
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.

### Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kingdom of God!*

2. Blest are they, the lowly ones. they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill. **Refrain**

3. Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God! **Refrain**

4. Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. **Refrain**

5. Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;  
shine for all to see. **Refrain**

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

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:5-6)

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).