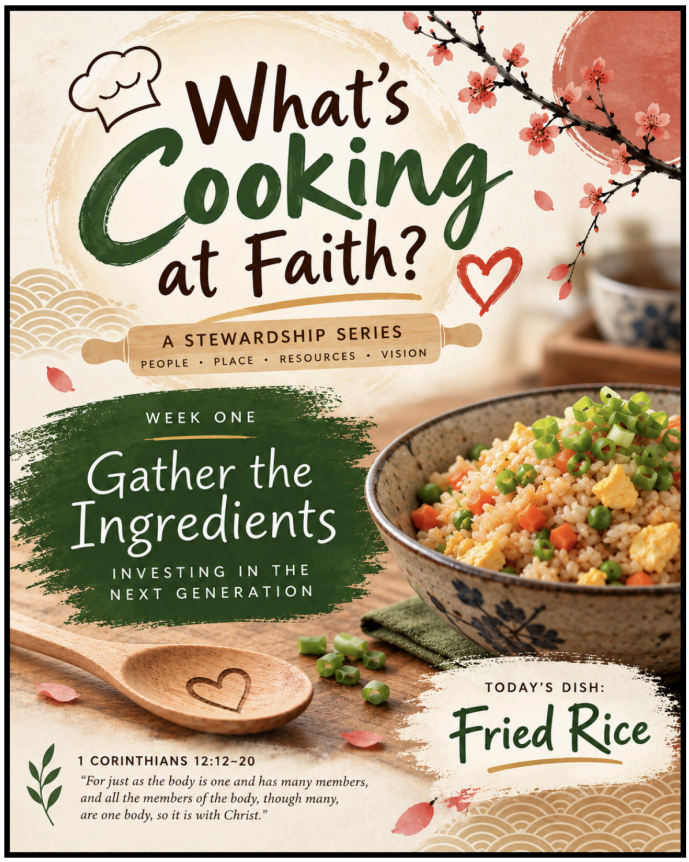
Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of November 1, 2026
23rd Sunday in Pentecost

Stewardship Series - Week ONE
"What Are We Cooking?"



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: A good meal takes more than one ingredient. Each brings something different, and together they create something wonderful.

The church is much the same. We come with different gifts, experiences, and abilities. God doesn't ask us to be the same, but invites us to bring what we have and share it with love.

OPENING PRAYER:
Gracious God, thank you for bringing us together, each with unique gifts and a place in your church. As we study your Word, open our hearts to learn, grow, and recognize the gifts in one another. Help us share what we have, make room for others, and serve with love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

Checking in - What's in Your Kitchen?

1. Take a moment to slowly breathe in and exhale to release the busyness of the day. Allow yourself to simply be present. How is it with your soul today?

2. What's your signature dish? What's one ingredient you (or whoever makes it) absolutely cannot leave out?
3. Who helped shape your faith? Think of someone who encouraged you, taught you, or made you feel that you belonged.
4. Have you ever felt like your gifts weren't important or that you didn't have much to offer? What helped change that feeling?

Be the Word: Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12–20

12 Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. 13 We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. 14 Certainly the body isn't one part but many. 15 If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? 16 If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. 19 If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? 20 But as it is, there are many parts but one body. 21 So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

L: The Word of God for ALL People.
P: Thanks be to God.

What word, phrase, or image stayed with you?

Be rooted: [Bible Study]

Understanding the Scripture — Brief Exegesis Breakdown

Context: The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Corinth, a community experiencing divisions and disagreements over spiritual gifts, roles, and importance.

Paul uses the human body as an illustration to remind believers that unity does not mean everyone must be the same.

Verses 12–13: One Body, Many Members

Through one Spirit, believers are brought together into one body in Christ. Our differences do not separate us from belonging.

Reflection: *What does it mean to belong to a church where people have different backgrounds, abilities, ages, and experiences?*

Verses 14–17: Different Gifts, Equal Belonging

The foot cannot say it doesn't belong because it isn't a hand. Neither can the ear dismiss itself because it isn't an eye.

Paul challenges the tendency to compare ourselves with others or believe that certain gifts are more valuable.

Reflection: *What gifts or contributions in our church sometimes go unnoticed?*

Verses 18–20: God Has a Place for Everyone

Paul reminds us that God arranged the members of the body, each with a purpose. The church becomes stronger when its different members work together.

Reflection: *How might our church change if we truly believed every person, including our children and youth, has something meaningful to contribute right now?*

Connecting Scripture to Sunday's Message

During worship, Darrell prepared fried rice using different ingredients, while Grandpa Stanley shared his homemade Communion bread.

Both reminded us that different ingredients contribute to something greater when brought together.

But the children's message gave us one more ingredient: **LOVE**.

Love is what turns our gifts into service, our generosity into ministry, and our congregation into a community where everyone belongs.

Group Discussion

1. **The Missing Ingredient:** If one ingredient is missing from a recipe, the result changes. What might our church be missing when we don't invite everyone to participate?
2. **The Next Generation:** We heard four important messages for our young people: I belong here. God loves me. I have gifts to offer. I can make a difference. How well are we living out these promises?
3. **The Secret Ingredient:** What is the difference between serving out of obligation and serving out of love?
4. **Stewardship Beyond Money:** How does Paul's teaching challenge the way we think about giving, volunteering, and investing in the church?

Something to Ponder…

Are we simply making room for the next generation at the table, or are we inviting them to help prepare the meal?

Be transformed: [Faith in Action Challenge]

From the Kitchen to the World — Putting Faith Into Action

Stewardship is more than what we give. It is how we care for what God has entrusted to us.

This Week's Challenge: Bring Your Ingredients!

Invite each person to choose **one** action for the coming week.

- **Give Your Time:** Spend time listening to or encouraging a child, teenager, or young adult.
- **Share Your Gifts:** Use a talent or skill to bless someone at church, home, or in the community.
- **Make Room at the Table:** Invite someone new to participate, contribute an idea, or take on a meaningful role.
- **Practice Generosity:** Prayerfully consider how your time, talents, prayers, service, and financial gifts can nurture Faith's ministries.

- **Lead With Love:** Do one thoughtful act of kindness without expecting anything in return.

A Question for Our Church

What is one thing Faith UMC can do to help our children and youth move from simply attending church to truly participating in its life and leadership?

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 Kajiya
Alvena & Tom Fukuhara
Amy Higa
Amy Holmes
Anthony Anderson, Sr.
Apolosi Lokotui
Arlene & Ernie Santiago
Austin Maeda
Barbara & Mary 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
Ellen Hokama
Emi Holmes
Florence Nakakura
Rev. Gary Williams
Geri Shiraki
Glenn & Millie Shimizu
Gordon Mark
Grace Tochihara
Grant Hanada
Harriet Tateyama
Harry Manaka, Sansei Rocker
Harry & Ruth Takaki
Herb Aoyama
Ingrid Peterson
Irene Munesato
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
Hian Tehrani
Kiki Hashimoto
Kim Foster & V'hraniku Haynes
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 Keily (siblings)
Mary Marchand
Maxine Butcher
Rev. Mike Hiranuma
Mutsuko Nishi
Nancy Matsushima
Ngina Tukutau
Noah 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
Susan DeGracia
Takai Finau
Teresa Sato
Terry Matsumoto
Tina Arguello
Tommy Sakaguchi
Tseyli Mantooth
Victoria DelaTorre
Vincent Gomez
Wailana Bulkley
Walker Wilkerson
Whitney Nakayama
Winnie Osaki
Yukio Inouye

those in Community Living & Homecare

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

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

The Noguchi family, on the passing of Iris Noguchi (98 years old).

The Tsuda family, on the passing of Jane Tsuda (October 4, 2026). A Celebration of Life for Jane will be held on November 14, 3pm at Faith UMC.

The Honda family, on the passing of Jack Honda (September 29, 2026).

The Matthew and Matt Cheung, on the passing of Matthew's mother, Yip Cheung (September 2026).

Ryo & Yuki Miyasaka, on the passing of their mother, Hozue Miyasaka (September 17, 2026).

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

UPDATED 10.30.2026

Prayers & Concerns / Announcements:

October Birthdays & Milestones:

- Doris Shigihara (93)
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHAD!!!
- Birthdays, Anniversaries…
    - Ron, Dave, Susan…
    - Harry
    - Miki & Neal
    - Dave & Susan
-

Prayers for the Community:

- Terry Matsumoto
- Ellen Hokama
- Kim Foster, Claretta Foster, V'hraniku Haynes
- 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 & Destiny Ueda-Banda
- Victoria DelaTorre
- Dan Yamashita
- Julie Inouye
- Leroy (Kim's cousin)
- Tam (recovery from surgery)

Absent from the Body, Present with the Lord:

- Iris Noguchi (98yo; passed 2 weeks ago
- Jane Tsuda (10-4-26); service November 14 at 3pm
- Jack Honda (9-29-26); Private Family Service
- 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)
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Prayers for the World:

- Hurricanes/Flooding, Earthquakes, Fires
- Wars and Harm-Violence-Suffering… around the world
- Elections this Fall—pray for all the nations!!
- The hundreds of faith leaders that attended the Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering in Calgary to listen and vision together what the future of the church looks like; and it came down to the people and relationships, communication, and being open to change to our systems!!
- Leadership

Traveling Mercies
Donna & Darrell Iki (Japan)
Julie & Alan Inouye (Japan)
Neal, Miki & Shoko (Japan)
Wade Inouye (Japan)
Tanis & Fujimoris (Japan)
Kathy & Kirk Miya (Hawaii)
Joanne & Dave Sato (Texas)
Eva Nishi (Hawaii - November)

<u>And Know that He is God: Closing Prayer & Blessing</u>

Gracious God, thank you for creating each of us with unique gifts and a place in your church. Forgive us when we compare ourselves with others or overlook the gifts around us. Help us recognize the value of every generation, especially our children and youth. Teach us to be generous with our time, talents, and resources, and to make room for others to grow and lead. Above all, may love be the ingredient that brings us together, so that everything we do reflects your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.