



I will pursue the faithful LIFE,
Reaching up to God each day,
Reaching out to serve someone this week,
And **reaching** one more person with the love of God.

- *The Clay Church Covenant*

Each week, we say the words of the Clay Church Covenant. As a community seeking to follow Jesus together, what do we mean when we say these words? How do they define us as a people and as a community? How do we reach up to God, reach out to serve, and continue the effort to reach more people with the love of God?

REACH

AUGUST 7

REACHING – A FAITHFUL LIFE

Luke 9:18-27

To reach is “to stretch out in a certain direction in order to touch or grasp something.” Our Clay Church Covenant is all about reaching in order to grasp the life offered to a disciple of Jesus Christ. In the words of our covenant, “I will pursue the faithful life.” So what does it mean to be a disciple, and what is a faithful life?

To live a faithful life is to commit oneself to being *with* Jesus to learn *from* Jesus how to be *like* Jesus in every aspect of one’s life.

AUG 8-13

Monday	Read Luke 9:18-27. What do you think it means to be a disciple, or a follower, of Jesus?
Tuesday	Read John 13:34-35. What is distinct about the life of someone who follows Jesus?
Wednesday	Read Romans 1:16-17. How does one “live by faith” everyday?
Thursday	Read Colossians 2:6-15. If you believe that Christ “lives in you” (NIV), what impact does it make on your daily life?
Friday	Read John 3:19-21. What is the difference between living our lives in the light for all to see and hiding part of ourselves in the dark?
Saturday	Read 1 John 2:3-11. Where, in your life, do you need to grow to be more like Jesus?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. Being a true follower of Jesus isn’t a single declaration but a lifetime commitment, not an identifying label but a way of living. What is the difference between those who say they follow Jesus and those who truly live as followers of Jesus?
2. Some worry that being a follower of Jesus today has been reduced to attending worship and a weekly Bible study. From the readings this week and the sermon, what would you say defines a follower of Jesus, or in church terms, a disciple?
3. Pastor Brian invited us to consider the prepositions of a life following Jesus – being *with* Jesus every day, learning *from* Jesus every day, and doing our best to live *like* Jesus every day. What holds us back from living this way every day as followers of Jesus?
4. What step do you need or want to take in your life to more fully commit to living in faith every day as a follower of Jesus?

FaithFit Challenge: Identify one way you would like to grow as a follower of Jesus this month. Set a goal (pray 7 minutes each day, sign up for a Fall bible study, join a circle, etc.) and ask a Clay staff team member or a spiritual friend to hold you accountable to your goal.

REACH

AUGUST 14

REACHING UP – HOLY WORDS

Proverbs 4:20-27

What role does the Bible play in your life? Is Bible reading a habit for you? A struggle? Comforting? Confusing? Something else? Why does the Bible matter? Jesus says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” How can we keep the words of Christ active in guiding our lives?

Reading the holy words of the Bible leads us deeper into relationship with the Holy Spirit within us.

AUGUST 15-20

Monday	Read Proverbs 4:20-27. How can the words of the Bible be “life to those who find them” (NIV)?
Tuesday	Read Luke 21:29-36. What do you think Jesus means when he says that His words will “not pass away” (NIV)?
Wednesday	Read John 20:30-31. Why does the Bible matter?
Thursday	Read Colossians 3:16-17. What is the place and purpose of the Bible in the life of followers of Jesus?
Friday	Read Hebrews 4:12-13. How can the Bible guide words and actions and help you make decisions?
Saturday	Read Psalm 19:7-14. How has the Bible influenced your life, or the life of others you know?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. What role does the Bible play in your life?
What role would you like the Bible to play in your life?
2. How often do you read the Bible? Is anything holding you back from reading more?
3. How can reading the Bible help you live into the words of our covenant: “reaching up to God each day?”
4. In the message, Pastor Brian talked about ways the Bible can be “life-giving”.
What are ways that you’ve experienced the Bible giving life, hope, or joy?
5. What is one step you could take this week to let the Bible become more of a guide and life-giving source for your life?

FaithFit Challenge. Download a Bible app on your phone if you don’t already have one. Sign up online, or on your phone, for a daily Bible reading challenge.

FaithFit Challenge Extra. Sign up for Pastor Brian’s Bible 101 Class to learn more about the Bible, including background on how it came to be and a variety of ideas for how to engage in more daily reading and study.

REACH

AUGUST 21

REACHING OUT – HOLY HANDS

Luke 22:24-30

Jesus encouraged those who wanted to follow Him to serve as He served. So what does a life of service in Christ look like? Serving as Christ served is more than an occasional act of kindness; a once a year, check off a box event. Serving as Jesus served includes loving one's neighbor, offering time, giving freely, and being willing to sacrifice.

Every act of service offers a glimpse of God's kingdom.

AUG 22-27

Monday	Read Luke 22:24-30. What does Jesus teach about the practice of serving others?
Tuesday	Read Mark 10:17-31. For the follower of Jesus, what is the connection between service, generosity, and sacrifice?
Wednesday	Read Mark 10:35-45. How does our willingness to serve, or lack thereof, reflect our values and priorities?
Thursday	Read Galatians 5:13-15. What are ways we can "serve one another humbly in love" (NIV)?
Friday	Read Hebrews 13:15-16. How have you witnessed serving as a way to point others to the love of God in Jesus?
Saturday	Read 1 John 3:16-24. How is the example of Jesus a call to service not as a one-time event, but as a way of life?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. Share a time when you were part of serving someone.
Why were you serving? How did it feel?
2. The life of service that Jesus and the disciples model is more than occasionally signing up for a service day. What does a life of service and sacrifice in the way of Jesus look like?
3. What does it mean to you to promise, "I will reach out to serve someone this week"?
4. What are ways we can serve others in the course of our daily lives?
5. How do you serve weekly, or how would you like to serve weekly?

FaithFit Challenge: Make a list of the ways you have served someone in the last month. Next, make a list of how you intend to serve someone each week for the next four weeks.

FaithFit Challenge Extra: Visit www.claychurch.com/serve and contact a staff member or ministry leader about serving as part of the ministries of Clay Church.

REACH

AUGUST 28

REACHING ONE MORE PERSON – HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Acts 8:26-40

The final promise in the Clay Covenant is “to reach one more person with the love of God.” What does this mean, though? How do we reach one more person? There is no greater invitation of Jesus than to transform a life by introducing someone else to His love. For those who aren’t sure where to start, the Bible gives us some clues. What if we committed to more holy conversations?

God can use your witness, your story, your conversations, to transform a life!

AUG 29 – SEPT 3

Monday	Read Matthew 4:18-20. What do you think the invitation of Jesus to “fish for people” (CEB) means for the daily life of a follower?
Tuesday	Read Acts 4:8-13. Are you prepared to share why you believe in Jesus if someone asks? Why or why not?
Wednesday	Read Acts 8:26-29. How do you stay open and aware for the promptings of the Holy Spirit?
Thursday	Read Acts 8:30-40. If someone asked you to give an account of your faith or a short synopsis of the Bible, what would you say?
Friday	Read Acts 16:11-15. Where could you share your faith story?
Saturday	Read Colossians 4:2-6. What doors are you praying for God to open?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. Share a time when you have been blessed by a conversation you had with someone.
2. Brainstorm a list of questions that can help start a relationship, encourage deeper sharing and understanding, or help you learn someone’s story.
3. What are topics of conversation that can lead to talking about Jesus or your faith?
4. Jesus and the disciples began their ministry with the people they met along the path of their journey. In your circles of life and interaction right now, who could you reach out to better know his or her story?
5. If we believe that a child, a coworker, a friend, or a neighbor would be better off knowing the love of Jesus, what keeps us from sharing this good news with everyone?

FaithFit Challenge: During time with God in prayer this week, complete the following question: Since inviting Jesus Christ into my life, I’ve become _____.

FaithFit Extra Challenge: Host a dinner party. Invite a friend or two from Clay Church, and then invite two or three friends who aren’t part of the church. Preplan some questions to lead to sharing stories and talking about what is most important to you.