

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning on May 9

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):

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love that we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### II. Psalm 148 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 10:1-23a
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 10:23b-48
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 11:1-18
<b>Thursday</b>	Revelation 21:1-6
<b>Friday</b>	John 13:1-30
<b>Saturday</b>	John 13:31-35

### 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: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW #631) (Sing each day):** (For music, use this link.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQrNMJrgbyM>

1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

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

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 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).