

## Family Daily Devotional Plan—Bible Month 2026

**NOTICE:** Here are prayers you can use for each week during your Bible Study



### Week 1

Lord of truth and mercy, free us from fear and silence.  
Let your Word be the anchor that steadies our Vaka,  
guiding us through the waves of stigma and despair.  
Strengthen us to speak boldly, to act compassionately,  
and to live faithfully.

May your truth shine in our homes, our parishes, and  
our nation, bringing healing and hope to all.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Week 2

Lord of hope,  
anchor our souls in your Word.  
Renew our minds, strengthen our faith,  
and guide our Vaka through the storms of life.  
May our testimonies shine as beacons of resilience,  
drawing others to trust in you. Amen.

### Week 3

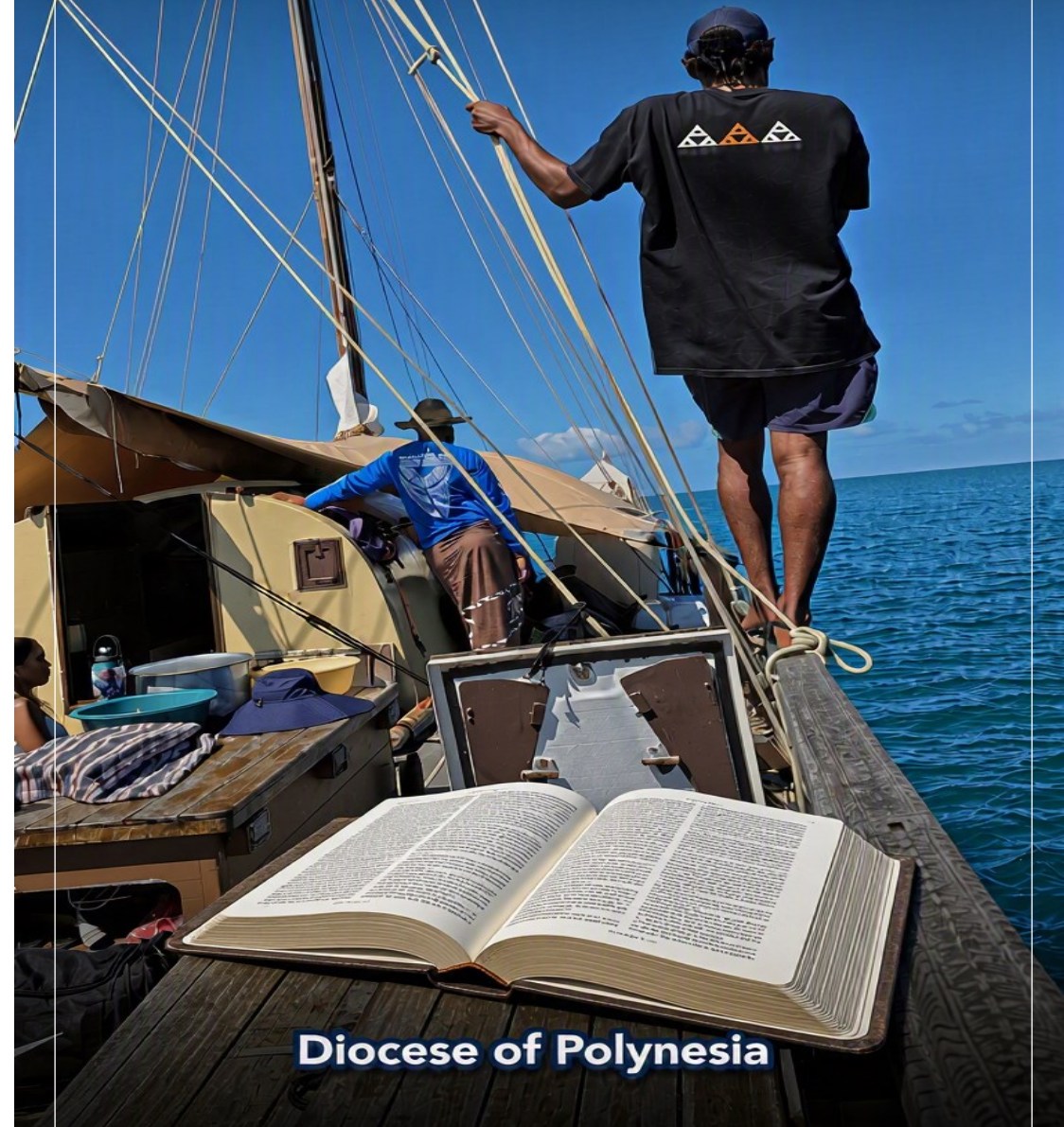
God of compassion, bind us together in love.  
Teach us to carry each other's burdens and to walk as  
one body. Break down walls of stigma and silence,  
and let our community be a place of healing and hope.

### Week 4

Spirit of mission,  
send us forth as light bearers.  
Teach us to act justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you.  
Empower our parishes to proclaim good news,  
to heal wounds, and to advocate for justice.  
May our Vaka sail outward with courage,  
carrying hope to the world. Amen.

# Anchoring our Vaka on the Word.

**Bible Month 2026 Parish Bible Study Resources**



**Diocese of Polynesia**

## Parish Bible Study Plan—Bible Month 2026

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*Amen*

Welcome to our Bible Month Parish Bible Study.

### INTRODUCTION

Our Bible Month Theme for 2026 is: **“Anchoring Our Vaka on the Word.”**

In our Bible Month we celebrate the Word of God by allowing it to speak life and light into the shadow cast by the escalating drug and HIV crises threatening our communities.

### Biblical Foundations

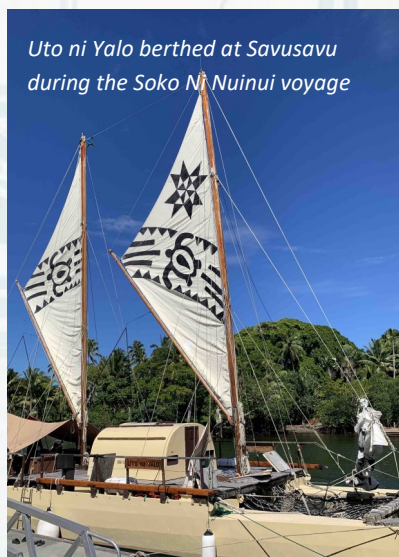
Our Bible Month theme: Anchoring Our Vaka on the Word is inspired by John 1:1-5 which describes Jesus as the eternal Word who was in the beginning with God, who was God and through him all things were created. He is the foundation and originator of all things in whom we anchor our Vaka. The Bible month is an exploration into the revealed Word of God in the Old Testament that becomes flesh in the New Testament in the person of Jesus Christ. becomes flesh in the New Testament. Jesus emphasizes the permanence of the words of scripture which reveal him as the Word in Matthew 24:35, Mark 13:31, and Luke 21:33, stating, "Heaven will pass away, but my words will never pass away." His teachings or words are permanent and eternal and therefore trustworthy and reliable to shape and form character, liberate minds and free persons from addictions and practices that threaten the flourishing of life and communities. Jesus further affirms the eternal nature of scripture in Matthew 5:18, saying, "...heaven and earth will disappear, but not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will by any means disappear..."

### Vaka as Metaphor for Church

Our Vaka is the Church, which embodies:

1. Each of us created individually in the Image of God
2. Our Homes and Households
3. Our Families
4. Our Church Communities
5. Our Diocese, and
6. Our Mission

The **Word** is representative of Scripture which reveals Christ to us as the eternal Word of God who was with God in the beginning and through whom and for whom all things were created. The **Word or Christ** is the **seabed**, upon which we **Anchor our Vaka** and the foundation of our faith.



## WEEK 4—ANCHORING IN MISSION

**Read Luke 4:16-21** – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to proclaim good news to the poor.” Mission is Spirit-driven — proclaiming healing, freedom, and justice.

**Read Micah 6:6-8** – “Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”

Mission is not optional; it is the lifestyle of God’s people. Justice, mercy, and humility are the compass points of our Vaka.

### Facilitators Notes

1. Mission is advocacy: speaking truth to power, defending the vulnerable.
2. Mission is healing offering compassion and practical support.
3. Mission is holistic: combining proclamation of the gospel with acts of justice and mercy.

### GROUP ACTIVITY

#### STEP 1: DRAFT PARISH PLEDGES

Each group writes one concrete action.

(e.g. Awareness campaign, Social media post, Community visit).



#### STEP 2: SHARE & PRAY TOGETHER

Read aloud our pledges & commit them to prayer.

Gather in unity to dedicate our mission to God.



*Lord, guide our mission*

#### STEP 3: DISPLAY OUR MISSION

Place pledges around a globe or cross to represent mission beyond the parish.



#### STEP 4: PLAN OUR OUTREACH

Decide on one collective outreach for the month.

*Let's go make a difference!*

- ✓ Serve with compassion
- ✓ Respect privacy
- ✓ Work together in love



## WEEK 3—ANCHORING IN COMMUNITY

**Read Galatians 6:1-10** – “Carry each other’s burdens.”

Community is God’s design for healing. When we share burdens, we embody Christ’s love.

**Read Acts 2:42-47** – “All the believers were together and had everything in common.” The early church modelled radical unity and generosity, showing that love is stronger than stigma.

### Facilitators Notes

Highlight the impacts of stigma in the community on those affected

1. Stigma isolates, but community heals.
2. Encourage empathy and pastoral care — listening, supporting, and walking alongside those affected.
3. Remind participants that the church is one body; when one suffers, all suffer.

#### STEP 1: ROLE PLAY SCENARIOS

Practice sharing struggles with drugs or HIV through role-play scenarios.

Learn to listen attentively to someone's story of struggle.

#### STEP 2: RESPOND WITH CARE

Practice compassionate responses as a group!

Show empathy, offer support, and respond without judgment.

### GROUP ACTIVITY

#### STEP 3: CARRY BURDENS TOGETHER.

Brainstorm practical ways the parish can help.

Support groups,  
visitation for those in need,  
Shared meals and fellowship.

#### STEP 4: OUR COMMUNITY COVENANT:

Create a "Community Covenant."

Make pledges to support one another:

- ✓ Listen with compassion
- ✓ Encourage & respect privacy
- ✓ Walk together in love.

## Family Daily Devotional Plan—Bible Month 2026

### Anchor as a Metaphor

Characteristics of an Anchor:

1. An anchor connects our Vaka to the depths and the seabed
2. An Anchor steadies our Vaka and stops it from drifting
3. An Anchor is a security guarantee
4. An Anchor is a Resting Point



An anchor must be dropped deep into the ocean, resting on the seabed to steady the Vaka — preventing it from being blown by strong winds or swept away by powerful currents and waves. Without the anchor, the vaka risks being wrecked on shallow reefs or battered against rocky shores.

Bible Month is our anchor. It draws us beneath the surface waves of our ordinary Christian routine, inviting us to dive into the depths of God’s Word and find rest upon the seabed — Christ, the Rock of our salvation. In Him, our homes, families, parishes, and communities are firmly secured. Here, faith is strengthened and resilience is built, especially among our youth and families facing the storms of drug use, abuse, addiction, and HIV.

The anchor also defines the safe boundaries of our faith, keeping our Vaka from colliding with others or drifting into danger. This is a Kairos moment — a sacred time to impart wisdom, knowledge, and understanding through Scripture. It is a time to shape minds, transform attitudes, and instill values that form strong character. Through this, our children and youth learn to make moral decisions that help them grow into the likeness of Christ.

As virtue increases, vulnerability decreases. Resilient youth will not easily drift beyond

the chain that secures the Vaka to the anchor — into the reefs of substance abuse, promiscuity, unprotected sex, trafficking, and addiction that bring havoc to our communities.

Dropping the anchor also signals a Resting Point. It is a time for the crew to pause, repair, and replenish their supplies. July, the midpoint of the year, offers us this same opportunity — to rest amid the storms of Drugs and HIV. In this sacred pause, we meditate on the Word, engage in daily prayer, and allow God to reconcile, restore, and heal our homes, parishes, and communities. It is a time to replenish our faith and renew our strength for the journey ahead. This is our Pastoral Response to the escalating Drugs and HIV crises — a pandemic affecting communities across our five national jurisdictions.

Throughout Bible Month, July 2026, we sail as **One Vaka** across **One Ocean**, united in **One Mission**: to anchor our Vaka (families and communities) firmly in Christ.

As His Grace ++ Sione Uluilakepa reminds us in his Charge to the 42nd Synod, our destination lies at the horizon — “where the ocean meets the sky, where earth touches heaven, where redemption and salvation converge — to bring forth an abundance of life.”

## Bible Month Parish Bible Study Themes and Program

| WEEK   | THEME                  | SIGNIFICANCE                               |
|--------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Anchoring on Truth     | <b>Truth</b> —Unmasks Lies and Stigma      |
| Week 2 | Anchoring on Faith     | <b>Faith</b> —Strengthens Resilience       |
| Week 3 | Anchoring on Community | <b>Community</b> —Heals & Supports         |
| Week 4 | Anchoring on Mission   | <b>Mission</b> —Sends us Outward with Hope |

### WEEK 1—ANCHORING ON TRUTH

**Read John 8:321-36** – The truth will set you free. Truth is not just information; it is liberation. Jesus reminds us that freedom comes when we face reality honestly. In the context of drugs and HIV, truth breaks chains of silence and fear, opening the way for healing and hope.

**Read Hosea 4:1-10** – My people perish for lack of knowledge.

Ignorance is deadly. When communities avoid hard conversations or refuse to learn, they suffer. Knowledge rooted in God's Word equips us to protect families, confront harmful myths, and build resilience.

#### Facilitators Notes

##### Highlight Denial & Stigma :

Many families avoid talking about drugs or HIV because of shame. This silence allows problems to grow unchecked. Facilitators should emphasize that facing the truth is an act of love which protects bringing healing

##### Stress Truth as Liberation& Protection:

Encourage participants to see truth not as punishment but as freedom. When we acknowledge reality, we can act wisely and compassionately to protect our children, youth, community, and nation.

##### Step 4: Commitment

Close by asking each participant to share one truth they will carry into their family or community this week.

#### Group Activities

##### Step 1: Naming Myths

Invite participants to write down common myths or false beliefs about drugs and HIV (e.g., "It only affects certain people," "Talking about it encourages bad behavior")

##### Step 2: Breaking Silence

Tear up the slips of paper together as a symbolic act of rejecting lies.

##### Step 3: Replacing with Truth

Read aloud scripture verses (John 8:32, Hosea 4:6) and factual statements about Mental Health and HIV prevention and treatment. Place these truths on a board or wall as a visible reminder.

## WEEK 2—ANCHORING IN FAITH

**Read Hebrews 6:13-20**– “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul.”

Hope in Christ is not fragile optimism but a secure anchor. Just as a Vaka steadies in turbulent seas, faith steadies our lives in uncertainty.

**Read Romans 12:21-8**– “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Faith reshapes how we think and act. Transformation means resisting conformity to destructive patterns and embracing God's wisdom in daily choices.

### Facilitators Notes

#### Emphasize that Faith is Resilience

1. Faith is resilience: it empowers families to endure hardship and uncertainty.
2. Faith is active: it renews minds, strengthens hearts, and inspires practical action.
3. Encourage testimonies of God's faithfulness in personal or communal struggles.

### FAITH GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Step 1: SHARE TESTIMONIES**  
Share your stories of resilience through faith.

**Share Testimonies**—Invite participants to share short testimonies of resilience through faith.

**Step 2: DISPLAY THE TESTIMONIES**  
Pin your cards around the anchor of hope.

**Share the Testimonies with the whole Church**—Organise a space somewhere visible in the church where you can write these testimonies on cards and place them around a symbolic anchor image.

**Step 3: PRAY TOGETHER**  
Gather for prayer and seek God's strength.

**Pray together**  
Ask God to renew minds and strengthen Hope.

**Step 4: TAKE FAITH-DRIVEN ACTION**  
Commit to a step of faith this week.

**Commit to one faith-driven action**  
Commit in the coming week to a faith-driven action (e.g., prayer walk, fasting together etc).

#### Close with a Prayer

Lord of hope,  
anchor our souls in your Word.  
Renew our minds, strengthen our faith,  
and guide our Vaka  
through the storms of life.  
May our testimonies shine  
as beacons of resilience,  
drawing others to trust in you.  
**Amen.**