

March 28/29, 2026

“Water of Life”

Pastor Jeff Manion



Beyond the  
Weekend

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

**2026 Focus:** 12 Months of Prayer | **April:** Prayers of Petition

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

---

## Day 1 [John 4:1-26](#) | Water of Life

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” John 4:10

It is early in Jesus’s ministry, and he is already facing opposition. As he travels north toward Galilee, he stops at a well in a Samaritan village and meets a woman there alone. This encounter defies cultural norms, as Jews and Samaritans are hostile toward one another and men do not publicly speak with women in that historical context. In a culture where she is overlooked and cast aside, marked by broken relationships, Jesus meets her with compassion. He crosses every boundary to show his love for the outsider and offers her an unexpected message. Though she has searched for satisfaction in many places, Jesus gently reveals that he alone is the true source of life—the living water her soul has been longing for.

Throughout this series, we have seen Jesus as the bread of life, the source of life, and now the water of life, quenching our deepest thirst. Like the woman at the well, we often turn to people and things apart from Jesus to satisfy us, yet we’re continually left empty by what the world offers. This is because the only one who can truly satisfy us is Jesus. No matter our past or current struggles, our sins or failures, Jesus meets us amid all of it and offers us new life in him.

**TODAY:** Consider the hardest space in your life and story, perhaps something you may have left hidden or tried to handle alone. Confess it to God. Then confide in a trusted Christian friend, and ask them to pray that you would find life in Jesus alone.

## Day 2 [John 4:13-15](#) | Temporary Fulfillment

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” John 4:13

While Jesus is sitting at a well, the Samaritan woman comes to draw water. Drawing water is an activity that must be done daily for survival. Walk to the well, draw the water, drink, and repeat. Yet the water from the well quenches her thirst for only a short time. Jesus meets her there and speaks to her, offering something far greater: living water that truly satisfies. Though she has sought fulfillment in relationships and other pursuits and experienced deep rejection, Jesus gently shows her she has been drawing from the wrong source all along. He meets her where she is and reveals that only he can satisfy the deepest longings of her heart.

Just like the woman at the well, we often look to people and things to satisfy our deepest longings. Yet repeatedly we discover that what they offer is only temporary. Even those we love cannot fully satisfy us. We may feel a moment of excitement over a great bargain, a promotion at work, or a big sports win, but the excitement fades with time. What is new quickly becomes old, and the satisfaction we hope for slips away.

Beneath it all, our hearts still long for more. We were never meant to be filled by the things of this world. As the psalmist writes, “I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water” ([Psalm 63:1](#)). The world offers much, but it always leaves us thirsting.

**TODAY:** Let Psalm 63:1 become your prayer. Pray the words back to God, offering your thirst and longing to him.

## Day 3 [John 4:13-15](#) | Eternal Fulfillment

**But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.** John 4:14

As Jesus speaks with the woman at the well, he uses the everyday image of water to show the extraordinary life that only he can provide. While she has been seeking satisfaction elsewhere, he tells her that the life he offers will quench her thirst forever. Jesus invites her to drink of his living water, a gift that leads to eternal life. The woman responds by expressing her desire for something that will truly satisfy, so she won't have to keep returning to draw water ([John 4:15](#)). Receiving this living water requires her to turn fully to Jesus and trust him alone to meet the longings of her heart.

The living water Jesus offers the woman at the well is none other than himself, and this same gift is offered to us today. This life in him is not only for the future; it begins the moment we turn to him. Through Jesus, God restores us, and this new life is made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. When we accept Jesus's invitation, we receive the Spirit, a river of living water flowing in our hearts ([John 7:37-38](#)). Even as we face hardships, we can take comfort in knowing that the Spirit is with us, bringing lasting satisfaction and renewal in every circumstance.

**TODAY:** Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing “[The Solid Rock](#).” Thank God for the eternal life he gives you through Jesus.

## Day 4 [Jeremiah 2:1-13](#) | Destructive Idols

**My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.** Jeremiah 2:13

By recalling Israel's early devotion and likening it to a bride's love, God reveals how far they have drifted into unfaithfulness. What was once a relationship of trust and closeness has been replaced by idols and self-reliance. Remembering that first love makes their betrayal even more serious, showing that their sin involves turning away from a covenant they once treasured. Israel stands on the brink of exile and disaster, and God sends Jeremiah to warn them. They are pursuing idols that don't satisfy, like broken cisterns that cannot hold water. The things of this world can't truly satisfy their souls.

Whatever temporary thing we seek to fulfill us will never give us true life. If we chase wealth, our desire only grows. If we strive to climb higher in our careers, there is no end to the pursuit. If we pour ourselves into perfecting our bodies or image, perfection remains out of reach. These things are not inherently wrong, but they can't give us lasting worth or fulfillment. We may pursue them, believing they will satisfy, yet they leave us empty. Only when we recognize that Jesus alone offers eternal life do we turn to him with open hearts, ready to receive the living water that truly satisfies.

**TODAY:** Reflect on this series. Jesus is your bread of life, source of life, and water of life. Rewatch a sermon in this series that touched your heart. Ask God to help you turn to him as the one who offers true and lasting life.



## Day 5 [Matthew 26:26-42](#) | Jesus's Petition in Gethsemane

*This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. April's focus is Petition: bringing our needs before God.*

**Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Matthew 26:39**

Heaviness hangs in the night air. The disciples drift to sleep nearby. Jesus prays, knowing what awaits him—betrayal, arrest, and a brutal death on a Roman cross. He is deeply troubled ([Matthew 26:38](#)). Jesus brings his greatest need to his Father. He asks for another way. He is honest and desperate. Yet, even in his darkest hour, Jesus submits his will to the Father's. He trusts that God's plan is good even when the cost is unimaginable.

Today is Good Friday, when we remember Jesus's suffering and death. Jesus opened the way to God. Prayers of petition bring our needs directly before him. We can petition God boldly because of what Jesus did for us. His death paid for our sin. His resurrection defeated death. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God. We can come to him freely, as children to a father. We too can bring our deepest fears, pain, and hardest needs to God in prayer, just as Jesus did. We can lay our needs before him honestly and then open our hands, trusting that the same God who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in our lives.

**TODAY:** On this Good Friday, bring one real, honest need to God. Tell him how you feel and close your prayer with, "Yet not my will, but yours be done." Then, join us this weekend to celebrate what Jesus did for you. We'd love to have you at our Good Friday and Easter services. Find times and locations [HERE](#).