

Materials for May 2-15, 2025

Back to the Altar

100 DAYS OF PRAYER

FOR THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION



Back to
the Altar



Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

(Packet for Individual Use: Weeks 5 - 6)



General Conference
Ministerial Association

Organized by Melody Mason, with collaboration of the Back to the Altar leadership team, under the direction of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Ministerial Association

Many of these materials are taken from the booklet, *The Way Back to the Altar*.
For more information or to register for 100 Days of Prayer visit: www.backtothealtar.org

Note: This packet contains weeks 5 and 6 and will be updated with weeks 7 and 8 when they are available. Watch www.backtothealtar.org for updates.

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Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the continuing **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** journey.

We all long for peace, for rest, for the ability to hear God's voice and the ability to know His voice when we hear it. We long to experience true genuine worship. But how is this possible in today's active bustling world?

Life never slows down. Having time for daily meaningful and unrushed worship amidst the chaos and distractions of daily living is a constant challenge. Truth is, it will always be a challenge for us as believers, no matter our life, age, or culture. But God doesn't give up on us, even though sometimes we forget about Him. In the midst of the chaos and noise, His voice is calling our name. "In the midst of this maddening rush, God is speaking. He bids us come apart and commune with Him. 'Be still, and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)... Not a pause for a moment in His presence, but personal contact with Christ, to sit down in companionship with Him—this is our need." *Education*, 260-261

As we continue this **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** journey, we will be focusing these next few weeks on what it means to really honor Jesus as Lord, not just in theory, but in real daily life. We will be learning afresh the joy of searching for and discovering *Jesus*, the Fountain of Living Water, in the written Word. We will be learning what it means to hold communion with Him and what it means to hide His Word in our heart. We will also study what it means to make the Kingdom of heaven our highest spiritual priority and learn how we can stay focused and connected with Him in the midst of so many digital online distractions.

If you long to build strong your altar of worship, if you are hungry for a deeper more abundant life in Jesus, if you pray for peace of mind and freedom from anxiety and fear, these lessons will be a breath of fresh air for your soul.

In Psalms we read again and again the joy that David the shepherd boy, David the running fugitive, and David the king, found at his altar of worship. To him, worship was not just something he checked off his to-do list each day. It was his passion, his lifeline, his existence.

"One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek," David wrote, "That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).

David lived at the altar. Worship was his joy because Jesus was his Joy. "Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy," David wrote. "And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God" (Ps. 43:4).

As we continue this journey back to the heart of worship, let's ask God to be our True Joy. Let's pray that His Word would come alive like never before, and that our hearts would burn within us with a Holy Spirit fire that cannot be quenched, because Jesus is coming soon, and He's looking for a people who, no matter their circumstances, find their truest joy in Him!

What to expect:

Over the course of these fourteen weeks (April 4th thru July 12th, 2025), we are praying for an outpouring of the Latter Rain on our world church, growing together as disciples for the Kingdom, and preparing our hearts for Jesus' soon return.

Each Friday morning, during the **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer**, all those registered are receiving an e-mail which includes:

- A short revival or miracle testimony to build faith
- A packed inspirational Back to the Altar themed Bible study
 - This study will include fun interactive activities and questions that one can do alone, with friends/family, the church, or a small group.
 - It will include personal heart challenges and inspiring video illustrations.
 - It will include practical spiritual disciplines to incorporate into your daily life, as well as much, *much* more.
- Participants can sign up to receive a daily “prayer focus” on WhatsApp.
- Those who desire can also participate in a 1 hour weekly revival session on zoom hosted by members of the Back to the Altar leadership team. This revival session started on Sunday April 6th and will take place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, until July 13th. While the main session is in English, multiple translations are being offered, including Swahili, Spanish, Romanian, and Russian. More languages may be added.

We pray that this **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** revival, with its simple activities and soul challenges, will not only draw you closer to Jesus personally but give you practical tools to lead your family, your congregation, and your friends and neighbors to becoming daily disciples of Jesus who *live at the altar*. To learn more or to sign up today visit: www.backtothealtar.org

We are praying for you, and we look forward to meeting you on this journey.

The Back to the Altar leadership team

Ramon Canals, Dwain Esmond, Don MacLafferty, Melody Mason, Pavel Goia, John Feezer & Gabriel Begle



Back to the Altar

Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer

Fourteen Week Topic & Zoom Outline

Note: The first four weeks of materials can be found online at www.backtothelatar.org. Weeks five and six are included in this pack! The greyed out parts below show what is to come.

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Week 1 | April 4 – 10 | Preparing for Revival

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 2 | April 11 - 17 | Worshiping Together

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 13th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 3 | April 18 - 24 | What it Means to be a Disciple

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 20th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 4 | April 25 – May 1 | Come to Jesus as You Are

- Zoom Revival – Sunday April 27th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 5 | May 2 - 8 | Honor Jesus as Lord

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 4th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 6 | May 9 - 15 | Jesus in the Word and in Prayer

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 11th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 7 | May 16 - 22 | Back to the Bible in our Heart

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 18th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 8 | **May 23 - 29** | Word before World: Managing Digital Distractions

- Zoom Revival – Sunday May 25th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 9 | **May 30 – June 5** | Ask for and Receive a Fresh Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 1st (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 10 | **June 6 – 12** | Love Your Family Sacrificially

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 8th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 11 | **June 13 - 19** | Jesus is coming, I Will GO!

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 15th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 12 | **June 20 - 26** | Disciple Others to Jesus

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 22nd (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 13 | **June 27 – July 3** | Living Your God given Mission

- Zoom Revival – Sunday June 29th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team

Week 14 | **July 4 – July 12** | Back to the Heart of Worship

- Zoom Revival – Sunday July 6th (6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time)
- Led by the GC Back to the Altar team



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 5 | May 2 - 8, 2025)

Honor Jesus as Lord - Program Materials

Week 5 | **May 2 – 8** | Honor Jesus as Lord | **Testimony**

“A Legacy of Virtue and Honor to God and His Word”

By Frank Hasel

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.” Mark 8:35

My grandfather, Franz Hasel, was an ordained Seventh-day Adventist minister in Germany. Against his will, he was drafted into the army during World War II. Because my grandfather wanted to honor God's commandments, including “thou shalt not kill,” he requested to serve in the medical corps and refused to use a weapon. But his request was not granted. Instead, he was placed into another unit as a unit clerk on the front lines. However, he took his conviction not to kill so seriously that he carried a wooden gun in his holster for the duration of the war. Although he thought he might die many times, God miraculously protected my grandfather time and time again. His inspiring story can be read in the book *A Thousand Shall Fall*.

My grandfather often told us a story that is not included in *A Thousand Shall Fall*. It's a story that while serving in Russia, far from home, his unit was assigned to search through the houses of every village that the Germans had captured on their advance into Russia. They were ordered to search for resistance fighters, who would hide inside homes and attack the advancing German troops. They were told to immediately and indiscriminately shoot every person they found hiding.

One day, as my grandfather was carefully searching a house, he had a feeling that something was unusual. When he entered a particular room, he found it empty but still had an impression that something was suspicious. When he looked under the bed, he saw a young man staring right at him. My grandfather knew that if he exposed this young man, the young man would definitely be shot. They locked eyes for a split second that seemed like an eternity. Then my grandfather got up, left the room, and did not report what he had seen. He had pity on this young man and spared his life.

Several weeks later, my grandfather was assigned to patrol an important railway track. His duty was to make sure that no resistance fighters bombed the tracks. He was watching alone when a group of Russian Cossacks rapidly charged at him on their horses. There was no way to escape. He braced himself for death, believing they would surely kill him.

The group quickly encircled him, but my grandfather was shocked when he saw the face of their leading commander. It was the same young man he had seen hiding under the bed in that empty house. They immediately recognized each other. The young Cossack commander pointed his gun at my grandfather and signaled to him, “I could kill you now,” he indicated, “but you were kind enough to save my life. So, I will spare your life!” Then he ordered his men to ride on.

In God's providence, the life of my grandfather was once again spared. His loving-kindness to that man and his faithfulness to God was returned to him. I'm so thankful for the virtuous life

and the example of faithfulness and loving-kindness my grandfather left behind. This legacy can be ours as well.

There is something peculiar about faithfulness. Although you can be a little bit famous or a little bit rich, you cannot be a little bit faithful. Faithfulness has something exclusive about it that demands undivided attention. Either you are faithful 100 percent, or you are unfaithful. If you are faithful 95 percent, you are not faithful but unfaithful. Faithfulness requires total commitment to Jesus as Lord of our life. God wants our undivided loyalty and full, complete dedication.

In the Old Testament, we read the story of Daniel, who was thrown into the lions' den because he was not willing to compromise his faith in God. When Daniel distinguished himself as a wise, dependable leader for the king, his enemies became envious and looked for ways to accuse him of wrongdoing. "But they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful" (Daniel 6:4, NASB). My hope is that our enemies (if we have any) and our friends, and all those who have been watching our lives will discover the same about us! May we be people who are known for the genuine loving-kindness we gently extend to others, and may we be respected for our faithfulness in the daily things we do. Like Daniel, may we trust God to take care of us as we are faithful to His will. No matter what the future holds, let us be Christians who honor Jesus as Lord, and who are faithful to God and His living Word, no matter the cost.

Frank M. Hasel, PhD, is a theologian, speaker, and author. He works as Associate Director of the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. Frank has shared his story of Grief, Grace, and Gratitude on It Is Written, 3ABN and HopeTV. The story shared in this week's devotional can be found in his book "Living for God: Reclaiming the Joy of Christian Virtue" (Pacific Press, 2020).

Week 5 | May 2 – 8 | Honor Jesus as Lord | Study

Welcome to another lesson in the **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer** revival series!

What a powerful testimony we've just heard about honor to God and His Word. It's important to recognize that Franz Hasel did not instantly become a spiritual superhero when faced with the conflicts of World War II. The spiritual fortitude, strength, kindness, and courage that he displayed in the face of conflict came from his personal decisions to honor Jesus as LORD, long before the war started. The reality is that he had already made a thousand decisions over the years to honor Jesus as Lord in the little details of daily life. So, when the big test came, when he was pushed to the front lines of battle, and when he faced life and death decisions, his loyalty to God was already decided.

"It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 51).

In this week's revival study, we are going to study what it means to honor Jesus as Lord. However, before we get started with this study, let's watch this short video testimony, that gives us a little review from last week and also shows how we can start honoring Jesus as Lord, TODAY.

- Play Video 1: **Introduction to Jesus as Lord** - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW5VID1>

What spoke to your heart most through the testimony that Pastor Don just shared? Write down your thoughts.

Honor Jesus as Lord – Bible Study

1. Heart Connect

Now let's do a fun activity for a moment. Stand up, right now, right where you are!

As you stand to your feet, think about one specific place in the world where you have physically stood—a place where you found yourself in total and complete AWE. Perhaps it was standing before a huge powerful waterfall, like Victoria Falls located on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Perhaps it was watching the sun set in a blaze of glory. Maybe it was when you stood at the altar on your wedding day. Think of that specific place! Think of how you felt in that moment.

Now, let's look to Scripture. Think about how Elijah must have felt when he came before king Ahab, the mighty king and ruler of Israel, in Ahab's royal palace.

Read/Reflect on 1 Kings 17:1 – As you read this passage, ask yourself, “Where is Elijah standing in this story?”

Let’s watch this short “Elijah Revival Moment” and see if there’s more to the story than first caught our eye.

- Play Video 2: **Elijah Revival Moment: Facing King Ahab** - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW5VID2>

What “Ahab” is in your life right now that might be distracting you from being in AWE of the True King of Heaven? What “Ahab” might be keeping you from having unrushed time in God’s presence every day?

2. Honoring Jesus with Your Time

Read/Reflect on Mark 1:35 and Isaiah 50:4 – What difference would it make if you gave Jesus your alarm clock and allowed Him to awaken you each morning, on His timetable, so you could have unrushed undistracted time standing/kneeling in His presence?

While Jesus lived on earth, did He also yield to an authority higher than Himself? Isaiah 50:4 tells us that He did. If we look at the context of the passage (see Isaiah 50:6), we discover that this is actually a Messianic prophecy about the life of Jesus. The Father in Heaven is the One who promised to awaken His Son, Jesus, morning by morning during Jesus’ time on earth.

What does God’s Word tell us specifically about Jesus as Lord?

Read/Reflect on Matthew 28:18 and Philippians 2:5-11 – What do these passages tell us about the authority and Lordship that Jesus received from His Father?

Jesus Himself proclaimed that all authority had been given to Him in heaven and in earth.

While Jesus humbled Himself and was obedient to death on the cross, God exalted Jesus to His right hand and gave Him a name above all names. At Jesus’ name, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess Him as Lord.

It’s easy to honor Jesus as our SAVIOR. He’s forgiven us, washed us clean, and given us the gift of eternal life. Because of this we love to sing, “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound!” But singing, “I surrender all,” is often a bit harder, because we struggle to honor Jesus as LORD.

3. Honoring Jesus with Your Choices

The Bible tells us that everyone in the universe will soon bow to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. So, why do we not bow to His Lordship today? Why is it so difficult to honor Jesus as Lord of our daily choices?

Watch the following fun video illustration to help make this concept more practical.

- Play Video 3: **The New Car Illustration** - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW5VID3>

Let's practice the prayer of surrender that Pastor Don just shared in the video.

Get on your knees wherever you are and pray the following prayer, using your hands to show what you are surrendering, as we just saw illustrated.

- Dear Jesus, I give You all that I am (*hands running from your head towards your heart*)
- I give You all I have (*hold both your hands out palms facing up*)
- I give You my attitude (*touch your forehead with both hands*)
- And I give You my electronics (*with one hand, hold up your phone symbolizing the surrender of your electronics to Jesus.*)

Think of how powerfully our lives would change if we prayed this prayer of surrender (and lived this prayer of surrender) each and every day!

Before we close, let's look at two more powerful Scripture passages.

Read/Reflect on Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Colossians 1:27-28 – Can Jesus change the things in our hearts that we cannot change? What is the secret to victory as believers?

The answer is a whole-hearted “YES!” to the first question. Jesus is The Master Heart Surgeon. He is able to change thoughts and attitudes and heal scars in our heart and mind that we can never change ourselves. That's why the secret to victory for the Christian is contained in two three-word phrases found in Colossians 1:27-28. They are “**Christ IN you**” and “**perfect IN Christ.**” This is our key!

Remember: It is not about working harder to overcome our sins and evil tendencies. The key to our success is learning to abide IN Christ and allowing Christ Himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to abide IN us.

“God desires to manifest through you the holiness, the benevolence, the compassion, of His own character. Yet the Saviour does not bid the disciples labor to bear fruit. **He tells them to abide in Him.** ‘If ye abide in Me,’ He says, ‘and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.’ **It is through the Word that Christ abides in His followers...** You live ‘by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4. The life of Christ in you produces the same fruits as in Him. Living in Christ, adhering to Christ, supported by Christ, drawing nourishment from Christ, you bear fruit after the similitude of Christ” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 677, emphasis added).

If you feel discouraged or overwhelmed by the attacks of the enemy in your life, you will love this last powerful video illustration.

- Play Video 4: **Jesus is our Champion** - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW5VID4>

No matter what you are facing right now, remember, Jesus is your Champion. And He is ready to win for you!

4. Personal Practical Application

As you go through this coming week, here are three practical heart challenges:

- **1st Challenge:** Honor Jesus as Lord, before you go to sleep each night, by asking Jesus to wake you up each morning to have unrushed time with Him. Get up when He calls.
- **2nd Challenge:** Honor Jesus as Lord by starting each day with the following prayer of surrender: Dear Jesus, I give You all that I am. I give You all that have. I give You my attitude and my electronics.
- **3rd Challenge:** Abide in Jesus! Daily be in AWE of God and His Word. Don't be distracted by the many "Ahabs" in your life. If you start to feel overwhelmed or anxious claim the following Bible promises: Phil. 2:13, Phil. 4:13, John 14:15-20, Eph. 3:14-21.

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> **Password:** 18442025

Now it's time to pray!

Week 5 | May 2 – 8 | Honor Jesus as Lord | Prayer Focus

Promises to Claim as You Pray



“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” 1 John 5:14

“The rainbow round about the throne is an assurance that God is true, that in Him is no variableness, neither shadow of turning... When we come to him confessing our unworthiness and sin, He has pledged Himself to give heed to our cry. The honor of His throne is staked for the fulfillment of His word unto us.” *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 148

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” 2 Chron. 16:9

Prayer Focus for Week 5

1. **AWAKE:** Pray that honoring Jesus as Lord would become a living reality for your life. Pray that Jesus would wake you up each morning to have unrushed time with Him in His Word and in prayer. (Claim Isaiah 50:4)
2. **SURRENDER:** Pray the following prayer of surrender as you start the Sabbath: “Dear Jesus, I give You all that I am. I give You all that have. I give You my attitude and my electronics.” Live this prayer of surrender daily! (Claim Philippians 2:9-11)
3. **ABIDE:** Pray to abide in Jesus each and every day by immersing yourself in the living Word. Rather than trying to produce the fruit of the Spirit, pray that the Prince of Peace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, would abide in you. (Claim John 15:5)
4. **BE IN AWE:** Pray that God would help you be in complete AWE of Him, His Word, and His mighty power as you go through this week. Pray that you would have no spirit of awe for the “Ahabs” the enemy might bring across your path. (Claim Romans 8:31)
5. **EXPERIENCE:** Pray that we would, in the prayer room at GC session, have an “Upper Room experience” as the disciples had at Pentecost. Pray that all pride and things of self would be put away as we seek unity in Christ. (Claim Acts 2:1-2)
6. **HONOR:** Pray that every conversation, every message, every concert, every song, every worship service, every business meeting, every decision made during the General Conference session, would be for the glory and honor of God. (Claim Psalm 115:1)
7. **STAND:** Pray that we, individually and collectively as a church, would stand for Bible truth and honor God, no matter the cost. (Claim 1 Corinthians 16:13)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 6 | May 9-15, 2025)

Discovering Jesus in the Word and in Prayer - Program Materials

Week 6 | **May 9 – 15** | Discovering Jesus | **Testimony**

“Learning to Linger in the Word”

By Nina Atcheson

“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16

Some time ago I visited a church organization for some meetings I was attending. Before my workday began, I decided to join the morning staff worship. Someone was reading from a short devotional. There were about forty workers who sat in rows. I sat on the end of a row, looking with curiosity at the faces of those around me. I saw various responses. Some looked out the window, seeming eager to get on with the day. Others looked a little blank, perhaps disconnected. Others were listening. I waited, hungry for some takeaway words that would fill me as the day began. However, before I knew it, a short prayer was being offered, and everyone was rushing off to start their busy day.

I found myself longing for more; longing perhaps for what God was waiting to give and wondering if I was the only one left feeling a little empty. While I’ve read many good devotionals, as I’m sure you have too, there’s nothing as deep or inspiring as the Bible itself. However, it’s so often that we rush—even in our personal Bible reading.

Perhaps you have tried to read the Bible through in a year. Maybe you’ve given up after a few weeks of hurriedly reading one or two chapters a day because it felt like just another thing to check off your daily to-do list. Instead of finding joy in our reading, it can sometimes feel like a chore we need to accomplish. If we don’t “keep up” with what we think we should be reading, guilt can drive us away from spending time with God.

Many of us are busy, living in a rushed society. Sometimes I’ve looked at the clock and thought, “Right. I have a few minutes before I need to shower, eat breakfast, and get to work. I better quickly read and pray and get on with my day!” And so, I’ve gone through the motions very quickly and at the end of my brief time with God I continued to rush into my day, only a little satisfied that I had appeased my conscience and spent a little time reading my Bible.

Perhaps you can relate to this too. Yet have you ever wondered what might happen in our spiritual lives if we sought God by giving Him some unrushed time in His Word? How might this impact our days? There are so many profound, deep, convicting, and encouraging messages in the Bible that God has given to help us, yet too often we leave our Bibles closed.

Over the years I’ve struggled to wake up to study my Bible. Because of work commitments, I became more of a night person. I would hear about people waking up early to study their Bible and thought to myself, “That just isn’t possible for me!” But I still tried. If I wanted to read my Bible, I would set my alarm and drag myself out of bed fifteen minutes earlier than usual to do so, but to be fair, I would spend most of the time trying to wake myself up before I quickly scanned a chapter of the Bible and then hurriedly went on my way.

But something happened to me several years ago when I truly surrendered my time to God. I asked Him to wake me up in the mornings. It wasn't a passing request but a heartfelt desperate cry that went like this:

God, please help me to desire You. I know I need to spend time with You, and I want to love Your Word. I know You can speak to me through Your Word. But I need You to help me. Please wake me up with enough time to spend with You. You know my life is too full already, but I can't do this without You any longer.

After I prayed this prayer, I started to wake up early, without an alarm, usually before five o'clock in the morning. I would be in the deepest sleep and all of a sudden wake up. I knew God had answered my prayer. Of course, He was eager and waiting to spend time with me!

When this happened day after day, I found myself enjoying a precious routine as I met with God downstairs in a cozy corner of my office. As the days and months went by, I expected to feel tired, but surprisingly, I wasn't. Instead of reaching for my phone to see whether any e-mails had arrived overnight, I made a commitment to spend time with God first, before anything else took my attention. That personal challenge hasn't always been easy, and I am often tempted to launch into other things. But if I have chosen God to be number one in my life, surely, I can honor Him as my priority every morning.

Jesus gave us this example: "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there prayed" (Mark 1:35). Imagine Jesus, seemingly alone to the onlooker but abiding with God, sitting by the Sea of Galilee or on the side of a hill, praying and communing with His Father before the world around Him woke up. I'm sure this time was what gave Him strength to face all He faced while being separated from His Father. If Jesus needed this time to linger with His Father each day, how much more do we?

God's Word tells us, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Psalm 34:8

Have you ever tasted a slab of honeycomb from a beehive? The first time I tried it, I was surprised at how the sweet honey melted on my tongue. It would have to be one of the most delicious treats, which bring to life the words of Psalm 119:103,104:

"How sweet are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding."

God's words are indeed sweet to my soul and unlike anything else the world has to offer.

How might our lives change if we truly took time to read and linger in the Word of God? Before rushing into our busy days, we can give Jesus our first thoughts and invite Him to lead us today. He will teach us from His living, powerful Word, and draw us to Himself. We will meet Him again—today, and tomorrow, because He promises that we will find Him when we seek Him with all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

Nina Atcheson serves as the Curriculum Manager and Senior Editor for the new Alive in Jesus Sabbath School Curriculum at the General Conference. She is a curriculum specialist, teacher, speaker, editor, and author. She lives to be faithful to God's call and mission and has a burden to inspire and equip others to know God deeply and personally through His living Word. Nina is married to Matt, a pastor, and together they have three wonderful teenage children. More inspiration, can be found in her much-loved book "[As Light Lingers: Basking in the Word of God.](#)"

Week 6 | May 9 – 15 | Discovering Jesus | Study

Welcome to another session of **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer!**

Before we dive into this session, let's take a few minutes to review what we've learned about the first two principles of Back to the Altar.

Note: If you would like to review the introductory lessons from weeks 1-3, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/Review1-3>

While we are learning many practical things about what it means to come back to the altar, there are seven specific **Back to the Altar** principles that we are focusing on.

- **Back to the Altar principle #1: Come to Jesus as You Are.** In this first principle we learned how Jesus invites us to come to Him just as we are. We also learned how we can have peace about our salvation (See 1 John 5:13).

Remember, this is not a cheap "stay-as-you-are" or "once-saved-always-saved" gospel. This peaceful assurance is based on specific truths from God's Word which remind us that our sins, when confessed, as well as our best efforts (Isa. 64:6) are both being covered by Jesus' perfect sacrifice (Heb. 10:14). He is our perfect substitute and surety!

The following quote really keeps everything in perspective:

"Perfection through our own good works we can never attain. The soul who sees Jesus by faith, repudiates his own righteousness. He sees himself as incomplete, his repentance insufficient, his strongest faith but feebleness, his most costly sacrifice as meager, and he sinks in humility at the foot of the cross. But a voice speaks to him from the oracles of God's Word. In amazement he hears the message, 'Ye are complete in Him.' Now all is at rest in his soul. No longer must he strive to find some worthiness in himself, some meritorious deed by which to gain the favor of God. Beholding the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world, he finds the peace of Christ; for pardon is written against his name, and he accepts the Word of God, "Ye are complete in Him" (Colossians 2:10)" *Faith and Works*, p. 107-108.

Are you tempted to keep focusing on the inadequacies of self rather than looking to Jesus? The enemy of our souls would like nothing better. But we must look up! Look and live, as Scripture tells us (See Numbers 2:8).

If you continue to struggle in this area, go back and prayerfully study the materials from week 4 in more depth at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA-Week4>

- **Back to the Altar principle #2: Honor Jesus as Lord.** In the study from last session, we had three very specific heart challenges. Let's review them now.
 - **1st Challenge:** Honor Jesus as Lord, before you go to sleep each night, by asking Jesus to wake you up each morning to have unrushed time with Him. Get up when He calls.
 - **2nd Challenge:** Each day pray the following prayer of surrender: "Dear Jesus, I give You all that I am. I give You all that have. I give You my attitude and my electronics."
 - **3rd Challenge:** Abide in Jesus! Daily be in AWE of God and His Word. Don't be distracted by the many "Ahab's" in your life.

Time for Testimonies: Do you have a special testimony of how God has been working in your life this past week? Or maybe you want to share how God has grown your walk with Him through this **Back to the Altar | 100 Days of Prayer**? *(Write down your thoughts or find a friend and share a short testimony about something God has done for YOU in the past five weeks!)*

Discovering Jesus in His Word and in Prayer – Bible Study

1. Connect Activity

Take a moment to look at this beautiful picture. What do you see? Do you see a beautiful waterfall on a lovely fall day, or do you see something more?

- **Waterfall Picture Illustration** - <https://tinyurl.com/Waterfall-Handout>

Look closely! Squint your eyes almost closed and look again. Once you see it, you cannot unsee it! Do you see it?

(Picture Explanation: For those who aren't sure what you are seeing, you are seeing a beautiful waterfall surrounded by autumn trees in bright reds, golds, purples, and greens. There is bright blue sky with puffy white clouds over the sparkling blue water. The water is pooling over and between the brown and grey rocks. The shadows of the water and rocks is placed in just the right way to spell "Jesus Loves You." Do you see it?)

Just as God's love is written throughout all creation, God's written Word is His personal love letter to our hearts. In the written Word we discover who He is, and many beautiful pictures of who Jesus is. But we miss these pictures of Jesus if we don't take time to look closely. If we rush through our devotional time, if we don't take time to linger in the Word and in prayer, we will miss what God is wanting to show us.

In this week's session we going to focus on **Back to the Altar principle #3**. It's called, **Discovering Jesus in His Word and in prayer**.

While God's written Word is the anchor for our faith and our relationship with Him, prayer is what helps bring His Word to life in our hearts. We need unrushed time in both the Word and prayer to thrive spiritually. Prayer, without the Word as its foundation, is like a sailboat without a rudder. Studying the Word without taking time to pray is like trying to bake bread without using yeast to make it rise. When we live a prayerless life we can easily start living a powerless life, a religion of dry form—a "form of godliness" without the Holy Spirit's transforming power (2 Timothy 3:5).

Before we open our Bibles, there's an *important key* that we need to help unlock the Scriptures. Can you guess what that key might be?

- **Play video 1:** Introduction to Finding Jesus in Scripture - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW6VID1>

Now that we've prayed for the Holy Spirit, let's open the Word.

2. Looking for Jesus from Genesis to Revelation

Read/Reflect on Luke 24:27 and John 5:39 – Based on these passages, what is the focus of all of Scripture?

If you answered "Jesus," you are right! Sometimes when we read the Bible, we see pictures of Jesus very quickly. But other times, we struggle to see Him at all.

Now we are going to do a little activity, and for this activity, you will need your Bible and a pen to write with.

With the following "Pictures of Jesus" handout, see how quickly you can draw a line to match the names of Jesus with the correct Bible verse on this sheet.

(For those doing this activity on your own, here's the download link:
<https://tinyurl.com/PicturesOfJesus>)

Ready, set, go!

That was a fast-paced activity, wasn't it? But let's pause for a moment. Which name of Jesus, from this exercise, speaks most personally to your heart? Why is this? Which name of Jesus do you long to experience even more? (*Write down or share your thoughts!*)

In these Bible passages, it's very easy to quickly identify the different names of Jesus. These names give us pictures of Jesus that are bold and clear. But often times, we are so accustomed to seeing these different names of Jesus in Scripture that we take them for granted.

Now we want to look a little deeper, below the surface.

Read/Reflect on Genesis 1-2 – Take a few minutes and see how many different pictures of Jesus you can find in the story of Creation. (Keep praying for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to what God wants to show you!)

Some pictures of Jesus were probably obvious. For example, when God said, “Let there be light,” in Genesis 1:3, we see a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the world. But did you see Jesus in the very first verse?

Genesis 1:1 reads, “In the beginning...” Here in the first three words of Scripture is a precious beautiful picture of Jesus that we often rush right past. The Bible says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” (Rev. 1:8).

Jesus is our beginning! He is the author and finisher of our faith. And since He started our story, He will finish it for His glory! *Alleluia!*

How many other pictures of Jesus did you find in the story of Creation?

Not only do we find pictures of Jesus in the story of creation, but just as Luke 24:27 told us, we see pictures and parallels to Jesus in many other Bible stories as well.

In the life of Joseph, we actually find some of the most amazing and beautiful biblical parallels to Jesus. Ellen White writes extensively about these. For example, just as Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold for twenty pieces of silver, Jesus was also betrayed by His spiritual brethren and sold for thirty pieces of silver. And yet through the betrayal, Joseph saved his people, and through the betrayal in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus saved the world.

We encourage you to take unrushed time studying Genesis 37-47, and you will be amazed at all the parallels you will find between Jesus and Joseph.

The book of Revelation is another beautiful place to look for Jesus. Jesus is everywhere in Revelation. Let’s take a moment and listen as Pastor Don shares some beautiful pictures of Jesus from Revelation 1.

- **Play video 2:** Seeing Jesus in Revelation - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW6VID2>

Truly there are many beautiful surprises and treasures waiting to be discovered in God’s Word. Of course, *Jesus* is the most beautiful Treasure of them all!

3. Living by the Word

We can spend hours studying the Word, however if we don’t allow the Living Word to change our life, what have we gained? Listen in once more as Pastor Don talks about how to make every Scripture practical.

- **Play video 3:** Allowing the Word to Change Your Life - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW6VID3>

One way to make God's Word practical in your daily life is to pray the Word. If your prayer life seems a little dry, write down your prayer requests, and beside them write specific promises from God's Word. Every promise in God's Word is ours! We are told, "The honor of [God's] throne is staked for the fulfillment of His Word unto us" (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 148).

Before we close this session, let's take a few precious minutes to return to the story of Elijah and see how Elijah responded when he heard the Word of the Lord.

- **Play video 4:** Elijah Revival Moment – Closing the Gap - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTAW6VID5>

How's the gap in your life today? Are you, afraid of what others might think if you follow what God has spoken through His Word? Or do you hurry eagerly to obey God's voice?

Let's ask that God help us close the gap and live as believers who are actively preparing for Jesus' soon return. Let's ask that He teach us how to seek Him with all our hearts, and that discovering Jesus in His Word would become our greatest joy and delight.

4. Practical Heart Challenge

To take this message deeper, here are three practical challenges.

- **1st Challenge:** Every day, look for Jesus in the Word. See how many different names of Jesus you can find. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see, what perhaps, you've never seen before!
- **2nd Challenge:** Take time to meditate on Matthew 14:13-21 and look for a fresh picture of Jesus. Who is Jesus in this passage? Who does Jesus long to be for YOU? (For many more pictures of Jesus, study the life of Joseph or go through the entire book of Revelation keeping Jesus as your main focus. This study will change your whole perspective about the book of Revelation.)
- **3rd Challenge:** Practice praying the Word of God. If you need help getting started, you can find some special resources at this link. <https://tinyurl.com/PrayerPromises>

You are invited to join the General Conference weekly Back to the Altar revival on zoom that takes place every Sunday at 6 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. All are welcome!

Zoom Link - <https://tinyurl.com/BTTA100> Password: 18442025

Week 6 | May 9 – 15 | Discovering Jesus | Prayer Focus

Bible Promises to Claim as you Pray



"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire,
and it shall be done for you." John 15:7

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust
under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your
house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the
fountain of life; In Your light we see light." Psalm 36:7-9

Prayer Focus for Week 6

1. **REST:** Pray that God would help us slow down and find our peace and rest in Him as we prepare for the best day of the week, the Holy Sabbath day of rest. (Claim Isa. 26:3)
2. **REMEMBER:** Pray that this would be a high Sabbath as we come back to the altar, remembering that Jesus is our perfect Substitute and Surety. Pray that we can understand and share the message of righteousness by faith. (Claim Heb. 10:14)
3. **PLEAD:** Pray for God's will to be accomplished in who should lead our church in the next five years. Pray that we would not lean on human wisdom as we make leadership choices, but that we would plead for God's wisdom, for "man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart." (Claim James 1:5)
4. **DISCOVER:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to be our heavenly guide as we daily seek to discover fresh pictures of Jesus in the Word and in prayer. (Claim 1 Cor. 2:12-13)
5. **FOCUS:** Pray for a renewed heart for service and mission, no matter your sphere of influence or responsibilities. God has a place of service for each one of His children! (Claim Matt. 6:33) May the theme, "Jesus is coming soon, I will Go!" be our focus.
6. **SEARCH:** Pray for a renewed interest in the books of Daniel and Revelation as God's people search for hidden treasure. Jesus is our Treasure, and He's coming soon! (Claim Psalm 119:162 and Luke 24:27)
7. **REFRESH:** Pray that God's people would have boldness as they pray the promises of God's Word. God's Word does not return to Him void. (Claim 2 Peter 2:4 and Isa. 55:11)



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 7 | May 16 - 22, 2025)

Back to the Bible in Our Heart - Resource Materials



Back to
the Altar

100 Days of Prayer

(Week 8 | May 23 - 29, 2025)

Managing Digital Distractions - Resource Materials

This packet with materials for the remaining weeks 7-8 are coming soon. Check www.backtothealtar.org for updates.