

September 19/20, 2026

"The Road"

Pastor Aaron Buer



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 [Luke 24:13–35](#) | The Emmaus Road

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

"They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?'" Luke 24:32

Two disciples trudge the seven dusty miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As they walk, they talk through their grief over the last few days. They hoped Jesus was their Messiah who would set Israel free from Rome. Instead, they watched Jesus die a brutal death on the cross. Now rumors of an empty grave only add confusion to their sorrow. A stranger joins them on the road, listens intently to their story, then gently rebukes them. He opens their eyes to how all of Scripture pointed to him and his suffering. He came to set them free, not from Rome, but from sin. By the time he breaks bread at their table, disappointment gives way to recognition and great joy.

We know disappointment, too. Life often doesn't look like we'd expected. We hoped God would heal a marriage, open a door, or answer a prayer in a certain way. We often find ourselves on our own dusty road, confused and empty-handed. Jesus meets us there through his Word. The same Scriptures that revealed him to two grieving disciples still reveal him to us. Every promise and unresolved longing finds its answer in Jesus, whose death and resurrection give us hope for eternity and for life's struggles today. When we open the Bible, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to who Jesus is and what he's done for us.

TODAY: Pray about a disappointment you're carrying. Ask God to reveal himself to you there. "God, I hoped you would _____. I don't understand what you're doing. Help me trust you based on your character and what you accomplished in Jesus."

Day 2 [Acts 8:26–39](#) | Philip on the Road

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"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" Acts 8:30–31

The good news about Jesus spreads through Jerusalem after he returns to heaven, and thousands believe. Meanwhile, on a desert road outside the city, an Ethiopian official rides home in his chariot. He'd traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship. Yet as a foreigner and a eunuch, he would have stood in the temple's outer courts as an outsider looking in. On this lonely stretch of road, he seeks to understand Scripture, reading the prophet Isaiah. God sends Philip to meet him on the road and explain how that very Scripture points to Jesus, who welcomes him in. Through his belief in Jesus, he's no longer an outsider looking in.

People surround us every day who feel like outsiders, too, searching for answers and hope. Maybe it's a coworker asking honest questions about faith, a neighbor walking through loss, or a friend who's not sure about God or their faith anymore. We might feel unqualified to help or uncertain of what to say. We don't need every answer. All we need is the willingness to go, trusting that God will work through us as we share what we know about Jesus. He still sends his people to those who are searching, often in the most ordinary moments of an ordinary day. When we stay ready and willing, God can use our simple obedience to move someone from searching to believing, from feeling like an outsider to a child of God.

TODAY: Write the name of someone who comes to mind who is searching for answers or hope. Begin praying for them today and ask God for an opportunity to point them to Jesus.

Learn how to engage in conversations to share Jesus with confidence and compassion. **Join us for Ada Bible Academy: Grounded Apologetics starting October 15.** This four-week course equips you to engage today's biggest cultural narratives. You'll learn a practical, repeatable approach for these conversations and how to offer the hope of Jesus. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

Day 3 [Acts 9:1–22](#) | The Damascus Road

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"This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." Acts 9:15

The gospel spreads through Jerusalem, and so does persecution. Saul stands in the center of the persecution. He hunts down Christians and approves their deaths, convinced he's defending God's honor. He sets out for Damascus with letters authorizing more arrests, breathing out murderous threats. Nothing on that road prepares him for Jesus meeting him there. In one blinding moment, his path bends in the opposite direction, from persecutor to preacher, from Jesus's enemy to his servant. He isn't searching for Jesus. Jesus finds him anyway and completely changes his life.

It's easy to think God could never use us. We might believe our past disqualifies us, that we don't know enough, or that we haven't followed Jesus long enough. We may feel too busy, too tired, or too overwhelmed by what life is currently throwing at us. Yet Jesus pursued the least likely candidate on the Damascus Road, redirecting his path toward gospel work no one saw coming. That same Spirit lives in us today, ready to work in and through us in ways we never expected. As we surrender our excuses, our past, and our plans to him, God redirects our paths too, using us for his kingdom in ways only he can orchestrate. No one is too far gone for Jesus to pursue and use for his gospel purposes.

TODAY: Surrender any excuse holding you back from believing God can use you. Ask him to redirect your path today, however small the step, and follow him into it, trusting he's already at work in you.

Listen to the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast* as the team discusses last weekend's sermon—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [Philippians 2:6–8](#) | Growing in Humility

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“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” Philippians 2:6–8

Paul writes from a prison cell, chained for the same gospel he once tried to destroy. The believers in Philippi face opposition too, threatened from outside and battling division within their own church body. Into that pressure, Paul doesn't call them to fight harder or defend themselves. He points them to Jesus, who left heaven's glory and walked the hardest road imaginable, all the way to a cross. If anyone had the right to self-promotion, it was Jesus. Instead, he emptied himself to serve his people and obey the Father. His humility becomes the church's example for every hard road they'll walk.

Humility goes against the grain of our culture, which prizes self-promotion and personal branding. Growing in Christlikeness means choosing a different way. It might look like a parent admitting shortcomings to their kids, staying quiet at work instead of grabbing credit for a shared win, or meeting a need before anyone asks. Pride assumes we deserve recognition. Humility celebrates someone else's success as if it were our own. Pride puts ourselves first, but humility serves others above ourselves. As we depend on Jesus and follow his example, we grow more like him and show the watching world what he is like.

TODAY: Ask God to help you grow in humility this week, remembering it's about becoming more like Jesus. Reflect on his worthiness by listening to Ada Bible Worship as they sing “[All Hail King Jesus](#).”



Day 5 [Acts 1:12–14](#) | Constantly in Prayer Together

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.

“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” Acts 1:14

The book of Acts details the explosive growth of the early church following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. At first, the disciples are trembling in an upstairs room, unsure of what Jesus's death on the cross meant. After his resurrection and ascension, however, the Spirit emboldens the disciples and empowers them to share the gospel. At the heart of that transformation is their commitment to pray together. The early church “joined together constantly in prayer.” This was not a haphazard rhythm they occasionally practiced, but a way of life to which they consistently devoted themselves.

We, too, can experience the same transformation into boldness by praying together. We often focus on private prayer, which is an important practice. Jesus counseled his followers to go to their rooms and pray in private ([Matthew 6:6](#)). However, much of the prayer modeled in Scripture is in community with other believers. It is wise for us to make a habit of praying with other believers in our lives. This could be a husband and wife who rise early to pray together before their kids wake up for the day. It could be a small group that sets aside time each week to pray together. Or it could be the friends who weave prayer into their conversations. We have so many daily opportunities to be “joined together constantly in prayer.”

TODAY: Look for opportunities to pray with others. This could be with members of your family, church, workplace, or small group. And as you pray together, be encouraged that whenever you pray with other Jesus followers, he is there with you ([Matthew 18:20](#)).