

# commitment

Series



Note: At the end of each study, you will see the following box:

**Faith • Hope • Love**

This is to remind us that as we pray for each other to grow in spiritual maturity, we should pray that we will grow in these ways:

- **Faith:** That we will learn to trust God in every situation and in all things.
- **Hope:** That we will grow to set our hearts on the treasure that we have in Jesus.
- **Love:** That we will grow in self-giving love - that puts others before ourselves.

# COMMITMENT SERIES 2022

<b>#1 - Committed to GOD'S GLORY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>#2 - Committed to GATHERING .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>#3 - Committed to GROWING .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>#4 - Committed to GIVING .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>#5 - Committed to GOING .....</b>	<b>12</b>

## Commitment

*/kə'mɪtm(ə)nt/ the state or quality of being dedicated to a cause, activity, etc.*

People are committed to lots of things in life today. Being 'overloaded' with various commitments is not an uncommon problem for us as we face the busyness of life and work and relationships. Depending on our stage of life, we dedicate ourselves to different things like study, family, to our work or growing our business. We're committed to our lifestyle, our relationships, our homes, our holidays, our fitness and much more! These commitments pull us in many different directions, stretching us, draining us and challenging us as we seek to live God-honouring lives.

But what commitments does God call us to as Christians? What does it look like for us to be dedicated to God's cause in the world? How might my life be challenged if I were to consider God's priorities over and above those mentioned in the paragraph above? What does the Bible say about what Christians are to commit themselves to?

In this short series we'll be looking at five commitments that God calls his people to. I hope and pray that, as we launch into a new season of vision together as a church, ***to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus***, this series might help reset our hearts, re-shape our culture, our commitment, and our convictions as we dedicate our lives first and foremost to God's purposes in the world for us and in community together as St Faith's Church.

God bless,  
Ben Molyneux

# #1 - Committed to GOD'S GLORY

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*What do you think of when you hear the word "glory"? What are some of the images or descriptions that come to your mind (they don't need to be related to God at this point).*

*How would you describe the idea of God's 'glory' from the Bible? How is it described? Where is it seen? How is it spoken of?*

As those who follow and trust the Lord Jesus, **we are committed to God's glory**. Our desire is to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ **for God's glory**. Our ultimate goal and purpose is to bring glory to God.

1. Do you think the events of the last couple of years have limited our ability to glorify God? Why/why not?

**Read Psalm 96**

2. Why does the Psalmist glorify God?

3. How does the Psalmist glorify God?

**Read 1 Peter 4:1-11**

4. What is the situation of Peter's readers (see 1 Peter 4:12)?

5. How does Peter encourage them to act?

6. What will the result of their actions be (see vs11)?

7. Is this result impacted by their circumstances?

⇒ *How do we bring glory to God in our lives?*

⇒ *What are ways that we can live for God's glory in the following areas (pick a couple and share with your group):*

○ *Family*

○ *Work*

○ *Church*

○ *Money*

○ *Time*

○ *Decisions*

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## #2 - Committed to GATHERING

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Begin your time together by reading together the article: [‘Gathering as the Church: the excuses we make \(and why you should commit anyway\)’](https://stfaiths.co/julymag) from the July edition of the St Faith’s Community Mag. Discuss this together. You can find it here: <https://stfaiths.co/julymag>.

As those trust in the Lord Jesus, **we are committed to gathering**. As we seek to ‘make disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God’s glory,’ our commitment to one another in regular Christian fellowship, both in small (relationships), medium (Community Groups) and large (congregations) gatherings, is vital in shaping us to be the people God calls us to be.

Spend some time in your group reflecting on the early church in Acts.

### Read Acts 2:42-47

1. From these verses, list below the things the early church in Jerusalem were devoted to.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Below are several ways in which the church in Jerusalem has been described. What evidence is there of this in these verses? Discuss together.
  - A learning church...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - A loving church...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - A worshipping church...
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - A missional church...

3. How would you describe the attitude / character / commitment of the people in this church?
  4. Reflect on your answers above. In what way(s) does our fellowship at St Faith's reflect these same commitments? How is it different?
  5. Reflect on your devotion to these things (from question 2). If you're brave, share together.
- ⇒ *To what extent should we imitate the early church's example of having everything in common (v44-45). What might that look like in practice?*
- ⇒ *Discuss some of the dangers for a Christian who thinks that they don't need to be in regular fellowship with others. How can our fellowship together keep us on track following Jesus?*

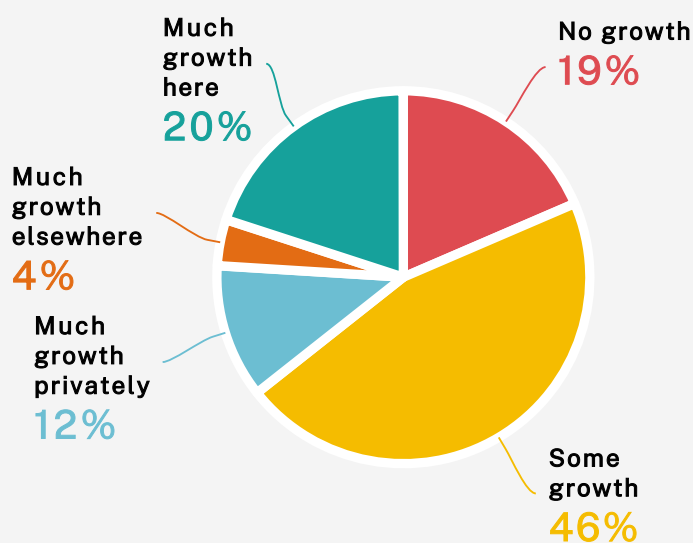
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## #3 – Committed to GROWING

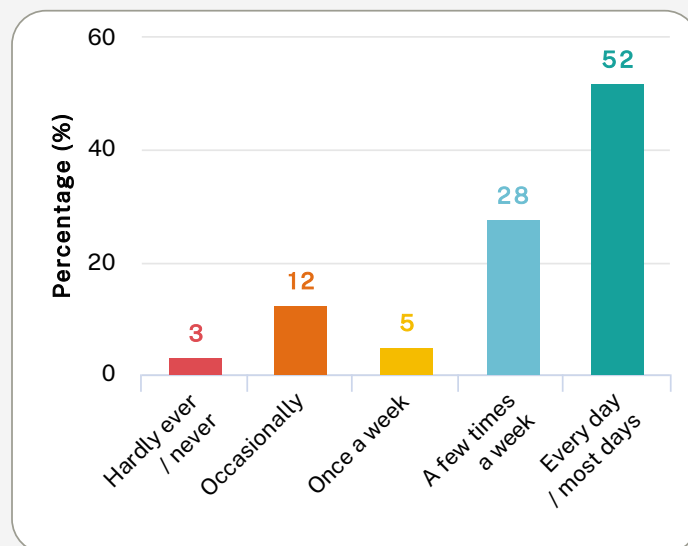
Every five years, our church participates in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS). Below are two graphs that outline how people at St Faith's (who participated in the survey) relate to God.

Reflect on this together – where would you land?

**36%** of attenders said that they had experienced much growth in faith in the previous 12 months



**52%** spend time in prayer, Bible reading, meditation everyday or most days



Think back to a time that you were challenged to trust Jesus more deeply. What were the things that contributed to this time of growth? What did it look like?

Those who trust in the Lord Jesus know that the Christian life is one of continual growth! **We are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus.** The scriptures give us a greater mission than simply 'making disciples.' Instead, we're called to make disciples 'who grow to maturity in Christ.' Our commitment to spiritual growth (maturity) individually and together, is vital in shaping us to be his people and to how he will use us in seeing a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus.

Spend some time in your group reflecting on Paul's teaching about maturity in Colossians.

Read Colossians 1:24 – 2:10

1. Looking at verse 28, Paul's end goal is to present everyone mature (literally 'perfect') in Christ. In what ways does he plan to do that? Discuss what this means.

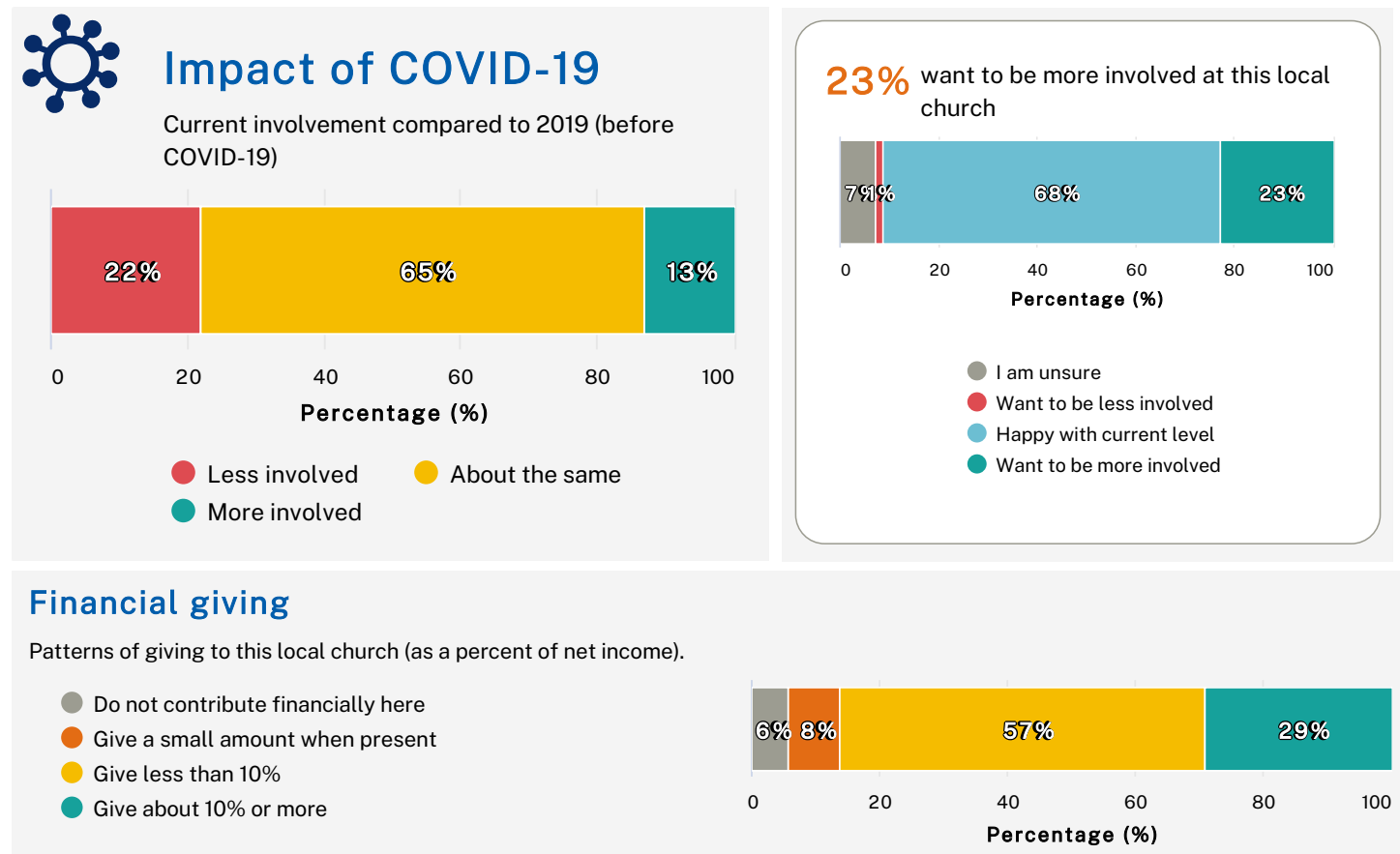


2. *Proclaiming Christ* and *teaching everyone with all wisdom* seem like obvious ways to grow people to maturity. What about *admonishing* others? What is that and how does it contribute to growth in maturity?
  3. Paul speaks of *strenuously contending* to the goal of maturity. Reading through these verses, what do you think that involved for Paul?
  4. Looking particularly at Colossians 2:1-5, what is the outcome Paul is hoping for, and his purpose in working so hard, to grow God's people to maturity?
  5. Paul provides two warnings to God's people in verses 4 and 8. How do such warnings help God's people to grow to maturity? How can these verses encourage us today?
  6. Read verses 6-7 again. In what practical ways do these verses help to summarise Paul's call and purpose to see God's people grow in maturity?
- ⇒ *Given what Paul says in these verses, think together about some practical ways that you might commit to growing in Christ moving forward?*
- ⇒ *As a Community Group, how can you 'strenuously contend' for one another in regards to maturity?*

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## #4 – Committed to GIVING

Again, considering some of the St Faith's data from the National Church Life Survey, consider the graphs below and share some reflections on this.



As disciples of Jesus seeking to grow to maturity in him, **we are committed to giving to God and his people through acts of service and deep generosity**, using our gifts and talents to build one another up in love as part of the body of Christ.

Read Romans 12:1-13

1. The Apostle Paul is about to make his appeal to the Romans based on the mercy of God (v1). How would you define and describe God's mercy to you?
2. What do you think it means to *offer your bodies as a living sacrifice*?

3. Looking at verse 2, with regards to service and generosity, what dangers are there in *conforming to the pattern of this world*? How can we overcome this tendency?
  4. Read v3-8 again. Why is it important for us to have a sober judgment of ourselves (v3)?
  5. Discuss together the metaphor Paul uses of the *body*. Is this a helpful image? Why / why not?
  6. These verses highlight a broad understanding of *spiritual gifts* which are both general and practical (serving, teaching, encouraging, leading, giving money, acts of mercy). How might this be an encouragement for us today as we seek to serve God and his people at St Faith's?
  7. How might our acts of service and demonstrations of generosity help you to *keep your spiritual fervour* (v11)?
- ⇒ *How can our service of God and his people help us to grow to maturity in Christ?*
- ⇒ *What are some practical ways that you might be able to apply this study in your own life?*

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## #5 – Committed to GOING

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*"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go un-warned and un-prayed for."*

*(Charles Spurgeon)*

*Consider the quote above. What stands out to you? What inspires you? What shocks you?*

As those who trust in Jesus and are on mission to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus, **we are committed to being God's hands and feet on the Beaches, sharing the gospel with our lips and our lives**, knowing the stakes are high!

### Read Revelation 7:9-17








1. John gives us a picture of God's end vision. What do we learn about it here? Describe it in your own words.
2. Go back to the beginning of the Bible and read Genesis 15:4-6. In what ways does this passage in Revelation sound like a fulfilment of that promise to Abraham?
3. Who will be before the throne? What will they have faced?
4. What are the multitude wearing? What is the significance of this? How did they obtain their white robes (v14)?
5. Looking through this passage, highlight words or phrases that John speaks of in his gospel (eg. 'lamb', 'living water' etc).

6. How does John's description here in Revelation 7 complement his vision in Revelation 21:3-4?

⇒ How does seeing God's end vision spur you on to mission today?

⇒ Refer back to your PEDALS card from last term. Who are you praying for? Recommit together to keep mission on the agenda in your Community Group by regularly praying for your friends and family who don't yet know Jesus.

# pedals! Who's Your 5?

Family Member		      
Friend		      
Neighbour		      
Work		      
Someone I'm yet to meet...		      

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16

Lord, please soften the hearts of those I have named, so they may accept you as their saviour. Amen.

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