November 14/15, 2026
"Pursuing God's Mission"
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Beyond the Weekend

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

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **November**: Thanksgiving

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

Day 1 Colossians 1:15–20 | God's Mission

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:19–20

A prisoner picks up his pen. Paul sits in chains, likely in Rome, writing to a small church in Colossae, in modern-day Turkey. He has never met these believers, but he loves them and wants them to know Jesus. A false teaching is creeping into their church, one that treats Jesus as a good start but not quite enough. So before Paul tells them how to live, he reminds them who Jesus is. Everything in heaven and on earth exists through him and for him. From the beginning, God designed the world to be aligned with Jesus. And when the world is aligned with Jesus, things are as God intended. God's mission comes clearly into focus: through the cross, he makes peace and restores Jesus to the center, where he belongs.

God's mission still centers on Jesus today. Through Jesus's life, death, and resurrection, God forgives our sins and restores us to a right relationship with him, "making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" (Colossians 1:20). But the gospel offers more than a promise of heaven someday. Jesus deserves first place in everything (Colossians 1:18), including our calendars, relationships, finances, and plans. The Jesus we trust as Savior is the same Jesus we follow as Lord.

TODAY: If you haven't trusted Jesus as your Savior, today can be the day. Learn what it means to receive him as Savior and Lord at adabible.org/salvation. If you already follow Jesus, ask him to reveal one area where he isn't first, and surrender it to him in prayer.

Day 2 Matthew 28:18–20 | How We Pursue God's Mission

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

Eleven disciples climb a mountain in Galilee. Not long ago, they watched Jesus die on a cross. Now he stands before them, alive and well. Some worship him, and some still doubt (Matthew 28:17). Even so, Jesus gives them a clear mission: go and make disciples of all nations. The message of Jesus can't stay in Galilee or Jerusalem. It must reach everyone, everywhere. That's a massive task for a small, uncertain group, but they won't face it alone. Later, just before he ascends, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will give them power to be his witnesses "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus now entrusts his mission to those of us who follow him. As the church, our role is to make disciples of all peoples. At Ada Bible, we live this out through our mission to lead people into a relationship with Jesus and his

church that transforms them into Christlikeness. We invite people to be reconciled to God as we generously meet practical needs in our community, strengthen churches across West Michigan, and help plant ones around the world. Every ministry is about discipleship. From kids and students to men, women, and couples in our groups, we pursue God's mission together.

TODAY: Picture about eight thousand people across West Michigan, centered on Jesus and pursuing his mission together. That's our church family, and there's a place for you in it. Take a moment to pray for Ada Bible Church. Ask God to fill us with his Spirit as we make disciples in our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and around the world.

Day 3 2 Corinthians 5:17–21 | How You Pursue God's Mission

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20

Everyone in Corinth wants more. Ships unload goods at its two harbors, and the city overflows with wealth and pleasure. People flock to Corinth to make something of themselves. Yet sin soaks into everyday life, and the young church struggles to follow Jesus. Paul writes to urge these believers to pursue God's mission, not the ambitions of the city around them. God wants to use them as his ambassadors—messengers who speak for Christ—as he reconciles the world to himself. To reconcile means to restore a broken relationship. This mission rests on Christ's finished work, not their talent or status. Jesus, who never sinned, took their sin so that they could stand right with God.

Because Jesus made peace between us and God, we get to extend that same message of reconciliation to others. Like the Corinthians, we feel the pull of a culture that tells us to chase success, comfort, and more. But God chose us, his church, to make himself known to the world. He uses us as we serve at church with the gifts he has given us (Romans 12:6–8). He moves through our generosity as we give out of gratitude for all he provides. And he speaks through us as we share our faith in Jesus with a neighbor, coworker, or friend. Every act of serving, giving, and sharing points people back to God.

TODAY: Pray for one person in your life who needs Jesus, and ask God for an opportunity to talk with them about him. Then take a next step in confidence by joining us for Sharing Your Faith on December 9.

For more encouragement, listen to the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast* as the team discusses what it means to pursue God's mission—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or watch on YouTube.

Day 4 John 15:4–5 | The Discipleship Journey

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Jesus's time with his disciples is running out. In one of his final conversations before the cross, he paints a picture they know well. Grapevines cover the hillsides of Israel, their branches heavy with fruit. Every branch draws its life from the vine. Cut off, it withers. Jesus urges his disciples to remain in him and stay intimately connected. On their own, they can't bear lasting fruit. But as they cling to Jesus, God does the work through them. The heart of discipleship isn't trying harder. It's staying close to Jesus.

Remaining in Jesus ties together all three parts of our discipleship journey. Following Jesus invites us to trust him and go where he leads as he transforms our desires, habits, and priorities. Growing Together reminds us that God uses our church family to encourage, sharpen, and mature us. Pursuing God's Mission calls us to

make disciples right where God has placed us. In each one, the goal is the same: to look more like Jesus. And it all flows from remaining in him. Now we go out as his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), carrying his love to our neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

TODAY: Reflect on the three parts of the discipleship journey and choose the one where you sense God inviting you to grow. Revisit the sermon series HERE. Then ask God to help you take one step forward in that area this week.



Day 5 Mark 6:30–44 | Gratitude in Prayer

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. November's focus is Thanksgiving: expressing gratitude to God.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Mark 6:41a

Jesus stands before a crowd of thousands. His ministry has gained attention, and crowds flock to hear him teach. Jesus and his disciples attempt to get away to a quiet place to rest, but the crowds follow them. Jesus, having compassion on them, teaches for hours. The crowds grow hungry, but instead of sending people away, he performs a miracle. Before breaking the loaves and fish, he gives thanks. The miracle echoes God's gift of manna to Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 16:4-18). As he prays, he demonstrates his dependence on and gratitude to the Father, who provides for his children.

As we continue our prayers of thanksgiving, we express our gratitude for all God has provided. We're often tempted to worry about what tomorrow will hold or about the things we don't have, and we forget the blessings God has already given us. But like Jesus, we can stop and thank the Father for what's already in our hands, even when it seems small. His most important provision is a restored relationship with him through Jesus. He also provides for our daily needs—food on our table, a cup of coffee in the morning, a stable job. Each one is a gift God has lavished on us and a reason to give thanks in prayer.

TODAY: Even the smallest things are worthy of thanksgiving. Take time to write down five provisions from God, big and small, that you're thankful for, and offer him a prayer of thanks for each one.