

September 12/13, 2026

"The Land of Promise"

Pastor Aaron Buer



Beyond the
Weekend

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

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **September:** Corporate Prayer

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

Day 1 [Genesis 12:1–3](#) | Trust in the Land of Promise

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." Genesis 12:1

The opening chapters of Genesis detail Adam and Eve's sin in the garden and the repeated pattern of humanity to follow. The story then centers on one man, Abram (later renamed "Abraham"), whom God calls to leave his homeland and go to the land of promise. Abram doesn't know where he is going ([Hebrews 11:8](#)), but he goes anyway—because he believes the promises of God. The promises and character of God are the anchors of Abram's trust amid great uncertainty.

Similarly, God calls us to trust him in unfamiliar spaces. Faith is not a blind leap in the dark but a confident trust in the character and promises of God, even when we don't have all the answers. His character is unchanging, and his promises are sure. So, even when life feels uncertain, we can confidently cling to him and what he has said. This means the call of faith is a call to know God more deeply and to walk in a manner that reflects what he has spoken. As we grow in our knowledge of him and his ways, it can fuel deeper trust and dependence, especially in unknown spaces.

TODAY: Throughout this series, we will be challenged to know God more deeply in whatever space we find ourselves. The life of faith is the life of knowing God and trusting him in both pleasant and painful spaces. Lean into healthy rhythms for this season, which could include joining a group, (re)committing to Bible reading, or faithfully engaging in weekend services. For ideas on how to get involved, visit adabible.org/get-involved.

Day 2 [Deuteronomy 11:10–12](#) | Dependence in the Land of Promise

But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. Deuteronomy 11:11

God rescues his people out of the land of Egypt and brings them into the wilderness. Before leading them into the promised land, God reminds them of the stark difference between the land of Egypt and the land they are entering. Egypt is a fertile land, irrigated by the bountiful water supply of the Nile, where water can be easily sourced and transported. But not the promised land—there, people would have only rain from heaven. Thus, as the people enter the land, they must depend radically upon God to provide what only he can.

Our temptation today is to be self-reliant. Instead of looking to God and his provision, we are prone to think we have what we need on our own. If we have food in the fridge, money in the bank, and gas in the tank, we can assume that we are all set. God's Word, however, reminds us otherwise. We depend completely upon God for everything—for breath and for bread. The life of faith then is one that learns to trust and depend upon God in all things—in both our relative strengths and weaknesses.

TODAY: Pray a prayer of dependence throughout your day: “God, I need you.” As you go to work, offer this prayer. As you spend time with loved ones, utter these words. And as you lay your head down for the night, pray these words, reminding yourself of your complete dependence upon God.

Day 3 [Jeremiah 2:13](#) | Springs of Water

During the Spaces series, Beyond the Weekend will preview the coming Sunday's message rather than looking back at the one before—mirroring our group curriculum and helping to prepare our hearts for the upcoming sermon. This week, that means turning from our look at the Land of Promise to the upcoming message on Springs of Water.

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.” Jeremiah 2:13

Jeremiah is a prophet who ministers in the decades leading up to Jerusalem's collapse to the Babylonians, preaching a message of repentance for roughly four decades—though God's people largely ignore it. They turn to foreign idols, forgetting the God who sustains them and brings them into the land of promise. God then reminds them through Jeremiah that their folly is trading the true, living water found in God himself for the stagnant and dirty cistern water offered by foreign idols.

This same trade-off threatens our souls today. Rather than seeing God as the true treasure and source of living water, we can look to broken cisterns to meet our needs. These can be good things that function as counterfeit gods, such as a career, possessions, retirement accounts, or close relationships. Like those broken cisterns, these things may hold us for a season, but they were never designed to sustain us forever. They crack under pressure, run dry when we need them most, and leave us thirsty for something more. Gifts were never meant to be gods. Instead of allowing created things to claim the ultimate allegiance of our hearts, we are to see and seek God as the source of life that he really is.

TODAY: Consider where you might be seeking ultimate satisfaction or security outside of God. One way to assess this drift of your heart is to ask the question, “What most occupies my mind right now?” There is a good chance that whatever dominates your mind also directs your heart. Confess what you have been seeking and ask for God’s grace to treasure him above all.

Day 4 [John 4:7–14](#) | Living Water

During the Spaces series, Beyond the Weekend will preview the coming Sunday's message rather than looking back at the one before—mirroring our group curriculum and helping to prepare our hearts for the upcoming sermon. This week, that means looking ahead to Springs of Water.

“But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14

Jesus journeys through Samaria, stopping at a well in the town of Sychar. There, he encounters a Samaritan woman. It is not customary for a Jewish man to speak with a Samaritan woman, yet Jesus doesn't hesitate to share the gift of living water with her. While the water this woman draws from the well is temporary, Jesus offers something permanent. Confused, she asks, “Where can you get this living water?” ([John 4:11](#)). Jesus then identifies himself as its source. He echoes God's own imagery from Jeremiah—“the spring of living water” ([Jeremiah 2:13](#))—and applies it to himself. This is no small claim: Jesus is placing himself in the role Scripture reserves for God. He is the divine source of the living water that gives eternal life.

Jesus alone is the living water. Our tendency is to look to created things for satisfaction and fulfillment, when true life is found in Christ alone. He is the water that quenches. God's aim in saving us is not merely to rescue us from the penalty of sin (though his work certainly includes that)—he also saved us for himself. To know him is to know life. He called us to himself so that we would know him and become like him.

TODAY: Jesus invites us to himself, the living water. Have you received the gift? If not, this would be a great day to do so. Admit your sin and your need for a Savior, trust in what Jesus did on the cross to pay for your sin, and surrender to him as Lord of your life. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, praise God for what he has done. Join our worship team in singing, "[The Lord Will Provide](#)."



Day 5 Jesus Prays for Unity | [John 17:20–23](#)

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. September's focus is Corporate Prayer: praying together as the church.

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." John 17:20–21a

Jesus gathers with his disciples hours before his arrest. By morning, he will be nailed to a Roman cross. Gripped with urgency, he tells them to remain in him, promising to send the Holy Spirit to help them do just that ([John 15–16](#)). Then he prays for them. Jesus knows his followers will face a broken and hostile world. Their unity will not come by their own strength, but from the Spirit uniting them in Jesus. He prays for the disciples in the room, and for all who will one day believe because of their message.

Jesus's prayer for unity includes us—all who believe in him. The same Spirit who helped the disciples remain in Jesus unites us to him today, and through him, to each other. Unity doesn't mean we all look alike or agree on everything; it means the Spirit binds us together in Christ, so we reflect his love for one another. When we pray for unity, we follow Jesus's own example, trusting the Spirit to hold his church together so the watching world will see and believe.

TODAY: Pray for unity, following Jesus's example: "Father, thank you for your Spirit, who unites me with your Son. Please unite your church through your Spirit, that we would love one another as you love us. Help Ada Bible Church reflect your love so that others would come to know Jesus."