



ADVANCE
AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

ADVANCE THEME VERSE

**And I heard the voice of
the Lord saying, “Whom
shall I send, and who
will go for us?”**

**Then I said, “Here
I am! *Send me.*”**

ISAIAH 6:8



A LETTER FROM
OUR PASTOR

God has been so good to us at ABC! Jesus is building His church and we have been blessed by His faithfulness. In recent days, we have witnessed God eliminate our debt, expand our mission, and extend the message of Jesus Christ. We have watched Him increase our impact by adding new ministries and hundreds of new members. I believe He is preparing us for even more in 2027.

ADVANCE is an invitation for you to discover God through His word, develop as a disciple of Jesus, and deploy on mission for Him. Next year, you will have an opportunity to experience God by spending a “year in the Bible” with us. You will be invited to grow as a disciple and find meaningful relationships through a Bible Fellowship Group. And you will be equipped to find your purpose and be deployed on mission for him each week.

I believe 2027 could be a transformational year in your life, and in the life of our church. Will you accept my invitation to join us? This booklet will give you more details on what is to come. Consider taking the journey with me, and even better, invite a friend to advance in their faith with you. God is on the move, and I pray the Spirit will move in a fresh way in your life next year. May God continue to use ABC to light up your life, your home, your neighborhood, and the world.

ONWARD AND UPWARD,
DR. JONATHAN SPENCER
SENIOR PASTOR



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THE HEART OF **OUR STORY**

In 2007, Austin Baptist Church was founded by a small group of believers who sensed God's calling to start a new family of faith. The church began with no pastor, no staff, and no budget. However, it did begin with an abundance of hope, a willingness to serve, and a desire to see the Kingdom of God expanded in Austin, Texas. Over the years, that small group grew rapidly, and in 2012, ABC moved into its current property in the beautiful Four Points area. After 20 years, ABC's story is a miraculous testimony of God's goodness and grace every step of the way.

From the beginning of ABC's establishment until now, studying the Bible has been foundational to who we are. From one Sunday School class to the present 20 adult Bible Fellowship Groups, there has always been a commitment to study and learn the Word of God together. To accommodate this growth, ABC expanded its facilities in 2016, constructing new spaces dedicated to the Children's, Young Adults, and Senior Adults ministries to support their continued development.

At its core, ABC has always been about living out our faith in grace, truth, authenticity, and impact, all for the purpose of seeing people come to a life-changing relationship with the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. We do this because our vision is to see God light up the lives of those in our homes, our neighborhoods, and the world.



**ABC FOUR POINTS
LOCATION GROUNDBREAKING**

PHOTO CREDIT: LINDA SHEPPARD



AUSTIN, TEXAS CITY SKYLINE

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK CISNEROS

DISCIPLESHIP + MISSION

OUR *OPPORTUNITY*

As Austin Baptist Church enters its twentieth year, *ADVANCE* is our opportunity to continue to grow in discipleship and on mission.

We will discover God by reading through the Bible together.

In 2027, we will be following a year-long sermon journey through the story of Scripture. Our BFG curriculum, Next Generation content, quarterly guides, podcasts, and weekly prompts will help people read, hear, study, discuss, understand, and respond to God's Word. Biblical engagement is the core of *ADVANCE* because we believe sustained time in Scripture can produce enormous spiritual fruit in individual lives, households, and our entire church.

We will develop as disciples through biblical community.

A new Sunday schedule is an operational response to a discipleship opportunity. Our current BFG rooms are already heavily used. Offering adult BFGs during both hours allows ABC to use existing rooms twice, launch new groups, develop new leaders, create stronger relationships, and give more people a pathway into biblical community.

We will deploy on mission.

Every person will be challenged to ask, "Who is my one?" As a church we will ask, "Who is our one?" We will pray for people to come to Christ, for believers to step into ministry, and for someone from ABC to say, *"Here I am. Send me."*

Theme

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*”

Then I said, “*Here I am! Send me.*”

ISAIAH 6:8

Why *Isaiah 6:8*?

A HUMBLE OFFERING

In the sixth chapter of his book, Isaiah experiences a vision from the Lord as he begins his ministry as a prophet to the people of Judah. The Lord asks for a messenger, and Isaiah willingly and humbly offers himself in service to God.

That movement becomes the spiritual pattern of **ADVANCE**. Isaiah encounters the holiness of God, recognizes his need, and makes himself available. We then follow the same pattern: God reveals Himself, we are transformed, and we respond.

Verse

Discover Develop Deploy



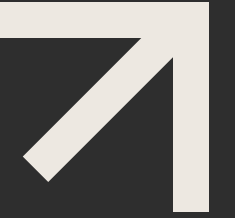
OUR **PLAN**

ADVANCE is an invitation to join ABC on a discipleship journey in 2027, with biblical engagement at its core. The biblical picture comes from Isaiah 6:8 when Isaiah sees God, receives grace, and responds, *"Here I am. Send me."* That movement gives us three words for 2027: **Discover**, **Develop**, and **Deploy**.

Together, we will journey through the Bible, align our sermons and Bible Fellowship Groups around the story of Scripture, and create more room for people and leaders through two adult BFG hours.

As individuals and as a church, ***we will DISCOVER God, DEVELOP as disciples, and DEPLOY on mission.*** The three movements are not separate programs. They describe one discipleship journey.

AND SO, WE **ADVANCE.**



DISCOVER GOD

God has made Himself known through Scripture and ultimately through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. In 2027, ABC will read through the Bible together and follow a year-long sermon journey through the story of Scripture. **ADVANCE** will bring the church around one coordinated year of biblical engagement.

However, biblical engagement includes more than just completing daily readings. For each of us, it means:

- Reading Scripture personally and consistently.
- Hearing Scripture taught in worship.
- Studying and discussing Scripture in a BFG.
- Asking honest questions and growing in understanding.
- Talking about God's Word with family and friends.
- Responding through prayer and obedience.

Discover



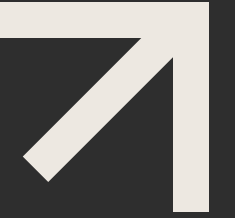
DEVELOP AS DISCIPLES

God develops us through His Word, but He also develops us in community with other believers. The sermons, BFG curriculum, and age-appropriate Next Generation content will follow the same biblical journey.

Bible Fellowship Groups are the primary way people at ABC study Scripture, build relationships, care for one another, and develop as leaders. To create space for more groups and leaders without the need for new construction, ***we are updating our Sunday schedule to accommodate two Bible Fellowship Group hours beginning in 2027.*** We will move our two worship services to 9:00am and 10:30am, with adult BFG options available during both hours.

This change offers guests more choices, keeps group sizes manageable, and opens up new opportunities for more people to teach, host, care, and lead.

Develop



DEPLOY ON MISSION

We do not study Scripture merely to gain information. We encounter God so that we can respond. **ADVANCE** is a challenge to pray, serve, share the gospel, invest in your neighbors, and dive into ministry and missions. With those objectives in mind, think through the following:



WHO IS YOUR ONE?

Who is God calling you to pray for, invest in, and invite toward Jesus?



WHO IS OUR ONE?

Whom might God call from ABC into vocational ministry or the mission field?

Deploy

“



HEAR THE STORIES OF ***LIVES CHANGED***

As we **ADVANCE** forward, growing in discipleship together in God's Word, we invite you to hear stories of how Christ has personally transformed the lives of those within our church family.

These personal testimonies offer a glimpse into the ways God has worked through families, friendships, and generations, shaping them through His grace and the ministry of our church.



*Scan the QR code to hear these stories and
celebrate what God is doing!*



OUR **PRAAYER**

Through **ADVANCE**, we pray that our church will be defined by a unified identity in Christ, continuous growth in discipleship, the shared study of God's Word, and spiritual transformation in 2027.

This is not about checking a box or changing scenery; it's about seeing God's people grow both individually and communally so that even more may come to know Jesus Christ because of our expression of faithfulness.

A SHARED **RESPONSE**

Now that you have learned everything we hope to see as a result of **ADVANCE**, consider how you will respond to the following:

How can I **DISCOVER** God's word next year?

How can I **DEVELOP** as a disciple and lead others in discipleship with me?

How can I **DEPLOY** into my community, my nation, and the world for the Gospel of Christ?



AND SO, WE **ADVANCE**.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT ADVANCE 2027

WHY IS ABC PURSUING ADVANCE NOW?

ABC enters its twentieth year with an opportunity to celebrate God's faithfulness by taking a meaningful next step together. A shared Bible journey can unite the church, and two BFG hours creates room for new groups and leaders.

WHY DOES THE SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE NEED TO CHANGE?

The current Bible Fellowship Group hour limits growth because all classrooms are in use. Offering adult BFGs during both hours creates room for new groups and leaders while giving guests more pathways into community. The schedule supports the discipleship vision.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SUNDAY MORNING PLAN?

The current direction is choir-led worship at 9:00am and band-led worship at 10:30am, with adult BFGs during both hours. Students and children will gather in the earlier hour for BFG, while Elevate and Uplift Children's Worship (for Pre-K through 4th grade) will gather in the later hour.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CURRENT BFGs, TEACHERS, AND SERVING ROLES?

Some groups may remain together. Others may move, multiply, or help launch a new group. Some people may need to choose between roles they currently carry. While change can present new challenges, we view this as an opportunity for current leadership to expand and grow in their roles while leaving room for new leaders to step up and be developed in a brand new calling.

WHY READ THROUGH THE WHOLE BIBLE, AND WHAT IF SOMEONE FALLS BEHIND?

Reading through the Bible helps people understand its full story and see how all of Scripture points toward Christ. The plan is challenging, but it is not a scorecard. If someone falls behind, the invitation is to rejoin the current week.

DOES EVERYONE HAVE TO USE THE SAME BIBLE TRANSLATION?

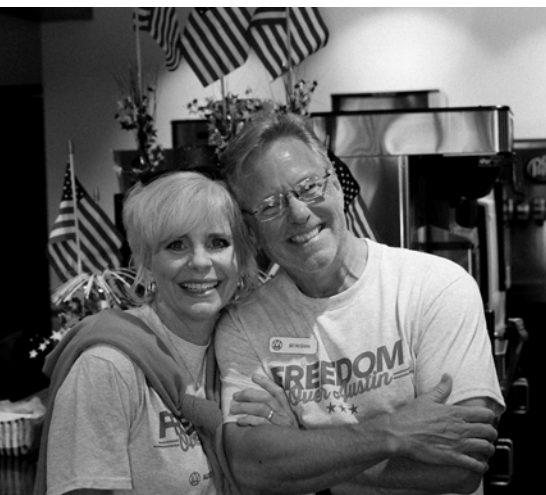
No. The CSB *Jesus Daily* Bible is the preferred translation because it organizes the Bible into 52 weeks and provides weekly introductions and Christ connections. However, everyone is welcome to use another Bible or translation with the **ADVANCE** reading schedule.

HOW WILL ABC HANDLE PARKING, WORSHIP TRANSITIONS, AND OTHER PRESSURES?

Staff and ministry teams are working on traffic flow, hospitality, room movement, worship transitions, service timing, and volunteer schedules. Leadership in each area will communicate to their team the appropriate actions and changes as we move through this transition.

WHEN DOES ADVANCE BEGIN, AND WHAT HAPPENS AFTER 2027?

The Bible reading plan begins on *January 3rd, 2027*. The new Sunday schedule, sermon journey, and aligned BFG curriculum begin on *January 10th, 2027*. The Bible-in-a-year journey concludes in 2027, but **Discover**, **Develop**, and **Deploy** are intended to become lasting ministry language and a continuing discipleship pathway.





ADVANCE
AUSTIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Discover
Develop
Deploy
2027

