

SABBATH FLOW

Cascading the Sabbath into the Week Ahead

"Your Gospel is too Small" sermon, April 11, 2026, Auburn SDA Church. For April 12-18. Sermon and guide by Pastor Mel Baga, D.Min.

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Pray: Lord Jesus, make us fluent in the gospel. Save us from shrinking the good news down to our private needs. Teach us to see the beauty of justification by faith and the larger kingdom reality to which it belongs. Amen.

Open: When Christians answer the question "What is the gospel?", what do they usually mention first?

Read: Read Romans 1:16-17, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:15-16, and Mark 1:14-15 aloud together.

Discuss: Pick as many as time allows.

1. How have Romans 1:16-17, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Galatians 2:15-16 shaped the way many Protestants think about the gospel?

2. What is the difference between saying justification

by faith is true and saying justification by faith is the whole gospel?

3. Why do you think Christians so easily reduce the gospel to "Jesus died for me so I can go to heaven"?

4. How do individualism and consumerism make us hear the gospel mainly in terms of "my forgiveness, my assurance, my future"?

5. In what ways can a too-small gospel make sanctification, discipleship, kingdom life, and mission feel optional?

6. How does Mark 1:14-15 enlarge our understanding of the gospel?

7. What changes when we define the gospel not only as salvation for sinners, but as the announcement that Jesus is King?

8. What does it mean for disciple-making to be part of what justified people do in the name of King Jesus?

Reflect: Justification by faith is beautiful and true. It tells us that sinners are declared righteous by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. But the gospel is larger than the saving effect it gives us. The gospel is

the announcement that Jesus is King, his kingdom has arrived, and he calls us to live under his reign.

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for justifying sinners by grace through faith. Enlarge our hearts to receive Your whole gospel and to live under Your reign. Amen. 🙏

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

SUNDAY

A Gospel Big Enough

“The kingdom of God has come near.”

Reflect: Many Christians grow up hearing the gospel mainly as the answer to one question: How can I be saved? But the gospel is larger than that question. The gospel is large enough to save you, and large enough to tell you what kind of world Jesus is bringing into being. Today begins with asking God to enlarge your imagination.

Read: Read Romans 1:16–17 and Mark 1:14–15. What do these two passages emphasize differently about the gospel?

Pray: Lord Jesus, do not let me settle for a gospel smaller than the one You preached. Expand my heart to receive the whole good news. Amen.

MONDAY

The Beautiful Truth of Justification

“The righteous shall live by faith.”

Reflect: The Reformation was right to treasure justification by faith. God declares sinners righteous not because they have become good enough, but by sheer grace in Jesus Christ the moment they believe. That is not a side note. That is glorious news. It means your standing with God does not rest on your performance, but on Christ.

Read: Read Romans 1:16–17 and Galatians 2:15–16. What stands out to you about faith, righteousness, and right standing before God?

Pray: Father, thank You that I am not accepted because I have become impressive, but because Christ is enough. Teach me to rest in Your grace. Amen.

TUESDAY

When the Effect Becomes the Whole

“By grace you have been saved through faith.”

Reflect: Romans 1:16–17 tells us what the gospel does: it saves. Ephesians 2:8–9 tells us we are saved by grace through faith. Galatians 2:15–16 tells us we are justified by faith in Christ. Every bit of that is beautiful and true. But if we stop there, we may confuse the saving effect of the gospel with the full definition of the gospel.

Read: Read Ephesians 2:8–9 and Galatians 2:15–16. How do these passages describe what the gospel accomplishes?

Pray: Lord, keep me from confusing the gifts of the gospel with the whole shape of the gospel itself. Amen.

WEDNESDAY

A Gospel That Circles Me

“Believe in the gospel.”

Reflect: The air we breathe trains us to ask, What does this do for me? What am I getting out of this? Those habits can quietly shape our faith. Before long, the gospel becomes my forgiveness, my salvation, my assurance, my heaven. It is as though the whole thing circles around me. But the gospel is not a small story orbiting my life. It is the great story of Jesus the King, and by grace I am drawn into it.

Read: Read Mark 1:14–15. What is at the center of Jesus’ own announcement?

Pray: Jesus, free me from making myself the center of the story. Teach me to live inside Your larger kingdom story. Amen.

THURSDAY

Not a Boxcar, but a Truck Bed

“The power of God for salvation.”

Reflect: Many Christians were taught to imagine salvation as a neat sequence. There is truth in that. But it can make the Christian life feel overly compartmentalized. Salvation is not a train of boxcars, but a truck with a single bed. That

bed is justification. It carries more than one thing. Everything in that truckbed is equally important.

Read: Read Romans 1:16–17 again. What does it mean to you that justification is not merely a past event, but a present standing in Christ?

Pray: Lord Jesus, let Your justifying grace keep speaking over my life today. Teach me to live out of what You have declared over me. Amen.

FRIDAY

Discipleship and Mission

“We have fellowship with one another...”

Reflect: Discipleship is not an optional trailer pulled behind justification. It is woven into the life of the justified. The justified are not only forgiven. They are formed. They are sent. Discipleship is not extra credit for unusually serious Christians. It is what saved people do.

Read: Read Mark 1:14–15 and Galatians 2:15–16. How does being put right with God connect to following Jesus and joining His mission?

Pray: King Jesus, teach me not only to receive Your grace, but

to follow You and serve Your mission in the world. Amen.

SABBATH

The Real Gospel

“Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God.”

Reflect: The real gospel is bigger than my salvation alone. It is the announcement that Jesus is King, his kingdom has arrived, and he is calling everyone to enlist. All who come under his reign are justified, gathered into his kingdom, and sent into the world in his name.

Read: Read Mark 1:14–15 slowly. What does it mean for you today that Jesus is King and his kingdom has arrived?

Pray: Lord Jesus, thank You for justifying me and bringing me under Your reign. Keep me from shrinking Your gospel down to my own salvation. Teach me to live faithfully in Your kingdom. Amen. 🙏