



**Read:** How different this death must have been from all the others the soldiers ever witnessed. Surely they ponder the paradox that one brutally nailed to a cross could determine his own destiny, even to his last breath. Read [Matthew 27:54-56](#) and try to imagine being one of those who stood guarding the dying criminals. What would it be like to have the revelation given to the centurion?

Perhaps by now you are beginning to see that God doesn't just love you, but that he *abounds* in love for you. Read [Psalm 86:1-5](#) quietly aloud and consider this. Read it again slowly, choosing a word, phrase or verse to focus on.

**Think:** Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart for people? For you? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

**Pray:** Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

**Rest:** Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

And, as you sit and gaze, it will be born in you that only a crucified Savior could meet your need.

William Sangster