

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning on February 24

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, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### II. Psalm 99 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Exodus 34:29-35          |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 1 Kings 19:1-13          |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Luke 9:18-27             |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Luke 9:28-36             |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Luke 9:37-43             |

### 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):

Bless with your presence my life, mission, and ministry all this day long and when night comes, grant your servant rest and peace. 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).

### 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 30:6-12  | 1 Chronicles 12        | Luke 17:11-19 |
| <b>Tues.</b>  | Psalm 31:1-5   | 1 Chron. 13:1 - 14:7   | Luke 17:20-25 |
| <b>Wed.</b>   | Psalm 31:6-9   | 1 Chron. 14:8 -15:29   | Luke 17:26-37 |
| <b>Thurs.</b> | Psalm 31:10-20 | 1 Chronicles 16:1-36   | Luke 18:1-17  |
| <b>Fri.</b>   | Psalm 31:21-24 | 1 Chron. 16:37 - 17:27 | Luke 18:18-30 |
| <b>Sat.</b>   | Psalm 32       | 1 Chronicles 18        | Luke 18:31-43 |

For an introduction for Week 61 readings, see SOTH's webpage (shepherdofthehill.com), find the sidebar button entitled "Read Through the Bible Program". The same introduction is also found on the Shepherd of the Hill Facebook page.

If you need some help understanding the Bible texts you are reading, try the Augsburg Fortress *Lutheran Study Bible*. Google "Augsburg Fortress Lutheran Study Bible" to buy through the Augsburg Fortress Publishing.

If you want a narrated version of the Bible, try out the audio Bible version from Bible Gateway (<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>) or download the Bible Audio app from your app store.

A good online resource is called "Enter the Bible" (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.

Another good source of information is a Bible study that I did two years ago entitled "See Through the Scriptures." Each of the lectures were videoed. Go to shepherdofthehill.com, click on the tab "Deepen Your Faith". Look under the heading "Reading and Understanding the Bible" for "See Through the Scriptures." Check out Sessions 11 & 12 as they cover the not only the fall of both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, but also the message of the prophets during that time.

Join us as we deepen our knowledge of God's word.