

Preparing the Soil

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 God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

II. Psalm 98 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	John 15:1-8
Tuesday	John 15:9-17
Wednesday	1 John 1:1-10
Thursday	1 John 3:11-24
Friday	1 John 4:7-21
Saturday	1 John 5:1-6

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 families in grief
Thursday	For our leaders in government and church
Friday	For family members and neighbors
Saturday	For myself

V. Reflection Silent and/or written

VI: Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This* – ELW 666 (Sing each day):

(For music, use this link.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acOZB3u5_Gk

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

I am yours, O Lord. I have heard your voice! And having heard, I will go wherever you send me and to whatever task. Only go with me, my Lord; I cannot make the journey alone. Amen.

The general idea and the words of the benediction are taken from: *A Guide to Prayer* by Rueben Job and Norman Shawchuck, (The Upper Room: Nashville, 1983).