

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on January 11

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):

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

II. Psalm 139:1-18 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	1 Samuel 3:1-10
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3:11-20
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Thursday	John 1:19-34
Friday	John 1:35-42
Saturday	John 1:43-51

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: *Will You Come and Follow Me, ELW #798* (Sing each day):
(For music, type "Will You Come and Follow Me" in your search engine.)
One example is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o469PRLdbHU>

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
Will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
Should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"

3. "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
And do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

4. Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go
Where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me."

© 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publications. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723866.

VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Today walk in the power and presence of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
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).