

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning on November 20

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 of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### II. Psalm 95:1-7a (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Matthew 24:1-14
<b>Tuesday</b>	Matthew 24:32-44
<b>Wednesday</b>	Matthew 24:45-51
<b>Thursday</b>	Matthew 25:1-13
<b>Friday</b>	Matthew 25:14-30
<b>Saturday</b>	Matthew 25:31-46

### 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: *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* – ELW 712 (Sing each day):** (For music, type “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” in your search engine.) One example is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MIPlyM2Qz4k>

1. Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;  
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.
2. Still your children wander homeless, still the hungry cry for bread.  
Still the captives long for freedom, still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion, healed the sick and freed the soul,  
By your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.
3. As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.
4. Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, good-will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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

Go forth to serve in the strength, love, and presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
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).