

October 24/25, 2026

“Repent!”

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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 [Matthew 4:13–17](#) | Repent

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matthew 4:17

Jesus withdraws to Galilee after he hears that John the Baptist is in prison. He has fasted for forty days and faced temptation in the wilderness, and now it is time for his public ministry to begin. Matthew sums up Jesus’s message in a single sentence, starting with one word: *repent*. The Greek word describes a change of mind that turns a whole life around. The Jewish crowd knows this call well. For centuries, their prophets have urged them to repent and turn back to God. Now Jesus gives the reason: The kingdom of heaven—God’s rule and reign—has arrived in the person of the King himself.

The word *repent* often carries heavy baggage today. We may picture someone holding a cardboard sign by the roadside, a preacher pounding the pulpit, or a heated debate in our social media feeds. We may hear Jesus’s first sermon as bad news (repent) followed by good news (the kingdom is here). Yet if we misunderstand repentance, we misunderstand Jesus. Repentance does not drag us away from the good life toward a gray, joyless one. It invites us to trade up—to turn from sin and toward Jesus. That makes his call good news: The life God designed us for waits on the other side of turning to him.

TODAY: Pray with an open heart as this week begins: “Father, thank you for calling me to turn toward you through Jesus. Open my eyes to see repentance as good news, and show me where I have misunderstood your call to repent. Amen.”

Day 2 [Matthew 13:44–46](#) | The Kingdom of God

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matthew 13:44

Jesus teaches through parables—simple, everyday stories that reveal spiritual truth. He returns to one theme repeatedly: the kingdom of heaven, the reason he first called people to repent. Jesus compares the kingdom to a man who stumbles onto buried treasure and a merchant who finds a priceless pearl. Both sell everything to own their treasure. The point is not the price they pay but the worth of what they find. Jesus does more than describe the kingdom—he displays it. He heals the sick, drives out demons, and forgives sins. Each act previews the day when God’s kingdom comes in full, and he defeats death, disease, and darkness forever ([Revelation 21:4](#); [22:5](#)).

God’s kingdom means God in charge of everything and everyone—including us. We often prefer to keep control. We map out our careers, our calendars, and our relationships. But even our best plans fall short when we leave God out of them. God in charge is far better than us in charge. His rule is perfectly just, wise, and

merciful. Ours is not. The more we orient our lives around his perfection and his ways instead of ours, the more we will experience life in its fullness. God in charge is good for the world and good for us.

TODAY: Pray in surrender: “God, you are in charge, and I am not. I give you my relationships, plans, time, talents, and resources. Where I have held on to control, help me let go with joy, knowing your kingdom is worth everything. Amen.”

Day 3 [Matthew 13:44–46](#) | Trading Up

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46

Jesus leaves the crowds and steps into a house, where he shares these two parables with his disciples ([Matthew 13:36](#)). Like the men in these parables, his disciples understand what it means to trade up. Peter, Andrew, James, and John have walked away from their fishing nets ([Matthew 4:18–22](#)). Matthew, the man who will later record these words, has abandoned a profitable tax booth to follow Jesus ([Matthew 9:9](#)). Their livelihoods, security, and plans have stayed behind. Yet in Jesus, they find what the man in the field finds: something worth more than everything they own. Jesus does not describe that choice as grim duty. The man sells everything “in his joy” ([Matthew 13:44](#)). The disciples know that joy firsthand. They have traded up for life with Jesus.

Repentance trades lesser things for God’s greatest gift: life in his kingdom with Jesus. That trade does not guarantee health, wealth, or an easy road. Following Jesus can cost us comfort, approval, and control. But sin makes promises it never keeps. Endless scrolling promises rest but leaves us restless. Gossip promises status but leaves us lonely. Jesus keeps all his promises, and he offers life to the full ([John 10:10](#)). In him, we find a joy and peace the world cannot give, whether life comes together or falls apart. Jesus is infinitely better than anything we give up.

TODAY: Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing “[In Christ Alone](#).” As you sing along, praise God that in Jesus “sin’s curse has lost its grip on me, for I am his and he is mine.”

Day 4 [Matthew 13:44–46](#) | Great Treasure

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. Matthew 13:45

At the center of God’s kingdom stands the King himself. Life in the kingdom means life with Jesus. He is the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value. Jesus promises rest to the weary and burdened ([Matthew 11:28](#)). He promises the light of life to all who follow him ([John 8:12](#)). He declares himself the resurrection and the life ([John 11:25](#)). Unlike every other voice, Jesus never breaks his word. So when he calls people to repent, he does not simply call them away from sin. He calls them to himself.

The gospel—the good news about Jesus—is the best news we will ever hear. Each of us has sinned and stands separated from our holy God. We cannot fix ourselves. But Jesus came near. He lived the perfect life we could not live, died on the cross to pay for our sin, and rose from the grave. God forgives us, makes us his children, and gives us eternal life when we repent and trust in him. We receive salvation by grace, not as a reward we earn. We never outgrow this good news. Daily, we keep coming back to Jesus, not to earn his love but to enjoy it. Repentance is a gift. Whatever we turn from, the one we turn toward is our greatest treasure.

TODAY: Turn to Jesus in prayer. If you have never placed your trust in him, today can be the day you repent and enter his kingdom. Learn what it means to follow Jesus at adabible.org/salvation. If you already trust him, make repentance a daily practice. Confess your sin and ask for his help to treasure him above everything else.



Day 5 [Psalm 131](#) | Surrender and Contentment

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.

But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. Psalm 131:2

Each year, the Jewish people travel up to Jerusalem for the festivals. As they travel, they pray the Psalms of Ascent ([Psalms 120–134](#)). These brief prayers move through the full spectrum of human emotion and experience. Psalm 131 sits between a prayer of distress ([Psalm 130](#)) and a prayer celebrating God's provision and faithfulness ([Psalm 132](#)). It serves as a prayer for the quiet middle—the space between lament and celebration—giving God's people words for waiting in life's uncertain seasons. In this psalm, David compares himself to a weaned child who has moved from restless to calm and content.

We often find ourselves in those quiet and messy middle spaces of life. It might be a season of unemployment, relational distress, a health diagnosis, or a period of unanswered prayer. The quiet middle can be a disorienting place. But through knowing God and his good character, we can learn to live content even as we struggle with the brokenness of life in a fallen world. Prayers like Psalm 131 remind us that true faith does not mean having all the answers but rather trusting God and his goodness even when life is chaotic and uncertain.

TODAY: Pray in your messy middle. Ask God to help you quiet your heart, like David in this psalm. As you pray, thank God that he meets us in uncertain spaces.