

Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of September 27, 2026
18th Sunday in Pentecost
“Let All You Do Be Done in Love”



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:

Take a moment to breathe deeply.

As you breathe in, hear the word:

Love.

As you breathe out: **Let it be done.**

Again: **Love.**

Let it be done.

And one more time: **Love.**

Let all that you do be done with love.

OPENING PRAYER:

Gracious and loving God, we come together today grateful for the gift of community. We give you thanks for the joy we experienced through Faith Marketplace—the laughter, the food, the work, the generosity, the welcome, and the many hands that made it possible. We give you thanks for the saints whose love continues to shape us, especially those who have poured themselves into this community before us. Open our hearts today to your Word.

Help us to move beyond simply talking about love and to recognize love when we see it, to practice love when it is difficult, and to become people whose lives make your love visible. As we study Paul's words to the Corinthians, remind us that we, too, are a community of imperfect people called to practice a perfect love. May our conversation be honest, generous, curious, and kind. And may all that we do—and all that we say—be done in love. Amen.

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

1. Take a moment. Breathe in deeply... and breathe out slowly. Allow yourself to simply be present. How is it with your soul today?
2. **Where did you experience love this week?** Not necessarily a big dramatic act of love. Maybe a conversation. A kindness. Someone showing up. Someone remembering you. Someone making room for you.

Looking Back at the Marketplace

- Where did you see love in action at Faith Marketplace?
- What moment from yesterday made you smile?
- Was there a moment when you felt especially connected to this community?

- Who is someone you saw serving whose work might otherwise have gone unnoticed?
- Did you experience yourself differently—as a volunteer, shopper, host, donor, worker, or member of the Faith family?

Going Deeper

- When do you find it easiest to love others?
- When do you find it hardest?
- What kind of love do you need from your community right now?
- What kind of love might someone else need from you right now?

Complete this sentence:

3. “I know I am experiencing Christian community when...”

Be the Word: Scripture Lesson: **1 Corinthians 16:13-23**

What word, phrase, or image catches your attention?

Final greeting

¹³ Stay awake, stand firm in your faith, be brave, be strong. ¹⁴ Everything should be done in love.

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, I encourage you to do something else. You know that the people in Stephanas’ household were the first crop of the harvest to come from the mission to Achaia. They have dedicated themselves to the service of God’s people. ¹⁶ So accept the authority of people like them and of anyone who cooperates and works hard. ¹⁷ I’m so happy that Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus have arrived; they’ve made up for my missing you. ¹⁸ Indeed they’ve provided my spirit and yours with a much-needed rest. Therefore, give them proper recognition.

¹⁹ The churches in the province of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you warmly in the Lord, together with the church that meets in their house. ²⁰ All the brothers and sisters greet you. You in turn should greet each other with a holy kiss. ²¹ Here is my greeting in my own handwriting—Paul.

²² A curse on anyone who doesn’t love the Lord. Come, Lord! ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

L: The Word of God for ALL People.

P: Thanks be to God.

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

Exegetical Reflections & Commentary

A. Remember where we are in 1 Corinthians

It is easy to hear “Let all that you do be done in love” and imagine that Paul has written a beautiful, peaceful reflection about love. But that is not the situation at all. **Corinth was a complicated church.** There were divisions and factions. People were arguing over leadership. They were comparing spiritual gifts. There were disagreements about worship, food, status, sexuality, money, and how they should live together. The church was diverse—but its diversity was producing division. Enter Paul’s famous chapter on love. And this is important: **1 Corinthians 13 was not originally written for a wedding.**

It was written to a church that was struggling to be a church. As one Working Preacher commentator observes, Paul places the love chapter in the middle of his discussion about spiritual gifts because the Corinthians’ gifts were not enough to sustain community; love was the necessary way of living with difference.

So when Paul says, “Let all that you do be done in love,” he isn’t saying: “Everyone be nice.” He’s saying something much more challenging: **Let love become the standard by which you use your gifts, exercise your freedom, disagree with one another, make decisions, and live together.** That’s much harder. And much more beautiful.

B. “Let all that you do...”

The word “**all**” matters. Paul doesn't say: Let the important things be done in love. Or: Let church things be done in love. Or: Let the things you agree about be done in love.

All. The mundane things. The exciting things. The difficult things. The things nobody notices. The things everyone notices. The decisions. The disagreements. The meals. The meetings. The work. The welcome. The cleanup. The way we talk about one another when they're not in the room. **All of it.**

And suddenly, yesterday's Marketplace becomes a really good illustration. Love was not simply the feeling in the room. Love was expressed through **action**. People baked. People cooked. People carried. People organized. People cleaned. People welcomed. People gave. People showed up. That is precisely the kind of active love Paul is describing.

One commentator notes that in 1 Corinthians 13, the descriptions of love are actually expressed as **verbs** in Greek—love acts patiently, acts kindly, and so forth. Love isn't passive; it does something.

- **What is the difference between “feeling love” and “doing love”?**

C. LOVE IS NOT JUST AFFECTION

This is an important distinction for the group. The Christian understanding of love here isn't simply: “I like you.” It isn't: “You make me feel good.” And it certainly isn't: “I love people who are just like me.” Paul is addressing a community where people **don't agree**. That is precisely why love matters.

As one Working Preacher commentary puts it, Paul's vision is not sentimental or “Hallmark-style” love; it is a foundational ethic for a church trying to live together amid difference and disagreement.

- **Can we love someone without agreeing with them?**
- **What might that look like in a church community?**

And perhaps the harder question:

- **What does it look like to love someone when we are genuinely frustrated with them?**

D. “BE ALERT. STAND FIRM. BE COURAGEOUS. BE STRONG.”

These commands are interesting because Paul puts them immediately next to: “**Let all that you do be done in love.**” Love does not mean becoming passive. Love takes courage. Sometimes love means speaking. Sometimes love means listening. Sometimes love means setting a boundary. Sometimes love means apologizing. Sometimes love means staying at the table. Sometimes love means making room. Sometimes love means saying: “I don't agree with you, but I am not going to stop treating you as a beloved child of God.” That is a much stronger understanding of love than simply being nice.

- **Why do you think Paul pairs courage and strength with love?**
- **What does courageous love look like in a church?**

E. THE SAINTS IN THE TEXT

One of the things I love about the end of 1 Corinthians is that Paul begins naming people. He mentions **Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus**. He recognizes those who have served. Those who have worked. Those who have refreshed others. And then he says: “Acknowledge such people.” Paul understands that communities are built by people. Not just ideas. Not just programs. Not just buildings. **People.**

And isn't that exactly what we experienced at Marketplace? There were the visible leaders. There were the people everyone knew. And then there were dozens of people whose names many of us

may not know. People who quietly did the work. Paul says: **Notice them. Honor them. Acknowledge them.**

- **Who are the “Stephanases” of Faith?** Who are the people who quietly serve? Who refresh others? Who make ministry possible? Who rarely receive recognition?
- **What happens to a community when we learn to notice and name the people who serve?**

F. PEARL, BARBARA, AND LARRY: LOVE THAT REMAINS

This weekend we remembered Pearl. We remembered Larry. And through Larry, we remembered Barbara. **People don't stop being part of a community simply because they aren't physically present.** Their influence remains. Their stories remain. Their practices remain. Their love remains. Pearl's witness continues in the Marketplace. Barbara's work continues in the Little (Now GIGANTIC MARKETPLACE) Store. Larry's presence remains in the memories of those who loved him. And this connects beautifully with Paul's closing words. Paul isn't simply saying: “Here's a list of information.” He's saying: **Remember these people. Honor these people. Recognize the people who have loved and served among you.**

- **Who is someone whose love helped shape your faith?**
- **What part of their love do you hope to carry forward?**

MORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Community

1. **What do you think made the Marketplace feel welcoming to people who weren't part of Faith?**
2. Steve said, *“This is the nicest and most welcoming church.”* What do you think he experienced that made him say that?
3. Dexter said, *“You are all my kind of people.”* What does it mean for a church to become a place where people feel they have “their kind of people”?

Love in Action

4. **What is one ordinary act that can communicate extraordinary love?**
5. **Which is easier for you: receiving love or giving love? Why?**
6. **Where might you confuse love with simply being nice?**

Difficult Love

7. **What does “let all that you do be done in love” mean when you're tired, irritated, disappointed, or angry?**
8. **Can boundaries be an act of love? Why or why not?**
9. **How can we disagree without allowing disagreement to become division?**

Church

10. **What does Faith look like when we are living at our best?**
11. **What do we hope someone who walks through our doors for the first time experiences?**
12. **What would it mean for “Marketplace love” to become everyday Faith UMC love?**

Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge]

A WESLEYAN “HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?” MOMENT

John Wesley famously used the question: “How is it with your soul?” So let's bring it back to love.

1. **How is it with your soul when it comes to love?**
 - **Where am I generous with love?**
 - **Where am I withholding love?**
 - **Where do I need to receive love?**
 - **Where do I need to offer forgiveness?**
 - **Where do I need courage?**
 - **Where might God be asking me to make more room?**

2. Who is God inviting me to love—not just with my feelings, but with my actions?

3. The “Do Love” Challenge

This week, don't simply think about love. **Do love.** Choose **one person** and **one action**.

Option 1: Notice

Notice someone whose work often goes unseen. Thank them specifically.

Option 2: Reach Out

Call or text someone you haven't spoken with recently. Don't wait for them to contact you.

Option 3: Welcome

Look for someone who might feel like an outsider and intentionally make room for them.

Option 4: Reconcile

If there is a relationship where you have been holding onto resentment, ask: **What would one small act of love look like?** It doesn't necessarily mean solving everything. It might simply mean taking one step.

Option 5: Remember

Tell someone a story about a saint who shaped your life. Keep their love alive by passing it on.

Option 6: Serve

Do one thing this week that nobody asked you to do. Something small. Something useful. Something loving.

And the challenge:

At the end of the week, ask yourself: **Where did I see love become action?**

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
Alice Kaiya
Alvena & Tom Fukuhara
Amy Higa
Amy Holmes
Anthony Anderson, Sr.
Apolosi Lokotui
Arlene & Ernie Santiago
Austin Maeda
Barbara Tamura
Betty Kobata
Bill Morris
Brian Okumura
Cami Bruns
Christine Keim
Claretta & Kim Foster
Cory Williams
Dan Segawa
Dan Yamashita
Deron Tokishi
Debbie Uyeshima Dillard
Diane & Destiny
Ueda-Banda
Dr. DoAnn Tsuneo
Kaneko
Elaine Yoshida
Eleanor Nagai
Emi Holmes
Faith Tanaka
Florence Nakakura

Emi Holmes
Rev. Gary Williams
Geri Shiraki
Glenn & Millie
Shimizu
Gordon Mark
Grace Tachihara
Grant Hanada
Kyle Ichikawa
Harry Manaka,
Sansei Rocker
Harry & Ruth Takaki
Herb Aoyama
Ingrid Peterson
Irene Munesato
Jack Honda
Jacqueline Wong
Jan Tanabe
Jayne Watanabe
Jehiel Vinluan
Jennie Shitakubo
Joanne Sato
Joelle Peelgreen
Jordan Sasaki
Joyce Matsubara
Joye Barker
Julie Inouye
Juliet Koyanagi

Kaitlyn Sabedra
Karlynn Fernandez
Kay Saxton
Kian Tehrani
Kiki Hashimoto
Rev. Kim Montenegro
Kelsey DeGracia
Kenny Medeiros
Kyle Ichikawa
Kyra Seki
Layne Nakasone
Linda Jung
Liz Harner
Lucas Yniguez
Marion Antoku
Maddie Sakurai-Lopez
Mae Nakakihara
Mary Jung
Mary & Bob Kelly
(siblings)
Mary Marchand
Mary Tamura
Maxine Butcher
Rev. Mike Hiranuma
Mutsuko Nishi
Nancy Matsushima
Naoh Miyagawa-Sue
Oscar Phillip Bland Jr.
Pam Fink
Paul Mito

Patty Kobayashi
Priscilla Kandel
Rachel Delgado
Raquel M. Martinez
Rose Ellison
Ron Hamaguchi
Rick Katsuki
Ruth Hirata
Ruth Taira
Ryo & Yuki Miyasaka
Sandra Minjarez-Grange
Stan Miyasato
Steph Matsunaga
Sue Hamada
Sue Hasegawa
Susan Mizuki
Susan Slade
Takai Finau
Teresa Sato
Tina Arguella
Tommy Sakaguchi
Tseyli Mantooth
Victoria DelaTorre
Vincent Gomez
Wailana Bulkley
Walker Wilkerson
Whitney Nakayama
Winnie Osaki
Yukio Inouye

**those in Community
Living & Homecare**
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**

celebrations and milestones

Rev. Eric Iki and Crystal Orleans-Iki on the birth of their third daughter, Cassie Yuna Iki (September 14, 2026).

Jessica (Tonda) and Derek Guan, on the birth of their daughter, Remi Rio Guan (August 25, 2026).

Tak Ryono, in celebration of his 99th birthday on September 9.

Irene Munesato, in celebration of her 100th birthday on September 11.

for All Our Saints

Barbara, Brian, Kevin and the Takumi Family, on the passing of Lawrence Takumi (September 15, 2026).

Flora and Ken Lee on the passing of Flora's Father, Harry Hayashi (August 2, 2026).

Harriet Tateyama and the Hiroshima family, on the passing of Harold Hiroshima (August 29, 2026).

The Hirai, Shimatsu, and Watari family, on the passing of June Hirai (August 18, 2026).

UPDATED 9.18.2026

Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:

September Birthdays:

- Jason Sasaki (9-14-26)
- Tak Ryono turned 99 on 9-6-26
- Claretta Foster turned 93 in August
- Christina Sunada (9-21-26)
- Danny Hirata (9-18)
- Eva (9-10) & Henry Nishi (9-19)
- Baby Cassie Iki (9-14-26)
- Baby Remi Rio Quan (8-25-26)

Prayers for the Community:

- Ky Seki & Joyce Matsubara
- Alvena Fukuhara at Kei-Ai
- Sue Hamada at home recuperating
- Herb Aoyama is recovering at home
- Barbara Takumi
- Winnie Osaki
- Ken Ito (successful knee surgery)
- Doris Shigihara
- Arlene & Ernie Santiago
- Norma Ishigo

- Bone Family* - Pam Fink (Christine's Mom), Liz Harner (Alan's Mom)
- Louise Sakamoto*
- Diane Ueda-Banda
- Victoria DelaTorre
- Dan Yamashita

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord.

- Larry Takumi (9-15-26)
- June Hirai passed away (Keith Watari) - Jane Shimatsu's sister
- Harold Hiroshima - Harriet Tateyama's brother-in-law
- Hozue Miyasaka (9-17-26)

Prayers for the World:

- Hurricanes/Flooding, Earthquakes, Fires
- Wars and Harm-Violence-Suffering... around the world
- Elections this Fall

And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing

Gracious God, thank you for reminding us that love is not simply something we feel. Love is something we do. Help us to be people who notice. People who welcome. People who serve. People who forgive. People who make room. People who stay curious. People who remain courageous. People who keep showing up.

When we are joyful, help us love. When we are tired, help us love. When we disagree, help us love. When we are hurt, help us love wisely. When we are uncertain, help us love courageously. When we remember those who have gone before us, help us carry their love forward.

May the witness of our loved ones give ourselves generously. May the memory of those who have laid the foundation remind us that the work we do today may bless people we will never meet. May the memory of those who have gone before us, remind us to treasure the people who make our communities what they are. And may the love we experienced through Marketplace not be something we leave behind with the tables and the boxes and the leftovers. May it become part of who we are. Because you have called us to be your people. Not perfect people. Not identical people. But a beloved community.

So send us from this place with one simple reminder: Let all that you do be done in love. May we not only say it. May we live it. May we not only wear it on a button. May we carry it in our hearts. May we not only experience it here. May we take it with us into the world.

And when we don't know what to do, remind us: Love. When we don't know what to say, remind us: Love. When we are tempted to give up on one another, remind us: Love. And when we wonder what it means to be the church, remind us: Love. In the name of Jesus Christ, who showed us the way of love, Amen.