

# Preparing the Soil

## For week beginning November 30

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):

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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 62 (Read this each day):

### III. Daily Scripture Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Isaiah 40:1-5
<b>Tuesday</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11
<b>Wednesday</b>	Malachi 3:1-4
<b>Thursday</b>	Mark 1:1-8
<b>Friday</b>	2 Peter 3:8-10
<b>Saturday</b>	2 Peter 3:8-15a

### 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: *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*, ELW 249 (Sing each day):**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0bU5hje-Ik>

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed by every life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within;  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.  
Without your grace we waste away.  
Like flow'r that wither and decay.

4. Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
And make us rise to fall no more;  
Oh, let your face upon us shine  
And fill the world with love divine.

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

And now, my God, send me to prepare the way for others, that they, too, may gladly accept the coming of Jesus Christ into their life situations. 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).