

October 11/12, 2025

"Joshua"

Pastor Aaron Buer



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

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Joshua 3:1-4](#) | Follow

When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. [Joshua 3:3](#)

Moses took his final breath. Now, the people of Israel look to Joshua to lead. They wait for his direction to become a nation. They only need to cross over the Jordan River to arrive in the promised land. They had been here before and failed. Fear over shadowed God's promises. Would they listen to their new leader, Joshua? Would they finally trust God and follow? Joshua steps out in faith and commands this new nation. Follow the ark, the place where God's presence is, and you will know which way to go. He will always lead you the right way.

We, too, experience moments and seasons in life that change everything. The beginning of a new job. The unexpected loss of a child. The first day at a new school. These turning points are often in places where we haven't been before. The only thing that is certain is that we will be different people afterward. Like Israel, we have specific instructions to follow God. He promises to lead us in every season, even in moments that involve significant gain or tremendous loss. We find his instructions in the pages of the Bible. Allowing his words to shape our thinking is how we can follow him every day.

TODAY: Scripture memory is a vital way to keep God's instructions on our hearts. Memorize [Joshua 1:9](#). As an additional way to go deeper in your faith, register for one of our Ada Bible Academy classes starting this Thursday, October 16. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

Day 2 [Joshua 3:4](#) | Honor

But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it. [Joshua 3:4](#)

God's people receive clear directions. Follow the ark. When it moves, you move. When it stops, you stop. Simple enough. But they must remember one key instruction: keep your distance! The ark is not a mere box God told them to make; it is the location of His presence among them. Israel knows God's presence is terrifying! He is the one who split the Red Sea and brought Egypt to its knees. He is the Holy One, the Creator who is pure, beautiful and powerful. To try to come to God on their terms is to tempt death. God desires proximity, but it must be on his terms. Israel must honor God.

We also share Israel's command to honor God. The same God who guided Israel into the land of promise is the one who revealed himself in Jesus. He longs for proximity and relationship, but it must be on his terms. Honor means submitting to his authority. It means trusting that his commands are not only good advice, they are the way we're meant to live. When it's costly and when it's weird. When it doesn't fit into the tidy box of a political party or the expectations of a social class. We are to honor Jesus with our lives. We pray for our enemies. We

abstain from intimacy outside of marriage. We share our faith and notice the poor. When we live under God's authority, we honor him.

TODAY: Pray: *Heavenly Father, I confess that there are ways I fail to honor you by submitting to your Word. Reveal to me where I fall short and provide me the grace to obey in the future.*

Day 3 [Joshua 3:5](#) | Prepare

Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you. [Joshua 3:5](#)

God tells Israel to get ready. Joshua and the people wait to cross the Jordan River and enter into the promised land. Israel is bursting with anticipation. There is no turning back this time! The promise God made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is about to be fulfilled. Still, something must happen before this climactic event can occur: Israel needs to consecrate itself. To consecrate means to prepare spiritually. The people of Israel must wash themselves and abstain from certain activities. They must focus their hearts and minds on God. Once finished, Israel will be ready for God to move among them.

Like Israel, our calling involves preparation for the movement of God in our lives. Paying special attention to our spiritual life allows us to be ready for the unexpected. We can strengthen our readiness through spiritual disciplines. There are two kinds of disciplines: abstinence and engagement. Abstinence involves disciplines that stop something. For example, sabbath, fasting, solitude or silence. Engagement involves disciplines that start something. Examples include study, prayer, worship or fellowship. Adding these habits into our daily rhythms can help us be ready for life's turning points.

TODAY: Choose a spiritual discipline you do not practice currently. Ask God for the grace to commit to this new rhythm. Also, consider exploring Joshua's story further on the *Beyond the Weekend Podcast*—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [Joshua 4:19-24](#) | Remember

He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'" [Joshua 4:21-22](#)

Joshua placed twelve stones in the spot where the ark of the covenant stood. To Israel, these stones would represent the crossing of the Jordan River and how God had moved among them that day. Joshua tells Israel that generations after them will ask what these stones mean. He says they are a physical reminder of God's faithfulness to them and God's promise to remain faithful in the future.

Remembering God's work in the past is what fuels our faithfulness in the present. As Israel's exodus from slavery in Egypt is the central story for God's people in the Old Testament, so the good news of Jesus is central to our story today. The cross is our remembrance stone. We know that all creation bears the weight of sin and that the punishment is death. But the cross reminds us of God's faithful, never-ending love. Jesus died in our place. All who have put their trust in Jesus have a restored relationship with God and the promise of eternal life. As we remember the Gospel, we also remember the way Jesus interacts with our story of brokenness. How he frees us from addiction. How he heals our relational wounds. How he takes our shame. Like Israel, remembering these moments can fuel our faith in difficult seasons.

TODAY: Make a list of the ways God has provided for you. Take time to thank him for his work. If you haven't accepted God's gift of relationship, now is the perfect opportunity! Ask Jesus to be Lord of your life and restore your relationship with him.



Day 5 [Matthew 5:13-16](#) | Question 40: Engaging the World

Question: How should the church engage with the world?

Answer: The church should be salt and light in the world, sharing the gospel and demonstrating God's love.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Matthew 5:14

Jesus speaks these words to his disciples as part of his Sermon on the Mount, teaching them their role in the world. He uses two powerful metaphors, salt and light, to describe how his followers should function in the world. Salt is essential for preserving food and adding flavor, while light is crucial for navigation and safety in darkness. Jesus says his disciples are preservatives in a decaying world and illumination in spiritual darkness. They are not to hide their influence but to be visible like "a town built on a hill." Their faith isn't meant to be private, but to have a transformative impact on the world through their words and actions.

The church is God's salt and light in the world. One of the key functions of the church is evangelism. Jesus followers are called to spread the gospel through the Great Commission: "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 28:19-20](#)). Jesus followers need not shrink from the truth that Jesus Christ is the only way, truth and life. Instead, we can creatively and lovingly engage our culture to make Jesus's message clear and compelling. Being salt and light means speaking words and reflecting Christ's image through our character.

TODAY: Consider how you can be salt and light in your specific sphere of influence. Ask God to show you someone who needs to see Christ's love through your words or actions, and be intentional about demonstrating the gospel. Read more about the church in our We Believe document [HERE](#).