

April 04/05, 2026
"Easter"
Pastor Aaron Buer



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 11:17-37](#) | The Heart of Jesus

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. John 11:33

Jesus loves Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, not as distant followers but as close friends. Their home in Bethany is a place Jesus often stays, sharing meals and finding rest. Upon news of Lazarus's illness, Jesus stays away. Lazarus dies. When Jesus arrives, Martha meets him first with disappointment and hope, and Jesus gives her deeper truth. He points out that not only is he Lord beyond death, but he is also Lord over death, resurrection, and life. Mary comes differently, overcome with grief, falling at his feet. And Jesus responds with tears. He meets each sister right where she is. Jesus is not distant from pain. He enters it. He feels it. Yet he is working with purpose, moving toward resurrection and hope.

The same is true for us. Jesus meets us in our real, present moments—not where we think we should be, but where we are. When our faith feels unsteady, he strengthens us with truth that anchors our hope. When our hearts feel heavy, he doesn't rush us past our grief or minimize our pain. He draws near, sits with us, and reminds us we are not alone. Even when his timing feels confusing or delayed, his love does not change and his purposes never fail. He is always at work, often in ways we cannot see, bringing life, redemption, and deeper trust.

TODAY: Take a quiet moment and be honest with Jesus. Ask yourself: What do I need from him today—truth or tears? Then bring that to him in prayer. Trust that he will meet you exactly where you are.

Day 2 [John 11:38-53](#) | The Power of Jesus

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" John 11:40

While preaching near the Jordan River, Jesus receives word that Lazarus is sick. Surprisingly, he waits two more days before going to Bethany. This isn't because he doesn't care. He tells his disciples that this illness will not end in death but will reveal his power and glory. By the time Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. Jesus goes to the tomb and calls him out, and Lazarus walks out alive! Lazarus could never do this on his own. Jesus shows his power over death so people will believe in him, and many do. But not everyone responds with faith. Some religious leaders still refuse to believe and begin planning to kill Jesus. Even this is part of God's bigger plan. By raising Lazarus, Jesus points to what is coming—his own death and resurrection. He will go to the cross and defeat death once and for all.

Just like Lazarus could not raise himself, we cannot save ourselves. We don't have the power to fix our own sin or the brokenness in our world. But Jesus does. He is the only one who holds the power to save us from things

like broken relationships, addictions, the weight of worry and weariness. Scripture teaches that while we were still powerless, Christ died for us ([Romans 5:6](#)). Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers forgiveness, new life, and his power at work within us.

TODAY: Confess your powerlessness. Ask Jesus to step in with his power and help you trust that he is at work in your life. Learn more about how to walk in the power of Jesus by joining an [Explore Group](#).

Day 3 [John 20:1-23](#) | The Resurrection of Jesus

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) John 20:8-9

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, showing his power. This miracle sets things in motion for his own death. Religious leaders plan to kill Jesus. He enters Jerusalem and is welcomed as a king, yet tells his disciples he will soon die. He prepares them for his death by teaching them about love, humility, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is then betrayed, arrested, and crucified. He willingly lays down his life to carry out God's plan. But death is not the end. Three days later, Jesus walks out of the tomb. He appears to his followers and proves that he has victory over sin and death.

With Lazarus, Jesus gives a preview of resurrection life. At the cross, he pays for it. In his resurrection, God proves it is true. Because Jesus is alive, we can have new life—not just someday in heaven but starting now. This life grows as we stay close to him, like a branch connected to a vine. As we trust him, follow him, and stay connected to other believers, we find real joy, no matter what life brings.

TODAY: If you have never trusted Jesus, you can do so right now. Admit your need for him. Believe that he died for your sins and rose again. Choose to follow him as your Savior and Lord. Tell someone your decision. This is good news—Jesus is alive and new life is available to you right now! Rejoice, take a few minutes, and listen to "[I Believe](#)" from the Ada Bible Worship team.

Day 4 [Revelation 21:3-5](#) | The Hope of Jesus

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

In Revelation, John hears a loud voice announcing that God will dwell with his people. This means his people will live with him forever—no distance, no separation. God himself will wipe away every tear. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain because the old, broken world will be gone. This is the full picture of what Jesus came to do—bring his people back to God and make all things right.

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Because he is alive, he offers his followers a new life that begins now. When we follow him, we start to experience healing, hope, and a restored relationship with God. We also know things are not fully restored yet. We still face pain, loss, and the effects of sin. That is why we look ahead with hope. God gave John the vision to show how the story ends, with Jesus making all things new. This is not wishful thinking. It is a promise. While we wait, we hold on to hope. Even when life feels hard, we can trust that God is at work. If we don't see full healing now, we will one day. This future is certain for all who believe in Jesus.

TODAY: Practice gratitude. Take a few minutes to thank God for what he has already restored in your life, big or small. Then thank him for what he will restore in the future. Let your gratitude grow your hope.



Day 5 [2 Kings 20:1-6](#) | Hezekiah's Desperate Petition

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.

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, “Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 2 Kings 20:2-3

King Hezekiah battles a severe illness. The prophet Isaiah arrives with crushing news: Hezekiah will not recover from it. There is no cure, no appeal, no hope on the horizon. Hezekiah turns toward God and pours out his heart. He doesn't pretend to be strong. He reminds God of his faithful walk and weeps bitterly. His petition is raw, honest, and desperate. Before Isaiah even reaches the courtyard, God responds. He will heal Hezekiah and add fifteen years to his life. God hears the broken prayer of his king.

Just as Hezekiah brought his deepest fear to God, we too can bring our real needs—illness, loss, uncertainty—honestly to him in prayer. Petition means asking God for what we need, trusting that he hears every word and sees every tear. God doesn't always answer as he answered Hezekiah. He is sovereign, and his ways are higher than ours. But we pray to a God who sees us and cares deeply about our lives. We don't have to be strong or polished. God welcomes our honest, desperate prayers. Bringing our needs to him in petition deepens our trust, whatever his answer.

TODAY: Bring one honest, specific need to God right now. Tell him exactly what you're facing. Trust that he hears you and that his answer—whatever it is—comes from a faithful Father who loves you deeply.