

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on January 18

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, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

II. Psalm 62:5-12 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8
Tuesday	Jonah 3
Wednesday	Acts 9:1-22
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4
Friday	Mark 1:1-13
Saturday	Mark 1:14-20

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: *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King* (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=Dhd5dUVxOJ8>

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
2. I was lost in utter darkness, 'til You came and rescued me;
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free;
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home;
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

*Come, Thou Fount, come Thou King,
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear Your bride, to You we sing; come Thou Fount of our blessing;*

3. O to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let the grace now like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

*Come, Thou Fount, come Thou King,
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear Your bride, to You we sing; come Thou Fount of our blessing!*

©2005 Thomas Miller/Gateway Create Publishing. All rights reserved.
Used by permission CCLI #2306964.

VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Go forth now as God's servant. Remember God's presence often and draw strength from the knowledge that the One who calls and sends, also sustains. 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).