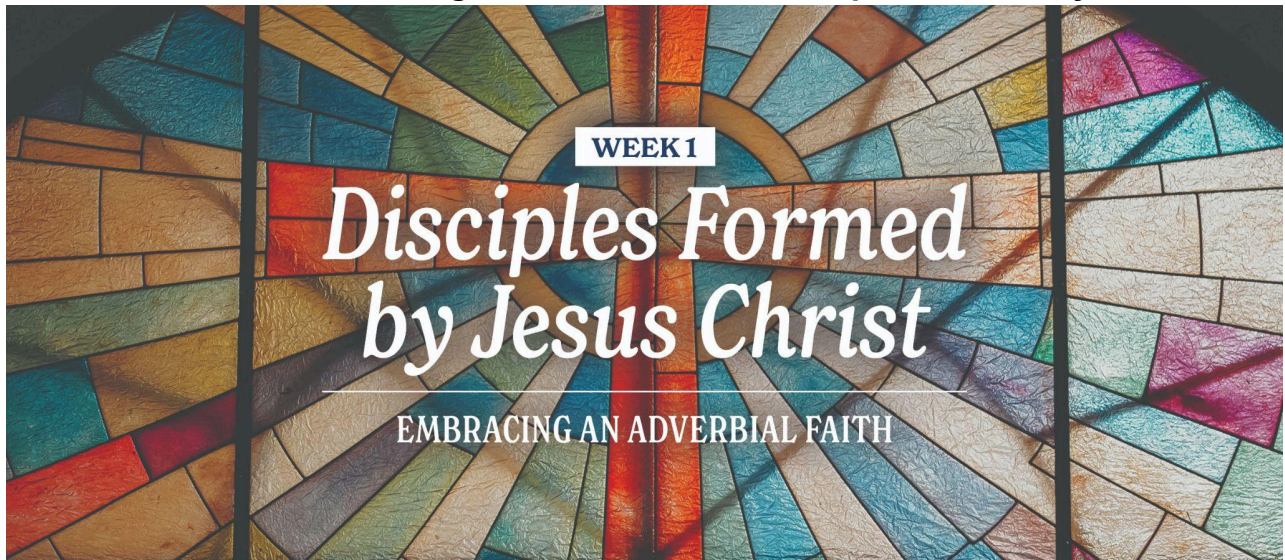


Faith Bible Study Guide  
For the Week of April 12, 2026  
2nd Sunday after Easter  
“Embracing an Adverbial Faith: Disciples Formed By Faith”



**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/ WORDS TO PONDER:**

*In you I take refuge. In you I find life. May I keep you always before me.*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Take a moment to open your heart(s) to God through prayer. Gracious and loving God, You are the source of all wisdom and the foundation of our vision. As we gather to reflect on the direction You have set before us as United Methodists, open our hearts to Your guidance. Strengthen our faith, The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. Amen.

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

1. Take a breath. Feel your body in the chair. How is it with your soul today?  
*Feel free to answer several questions (or briefly all)...*
2. What was your favorite subject in school and why?
3. What does it mean to “embrace your faith”?
4. We’ve asked this before, but do you consider yourself a “Disciple”? What does being a Disciple mean to you?

**Disciples Formed By Jesus Christ**

Framing/Big Idea:

Disciples are formed by Jesus Christ through God’s Word, the work of the Holy Spirit in individual lives and in community, and the daily practice of responding to God’s love.

**Be the Word:** [Scripture Lessons: Luke 5:1–11, Ephesians 4:11–16, Psalm 119:1-8]

**READ: Luke 5:1–11 CEB**

One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God’s word.

Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets.

Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch."

Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting.

They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink.

When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!"

Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people."

As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

### **Be rooted: [Bible Study for LUKE]**

1. Jesus calls his first disciples. What do you notice about Jesus' actions in this story?
2. How do the "soon-to-be" disciples respond?
3. Jesus instructs Simon to "put out into the deep water..." (Luke 5:4 NRSVUE). That could be a metaphor for being willing to engage with "deeper," more challenging aspects of life. How do you see our church going into "deeper waters" in your life?
4. Consider your personal life. Have you sensed Jesus' invitation to go into "deeper waters"?
5. How do you understand that invitation?

### **Be the Word: [SCRIPTURE LESSON]**

**READ: Ephesians 4:11–16 CEB**

He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

His purpose was to equip God's people for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. God's goal is for us to become mature adults—to be fully grown, measured by the standard of the fullness of Christ.

As a result, we aren't supposed to be infants any longer who can be tossed and blown around by every wind that comes from teaching with deceitful scheming and the tricks people play to deliberately mislead others.

Instead, by speaking the truth with love, let's grow in every way into Christ, who is the head.

The whole body grows from him, as it is joined and held together by all the supporting ligaments.

The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as each one does its part.

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Be rooted: [Bible Study for EPHESIANS]**

6. Look closely at the first two verses of this text. What five spiritual roles are named that were “granted” by Christ “himself”? [*Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.*]
7. What does this passage indicate is the reason these gifts are given? [*“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”*] What do you think is special about these five gifts? Have you seen them in action in your church?
8. One aspect of growing to “maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ” (v. 13) is to “speak the truth in love.” Why do you think this is important? When have you seen that or done it yourself well?

**Be the Word: [SCRIPTURE READING]**

**READ: Psalm 119:1-8 CEB**

Those whose way is blameless—

who walk in the LORD’s Instruction—

are truly happy!

Those who guard God’s laws are truly happy!

They seek God with all their hearts.

They don’t even do anything wrong!

They walk in God’s ways.

God, you have ordered that your decrees be kept most carefully.

How I wish my ways were strong

when it comes to keeping your statutes!

Then I wouldn’t be ashamed

when I examine all your commandments.

I will give thanks to you with a heart that does right

as I learn your righteous rules.

I will keep your statutes.

Please don’t leave me all alone!

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Be rooted: [Bible Study for PSALMS]**

9. What emotions do you see expressed in this passage?
10. What prompts that emotion for the author?
11. How could you connect this psalm with growing as a disciple?
12. The Preaching Note for this week says, “That’s the joy of being a disciple. From the beginning, we are not alone. We are not left to make our way into the deepwater of our lives or the lives of those around us on our own. The Christ who calls us goes with us.” He is there in the boat; he is there when the nets are cast, and when the truth is told. And we live into that truth, into the presence. How do you understand God’s presence being with you in the “deep waters” of your life?

**Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge]:**

13. Just One Thing: What is one thing you could do in the week ahead to grow as a

disciple of Jesus?

**Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:**



*We lift up prayers for all of God's  
Creation. Lord Hear our Prayers.*

**continued prayers for Healing and Wholeness**

Aidan Uyeunten  
Rev. Alan Mark  
Alice Kajiya  
Ally Kubo  
Alvena & Tom Fukuhara  
Amy Higa  
Anthony Anderson, Sr.  
Apolosi Lokotui  
Austin Maeda  
Barbara Tamura  
Betty Kobata  
Bill Morris  
Brian Okumura  
Cami Bruns  
Chic Miyake  
Christine Keim  
Claretta Foster  
Dan Segawa  
Dan Yamashita  
Deron Tokishi  
Diane & Destiny  
Ueda-Banda  
Dr. DoAnn Tsuneo  
Kaneko  
Douglas Higa  
Elaine Yoshida  
Eleanor Nagai  
Ernie Santiago

Faith Tanaka  
Florence Nakakura  
Frank Sato  
Rev. Gary Williams  
Geri Shiraki  
Glenn & Millie  
Shimizu  
Grace Tochiara  
Grant Hanada  
Harriet Tateyama  
Haru Yasunaga  
Harry Manaka,  
Sansei Rocker  
Harry & Ruth  
Takaki  
Hisako Shohara  
Ingrid Peterson  
rene Munesato  
Jack Honda  
Jayne Watanabe  
Jehiel Vinluan  
Jennie Shitakubo  
Jerry Osaka  
Joanne Sato  
Joelle Peelgreen  
Jordan Sasaki  
Joye Barker  
Juliet Koyanagi  
Kaitlyn Sabedra  
Karl Lynn Fernandez

Kay Saxton  
Kian Tehrani  
Kiki Hashimoto  
Rev. Kim Montenegro  
Kelsey DeGracia  
Kenny Medeiros  
Kyle Ichikawa  
Larry Takumi  
Layne Nakasone  
Linda Jung  
Liz Harner  
Lucas Yniguez  
Marion Antoku  
Maddie Sakurai-Lopez  
Mae Nakakahara  
Mary Jung  
Mary & Bob Keily  
(siblings)  
Mary Marchand  
Mary Tamura  
Maxine Butcher  
Rev. Mike Hiranuma  
Mitchell Okumura  
Miyoko Ahn  
Mutsuko Nishi  
Nancy Matsushima  
Noah Miyagawa-Sue  
Oscar Phillip Bland Jr.  
Pam Fink

Patty Kobayashi  
Priscilla Kandel  
Rachel Delgado  
Raquel M. Martinez  
Rose Ellison  
Ron Hamaguchi  
Rick Katsuki  
Ruth Hirata  
Ruth Taira  
Sandra Minjarez-  
Grange  
Stan Miyasato  
Steph Matsunaga  
Sue Hamada  
Sue Hasegawa  
Susan Mizuki  
Susan Slade  
Takai Finau  
Theresa Apicella  
Tina Arguello  
Tommy Sakaguchi  
Tseyli Mantooth  
V'hraniku & Shaun  
Haynes  
Victoria DelaTorre  
Walker Wilkerson  
Wayne Shimizu  
Whitney Nakayama  
Winnie Osaki  
Yukio Inouye

**those in Community  
Living & Homecare**

Chic Miyake  
Doris Kato  
Emma Horiuchi  
Faith Tanaka  
Rev. Harry Fujimoto  
Irene & Tak Ryono  
Jane Kiyohara  
Marion Antoku  
Mary Jung  
Nobie Shiokari  
Ruth Hirata  
Sets Asano  
Sue Hasegawa  
Jennie Shitakubo  
Fred Oshiro  
Audrey Goto

**for our Worldwide  
Community**

**for the Leadership  
of our Country and  
our Churches**

**for the immigrants:  
migrants, refugees,  
asylees**

**for our siblings in  
Christ who struggle  
and in need of  
God's care**

**for those who live in  
through wars,  
unrest, and violence**

**for those suffering  
and rebuilding after  
national disasters  
and man-made  
catastrophes**

**for All Our Saints**

Rebecca Hong & James Yeung and family on the passing of Rebecca's father, Rev. Kenneth Hong (3/18/26).

UPDATED 4.10.2026

**Celebrations:**

- **ALTAR FLOWERS:**
- March Birthdays, Anniversaries, Milestones
  - Momo Wada turned 97yo on 3/24
  - Barbara Takumi turns 88yo on 4/2

- Ken Sasaki turns 84yo on 4/24

### **For healing and recovery**

- Ally Kubo (4/17 - surgery)
- Jan Tanabe
- Christine Bone
- Kaitlyn Sabedra
- Rev. Gary Bernard Williams
- Jeanette Davis (Rhonda Benware's mother)
- DAVE DELGADO'S MOTHER RACHEL AND TWO AUNTS
- Andie Montoya's mother
- Aidan Uyeunten
- Chic Miyake
- Pam Fink (recovery)
- Diane Ueda-Banda (4/27- surgery)
- Victoria DelaTorre
- Mary & Bob Kiely (siblings of Ann Kiely)
- Audrey Goto recovery
- Alice Kajiya
- Larry Takumi
- Harriet Tateyama
- Tseyli Mantooth
- Kim Foster & Claretta Foster; V'rhaniku Haynes: high risk pregnancy, 5 months, baby girl
- Deborah Benjamin
- Walker Wilkerson
- Kiki Hashimoto (Sue Kunisaki -friend)
- Rev's friends: Stan Miyasato, Mari'a Cleverly, (Norma, Ashley)
- Susan Slade's friend, Sherrie-finished tx
- Raquel Martinez (Julie's goddaughter)
- Jan Tanabe
- Alvena Fukuhara & Tom
- Harry & Ruth Takaki
- Mae Nakakihara
- Mary Tamura
- Jennie Shitakubo
- Mitchell Okumura
- Douglas Higa (Lynne Vinluan's dad)
- Jehiel Vinluan
- Dan Yamashita
- Kenny Medeiros
- Apolosi Lokotui
- Susan Cordova (diagnosed with 3 types of cancer)
- Frank Sato
- Mrs. Davis (friend of Kim Foster)
- Rev. Alan Mark
- The Shimizus
- Winnie Osaki
- Nancy Matsushima
- Mary Tamura
- Ruth Hirata
- Faith Tanaka
- Irene & Tak Ryono
- Nobie Shiokari
  - ...many who are homebound and those unable to be with us... and so many other that we all that we miss their presence next to us in the sanctuary and our groups

### **Traveling Mercies**

#### **World Concerns:**

- All who struggle, suffer, experience pain and grief...
- US government and leadership (all of them); restoration of benefits, medical, food stamps, social security...
- War-torn countries, THE MIDDLE EAST, PALESTINE, SYRIA, IRAN, UKRAINE, SUDAN, MEXICO, VENEZUELA around the world...Natural disasters around the world...
- Immigrants, Refugees, Asylees losing rights and protections...
- Health Care system
- The homeless and impoverished
- Leadership (including clergy)
- THE SEVERE RAIN STORMS & FLOODING IN HAWAII / Fires in Nebraska
- Tom Hoang - deported
- All of God's children

- Proactive to support/share resources within in our Districts & Conference (protecting and supporting the vulnerable)

**Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord**

- Rebecca Hong & James Yeung and family on the passing of Rebecca's father, Rev. Kenneth Hong (3/18/26).

**And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing**

May God, who forms you in the image of Christ, bless you with the perseverance to answer Christ's call each day as you leave behind everything that holds you back and say "yes" to living as disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.