



Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? - 1 Corinthians 3:16

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. – John 1:12-13

Who are you? Who are you as a person? Who are you as a follower of Jesus? God says we who choose to follow Jesus are adopted into God's family, children of God. Jesus says those who follow will be even greater than he is. The New Testament letters say that together we are a temple where God dwells. What does all of this mean, and does how we answer the question of our identity change anything about how we live day to day? This month, let's each answer the question: Who am I as a follower of Jesus?

WHO ARE YOU?

JUNE 6

HOLD ON

REVELATION 22:6-7

The pandemic continues to take lives and change lifestyles. Cancer and heart disease seems to always be ravaging the life of someone we know or someone we love. Prejudice, crime, and drug addiction are always in the headlines. Justice and lasting peace elude us. The world seems more divided than ever. Weeping and pain and death seem to never go away. Where is hope? How do we hold on?

Followers of Jesus hold on to God's promise in the midst of trial and suffering.

JUNE 13

WHO ARE YOU?

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-6

Who are you? We find it easy to let others answer this question for us, and we jump to answers that reflect culture, location, human understanding. The Bible, however, reminds us that we are God's children, forgiven and freed by Christ Jesus with a role to play in God's kingdom. So how does your personal answer to this question impact your life and actions?

Remember who you are, and let your life show it to the world.

JUNE 20

GIVERS AND TAKERS

RUTH 1:15-18

According to Adam Grant, an organizational psychologist at Harvard, there are three kinds of people in the world – givers, observers (also called matchers), and takers. Givers and takers are what you would expect. Matchers give when they see they will get something of equal or greater value in return. So which are you? And more important, which does Jesus invite us to be?

God's people are known by their giving.

JUNE 27

YOUR MINISTRY

ROMANS 12:4-6

"So and so is more talented than I am," we say. "So and so is such a better Christian than I am." "So and so knows the Bible so much better than me." Yet the Biblical witness doesn't show God choosing the most talented, or least sinful, or most knowledgeable to make an impact in the world. God uses young and old, rich and poor, peasants and kings, those with shady pasts and those pledged from birth to serve. God works through those who say yes, anyone who is willing to be faithful, anyone willing to follow where God leads. So what will be your ministry?

Followers of Jesus know they have a part to play in God's transformation of the world.

WHO ARE YOU?

DAILY QUESTIONS

JUNE 7-12

HOLD ON

Monday	Read Revelation 1:1-20. What do you learn about John and John's audience in the first chapter of Revelation?
Tuesday	Read Revelation 2:1-11. What difference does hope make in your understanding of the Christian faith?
Wednesday	Read Revelation 4:1-11. How is John's vision similar or different than images you have of God and heaven?
Thursday	Read Revelation 6:1-17. What pains and struggles in the world today would we rather avoid or ignore?
Friday	Read Revelation 7:9-17. What pain or grief do you carry that with John's vision would be wiped away?
Saturday	Read Revelation 21:1-8. Does knowing how the Biblical story ends impact how you live today? Why or why not?

JUNE 14-19

WHO ARE YOU?

Monday	Read Genesis 12:1-3. Do you think of your life as blessed to be a blessing? Why or why not?
Tuesday	Read Romans 8:12-17. How does it feel to hear affirmation that you are a child of God?
Wednesday	Read 1 John 3:1-10. What does the life of a child of God look like?
Thursday	Read Galatians 3:26-29. What impact does it have on your life to belong to Christ, or to "clothe yourself with Christ"?
Friday	Read Matthew 5:13-16. How can your life add God's flavor and light to the world around you?
Saturday	Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-6. How is your life a letter from Christ to those you encounter?

WHO ARE YOU?

JUNE 21-26

GIVERS AND TAKERS

Monday

Read Ruth 1:15-18. Tomorrow

Tuesday

Read Ruth 2:1-16. How have you experienced blessing, like Ruth, when you have been generous with your time, talent, or resources?

Wednesday

Read

Thursday

Read

Friday

Read

Saturday

Read

JUNE 28 – JULY 3

YOUR MINISTRY

Monday

Isaiah 6:1-20

Romans 12

Tuesday

1 Corinthians 12

Wednesday

Read 1 Corinthians 13. How can your life be a ministry that reflects the “more excellent way” of love that Paul describes?

Thursday

James 1-2

Friday

James 3-5

Saturday

1 Corinthians 1:17-31

John 13:1-20

WHO ARE YOU?

HOLD ON

SERMON ON JUNE 6, 2021

Choose a question to get started!

- **What wrong on earth would you most like to see overturned by God?**
- **If you've recorded a game to watch later, would you rather know or not know the outcome, and why?**

Read Revelation 1:1-20.

When the book of Revelation comes up in conversation, the first ideas that come to mind for many people, inside and outside of the church, are words like strange, confusing, scary, fearful, and weird. Revelation is apocalyptic literature, a kind of writing that speaks of end times in order to bring hope to the reader or hearer. To us, reading today, the images and symbols don't make much sense, but we must remember that Revelation wasn't first written to us. Revelation was written to a first century audience by a first century Christian in a first century context of persecution and suffering.

- **What do you learn about John and John's audience in the first chapter of Revelation?**
- **How can one's mood or context of life – happy, sad, excited, suffering, etc. – effect how a story is heard or interpreted?**
- **Can you think of an example of how two people can read the same story or hear the same words or see the same movie and have different reactions?**

Read Revelation 4:1-11 and 6:1-8.

Marty Solomon presents this great research on understanding Revelation in the first century context of the Roman continuation of the Olympic games. Emperor Domitian ruled the Roman Empire in 80's and 90's AD, and he was building the largest gymnasium in the world in Ephesus. The games would begin with a procession. There were 24 officially recognized religions in the Roman Empire (Christianity was not one of them). Each of these religious groups had a representative to the empire, and these 24 representatives, wearing robes and crowns, would join the procession into the games before Caesar and sing praises to him. The Olympic games would then begin with a largely ceremonial contest – the chariot race. According to ancient sources, there were four chariots, each pulled by a horse of the same color – one black, one white, one red, and one tan (or pale colored). If you read the first 8 chapters of Revelation, you'll see these parallels (among others), which John uses to set up a comparison between the

WHO ARE YOU?

violent, unjust, and evil empire of Rome, and the just and good reign of God. The heavenly court of God, and the praises sung to Him, is even greater than that of the emperor. The four horses of Revelation, a nod to Caesar's show of power in the chariots, bring only death and destruction. John's message: You must choose which kingdom to give your allegiance. God is greater than Caesar. God's kingdom will stand in the end, so hold on. Don't give up hope.

- **Who are we, the church today - people of the empire or people of God's kingdom – and why?**
- **Who are we, the church today – people who live by fear or people who live by hope – and why?**
- **When can it be hard to hold on to faith in God's kingdom to come?**

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11 and Revelation 21:1-27.

One cannot begin to understand the book of Revelation until reading the Old Testament. Revelation is filled with references to the prophets, the Exodus, Genesis, and the story of King David. Revelation 21 speaks of the temple. For King David, the desire was to build a temple. Later, Ezekiel would prophecy that God's temple would be all of Jerusalem. Now, John's vision in Revelation presents a temple that is so much bigger than even the city of Jerusalem, big enough for everyone. God will reward those who remain faithful, remain true and cast away those who are enemies of love and justice. John's vision carries again this message, "HOLD ON!"

Followers of Jesus hold on to God's promise in the midst of trial and suffering.

- **What difference does hope make in your understanding of the Christian faith?**
- **How is John's vision similar or different than images you have of God and heaven?**
- **Does knowing how the Biblical story ends impact how you live today? Why or why not?**

FaithFit Challenge!

On your phone, set an alarm for three times each day – one in the morning, one in the afternoon, and one in the evening. When the alarm goes off (set it to vibrate if you're going to be at work or school), pray silently: "Come Lord Jesus". Then pay attention to how God answers your prayer throughout the week.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO ARE YOU?

SERMON ON JUNE 13, 2021

Choose a question to get started!

- **What is one of your best memories from childhood?**
- **How has your life been shaped by the example of a mentor or parent?**

Read Romans 8:12-17 and 1 John 3:1-10.

Psalm 103:13 says, "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him." This image of God as a Father and parent is continued into the New Testament, both in John and the letters of John, and by Paul in his letters. As children of God, note that our faith is defined not by what we do but by who we are. When a child comes into the world, it doesn't have to do anything to earn a parent's love. We don't have to do anything to earn God's love. And when a child is loved by a parent, shown what that love looks like, they live into it, and their lives come to reflect that love. They receive an inheritance. If we know the love of God, we inherit eternal life, and our lives will begin to reflect God's love as we live with this promise.

- **How does it feel to hear affirmation that you are a child of God?**
- **What impact does it have on your life to belong to Christ, or to be a child of God?**

Read Matthew 5:13-16 and 2 Corinthians 3:1-6.

Beginning last October at Clay Church, we began a walk through the Bible asking two questions:

- 1) How does my life help others to see and know the love of Jesus?
- 2) What are we doing to contribute to a more Christ-like community?

This month, we conclude our walk through the Bible and reflect on what we've learned. What does it look like to be a follower of Jesus? What impact does our faith have on our daily living? Jesus says if we follow him, we can be a light to the world. Paul says if we live by our faith, our very lives will be a letter of Christ's love to those we encounter.

Remember who you are, and let your life show it to the world.

- **As a Circle, complete the FaithFit Challenge for this week together.**

WHO ARE YOU?

FaithFit Challenge!

Using the one sentence summaries of the sermons from our walk through the Bible, reflect on what you have learned about life as a follower of Jesus in the past year.

- **Where have you been challenged?**
- **Where have you grown in your faith?**
- **Where would you like to continue growing as a follower of Jesus?**

Followers of Jesus... (A Year in Review)

- Followers of Jesus let God's word be the author of their lives.
- Followers of Jesus take time to play, rest, and give thanks for God's creation.
- Followers of Jesus are not controlled by desire, fear, and shame.
- Followers of Jesus respond to God's call with a promise.
- Followers of Jesus share God's story with others.
- Followers of Jesus let God's instruction shape their lives through every decision.
- Followers of Jesus regularly worship God.
- Followers of Jesus hold onto hope!
- Followers of Jesus live with a sense of expectation!
- Followers of Jesus find joy!
- Followers of Jesus live with the peace of assurance!
- Followers of Jesus share Good News!
- Followers of Jesus provide direction and purpose for others by living Christ-centered lives.
- Followers of Jesus listen and give audience to the voices of today warning of injustice, oppression, and the destruction of creation and community.
- Followers of Jesus know and accept the consequences of sin while seeking forgiveness.
- Followers of Jesus choose to serve in hope rather than hide in despair.
- Followers of Jesus show leaders respect but find their ultimate safety and security in God.
- In times of trial and suffering, followers of Jesus put their hope and trust in Jesus.
- Followers of Jesus follow the radical way of Jesus.
- Followers of Jesus aren't afraid to name, and face, the tensions of living a Christ-centered life.
- Followers of Jesus aren't afraid to make sacrifices to share the good news of God's saving grace in Jesus.
- Followers of Jesus embrace the least and last.
- Followers of Jesus live abundant lives by trusting Jesus!
- Followers of Jesus live and lead with assurance in God's promise.
- Followers of Jesus claim the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives.
- Followers of Jesus witness to others from their own identity and experiences how God is transforming lives.
- Followers of Jesus live freed from the power of sin by the forgiving love of God in Jesus Christ.
- Followers of Jesus orient all of life and community around the love of God and neighbor.
- Followers of Jesus are freed by Christ not to do whatever one desires, but to serve one another in love.
- Followers of Jesus engage with the church and the teachings of Jesus, always seeking guidance and growth.
- Followers of Jesus experience God's extraordinary through faith in Christ.
- Followers of Jesus trust God enough to share all thoughts and feelings.
- Followers of Jesus answer the call to live holy lives that reflect God's love and grace.

WHO ARE YOU?

- Followers of Jesus hold on to God's promise in the midst of trial and suffering.

GIVERS AND TAKERS

SERMON ON JUNE 20, 2021

Choose a question to get started!

- **If you had a million dollars to give away, where would you donate?**
- **What is the worst thing you ever spent money on?**

Read Ruth 1:1-18.

The story of Ruth and Naomi begins with tragedy and trial. Naomi loses her husband and both sons in the midst of a famine. The life of a widow in Biblical times, with no family left to care for her, would be brutally difficult. This is why Ruth tells her daughters-in-law to return to their own families. There they could start over, perhaps marry again, a luxury Naomi didn't have. This reality makes all the more startling the decision of Ruth to stay with her mother-in-law. Ruth is giving up a chance to start over for a life that likely would hold only poverty and struggle.

- **How do you define generosity?**
- **Would you be willing to give up all the comforts of life for a loved one?**
- **What is the difference between givers and takers?**

Read

"Although we often stereotype givers as chumps and doormats, they out to be surprisingly successful." – Adam Grant, Give and Take: Why Helping Others Drives Our Success, p. 9

"These givers reverse the popular plan of succeeding first and giving back later, raising the possibility that those who give first are often best positioned for success later." p. 9

Simon Sinek – Givers advance the world. Takers advance themselves and hold the world back.

[Givers] get to the top without cutting others down, findi

You

WHO ARE YOU?

- **Do**

Read

Our.

God's people are known by their giving.

- **In**

FaithFit Challenge!

Take a step forward in generosity!

- If you've never given to your church or another nonprofit organization, make a first gift.
- If you're giving regularly but not tithing, increase your giving by 1% for the next three months and see what God does in those three months.
- If you already tithe,

WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR MINISTRY

SERMON ON JUNE 27, 2021

Choose a question to get started!

- **What**

Read

The

- **What**

Read

You

- **Do**

Read

Our.

Followers of Jesus know they have a part to play in God's transformation of the world.

- **In**

FaithFit Challenge!