

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning on January 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). The readings are designed to coordinate with the sermon theme of the following week. I invite you to follow each step Monday through Saturday.

### I. Invocation (Pray this each day):

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after 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 29 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Genesis 1:1-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	Genesis 1:1-25
<b>Wednesday</b>	Genesis 1:1 – 2:4
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 19:1-7
<b>Friday</b>	Matthew 3:13-17
<b>Saturday</b>	Mark 1:4-11

### 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: Benediction (Spoken each day):

May the peace of God fill my heart, mind, and activity all this day long.  
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).

### A New Opportunity: Reading through the Bible in two years.

The following readings are designed to lead the reader through the Bible over the course of two years. Each day there is a reading from the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The readings will be given for Monday through Saturday. Sunday will be a day of rest (and catch up if needed).

<b>Mon.</b>	Psalm 1	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 1:1-17
<b>Tues.</b>	Psalm 2	Genesis 2:4-25	Matthew 1:18-25
<b>Wed.</b>	Psalm 3	Genesis 3-4	Matthew 2:1-12
<b>Thurs.</b>	Psalm 4	Genesis 5	Matthew 2:13-23
<b>Fri.</b>	Psalm 5	Genesis 6:1 - 7:10	Matthew 3
<b>Sat.</b>	Psalm 6	Genesis 7:11 - 8:22	Matthew 4:1-11

If you need some help understanding the Bible texts you are reading, I suggest buying the Augsburg Fortress *Lutheran Study Bible*. Just Google “Augsburg Fortress Lutheran Study Bible” to buy through the Augsburg Fortress Publishing website.

A good online resource is called “Enter the Bible” ([enterthebible.org](http://enterthebible.org)). It is produced by Luther Seminary. This website can give you information about each book of the Bible. Take some time and explore.

Join us as we deepen our knowledge of God’s word, while getting to know Jesus as his apprentices.