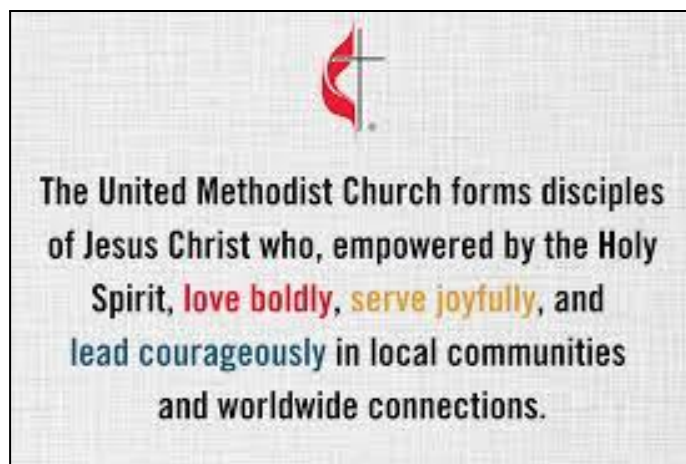


Faith Bible Study Guide  
For the Week of April 26, 2026  
4th Sunday in Easter  
“Embracing an Adverbial Faith: Love Boldly”



**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:**



**OPENING PRAYER:**

Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus, you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. As we gather for worship, and as we are sent from this place, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Help us to encounter each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Establish among us a future

where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 feels harder right now: loving God with all... or loving your neighbor?
3. What's one thing this week that made you stop and say, "Wait... that's actually really beautiful"?
4. Be honest... are you more likely to *take the last piece* or *leave it for someone else*? 😊  
Why?
5. Do you feel more connected to God indoors or outdoors? Why?
6. Who taught you (or is teaching you) how to care about the world around you?

**Be the Word:** [Scripture Lessons: Mark 12:28-34, Lev. 19:9-18, John 13:34-35 ]

#### **Mark 12:28-34**

**28** One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

**29** Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, **30** and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.[a] **31** The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself.[b] No other commandment is greater than these."

**32** The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. **33** And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices."

**34** When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, "You aren't far from God's kingdom." After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

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

1. What do you notice about the teacher of the law who asked Jesus about the most important commandment?
2. What are some reasons the teacher could have asked Jesus the question?
3. What do you notice about Jesus' response to his question?
4. What do you think it would have been like to hear Jesus say, "You are not far from the kingdom of God"?
5. What do you notice about the tone of this conversation between Jesus and the teacher? How is it different from other religious debates?
6. Why do you think Jesus ties loving God and loving neighbor together instead of separating them?
7. What does it mean to love God with your *mind* in today's world (school, work, social media, etc.)

**Be the Word:**

#### **Leviticus 19:9-18**

**9** When you harvest your land's produce, you must not harvest all the way to the edge of your field; and don't gather up every remaining bit of your harvest. **10** Also do not pick your vineyard

*clean or gather up all the grapes that have fallen there. Leave these items for the poor and the immigrant; I am the LORD your God.*

**11** *You must not steal nor deceive nor lie to each other. 12 You must not swear falsely by my name, desecrating your God's name in doing so; I am the LORD. 13 You must not oppress your neighbors or rob them. Do not withhold a hired laborer's pay overnight. 14 You must not insult a deaf person or put some obstacle in front of a blind person that would cause them to trip. Instead, fear your God; I am the LORD.*

**15** *You must not act unjustly in a legal case. Do not show favoritism to the poor or deference to the great; you must judge your fellow Israelites fairly. 16 Do not go around slandering your people.<sup>[a]</sup> Do not stand by while your neighbor's blood is shed;<sup>[b]</sup> I am the LORD. 17 You must not hate your fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your fellow Israelite strongly, so you don't become responsible for his sin.<sup>[c]</sup> 18 You must not take revenge nor hold a grudge against any of your people; instead, you must love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.*

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

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

The newly forming community is instructed to honor God and one another.

8. Where do you see bold and/or loving acts described in this text?
9. Based on this brief passage, how would you define what it means to “love boldly”?
10. What stands out to you in this list of commands? What surprises you?
11. Which of these feels most relevant in today's world?
12. Why do you think God includes both “big” and “small” actions in this passage?
13. What does “leave some” look like in your life right now?

### **Creation Care Reflection:**

14. How does “leave some” apply to how we treat the earth?
15. Where do you see overconsumption in our world? In your own habits?
16. What's one small way you can “leave some” this week—for others or for creation?

### **Be the Word:**

#### **John 13:34-35**

**34** *“I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. 35 This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.”*

L: The word of God for all People.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

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

Jesus says it's a “new” commandment to love one another.

17. Why do you think Jesus called it “new”? [Sometimes we use the word “new” when something is “new to us” without being “brand new.”]
18. Why do you think Jesus gives this command in such an intense moment (betrayal, denial, vulnerability)?
19. What makes this love “new” for you personally?
20. How is Jesus' love different from how the world defines love?
21. Why do you think Jesus says people will *know* us by love—not by belief or knowledge?

22. What kind of community would we become if we truly lived this out?

>> You may want to read or reference the context (before and after) of these verses: John 13:1-17, John 13:36-38, John 13:18-30, and John 13:36-38. John 13:1-17 reveals a humble, servant-hearted Jesus washing the disciples' feet; John 13:18-30 shows Jesus naming his betrayer, and John 13:36-38 identifies that Peter, "the Rock," will deny him.

**Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge] "Love Boldly This Week":**

This week, we move from *talking about love* to *living it*. Not perfectly—but intentionally. Not all at once—but somewhere.

Jesus calls us to love with **all**, and Leviticus reminds us to **leave some**, and John shows us that love is how people will **know who we are**.

So here's your challenge:

**1. Love God (Look Up)**

**Slow down and notice.**

- Take 5–10 minutes each day to *look up*—literally.
- Step outside, notice the sky, the trees, the air—God's creation.
- Say a simple prayer: "God, thank you for this."

👉 *Challenge:* Put your phone down for a few minutes and be fully present.

---

**2. Love Your Neighbor (Reach Out)**

**Choose one intentional act of bold love.**

- Text or call someone you've been meaning to check in on
- Offer help without being asked
- Speak encouragement to someone who needs it
- Forgive, or take one step toward healing

👉 *Challenge:* Do one thing this week that stretches you just a little.

---

**3. Leave Some (Make Space)**

**Practice "leave some" in your daily life.**

- Don't take more than you need
- Be mindful of food, time, energy, and resources
- Let someone else go first
- Create margin for others

👉 *Challenge:* Notice one moment where you could take more—and choose not to.

---

## 4. Care for Creation (Love the Earth)

### Show love through stewardship.

- Reduce waste (bring a reusable bottle or bag)
- Be mindful of what you throw away
- Spend time outside and appreciate creation
- Pick up trash or care for a shared space

👉 *Challenge:* Do one small act that honors the earth as God’s creation.

## 5. Love Like Jesus (Live It Out)

### Let love be visible.

- Ask yourself each day: “*What would love look like right now?*”
- In hard moments, pause and choose love anyway
- Remember—you don’t do this alone

👉 *Challenge:* Let someone experience God’s love through you this week.

### Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:



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

#### continued prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Aidan Uyeuten  
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 Tochihara  
Grant Hanada  
Harriet Tateyama  
Haru Yasunaga  
Harry Manaka,  
Sansei Rocker  
Harry & Ruth  
Takaki  
Hisako Shohara  
Ingrid Peterson  
Irene Munesato  
Jack Honda  
Jan Tanabe  
Jayne Watanabe  
Jehiel Vinluan  
Jennie Shitakubo  
Jerry Osaka  
Joanne Sato  
Joelle Peelgreen  
Jordan Sasaki  
Joye Barker  
Juliet Koyanagi  
Kaitlyn Sabedra  
Karlynn 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 Nakakihara  
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 Osaka  
Yukio Inouye

#### those in Community Living & Homecare

Chic Miyake  
Doris Kato  
Emma Hariuchi  
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).

### Celebrations:

- Ken Sasaki turns 84yo on 4/24
- Chanel Iki turns 1yo 4/15
- Jane Matsumoto's daughter Kate, had Baby Boy: Javier Hideo Matsumoto-Penton
- Babies to come: Iki, Hayashida-Chang, Tondo-Quan, Foster-Haynes
- Louise Sakamoto, 4/21
- Joanne Sato, 4/19

### **For healing and recovery**

- Ally Kubo (4/17 - surgery) mother
- 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
- 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, 7months, baby girl (due June/July)
- Aidan Uyeunten
- Chic Miyake
- Pam Fink (recovery)
- Diane Ueda-Banda (4/27- surgery)
- Victoria DelaTorre (4/21 - surgery)
- Alvena Fukuhara & Tom
- Harry & Ruth Takaki
- Mae Nakakihara
- Mary Tamura
- Jennie Shitakubo
- 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
- Mrs. Davis (friend of Kim Foster)
- 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

- ...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**

- Lynne and Gilbert Vinluan

### **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
  - Mass Shootings (Shreveport)
  - Military
  - The Earth (Happy Earth Day)
  - 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**

- Jerry Osaka (4/16)
- Ted Nakano (4/7)
- Kyle Wada's Grandmother, Helen Wada's mother passed away on 4/10, Kazuko Maruyama

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

Church, as you go—  
remember what you said today:

You are not far.  
We love like Jesus.  
We take care of what God loves.

Now go and live it—  
in your homes, in your schools, in your community, in this world.

Go with courage.  
Go with compassion.  
Go boldly.

And may the love of God go with you always.

Amen.