

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on August 2

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):

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

II. Psalm 34:1-8 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	John 6:1-15
Tuesday	John 6:16-34
Wednesday	John 6:35-51
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-16
Friday	Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2
Saturday	1 Kings 19:1-8

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: *Be Thou My Vision* – ELW 793 (Sing each day): (For music, type “Be Thou My Vision” in your search engine.) One example is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Optrm7IF16s>

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r .
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Lord, allow me, your servant, to go in peace. I have experienced your salvation which you have prepared for everyone. Uphold me as I seek to serve in your 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).