

August 15/16, 2026

“Why I Want to go to Heaven”

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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 [John 14:1–6](#) | The Invitation

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:3

Jesus sits with his disciples in an upper room, hours before his arrest. He has told them that one of them will betray him, and Peter will deny knowing him before dawn. Fear and confusion settle over the room. Jesus sees their trouble and speaks gently, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me” ([John 14:1](#)). He comforts them, explaining he will prepare a place for them in his Father’s house, and one day he will come back to bring them home with him. This is not goodbye. It is a promise. Jesus knows the road ahead is hard. He gives them something solid to hold on to—himself and a future.

We can feel unsettled about the future. We may wonder what happens when this life ends. Many of us hope we’ve done enough or believed the right things to make it to heaven. But Jesus doesn’t leave our future to chance. He says, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” ([John 14:6](#)). When we trust in Jesus’s work on the cross for salvation from our sins, we can live each day with peace about our future. Jesus purchased the gift of salvation, but it’s a gift that still has to be received.

TODAY: Choose to believe in Jesus for your eternal future. If you’ve already trusted him, thank him that your place in heaven is secure. If you’ve never made that decision, you can know for certain today. Visit adabible.org/salvation to take that step or start a conversation.

Day 2 [2 Corinthians 5:1–8](#) | Home Sweet Home

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Corinthians 5:1

Paul writes to the Corinthians in the wake of deep suffering and a strained relationship with their church. False teachers in Corinth use his hardships to question whether he is a legitimate apostle. Paul points past his circumstances to something greater. He compares his weary, aging body to a tent—useful, but temporary and easily worn down. In contrast, he describes an eternal house in heaven, built by God himself, that suffering cannot touch. Paul isn’t downplaying his pain. He’s reminding the Corinthians, and himself, that the earthly body and this life are not the final destination.

We can feel that same tension. Life wears us down, and our bodies fail. We might wonder if this world is as good as it gets, with all its grief and gladness, struggles and successes. If we don’t hunger for heaven, we’ll be tempted to build our hope on things that cannot satisfy. Our true home is where Christ is, and this world is not our permanent address. We can rest in the comfort of knowing that “our citizenship is in heaven” ([Philippians](#)

[3:20](#)). We were made for a place we haven't yet seen, and our restlessness here can point us back to Jesus and the promise of a home with him.

TODAY: Identify one area where you've been settling for temporary comfort instead of remembering your eternal home. Ask God to help you live in that area with heaven in mind. "Father, I admit I've been putting my hope in _____ rather than my home with you. Help me live each day remembering my true home is with Jesus. Amen."

Day 3 [Revelation 21:1–12](#) | Better by Far

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

Revelation 21:3

John, the last surviving apostle, is exiled on the island of Patmos for his faith. There, Jesus gives him a vision to carry back to the churches, including a picture of what awaits everyone who believes in him. John sees a new heaven and a new earth. The Holy City comes down, dressed like a bride prepared for her husband ([Revelation 21:2](#)). A voice announces that God himself will live among his people forever. Death, mourning, crying, and pain will all be gone, because the old order of things will have passed away ([Revelation 21:4](#)). This isn't a vague wish. It's a guaranteed, promised future for all who trust in Jesus.

We know what it means to endure hard seasons while hoping for something better. Paul understood that tension from a prison cell, writing that to depart and be with Christ is "better by far" ([Philippians 1:23](#)). Whatever we carry—broken bodies, strained relationships, financial stress, exhausting work—will not follow us into eternity. For those who believe in Jesus, even the best this life offers can't compare to what's coming. And for Christians, this life, however hard, is the worst it will ever be.

TODAY: Respond to this powerful promise with worship. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Echo Holy](#)." Let the words draw you into the awe and wonder of the home awaiting you in heaven: "Majesty before my eyes. I'll let it take my breath away."

Day 4 [1 Corinthians 13:12–13](#) | Face to Face

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Paul writes to a church torn apart by rivalry, arguing over whose spiritual gift matters most. Into that quarrel, Paul teaches the greater way: love. Near the end of the chapter, Paul uses an image every Corinthian would recognize—a mirror. Corinth is famous for its bronze mirrors, some of the finest in the ancient world. Yet, even their best mirror, polished by hand, gives only a dim, distorted reflection. Paul says their knowledge of God right now is like that—real, but incomplete. One day, that will change. Believers in Jesus will see God fully, face to face, and know him as completely as he already knows them.

We can get caught up in details about heaven, wondering where it is or what we'll do there, and miss the point entirely. Heaven isn't heaven because of a place or an activity. It's heaven because Jesus is there. We can easily lose sight of that truth. Many good activities can quietly crowd out time spent with him. We can work hard, provide for our families, or enjoy fun hobbies without ever pausing to think of eternity, or see Jesus as the ultimate gift. Our relationship with him today is only the beginning—a glimpse of the joy we will experience with him face to face in eternity.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal where good things have crowded out your relationship with Jesus. Pray this: “Father, I’ve let _____ take priority over knowing you more. Help me see you clearly and treasure you above all else. Amen.”

Join us in Turkey in 2027! You’ll get to know places like Corinth and the meaning of Paul’s letters in a personal, deeper way. Learn more [HERE](#).



Day 5 [John 11:32–36](#) | Jesus Wept

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.

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” John 11:32b

Jesus arrives in Bethany four days after Lazarus dies. For many Jews, the fourth day is important because it signifies that Lazarus is officially dead. Mary’s first words to Jesus reflect someone who has witnessed the power of Jesus firsthand. She falls at his feet, weeping, surrounded by her crying friends. When Jesus sees their grief, he is deeply moved. John records Jesus’s response with a short, powerful statement: “Jesus wept” ([John 11:35](#)). Jesus steps into his friends’ sadness. He does not ignore their pain or rush past it. He shares it. His tears reveal his compassion, love, and deep care for those who are hurting.

Jesus is the same today. Because he is fully God, he has the power to help us. Because he is fully human, he understands what it feels like to experience loss, sadness, disappointment, and pain. We never have to hide our emotions from him. He welcomes our honest prayers. Lament is bringing our sorrow to God while choosing to trust him. We may not understand what he is doing, but we can believe he is with us. Our tears never push him away. Instead, he meets us with compassion and reminds us that he is near to the brokenhearted.

TODAY: Bring your honest emotions to Jesus in prayer. “Jesus, this is what is hurting: _____. I don’t understand why this has happened, and it feels heavy. Thank you for listening without turning away. Help me trust you even when I don’t have answers. Remind me that you are with me, that you love me, and that your promises are true. Bring your peace to my heart. Amen.”