

Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of October 12, 2025
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
“Pass It On”



Be still [2 Minutes]: As you hear these Centering Words, let us greet each other, greet the Holy Spirit, and begin with 1 minute of silence, breathing in the breath of God and allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit today:

CENTERING WORDS:

The Spirit invites us to deepen our faith in Christ and to find renewal and strength, by seeking the welfare of the community around us.

聖霊は、私たちが周囲のコミュニティの幸せを求めることにより、キリストへの信仰を深め、信仰を新しくされ、強められるように招いています。

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy One, we gather to sing your praises!

聖なる主よ、私たちは、あなたに賛美を歌うために集います！

We are grateful for the gift of this day and all the ways you make your presence known, この日という恵みと、あなたの存在を教えてください。様々な方法に感謝します。

We are grateful for your abiding Spirit and the ways the Spirit empowers us to be your people.

あなたの変わらぬ御霊と、御霊が私たちをあなたの民となるように、力づけてくださる方法に感謝します。

In this time of worship, deepen our faith. Restore our souls and heal us.

この礼拝の時、私たちの信仰を深めてください。

After we have spent time with you, return us to our community, that we may share your love and grace with everyone we meet.

主と過ごした時間の後、私たちをコミュニティに戻し、出会う人たちとあなたの愛と恵みを分かち合う事ができますように導いてください。

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

キリストの御名によって祈ります。アーメン。

Be the Word: Scripture Lesson: **Matthew 5: 14-16**

14 You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven.

L: The word of God for all People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Be present: [Being mindful of others and sharing time]

1. Take a deep breath. How is it with your soul?
 2. When was a time you experienced someone “passing on” kindness or light to you?
 3. What does “changing/saving the world” look like to you on an ordinary day?
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Be rooted: [Bible Study]

Context:

In Matthew 5, Jesus is preaching the Sermon on the Mount, teaching His followers what it means to live as part of God's kingdom. After calling them “the salt of the earth,” He reminds them they are also “the light of the world.”

Light in ancient times represented truth, hope, and the very presence of God. Lamps were precious—meant to illuminate homes, not hidden away.

Jesus tells us our purpose is not to keep our faith private but to live it publicly—with kindness, compassion, justice, and service—so that others might see God through us.

Reflection Questions:

1. What stands out to you from Jesus' words, “*You are the light of the world*”?
 2. How is being “light” different from trying to *be perfect*?
 3. Why do you think Jesus connects good deeds with glorifying God?
 4. How might fear, busyness, or self-doubt cause us to “hide our light”?
 5. In Jewish tradition, light represents *shalom*—wholeness, peace, flourishing. What would it look like to live as people of *shalom* in our community?
 6. What does it mean for your good deeds to “glorify God” rather than yourself?
 7. How do small, everyday acts (like we did on Sunday) become spiritual witness?
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Listening Break: “Waiting on the World to Change” (original song of John Mayer)

🎵 [Watch here on YouTube \(https://youtu.be/yTU2J2xnkgb?si=Oy74GLJ06rsjngCf\)](https://youtu.be/yTU2J2xnkgb?si=Oy74GLJ06rsjngCf)

Take a few minutes to listen, watch, and reflect.

About the video:

Playing for Change (PFC) is a global movement created to connect and inspire the world through music. PFC records and films musicians performing in their natural environments, then weaves their voices and instruments together into *Songs Around the World*. Their work reminds us that while the

world can feel divided, music—like light—transcends boundaries and unites hearts.

As you listen to “*Waiting on the World to Change*,” reflect on these prompts:

- What emotions rise as you watch?
- How does the song’s message connect with Jesus’ call to “shine before others”?
- What does it stir in you about using your gifts to create hope, harmony, and change?

Maybe the world doesn’t just need us to wait—maybe it needs us to shine.

Be transformed: Faith in Action - Pass It On:

Light isn’t meant to stay still—it moves. It stretches. It reaches. It *passes on*.

This week, think of yourself as a living spark in God’s story of renewal. Every word, every action, every act of care adds fuel to the flame.

Maybe it looks like planting something green where there was once concrete.

Maybe it’s sharing cookies that taste like peace.

Maybe it’s a sign made for justice, or a book placed in a child’s hands.

Maybe it’s clearing clutter in God’s house so someone else can breathe easier.

Each moment becomes its own gospel message: *God’s light is here—and it’s still spreading.*

So, here’s your challenge:

- Find one place where you can carry light this week—where darkness, discouragement, or indifference seem to have settled in.
- Then do one small thing to change the atmosphere.
- And when you do—it doesn’t end there. Tell someone. Invite them in. *Pass it on.*

Because when light meets light, the world begins to glow.

Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:

Celebrations:

- Successful Marketplace
- Chad Uemura & Natsuko Takito (wed 9/4)
- Brandon Chang
- Andrew Tani

* Note change for Doris Shigihara’s Award, December 7, 2025

*Saturday, October 11, Las Vegas, NV - Congratulations Kanani Kalama Hula Studio... 2025 Kumukahi hula competition Wahine 1st Place. Thank you Faith UMC for your love and support!



Birthdays:

10/15 - Andie
 10/11 - Ron
 10/18 - Chad
 10/26 - Allison
 10/27 - Susan DeGracia

Beloved Community Concerns:

- Pearl Iizuka (9/11) - Preparing for a new pacemaker (10/9)
- Tam Kobayashi (9/9) / (10/21)
- Audrey Goto recovery
- Kraig Nakano
- Alice Kajiya
- Larry Takumi
- Harriet Tateyama
- Scarlett Bone - Surgery, 10/29
- Diane Ueda-Banda (to monitor health, but relieved for now)
- Tseyli Mantooth
- Kim Foster & Claretta Foster
- Debra (surgery) and Deborah (101 yo mother; fell) (Kim Foster's friends)
- Dan Yamashita
- Juno Uyematsu
- Kenny Medeiros
- Walker Wilkerson

Traveling Mercies

Sally Sasaki *Africa
 Tex Yamada, Louise Sakamoto, Gary & Mari Sakaguchi * Japan
 Miyas, Nishis, Iseris * Europe
 The Mark-Schwieberts * Philippines (returning 10/19)

World Concerns:

- Typhoons around the world, including Super Typhoon Ragasa – 24 deaths, 33 remain missing
- Philippines earthquake and typhoon
- US; Government (shutdown); medical, food stamps, social security...
- War-torn countries

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord

- Kory Kobayashi (passed, 4:32pm, 10/5)
 - Florence Uchida's Celebration of Life: November 1, 2025, 10am
- * Please send in your names and photos of loved ones for ALL SAINTS DAY, 11/2

And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing

Go forth as the light of the world —
shining with the love of Christ in all you do.
Let your kindness spark change,
your faith inspire hope,
and your actions reflect God's heart in the world.

Go in peace to *pass it on* and *save the world* —
one act of love at a time.
Amen.