

October 03/04, 2026

"The Sea"

Pastor Aaron Buer



Beyond the
Weekend

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

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | October: Surrender

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

Day 1 [Luke 8:22–25](#) | Jesus's Power Over Nature

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 Sea.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. Luke 8:24

The crowds finally thin out after a long day of Jesus teaching ([Luke 8:4–21](#)). Jesus climbs into a boat with his disciples, and as they sail, he falls asleep. Then a sudden squall hits. Cool mountain air slams into the warm air over the Sea of Galilee, churning the water into chaos without warning. Waves crash over the sides, water surrounds their ankles, and the boat begins to sink. Peter, Andrew, James, and John have fished this lake for years, yet even they are sure they will drown. Jesus gets up, rebukes the storm, and it obeys him instantly. Only God stills the storm and hushes the waves ([Psalm 107:29](#)), so the disciples wonder aloud, "Who is this?"

Storms still rage today. Some crash in all at once, like a diagnosis, a layoff, or a shocking phone call. Others build slowly, like a strained marriage or mounting debt. We often feel as helpless as the disciples. But the same Jesus who silenced the wind still rules over all creation. He sets the sun's rising and setting, the boundaries of the sea, and the limits of every conflict on earth. We live in a broken world, yet chaos never overpowers our King. Our storms may not calm right away, but the one who commands the wind and waves is still in the boat with us.

TODAY: Worship Jesus for his power with this prayer: "I praise you as the King who created the wind and waves, commands them with a word, and reigns over every storm in my life."

Day 2 [Luke 8:26–39](#) | Jesus's Power Over Spiritual Forces

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When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Luke 8:28–29a

The boat barely touches shore before the next battle begins. Jesus and his disciples land in the region of the Gerasenes, Gentile territory across the lake from Galilee. A naked man stumbles out from the tombs. No chain has ever held him for long. So many demons possess him that they call themselves Legion ([Luke 8:30](#)). Nearby,

a large herd of pigs, animals Jewish law considered unclean, feeds on the hillside. The demons beg Jesus not to send them into the Abyss, so he lets them enter the pigs. The herd stampedes down the bank and drowns in the very lake Jesus just calmed. Wind, waves, and now demons obey him.

Through the Holy Spirit, that same power lives in every follower of Jesus today. “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” ([1 John 4:4](#)). Yet many of us live unaware of the spiritual battle around us. Evil rarely shows up today in chains and tombs. It whispers lies about our worth, floods our days with distractions, and makes sin look harmless. But evil is no match for Jesus. As we surrender to him, the Holy Spirit empowers us to resist sin. His love offers far more than temptation ever could.

TODAY: Sing the song “[Better](#)” with our worship team and reflect on these words: “Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you” ([Psalm 63:3](#)). Thank Jesus that his love outshines anything temptation offers.

Day 3 [Luke 8:40–56](#) | Jesus’s Power Over Sickness and Death

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Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.” Luke 8:47–48

A crowd waits on the shore. Jesus returns from Gentile territory, and people press in from every side. Jairus, a respected synagogue leader, falls at Jesus’s feet and begs him to heal his dying twelve-year-old daughter. On the way, a woman reaches through the crowd and touches the edge of Jesus’s cloak. Twelve years of constant bleeding have left her unclean, unable to worship, and cut off from human touch. Jesus stops, finds her, and calls her “daughter.” Then devastating news reaches Jairus: his daughter has died. Jesus unhurriedly walks to the house, takes her by the hand, and raises her to life. The respected leader and the overlooked outcast receive the same compassion from the same King.

All of us feel the brokenness of this world—pain, sickness, and death. We sit beside hospital beds, wait on test results, and grieve losses that still ache. This world is not the way God designed it. Yet God reigns even here, and “the LORD is close to the brokenhearted” ([Psalm 34:18](#)). Jesus doesn’t promise to remove every sickness in this life, but his power over death reminds us that sickness never gets the last word. Sometimes the boldest act of faith is reaching out to Jesus, for ourselves or for someone we love.

TODAY: Offer a prayer of lament—an honest cry of grief to God—for yourself or someone who is sick. Ask for his healing and comfort, and end by declaring your trust in him.

For more encouragement, 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 [Luke 22:39–42](#) | Growing in Trust

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 Sea.

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:42

Jesus walks a familiar path. After the Passover meal, he leaves Jerusalem and climbs the Mount of Olives “as usual” ([Luke 22:39](#)). Moonlight shines through olive branches, and the night air carries a chill. Jesus withdraws just a stone’s throw from his disciples, kneels on the rocky ground, and prays. He knows what awaits him: betrayal, beatings, and a cross. The cup holds the full weight of God’s judgment against sin, and Jesus, fully God and fully man, feels its crushing heaviness. Yet a lifetime of prayer has shaped this moment. He asks honestly, then surrenders completely to his Father’s will. This is the heart of true trust.

Every one of us will face a problem beyond our reach. A child makes choices we can’t control. A doctor calls with unwelcome news. Anxiety presses in from every direction. In those moments, we tend to grip tighter—worrying, fixing, and planning, as if control could keep us safe. Like Jesus, we can bring God our honest requests. But trust goes further. It isn’t giving up or pretending we don’t care. It’s opening our hands, believing our Father is good, even when his answer is no. God didn’t take the cup from Jesus, yet Jesus kept trusting him. Our trust grows the way his did—one surrendered prayer at a time.

TODAY: Pray the words Jesus taught his disciples: “Your will be done” ([Matthew 6:10](#)). Name whatever you are facing and bring it honestly to God. Then release it to him, praying, “Not my will, but yours be done.” Consider spending time in solitude or taking a walk as you pray.



Day 5 [Genesis 22:1–19](#) | Abraham Surrenders on Mount Moriah

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. October’s focus is Prayers of Surrender: yielding our will to God’s will.

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. Genesis 22:8

God tests Abraham with the hardest request possible: to sacrifice his only son, the son he had waited decades to receive. Abraham obeys without argument. He rises early, gathers wood, and climbs Mount Moriah with Isaac at his side. When Isaac asks about the lamb, Abraham answers in faith, trusting God will provide. He believes God could even raise Isaac from the dead ([Hebrews 11:19](#)). At the altar, Abraham raises the knife, fully surrendered—and God stops him. A ram appears, caught in a thicket, provided in the exact moment of need.

Just as Abraham surrendered his greatest treasure, trusting God would provide, we too can surrender our plans, desires, and fears to God. Maybe it’s a job situation, a health concern, a relationship, or a decision about the future—whatever it is, we can bring it to God today. Yesterday, we watched Jesus pray, “Take this cup from me,” and the Father didn’t. On Mount Moriah, God spared Abraham’s son and provided a ram to take his place. But no ram appeared for Jesus, because Jesus himself became the Lamb God provided. God did not spare his own Son ([Romans 8:32](#)). He gave him up to take our place. If God held nothing back from us, we can trust him to give us everything we need to follow him.

TODAY: Name one thing—a plan, a relationship, a fear—you’re holding on to tightly. Surrender it to God in prayer, trusting that just as he provided for Abraham, and for us through Jesus, he will provide what you truly need, even if his answer looks different from what you expect.

