

KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025
SERMON: LOST AT SEA
SCRIPTURES: PSALM 119:105 & EPHESIANS 2:19-22 & PROVERBS 3:5-6
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Scriptures:

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Sermon: Lost at Sea

Before diving into these scriptures, I just have to say, I am so thankful for modern technology. Throughout history we can see how much technological innovations have helped people's everyday lives and helped improve society. Fun fact, did you know that the Iolani Palace had electricity installed before the White House did.

Anyway, being in any new place with new surroundings (as the interns and I are currently experiencing) makes you realize how much help you need getting around. Just this past week, when Jacob was teaching me how to drive a manual car, a person on a bike asked me as I was at a stop sign, "Do you know where _____ street is?" I told him "No, I'm sorry." But what I really wanted to say was, "Actually I'm not from here, but even if you asked me in the place I grew up in, I probably wouldn't be able to help you either."

It's the sad truth, I use GPS so much that I recognize where I am based on buildings, houses, and fast food places. I am not the most aware of what streets I'm on to get to my destination.

I think GPS is AMAZING. It tells you where to go and even gives you early indications of when you're about to turn. I will admit, even with the visual and audio help, I have missed an exit a handful of times..

I give way more credit to my parents' generation and older who were simply able to memorize streets and have to navigate their way with a paper map. Without the help of a voice telling them, "Take the next left in 400ft, your destination is on the right".

Last week, Pastor Irene shared with us about Travel Time and what happens on our journey. It's not always about when we arrive at our destination, but what happens as we journey to the destination.

When traveling we can use different methods of transportation, different tools or instruments to help us navigate, and possibly have different people join us along the way.

Speaking of traveling, there is a specific type of traveler that has caught my attention as the interns and I have learned more about Hawaiian and Polynesian culture. That type of traveler is the **WAYFINDER**.

Are any of you guys familiar with wayfinders?
If you're not, let's take a look at this picture:



Historically, Pacific Islanders navigated open-ocean voyages without instruments (such as a compass, sextant and clocks, or more recently, the satellite-dependant Global Positioning System (GPS)). They used their observations of the stars, the sun, the ocean swells, and other signs of nature for clues to direction and their location at sea.

<https://hokulea.com/polynesian-wayfinding/>

In the 20th century, the practice of wayfinding was on the brink of extinction, until a man named Nainoa Thompson led the revival of wayfinding. He was mentored by Mau Piailug, a master navigator from the island of Satawal in Micronesia. With Mau's mentorship, Nainoa was able to successfully travel from Hawaii to Tahiti and back without the use of navigational instruments.

When Matt took us interns to the Bishop Museum, we were able to have a virtual wayfinding experience to figure out how to navigate our way from Hawaii to Tahiti and back. The Planetarium mimicked the night sky and what it would be like to navigate the stars.

We learned that the North Star is not always the easiest to find, but we can use other stars to help us find the North Star. Then as the sun sets and constellations move, we can find our way.

I could barely memorize the handful of stars they told us to remember. Yet wayfinders memorize the houses of over 200 stars. "Star houses" refers to the 32 divisions of the star compass, each representing a direction on the horizon where stars rise and set. The star compass helps wayfinders navigate their way through the open ocean.

As we interns were virtually journeying back on our way from Tahiti to Hawaii, we had to look out for a certain star and the distance between the horizon using our fingers. If we went too far, we would end up in Alaska but luckily we navigated our way back to Hawaii successfully.

So what does any of this have to do with our Scriptures today?

The rebirth of wayfinding reminded me a lot about our journey of faith as followers of Christ. We begin our voyage out at sea confident in our newfound faith. We are new to wayfinding (or what we can call "**The Way**"). John 14:6 **Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."**

As we are new to "The Way", we can eventually get to a place where we are confident on our faith journey. We might currently be in a place where we are following God and truly feel at peace in life, our place in church, and assured of the path we are on. You're riding the waves, following the stars, and navigating the ocean well.

But sometimes we can find ourselves feeling lost, confused, or discouraged on our journey.

Sometimes life knocks us off course, maybe something unexpected happens. Or maybe we don't make a right turn, and now we've ended up in Alaska instead of back in Hawaii. Sometimes we can take ourselves off course by making decisions that create a rift between us and God.

We can let the worries or state of our job, family, the world, death, physical disabilities, keep us from seeking God. We can get to a place where we might be angry or frustrated at God.

Ultimately, feeling lost at sea.

It's like the clouds that block the stars and the sea that rages in a storm. Where it becomes almost impossible to figure out where you're at or where you're going. The good news is, we're never completely lost, we just have to get back on course.

Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path"

We can turn to the word of God and study the word of God to help us on our journey in life. Instead of immediately turning to other people, social media, google, or chatgpt for advice. You can look for truth and guidance in the Bible.

The word of God can be like the stars that the wayfinders use to find their way. The more we memorize scripture (like the wayfinders memorizing over 200 houses of stars) the easier it is to find our way or continue on "The Way."

But the thing is, as helpful as Scripture is, we cannot walk on our journey of faith alone. Just as Nainoa Thompson had to be mentored by an experienced wayfinder. We need people in our lives that know the Bible more and have walked through their faith longer to help us navigate our own journey.

Ephesians 2:19-22

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit."

As followers of Christ we are part of a new family and we can lean on and ask for advice from other seasoned believers. We are never alone on our journey because we know we can always call upon God (Isaiah 41:10a **"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God"**). At the same time God can also put people on our journey to help us when life gets a bit harder or we are wrestling with questions and doubts that maybe others have wrestled with themselves.

Maybe you're in a season of life where you don't feel lost or discouraged. You've been journeying "The Way" for a while. But I assure you that there probably was a time when you felt frustrated, confused, and maybe thought about giving up on God. How did you navigate that journey, who was there for you in that difficult time? How did you overcome it?

Today I challenged you seasoned journeyers of "The Way," how can you help others in the body of Christ on their journey?

As we study the word of God and invite help from mentors in our lives, we can trust that God will help us find our way.

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

What or where are you turning to to find your way?

Do you trust more in your job, your family, your significant others, the government, or the church more than God?

Where are you at in your journey of faith and do you feel like you are truly on the path God has for you?

You can trust that if you continue on your journey, God will help guide your path. Even if it's not clear right now, even if you feel like you don't belong, even if you have doubts, God has a way of bringing you back.

Sometimes we can make mistakes that can lead us farther from walking in righteousness, but we can get back on track. Like a wayfinder finding other constellations to get back on track, or like your GPS that reroutes your path. You'll still get to your destination eventually, it just might take longer and with unexpected turns or challenges.

It's easier to find your way when you aren't alone. Be humble and open enough to have someone more wise and experienced to help you navigate your own journey. For more seasoned journeyers, be available and willing to help newer journeyers on "The Way." For example, I am learning how to drive a manual car. Do I enjoy it, no. Have I been learning on my own, no. I asked someone more experienced than me, even if it's only 2 weeks more experienced than me. Jacob taught me how to drive.

I was freaking out, I messed up, I felt discouraged. I was afraid. But I did it. When I messed up or didn't know what I was doing, Jacob switched the gear for me, reminded me to go into second gear. He was calm, not judgmental or harsh. He was willing and patient to help me navigate this new form of traveling. When I kept stalling and couldn't make a left turn. The people in the car behind me got out and pushed us to the side of the road. I can tell you, that was a terrible feeling.

Our journeys can feel a lot like that, challenging, discouraging, you feel like you want to give up. You might be too tired or frustrated along the way that you would rather turn back or have someone else take over.

Yet you always have an option to keep going. On your journey of faith you can seek guidance through prayer, reading the Bible, and being open to mentorship/mentoring. You can be assured that God will not leave you or forsake you. That no matter what you may be experiencing, God will take you where we need to be, even if it doesn't feel or look like it right now.

When we feel lost at sea, let's remind ourselves that we are not alone and can go through the storms of life together. Amen.