

Preparing the Soil

For week beginning on September 18

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):

Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed. In honor of his persistence you gave him a new name. Teach us to persist in the face of struggle, and call us by name. Amen.

II. Psalm 130 (Read this each day):

III. Daily Scripture Readings

Monday	Genesis 25:19-34
Tuesday	Genesis 27:1 – 28:5
Wednesday	Genesis 29:1-14
Thursday	Genesis 31:1-21
Friday	Genesis 32:1-21
Saturday	Genesis 32:22-30

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: *On Eagle's Wings*, ELW 787 (Sing each day): (For music, use this link.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d6E-Mw1fnzE>

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in this shadow for life,
Say to the Lord:
“My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

*Chorus: “And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of my hand.”*

2. Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under God's wings your refuge
With faithfulness your shield. *Chorus*

3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you,
near you it shall not come. *Chorus.*

4. For to the angels God's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
Chorus

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VII: Benediction (Spoken each day):

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

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).