

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on September 27

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 all people, You remembered your children who were enslaved in Egypt, and by the power of your name you set them free. Remember us and free us from slavery to sin by the power of your name. Amen.

II. Psalm 114 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Exodus 1:1-22
Tuesday	Exodus 2:1-10
Wednesday	Exodus 2:11-25
Thursday	Exodus 3:1-15
Friday	Exodus 3:13-22
Saturday	Exodus 4:1-17

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: *Here I Am, Lord*, ELW 574 (Sing each day):

To hear this click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SHIrS6pMG4>

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

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*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"

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3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

Be bound to Christ for this day and always. 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).