

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on November 21

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):

God of deliverance, you promised prosperity and peace to the residents of Jerusalem. Grant us to prosper, not for riches, but for faith, so that our lives may be a blessing to all. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

II. Psalm 122 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Isaiah 36:1-22
Tuesday	Isaiah 37:1-7
Wednesday	Isaiah 37:14-20
Thursday	Isaiah 2:1-4
Friday	Isaiah 43:1-10
Saturday	Isaiah 43:11-21

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: Precious Lord, Take My Hand, ELW 773 (Sing each day): (For music, use this link.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVMeRULuUB4>

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home!

2. When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near
When my life is almost gone.
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home!

3. When the darkness appears,
And the night draws near
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home!.

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

You have been reminded that Jesus Christ is your Lord and that you are God's servant. You are loved; you are forgiven; you are empowered; and now you are sent to live as God's faithful one. 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).