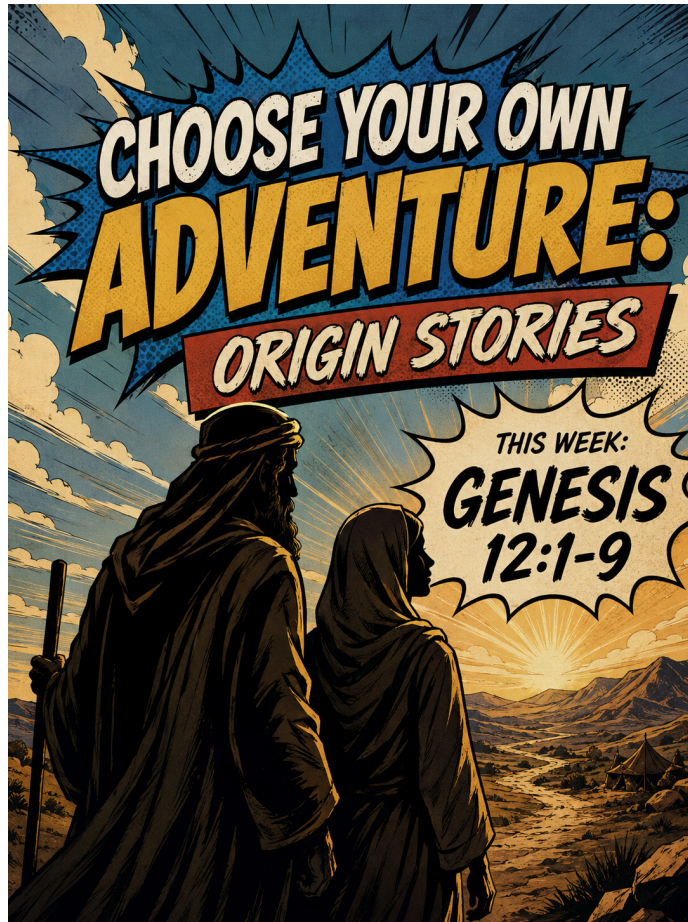


Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of June 7, 2026
2nd Sunday in Pentecost
"Choose Your Own Adventure: Origin Stories"
Ordinary People, Extraordinary God



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:

"You are a blessing simply because you are God's beloved child."

OPENING PRAYER:

God of journeys and new beginnings,

Open our hearts to your Word today. Help us see ourselves in Abram and Sarai's story. Give us courage to hear your call, wisdom to trust your promises, and faith to take the next step even when we cannot see the whole path ahead.

Through Christ, who journeys with us, 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. If your life right now were a "Choose Your Own Adventure" story, what chapter title would describe your current season?
3. What new page or chapter have you turned recently?
 - New responsibility?
 - New opportunity?
 - New challenge?

- New relationship?
 - New grief or loss?
4. Where do you currently feel uncertain about the future?
 5. Where have you recently experienced God's presence?
 6. What name, role, or identity feels most important to you right now?
(Parent, spouse, retiree, student, caregiver, worker, friend, disciple, etc.)

Be the Word: Scripture Lesson: Genesis 12:1-19

As you hear the word, you are invited to listen for:

- A word or phrase that stands out.
- Something surprising.
- A question they have.

12 The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;
all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you."^a

⁴ Abram left just as the LORD told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. ⁵ Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, ⁶ Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. ⁷ The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the LORD who appeared to him. ⁸ From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshipped in the LORD's name. ⁹ Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

¹⁰ When a famine struck the land, Abram went down toward Egypt to live as an immigrant since the famine was so severe in the land. ¹¹ Just before he arrived in Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know you are a good-looking woman. ¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife,' and they will kill me but let you live. ¹³ So tell them you are my sister so that they will treat me well for your sake, and I will survive because of you."

¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw how beautiful his wife was. ¹⁵ When Pharaoh's princes saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's household. ¹⁶ Things went well for Abram because of her: he acquired flocks, cattle, male donkeys, men servants, women servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷ Then the LORD struck Pharaoh and his household with severe plagues because of Abram's wife Sarai. ¹⁸ So Pharaoh summoned Abram and said, "What's this you've done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife? ¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She's my sister,' so that I made her my wife? Now, here's your wife. Take her and go!"

L: The Word of God for ALL People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

Getting to Know Abram and Sarai

Before they become Abraham and Sarah, they are Abram and Sarai.

Abram's Profile

Name: Abram ("Exalted Father")

Age: 75 years old (Genesis 12:4)

Marital Status: Married to Sarai
Current Home: Haran
Family Background: Originally from Ur of the Chaldeans (Genesis 11:31)
Occupation: Likely a wealthy pastoral nomad with servants, livestock, and property.
Destination: A land God will show him.

Sarai's Profile

Name: Sarai ("My Princess")
Age: Approximately 65 years old (Genesis 17:17 tells us she is ten years younger than Abram.)
Marital Status: Married to Abram
Current Home: Haran
Family Situation: Unable to have children (Genesis 11:30)
Destination: The same unknown future as Abram.

Timeline Snapshot

Before Genesis 12

- Creation
- Noah and the Flood
- Tower of Babel
- Abram's family leaves Ur
- Family settles in Haran

Genesis 12

- God calls Abram and Sarai
- They leave Haran
- They travel to Canaan
- God promises the land

Future Weeks

- Covenant and name change
 - Birth of Isaac
 - Formation of God's covenant people
-

Biblical Background & Commentary

Genesis 12 is one of the most important turning points in the entire Bible. Up to this point, Genesis focuses on humanity as a whole: Creation, the Fall, the Flood, and Babel. Now God narrows the focus to one family.

Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann notes that Genesis 12 marks God's new strategy for blessing the world—not through empires or power, but through a covenant relationship with one family. Notice that God does not begin with commands. God begins with promises. The call is rooted in grace before responsibility. Abram and Sarai are not chosen because they are extraordinary. They are chosen because God intends to do something extraordinary through them.

This is why Rev. Dr. Derek Weber writes: "Abram and Sarai are not the heroes in this story. God is the hero in this story." The story is not about great people earning God's favor. The story is about a great God inviting ordinary people into partnership.

The Call and the Promises

Read Genesis 12:1-3 again.

12 The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
those who curse you I will curse;

*all the families of the earth
will be blessed because of you.*^{12a]}

1. What promises does God make?
 - "I will make of you a great nation."
 - "I will bless you."
 - "I will make your name great."
 - "You will be a blessing."
 - "I will bless those who bless you."
 - "The one who curses you I will curse."
 - "All peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
 2. Which promise would have been hardest for Abram and Sarai to believe? Why?
 3. Which promise speaks most powerfully to you today?
-

Imagination Exercise

4. Put yourself in Abram and Sarai's sandals.
 - You are leaving everything familiar.
 - You have no map.
 - You have no GPS.
 - You have no timeline.

God simply says: "Go."

What emotions might they have experienced?

- Excitement?
 - Fear?
 - Curiosity?
 - Doubt?
 - Hope?
 - Grief?
5. Why do you think Scripture simply says: "So Abram went"? What does that teach us about faith?

MORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

6. What Does God's Call Sound Like?

How do you understand God's call?

Do you believe everyone receives a calling from God?

What are some ways God speaks today?

How do we distinguish God's call from our own desires?

7. Living Without the Full Map

In her sermon, Pastor Allison noted that God gave Abram no five-year strategic plan.

Have you ever entered a season where you did not know what was next?

What helped you move forward?

How did uncertainty affect your faith?

Looking back, where did you see God at work?

8. Names and Identity

Pastor Allison reflected on her journey from Kanani to Allison to Pastor and Reverend.

Abram later becomes Abraham.

Sarai later becomes Sarah.

Why do names matter in Scripture?

How has your identity changed throughout your life?

What names, titles, or roles have shaped who you are?

What parts of your identity remain constant no matter what season you are in?

9. Blessed to Be a Blessing

What does it mean to be blessed?

How is biblical blessing different from luck, success, or wealth?

Who has been a blessing in your life?

How has God used you to bless someone else?

10. Going Deeper

The sermon asks an important question:

"What is our superpower?"

Pastor Allison suggests:

"Our superpower is trust."

Do you agree?

What spiritual "superpowers" help disciples follow God?

- Trust
- Faith
- Courage
- Compassion
- Hope
- Love
- Perseverance

Which one do you most need right now?

Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge]

1. This week, practice being "Blessed to Be a Blessing."

Choose ONE:

Adventure Option #1

Write a note of encouragement to someone who helped shape your story.

Adventure Option #2

Take a step toward something God may be calling you to do, even if you do not have the full map.

Adventure Option #3

Offer hospitality to someone outside your normal circle.

Adventure Option #4

Share part of your faith story with someone.

Adventure Option #5

Pray daily: "God, show me where you are calling me to be a blessing today."

At next week's gathering, share what happened.

2. Going Deeper on Your Own

Read one of the following passages this week:

- Psalm 33:1-12
- Romans 4:13-25
- Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Use this simple pattern:

1. Pray:
"Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." (Psalm 119:18)
2. Read the text aloud.
3. What do you notice?
4. What questions arise?
5. What might God be saying to you?
6. What is one faithful step you can take in response?

Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:



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

continued prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Rev. Alan Mark	Faith Tanaka	Kaitlyn Sabedra	Patty Kobayashi	those in Community Living & Homecare
Alice Kajiya	Florence Nakakura	Karlynn Fernandez	Priscilla Kandel	Chic Miyake
Ally Kubo	Frank Sato	Kay Saxton	Rachel Delgado	Doris Kato
Alvena & Tom Fukuhara	Rev. Gary Williams	Kian Tehrani	Raquel M.Martinez	Emma Horiuchi
Amy Higa	Gerri Shiraki	Kiki Hashimoto	Rose Ellison	Faith Tanaka
Anthony Anderson, Sr.	Glenn & Millie	Rev. Kim Montenegro	Ron Hamaguchi	Rev. Harry Fujimoto
Apolosi Lokotui	Shimizu	Kelsey DeGracia	Rick Katsuki	Irene & Tak Ryono
Austin Maeda	Gordon Mark	Kenny Medeiros	Ruth Hirata	Jane Kiyohara
Barbara Tamura	Grace Tochiara	Kyle Ichikawa	Ruth Taira	Marion Antoku
Betty Kobata	Grant Hanada	Larry Takumi	Sandra Minjarez-	Mary Jung
Bill Morris	Harriet Tateyama	Layne Nakasone	Grange	Nobie Shiokari
Brian Okumura	Haru Yasunaga	Linda Jung	Stan Miyasato	Ruth Hirata
Cami Bruns	Harry Manaka,	Liz Harner	Steph Matsunaga	Sets Asano
Chic Miyake	Sansei Rocker	Lucas Yniguez	Sue Hamada	Sue Hasegawa
Christine Keim	Harry & Ruth	Marion Antoku	Sue Hasegawa	Jennie Shitakubo
Claretta Foster	Takaki	Maddie Sakurai-Lopez	Susan Mizuki	Fred Oshiro
Dan Segawa	Hisako Shohara	Mae Nakakihara	Susan Slade	Audrey Goto
Dan Yamashita	Ingrid Peterson	Mary Jung	Takai Finau	for our Worldwide Community
Darrell Iki	Irene Muneshato	Mary & Bob Keily	Tina Arguello	
Deron Tokishi	Jack Honda	(siblings)	Tommy Sakaguchi	for the Leadership of our Country and our Churches
Debbie Uyeshima Dillard	Jan Tanabe	Mary Marchand	Tseyli Mantooth	
Diane & Destiny	Jayne Watanabe	Mary Tamura	V'hraniku & Shaun	for the immigrants: migrants, refugees, asylees
Ueda-Banda	Jehiel Vinluan	Maxine Butcher	Haynes	
Dr. DoAnn Tsuneo	Jennie Shitakubo	Rev. Mike Hiranuma	Victoria DelaTorre	
Kaneko	Joanne Sato	Miyoko Ahn	Walker Wilkerson	
Elaine Yoshida	Joelle Peelgreen	Mutsuko Nishi	Whitney Nakayama	for our siblings in Christ who struggle and in need of God's care
Eleanor Nagai	Jordan Sasaki	Nancy Matsushima	Winnie Osaki	
Ernie Santiago	Joyce Matsubara	Noah Miyagawa-Sue	Yukio Inouye	
	Joye Barker	Oscar Phillip Bland Jr.		
	Julie Inouye	Pam Fink		
	Juliet Koyanagi			for those who live in through wars, unrest, and violence

for All Our Saints

Dave & Helen Wada and family, on the passing of Helen's mother, Kazuko Maruyama (4/10/26)

Yasunaga family, on the passing of Harue Yasunaga (5/29/26)

Shimizu family, on the passing of Wayne Shimizu

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

UPDATED 6.5.2026

Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:

- **Kyle Wada - engaged!**
- **Faith Babies this fall: Orleans-Iki, Tondo, Hayashida-Chang, Yamamoto...**

For healing and recovery

Church Members:

- **Joyce Matsubara**
- **Julie Inouye (surgery pending)**
- **Jennie Shitakubo**
- **Ally Kubo (4/17 - surgery)**
- **Jan Tanabe**
- **Christine Bone**
- **Audrey Goto**
- **Alice Kajiya**
- **Larry Takumi**
- **Harriet Tateyama**
- **Chic Miyake**
- **Pam Fink (recovery)**

- Destiny & Diane Ueda-Banda (4/27- surgery)
- Victoria DelaTorre (4/21 - surgery)
- Alvena Fukuhara & Tom (5/21 - surgery)
- Harry & Ruth Takaki
- Mae Nakakihara
- Mary Tamura
- Jan Tanabe
- Dan Yamashita

Community:

- Hisako Shohara (Jane Matsumoto's mother)
- Patti (spinal cord surgery; Patty's sister-in-law)
- Debbie Uyeshima Dillard (Susan's friend; thyroid cancer)
- Lyle (Alan's friend)
- Beatrix & Daniel (Julie's friend)
- Kaitlyn Sabedra
- First Lady Racelder Grandberry Trimble
- Rev. Gary Bernard Williams
- Jeanette Davis (Rhonda Benware's mother)
- Dave Delgado's family (mom, aunts, sister)
- Andie Montoya's Mom
- Mary & Bob Kiely (siblings of Ann Kiely)
- Tseyli Mantooth
- Kim Foster & Claretta Foster
- V'rhaniku Haynes: high risk

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, LEBANON, 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)
 - Tom Hoang (free! MAY 17th at Faith)
 - Mass Shootings (Shreveport)
 - The U.S. Military
 - All of God's children
 - May - Mental Health Month; AANHPI Month
 - Care for families (impact)
 - Food insecurity

- Kenny Medeiros
- Frank Sato
- The Shimizus
- Winnie Osaki
- Nancy Matsushima
- Mary Tamura
- Ruth Hirata
- Faith Tanaka
- Irene & Tak Ryono
- Nobie Shiokari

pregnancy, 7months, baby girl (due June/July)

- Deborah Benjamin - finished her treatment (Kim Foster's friend)
- Walker Wilkerson
- Kiki Hashimoto (Sue Kunisaki -friend)
- Rev's friends: Stan Miyasato, Mari'a Cleverly, (Norma,
- Ashley)
- Raquel Martinez (Julie's goddaughter)
- Mrs. Davis (friend of Kim Foster)
- Douglas Higa (Lynne Vinluan's dad)
- Jehiel Vinluan
- Apolosi Lokotui
- Rev. Alan Mark
- Gordon Mark
- Those who are HOMEBOUND

- Ebola Virus outbreak (continent of Africa)
- 7.8 Earthquake in the Philippines

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord

- Harue Yasunaga (5/22)
- Jerry Osaka (4/16)
- Ted Nakano (4/7)
- Kazuko Maruyama (4/10); Kyle Wada's Grandmother, Helen Wada's mother

And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing

God of Abraham and Sarah,

Thank you for calling ordinary people into extraordinary adventures of faith.

When we cannot see the whole path, help us trust you.

When we feel unqualified, remind us that you are the hero of the story.

When we wonder who we are becoming, remind us that our identity is found in being your beloved children.

Bless us, that we may be a blessing to others.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.