

April 25/26, 2026

“Baptism”

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Beyond the
Weekend

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

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | May: Prayers of Intercession

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

Day 1 [Matthew 28:18-20](#) | Believer's Baptism

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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20a

The risen Jesus stands before his disciples on a hillside in Galilee. He has conquered death. The Father has given him authority in heaven and on earth ([Matthew 28:18](#)). His final words before ascending to heaven carry the weight of a command, not a suggestion: go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. The word “nations” means ethnic groups—every people, every language, every corner of the earth. This mission belongs to his followers, and it starts immediately. The book of Acts records what Jesus’s followers do after his return to heaven. Throughout the New Testament letters, the apostles go into the world calling people to repent of their sins, believe in Jesus, and get baptized (see [Acts 2:38](#) and [Acts 8:12](#)).

The mission of Jesus remains the same today. He still commands his followers to share the gospel with all people, baptize them, and teach them to obey him. Obeying Jesus means doing what he says, including getting baptized as a believer. We believe baptism doesn’t save us—salvation is a gift received through faith in Christ alone—but baptism is our public response to that gift. It’s one of the clearest ways we declare that Jesus isn’t just our Savior; he’s our Lord. Calling him Lord means submitting to his authority, including the command to be baptized.

TODAY: If you have placed your faith in Jesus but haven’t been baptized as a believer, start a conversation [HERE](#). If you have already been baptized as a believer, identify one area where you struggle to surrender to Jesus’s lordship, and ask him to help you obey.

Day 2 [Mark 1:9-11](#) | United with Jesus

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Mark 1:10-11

Jesus wades into the Jordan River alongside ordinary sinners to be baptized by John. John the Baptist knows who Jesus is—the Messiah he’s been pointing people to. John tries to refuse, believing he should be baptized by Jesus instead ([Matthew 3:13-15](#)). But Jesus insists. He has no sin to confess, no record to wash clean. John lowers him under the water. It’s a preview of Jesus’s ministry: the holy one standing in the place of sinners, closely identifying with the people he came to save. The Father declares his pleasure, and the Spirit descends.

Jesus's baptism gives us a window into our own. When we follow him into the water, we aren't just checking a box; we're declaring that our lives are joined to his. Baptism by immersion visibly models this union. Going under the water symbolizes dying to the old self. Coming up out of it represents rising to a new life in Christ ([Romans 6:3-4](#)). Through baptism, we visualize and proclaim that we have been united with our Savior who conquered death. Our immersion in baptism acts out the gospel for everyone to see: "The old has gone, the new is here" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).

TODAY: Reflect on what it means that Jesus stepped into the water with sinners before he ever asked us to follow. Then join Ada Bible Worship as they sing, "[Nothing but the Blood](#)," and let the words remind you that God's grace makes new life possible. If you have questions about baptism, reach out to your campus pastor.

Day 3 [Romans 6:1-14](#) | New Life

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

Paul spends the first five chapters in Romans laying out incredible truth: God justifies sinners freely through faith in Christ. Then a question erupts—one Paul clearly anticipates. If grace covers every sin, why not keep sinning? Why not take advantage of a God who forgives? Paul's answer is swift and clear, using the imagery of baptism. Dead people don't keep doing what they used to do. When believers place their faith in Christ, the old self has died. They have been buried with him and raised to a new life. It's a reality already accomplished.

Most of us feel the tension Paul describes. We have a new heart through Jesus, but old habits don't always disappear overnight. We still struggle. Baptism speaks into that tension. It's more than a one-time event we look back on; it is a marker we return to. When sin pulls hard, we can remember that our old life went under the water. We have surrendered to Jesus. The answer isn't just trying harder to live our new life. It's surrendering daily to the One who already broke sin's power. The Holy Spirit living in us empowers the new life Christ has already given us.

TODAY: Identify one area where sin still feels like it has a grip on your life. Bring it honestly to God in prayer, and ask the Holy Spirit for help to surrender and live your new life. For a deeper look at baptism and what it means, listen to this week's Beyond the Weekend podcast. Find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on YouTube [HERE](#).

Day 4 [Titus 3:4-7](#) | Washed Clean

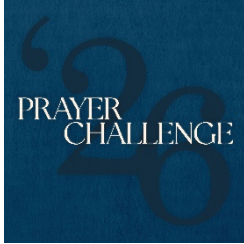
But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:4-5

Paul writes to his young protégé, Titus, whom he has sent to strengthen the early church on the island of Crete. Paul wants these new believers to remember exactly what has happened to them. Before Christ, they were enslaved to sin, not just struggling with it but owned by it. Then God showed up. Not because they've cleaned up their lives or earned his attention, but because of his mercy. He has washed them of their sin and made them clean. The initiative is God's from start to finish.

We can be tempted to think that baptism requires us to have it all together first—to resolve the sin issue or to finally look the part of a Christian. But that gets the gospel backward. We aren't washed clean by the water or by any act we do. We are washed clean from our sin by the blood of Jesus. God knows every place we've fallen short, every moment we've felt like a fraud, and every time we've counted ourselves out. He wants to wash us clean anyway. That's not a small offer. That's the whole story of the gospel: the old life is gone, and we've

been made new through his grace.

TODAY: If you haven't placed your faith in Jesus, don't wait. Tell Jesus you believe he died for you and that you're turning from your sin to follow him. If you have questions, email us at btw@adabible.org. Join us this weekend as we celebrate baptisms and the work Jesus has done on the cross to make us clean.



Day 5 [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#) | Interceding for Others

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. May's focus is Intercession.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

Paul writes to Timothy, his young son in the faith, with urgent instructions for how the church should live and worship together. At the top of the list: pray for all people. Not just for friends and family, but also kings, rulers, and those in authority. In the Roman world, those in authority often persecuted and opposed the church. Paul urges believers to pray for them anyway. God wants all people, including those who oppose believers, to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth of Jesus ([1 Timothy 2:4](#)). God's heart is wide. Believers' prayers are to match his heart.

This month, we focus on prayers of intercession. Intercession means bringing the needs of others before God in prayer. Just as Paul urges the early church to pray beyond themselves, we too are invited to lift others up to God—our neighbors, coworkers, family, friends, leaders, and even those who are hard to love. Intercession shifts our gaze from ourselves and onto others whom God loves. When we pray for others, we join God in his work of drawing all people to himself. It's a powerful way to care for the people around us.

TODAY: Write down three people to pray for this week—a friend or family member, someone who is hard to love, and a leader. Bring each one before God, asking him to work in their lives and draw them to himself.