

August 01/02, 2026

"The Sower"

Pastor Aaron Buer



Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **August:** Lament

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Luke 8:1-18](#) | The Path

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Luke 8:5

Jesus shares this parable at the height of his traveling ministry. News spreads fast about the Galilean casting out spirits and healing diseases. Rumors even spread that he forgives sins! Everyone is curious. As the crowd around him grows, Jesus shares this parable. A farmer went out to sow seed. It fell on different soils, each yielding various results. Jesus pulls this analogy from his surroundings: fields dotting the landscape. The first soil is the hard path, incapable of yielding crops due to traffic and birds. Later, his disciples press him on the meaning of the parable. He tells them that the hard path represents those who hear God's Word but cannot receive it because of theft! Satan has kept the Word from their hearts.

Jesus's parable highlights a grave reality that we must not forget. The natural soil of our hearts is hard and unreceptive to God's Word. There is a scheming seed snatcher who opposes God's Word taking root in our hearts. We see this in the people we care about who hear the gospel yet resist its truth. Our responsibility as Jesus's followers is to share the gospel and pray for God's miraculous intervention to break up the soil of their hearts.

TODAY: Bring to God someone who needs to hear and his Word. Pray for them: "Gracious God, I recognize we are in a spiritual battle. Please break up the soil of _____'s heart that they would be receptive to your Word and the gospel of Jesus. Help me be faithful in sharing you with them."

Want to learn more about spiritual battle? Check out our previous sermon series, "Enemies of the Soul," [HERE](#).

Day 2 [Luke 8:11-13](#) | The Rocks

Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. Luke 8:13

Palpable excitement fills the air around Jesus as he continues to speak. The Pharisees look at him with bewildered concern. People with disabilities listen with once-forgotten hope. The average Jewish person wonders in a whisper, "Is this the Messiah?" Jesus describes the second soil. The seed sprouts, but there is an issue. Rocks fill the soil, and the baby plant cannot grow roots to produce fruit. When his disciples press for understanding, he tells them. This soil represents people who receive God's Word with joy. However, because they are not rooted, they fall away when tested. Jesus understands that testing is inevitable in a broken world. Saving faith requires deep roots, growing over time, and the habit of removing what gets in the way.

Rocks can lurk beneath the surface of our lives, too. When ignored, they prevent us from developing a mature, sustainable faith. These rocks could be a hidden sinful pattern of brokenness, an idol, or a belief that contradicts God's Word. By God's grace, freedom comes with a shovel and a helping hand. When we bring these things into the open and allow the gospel to go deeper and transform us, the roots of our faith grow. This growth happens through the power of God's Word and the help of God's people.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal an area of your life that you haven't allowed the gospel to transform. Confess what he reveals and bring it to Jesus. Rocks often can't be removed alone. Reach out to a trusted Christian friend or send us a message at care@adabible.org. We'd love to have a conversation.

Day 3 [Luke 8:14](#) | The Thorns

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures. Luke 8:14

Jesus turns his attention to soil that has signs of life. Roots have taken hold, and the plant is growing. Rocks have been removed. The soil is soft. Yet, weeds grow alongside the young plant. These seemingly harmless neighbors suffocate the plant, causing it to die. The disciples press Jesus for an explanation. He tells them that the soil represents the person who hears God's Word, but is carried away by life's worries, riches, and pleasures. These weeds represent valid concerns for Jesus's audience. Questions about burdensome Roman taxes. The fear of a disease, like leprosy. They included life's great joys, like a wedding in Cana or the birth of a child. Jesus knows that the stuff of life will compete for the throne of their hearts.

We, too, battle weeds that threaten to choke our faith. As a gardener tends to his plot, we need to tend daily to the competition happening in our hearts. Life's worries endlessly compete for our attention. Do we pursue an opportunity or not? Should we get married? Which school should we attend? Riches and pleasures can be exciting. Vacation with the family. New flooring in the house. These are good things! However, when they keep us from God's Word, they become ultimate things, an idol. We must be vigilant to uproot the weeds in our lives. Doing so allows our faith to grow toward maturity.

TODAY: Take a moment to think over the past week and what things consumed your time, energy, and attention. Make a list in your journal or on your mobile device. Invite Jesus into each thing you named.

Day 4 [Luke 8:15-16](#) | The Good Soil

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15

Jesus concludes his parable by pointing to a fourth and final soil: the good soil. It is healthy. The rocks have been removed. Its ground is soft, and the weeds are gone. The seed that falls into this soil yields a crop a hundred times over. Jesus's audience notices the discrepancy between a typical harvest and what he describes. A hundredfold is unheard of! It's supernatural! When pressed for an explanation, Jesus tells his disciples that this soil represents the person who hears the Word, retains it, and perseveres. It is the person whose faith holds firm in the most difficult circumstances. Faith that holds onto the Word and doesn't let go reveals God's light to a darkened world.

For our hearts to become good soil, we must become good listeners. Holding fast to God's Word means tuning our ears to his voice and sitting at Jesus's feet. This includes listening to a weekend sermon *and* engaging with his Word daily. As listeners of Jesus's words, we don't travel alone but talk about his Word with others. In community, we put God's Word into practice, obeying his commands. We allow his perspective to shape our thoughts and actions. As we return to the Word, talk about it, and obey it—with the help of the Holy Spirit—God will bring an abundant harvest.

TODAY: Consider where you need to commit or recommit to God's Word. One way you can grow in holding on to God's Word is by talking about it together in community. Grow in faith this fall by joining a group. Learn more and register [HERE](#).



Day 5 [Psalm 13](#) | Lament

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. August's focus is Lament: bringing our grief and struggle honestly to God.

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? Psalm 13:1

King David wrestles with sorrow that refuses to lift. His enemies close in, and God feels silent. Day after day, a deep ache weighs on his heart, and he wonders if God has forgotten him. As king, David could easily hide his pain behind a strong image. Instead, he brings his raw, unfiltered emotions straight to God. He doesn't wait until he feels better or finds the right words. He simply says what's true: he feels alone, forgotten, and afraid. Even in this deep sorrow, David doesn't run from God. He runs toward him with honesty and trust.

We, too, can bring our unresolved grief, confusion, and hurt directly to God. This honest prayer is called a lament—and it's one of the most courageous acts of faith we can take. Lament says, "I'm not okay—but I still trust you." Scripture shows a clear pattern for lament: 1) **Turn** to God with our complaint. State what grieves, confuses, or upsets us. 2) **Request** God to move, see, and answer. 3) Place our **trust** in God, before we ever see it resolved. That doesn't mean we like or understand what's happening, but we trust him in it. We don't have to pretend we're fine to approach God. We can bring him a lost opportunity, a hard diagnosis, a strained relationship, or a grief with no name. God welcomes our honesty and meets us in it.

TODAY: Write out your own lament using [Psalm 13](#) as a guide. State your complaint, make your request, and declare your trust in God. Pray honestly to God and return to your lament throughout your day.