

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on August 1

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 and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. As we walk through our communities, grant us the genuine and gracious curiosity that you gave Paul so that we can proclaim your Son to a hurting world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

II. Psalm 98 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Acts 15:22-35
Tuesday	Acts 15:36 – 16:5
Wednesday	Acts 16:6-15
Thursday	Acts 16:16-40
Friday	Acts 17:1-21
Saturday	Acts 17:22-34

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: *All Who Are Thirsty* (Sing each day): (For music, type “All Who Are Thirsty” in your search engine.) One example is:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K71EYID2214>

All who are thirsty, and all who are weak
Come to the fountain. Dip your heart in the streams of life
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
In the waves of His mercy as deep cries out to deep, we sing
Come Lord Jesus, come (repeat)

All who are thirsty, and all who are weak
Come to the fountain. Dip your heart in the streams of life
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
In the waves of His mercy as deep cries out to deep, we sing
Holy Spirit, Come (repeat)

Songwriters: Jonathan Lindley Smith / Lindsey Mccaul
All Who Are Thirsty lyrics © Essential Music Publishing, Integrity Music
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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).