



American Bible Society

STATE OF THE BIBLE 2019

Research conducted among U.S. adults
April 2019

Research commissioned by
American Bible Society

Research conducted by
Barna Group

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INTRODUCTION

This report contains the findings from a nationwide study commissioned by the American Bible Society and conducted by Barna Group. Two research methodologies were used for the study; one included 1,001 telephone interviews with adults 18 and older in the continental U.S., while the other was an online survey conducted with 1,012 adults using a nationally representative panel. A total of 2,013 interviews were conducted.

A subset of the questions was asked in the telephone survey, while all of the questions were included online. The use of two methodologies provides a larger sample size and ensures greater representation among all age groups, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups. Interviews were conducted from January 15 to February 7, 2019. The objectives of this research were to measure and track:

- Bible engagement
- Bible impact
- religiosity and spirituality
- perceptions of the Bible
- Bible penetration
- Bible literacy
- the Bible and technology
- moral perceptions and social impact
- experience with trauma
- perceptions of churches
- charitable giving

This report contains key findings from the telephone and online interviews completed for this study. Following the Introduction is the Data Analysis section, which is a written explanation of the results that also includes an analysis of the data's implications. The Appendices contain data tables and a more detailed description of the research methodology.

Survey Definitions

Segmentation of the findings is as follows:

Practicing Protestant, practicing Catholic: Practicing Christians are those who identify as either Protestant or Catholic, who attend a religious service at least once a month and who say their faith is very important in their lives.

Non-Practicing Christian: Self-identified Christians who are non-practicing as defined above

No faith/Other faith: Individuals who do not consider themselves Christian (including atheists, agnostics and other faiths); Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are also included, even if they describe themselves as Christian.

Other definitions used in this report include:

Bible User: Individuals who read, listen to or pray with the Bible on their own at least 3-4 times a year, outside of a church service or church event.

Skeptics: Skeptics believe the Bible is just another book written by men that contains stories and advice.

Unchurched: adults who have not attended a Christian church service in the past six months.

Generations:

Gen Z: those currently ages 2 to 19

Millennials: those currently ages 20 to 34

Gen X: those currently ages 35 to 53

Boomers: those currently ages 54 to 72

Elders: those currently ages 73 or older

Note: Because relatively few adults fall in the Gen Z category, Gen Z is not shown as a category on its own.

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

..... is measured as:.....



consistent interaction with the Bible that



shapes people's choices and



transforms their relationships.

We asked people fourteen questions about:



FREQUENCY

How often they interact with the Bible alone, in church, and in other settings.



MORAL CENTRALITY

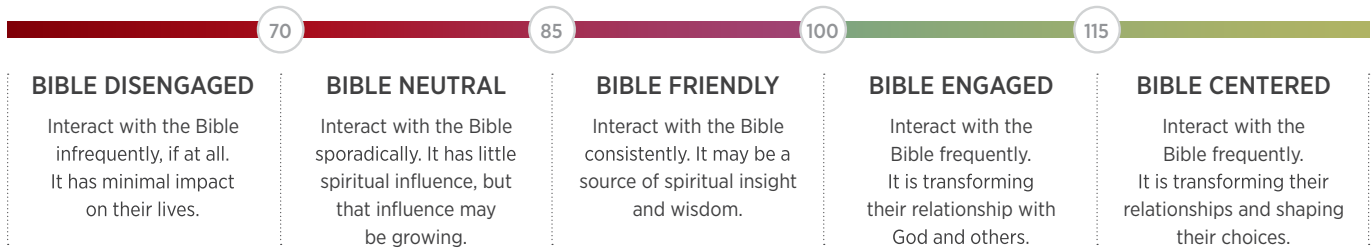
How much the Bible influences their choices.



SPIRITUAL IMPACT

How much the Bible influences their relationships with God and others.

And scored them on this scale:



DATA ANALYSIS

1. SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Bible Engagement Profile

[Table 1.1, pages 57-58]

Bible Centered (5% of the population) More often than not, Bible Centered adults are married females. They largely come from the Baby Boomer and Gen X generations, are 46 years old on average, reside in the South, and attend church weekly. Seven in 10 (71%) use the Bible every day, while the remainder read it several times a week (26%). Just 4% read it weekly or monthly.

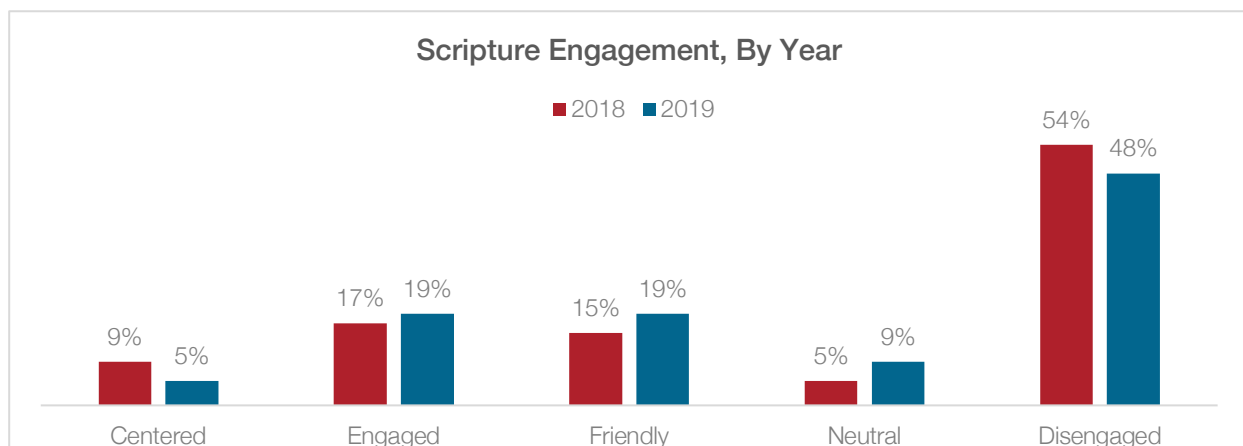
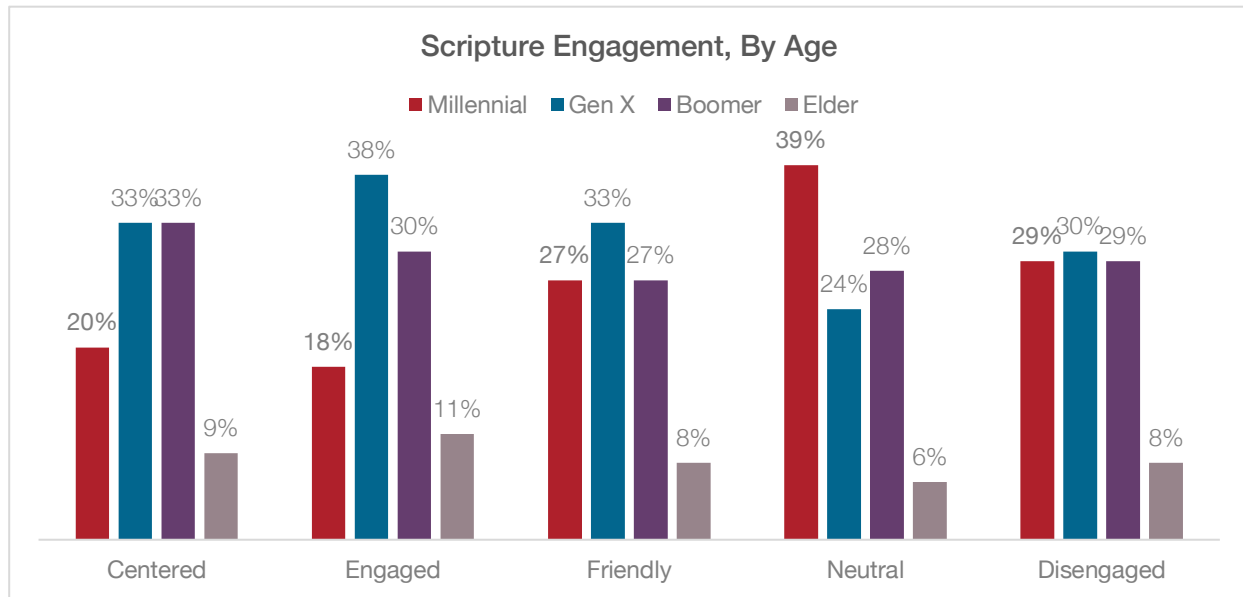
Bible Engaged (19% of the population) Adults in this category are predominately from the Gen X or Baby Boomer generation, averaging 49 years old. Slightly more female than male, the majority are married. Like Bible Centered adults, they generally reside in the South. When it comes to Bible use, 42% report using the Bible daily, 36% use it several times a week, 10% once a week, and 12% use it once a month or less. The majority of Bible Engaged adults can be found at church in a given Sunday (68%).

Bible Friendly (19% of the population) These adults are equally divided between the Millennial, Gen X and Boomer generations, and average 43 years of age. Just over one half (53%) are currently married. They are just as likely to be female as they are male. About half (51%) attended church in the past week, another 29% attended in the past six months. One in 10 reports daily Bible engagement, compared to 26% who use the Bible several times a week, 22% who use it weekly, and 42% who use it less often.

Bible Neutral (9% of the population) Bible Neutrals are more commonly from the Millennial generation (39%), and are an average of 43 years old. A plurality lives in the suburbs (38%). More than half (54%) are single. While one in four have attended church in the last week, 41% are considered unchurched. Most Bible Neutrals read the Bible on their own once or twice a year (36%) or three or four times a year (28%).

Bible Disengaged (48% of the population): Slightly more men than women are Disengaged, and are roughly 45 years old. Half (52%) are single. More than the national average, the Disengaged adult is white, whereas fewer African American adults are disengaged with the Bible. Just over one-half (52%) of Bible Disengaged do not consider themselves to be Christian. Three-quarters (74%) are unchurched, and an equal number (73%) say they never use the Bible on their own.

Compared to 2018, significantly fewer adults qualify as Bible Centered in 2019. On the opposite end of the spectrum, 2019 revealed a six-percentage point decrease in the number of those who are Disengaged, and a four-percentage point increase each in the number of Bible Neutrals and Bible Friendlies. The number of Engaged adults remained statistically unchanged from the previous year's findings.



Please note that many of the questions in this section were asked only of the “Bible users” segment. “Bible users” are those who report reading, listening to or praying with the Bible on their own at least three to four times a year.

Bible Users

[Tables 1.2 and 1.3, pages 59-61]

Nearly half of all adults (48%) are Bible users, that is, they engage with the Bible at least three to four times a year on their own by using, listening to, watching, praying or using Bible text outside of a church service.

One in six adults (16%) reports using the Bible every day, while another 14% use it several times a week. Another 9% of the population use the Bible once a week, 7% use it once a month, compared to 6% who use it three to four times a year, and 18% who use it less often. Roughly one in three (31%) say they never use the Bible.

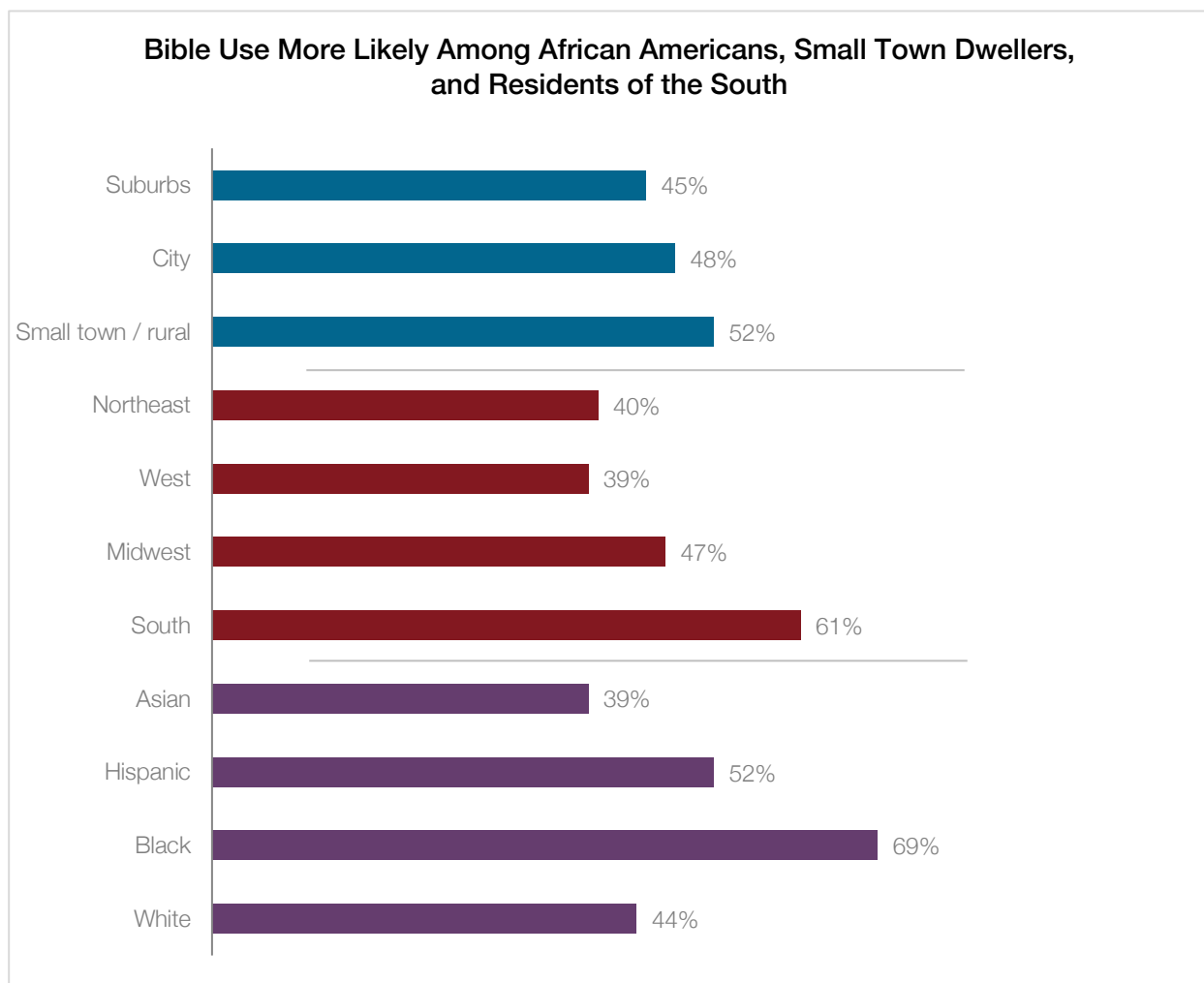
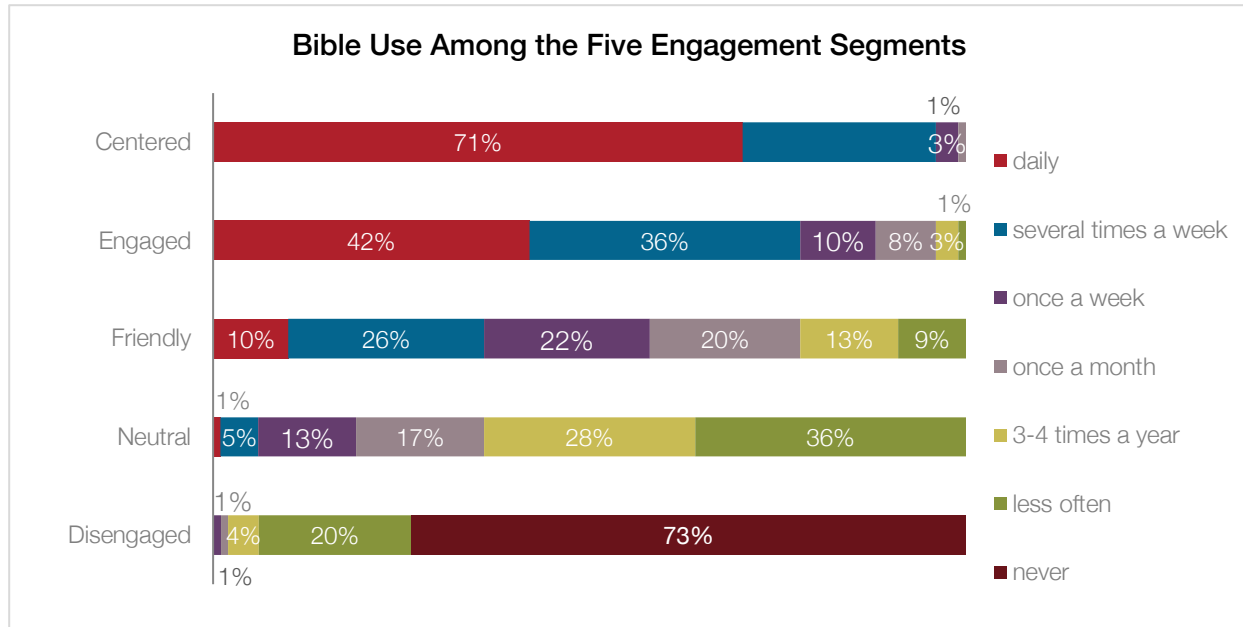
Although the percent of adults who use the Bible at least three or four times a year has remained relatively stable since tracking began in 2011, the percent of adults who say they *never* engage with the Bible (35%) has increased three percentage points since 2018 (32%), and 10-percentage points since 2011.

African Americans (69%) are the ethnic group most likely to use the Bible at least three to four times a year, compared to a smaller number of whites (44%) and Hispanics (52%). Bible users are also more likely to reside in the South than they are in other regions of the U.S. While there is not much difference in Bible use by generation, those who are married are more likely to use the Bible than single adults.

The vast majority of adults who have attended church in the past week report using the Bible on their own (85%), compared to 71% of adults attending monthly, and 49% who attended in the past 6 months. Only one in five (21%) unchurched adults are Bible users. Those who identify as Protestant, and particularly those who attend non-mainline congregations, are more likely than those who identify as Catholic to have used the Bible.

Not surprisingly, Bible use among Sceptics and Disengaged is uncommon, yet 11% of Sceptics qualify as Bible users. Just 3% of Disengaged adults qualify as Bible users, compared to 64% of Bible Neutrals, and 91% of those who are Bible Friendly.

To gauge total exposure to the Bible, adults were also asked how often they *realistically* use the Bible. Slightly more adults (52%) say they use the Bible at least three or four times a year.

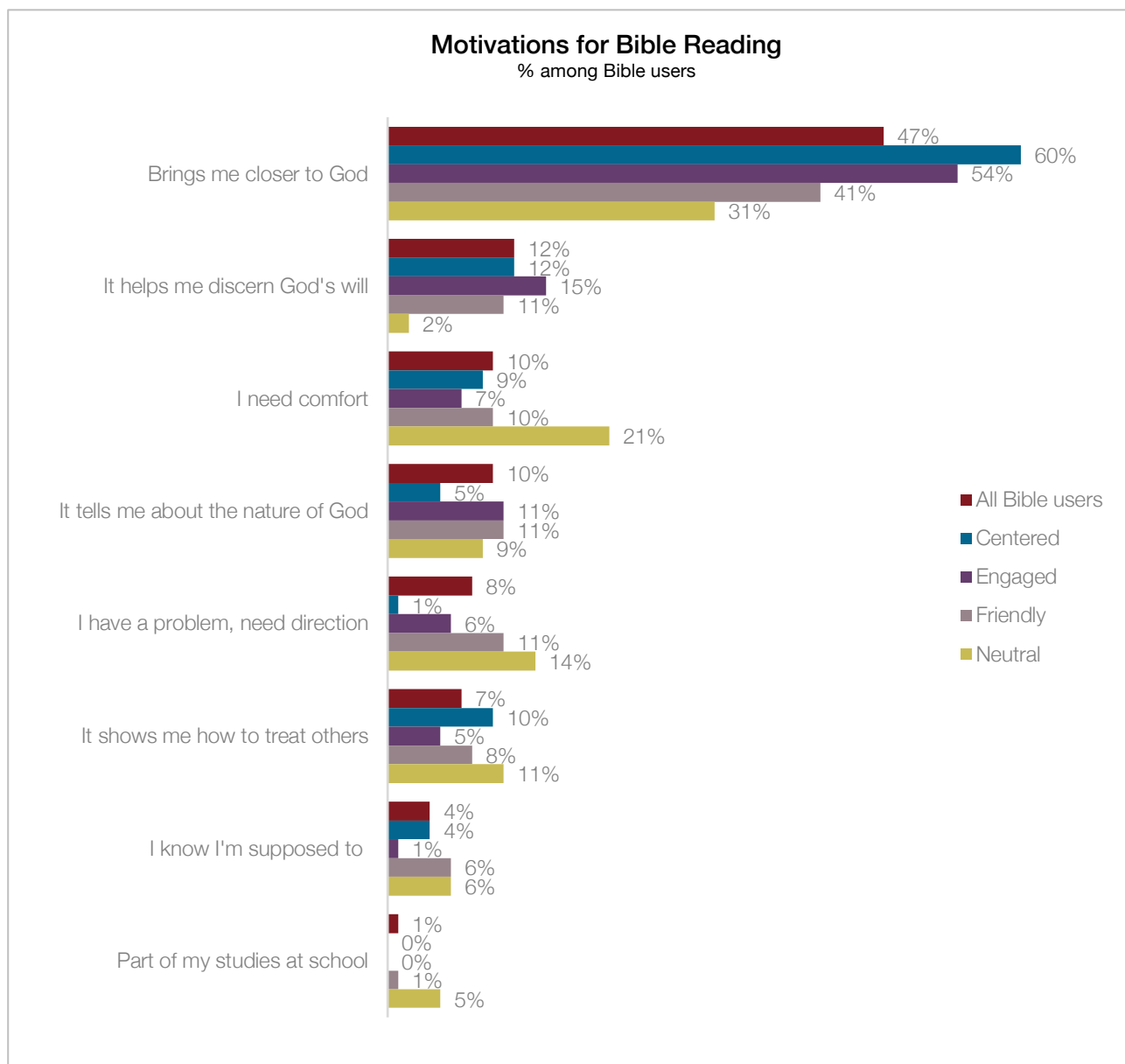


Motivations for Using the Bible

[Table 1.4, page 62]

When presented with eight possible motivations for using the Bible, a plurality of Bible users say they are motivated to read it because it brings them closer to God (47%). Far fewer Bible readers are motivated to read the Bible because it helps them discern God’s will for their life (12%), it reveals the nature of God (10%) or that they need comfort (10%).

Bible Neutrals are more likely to turn to the Bible for comfort or when they have a problem they need to solve compared with those who are Bible Centered or Bible Engaged. Catholics are also more likely to turn to the Bible because they need direction than are Protestants.



Level of Bible Use and Desire for Use

[Tables 1.5 and 1.6, pages 63-64]

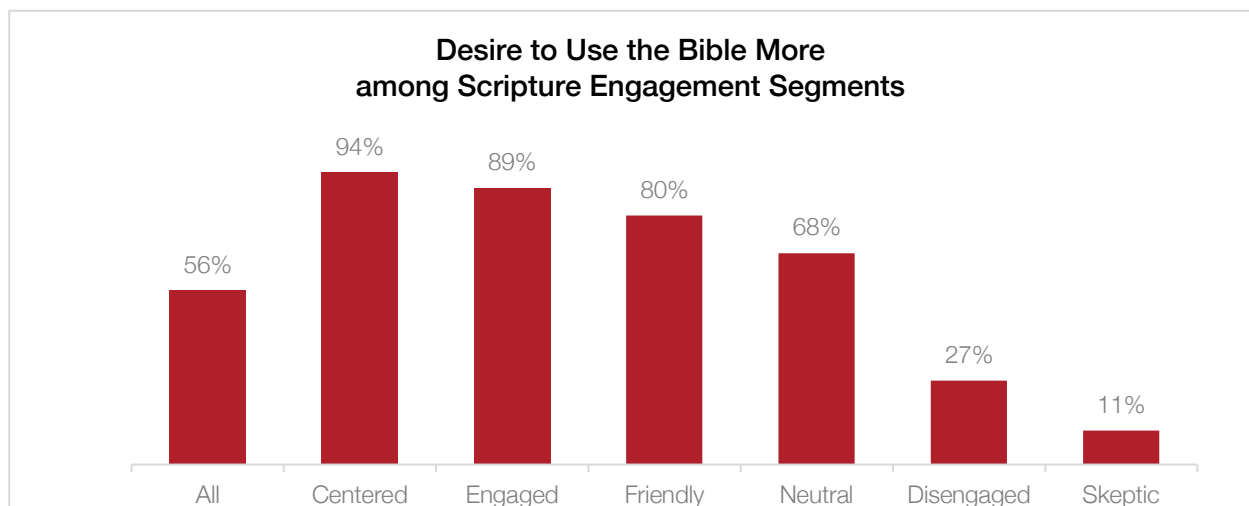
One of the questions in the survey asks respondents to estimate whether their Bible use has increased, decreased or stayed the same over the past year. Seven in 10 adults report no change in their use of the Bible compared to the previous year. One in five report an increase in Bible use compared to just 10% who said their level of Bible use decreased. This year saw a five-percentage point increase in the proportion of adults who reported that their Bible reading remained unchanged from the previous year. Over time, there has been a downward trend in those who self-report increasing Bible use since 2012, when 27% reported an increase in Bible use over the previous year, compared to the current 20%.

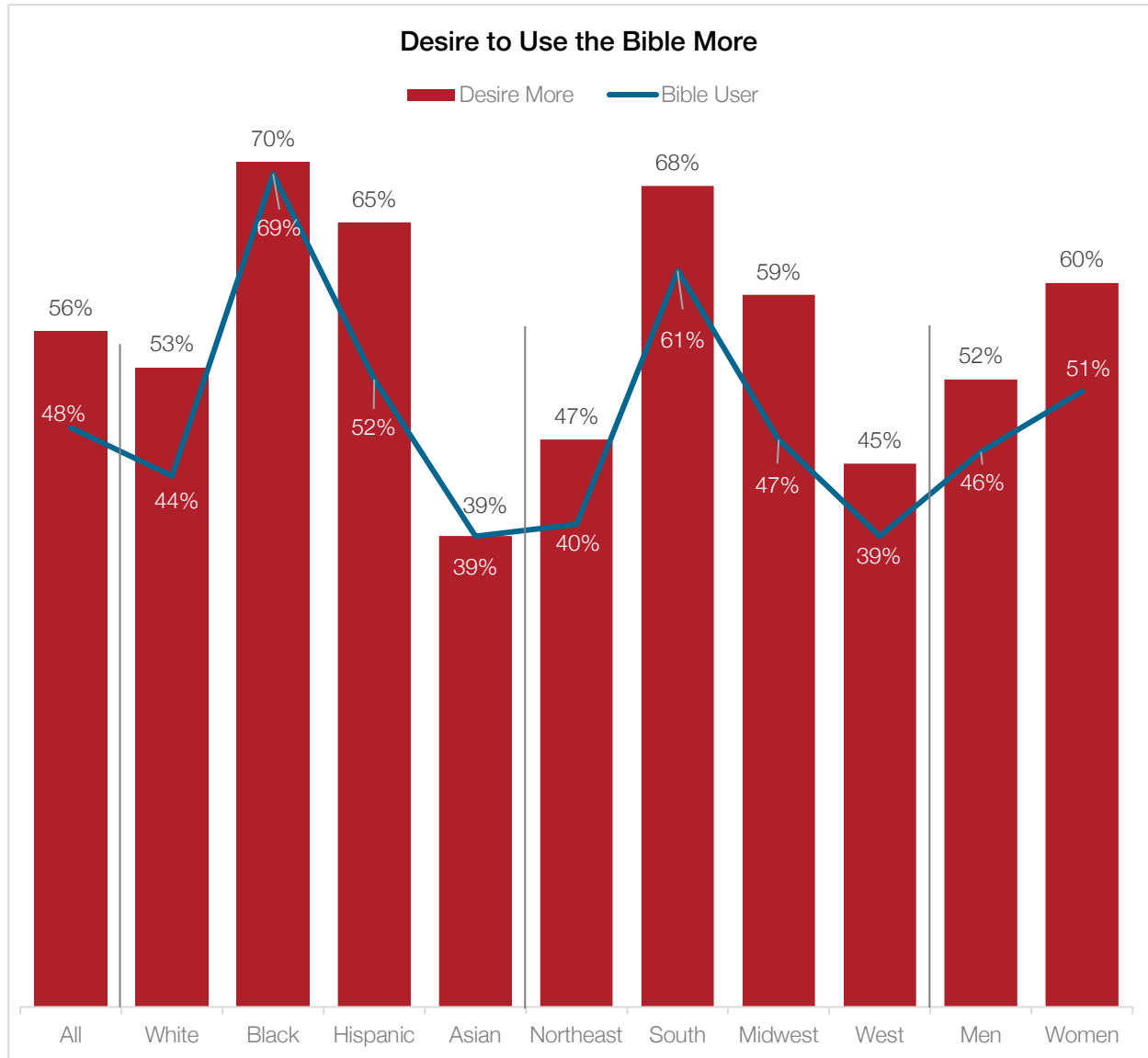
Among the most fervent Bible users, 60% of Bible Centered reported an increase in Bible use, compared to 47% of Bible Engaged.

More than half of adults (56%) express a desire to use the Bible more often. Although this is on par with the previous year’s tracking, overall desire to engage with the Bible more has been on a slow decline since tracking began in 2011.

The more engaged with Scripture a person is, the more they have an appetite to use it. Nearly all Bible Centered (94%) express a desire for more of God’s word compared to 89% of Bible Engaged, 80% Bible Friendly, 68% of Bible Neutrals, and 27% of Disengaged.

Women are more likely to report an increase in Bible use and a desire to engage with it compared to men. African Americans and residents of the South and Midwest are also more likely to report an increase in Bible use and a desire for greater use. Additionally, Gen X is more likely than other generations to report a desire to interact with the Bible more.





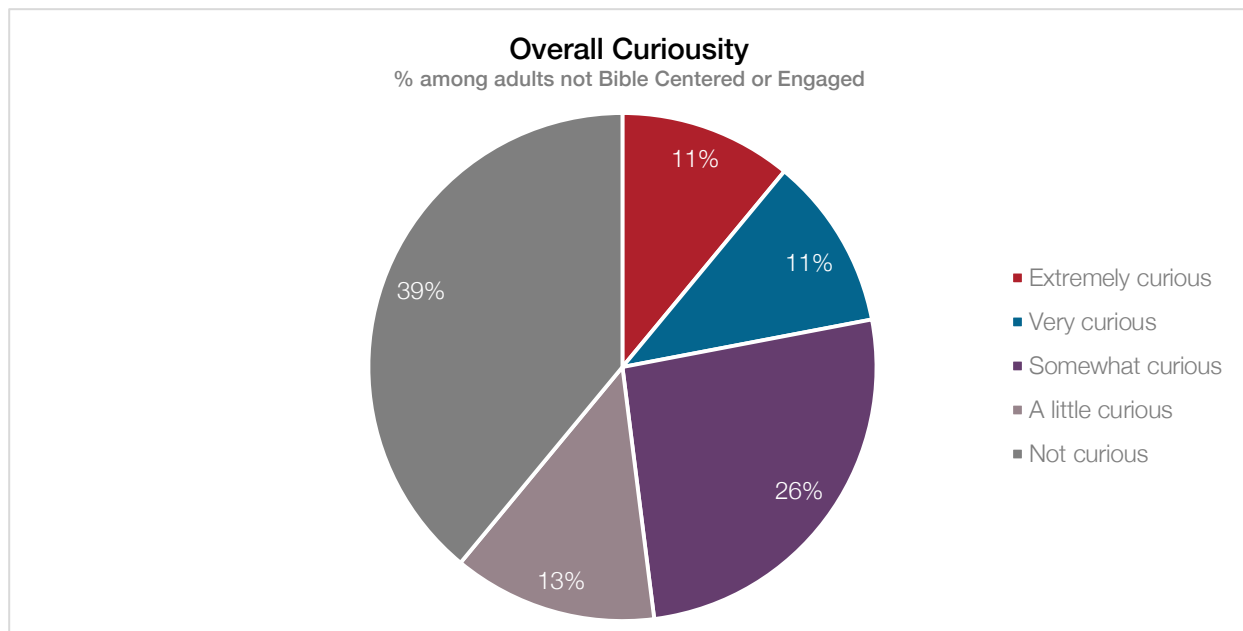
Bible Curiosity

[Table 1.7, pages 64-65]

More than three in five of Americans (63%) expressed at least some curiosity to know more about what the Bible says, including three in 10 (29%) who express a strong desire. A similar number of adults (61%) also are interested in knowing more about who Jesus Christ is, including 29% who agree strongly. Curiosity for both the Bible and knowledge of Jesus is statistically on par with last year’s findings.

Those who are most engaged with the Bible have a greater curiosity to know more about the Bible and about Jesus. The majority of Bible Centered (85%) and Engaged (72%) express a strong desire to know more about the Bible, and a similar number express curiosity about Jesus (82% among Centered and 75% among Engaged), compared to two in five Bible Friendly adults (40% Bible, 36% Jesus). Curiosity drops off substantially for Bible Neutrals (25% Bible, 29% Jesus), the Disengaged (9% Bible, 9% Jesus) and Skeptics (3% and 5% respectively).

Among Americans who are *not* Bible Engaged or Bible Centered, just one in nine (11%) are extremely curious, that is, they express a strong desire to learn more about the Bible and Jesus. African Americans, Hispanics, residents of the South, and Bible Friendly adults are most likely to express curiosity about Jesus or the Bible. It is those who are already familiar with, and open to using, the Bible and those who are already in the church pews that are the most movable.



Extremely curious is defined as strong curiosity (agree strongly) to both the Bible and Jesus

Very curious is a strong curiosity for one or the other

Somewhat curious is moderate curiosity (agree somewhat) to both the Bible and Jesus

A little curious is moderate curiosity for one or the other

Not curious are all those who disagree with these two statements

Frustrations with Bible Use

[Table 1.8, pages 66-67]

The most commonly cited top frustration when it comes to reading the Bible is not having enough time to use it (19%). Less than half as many cite language that is difficult to relate to (8%). Other frustrations mentioned include not knowing where to start (6%), not feeling excited to use it (6%), and a lack of understanding for the background or history of the Bible (4%). These percentages have remained unchanged from the previous year.

One in four Americans reports not having *any* frustrations when it comes to using the Bible; the more engaged people are in the Bible, the more likely they are to cite no frustrations. The top frustration for those who do use the Bible is simply not having enough time to use it, while the Disengaged (who do occasionally use the Bible) most often name a lack of excitement about it.

Generationally, Elders are more likely to say they have no frustrations. Millennials are the generation most likely feel a lack excitement to engage with it, while Boomers are most likely to feel the language is difficult to relate to. Women are more likely than men to be unsure of where to start, while men are more likely to feel a lack of excitement to read the Bible. Men are also more likely than women to say they don't use the Bible.

Favorable Emotions When Using the Bible

[Table 1.9, pages 67-68]

All adults who have ever used the Bible on their own were presented with possible *favorable* emotions they could have experienced in interacting with the Bible. Respondents were asked to choose from a list of descriptions they had experienced.

A feeling of peace again topped the chart with 46% of adults who said using the Bible made them feel peaceful. The second most common emotion felt when interacting with the Bible was a feeling of encouragement, mentioned by two in five Bible users (40%).

Feeling hopeful (33%) and receiving a sense of direction (31%) are emotions that tied for third place. Another one in four adults said that using the Bible made them happy (24%). Only 12% said they felt intrigued after engaging with the Bible.

After Bible Centereds, Bible Friendlies were most likely to feel encouraged (68%, 51%). Neutrals most commonly experienced a sense of direction (34%) or felt encouraged (33%).

When it comes to age, Millennials and Gen X are more likely to say they felt happy when reading the Bible compared to Boomers and Elders. Millennials are also more likely than other generations to say they felt intrigued. Elders are the generation who are least likely to say the Bible gave them hope.

More adults in 2019 identified with being encouraged (40% in 2019 and 33% in 2018) and receiving a sense of direction from using the Bible than in 2018 (31%, 24%).

Answers to Bible Questions

[Table 1.10, page 68]

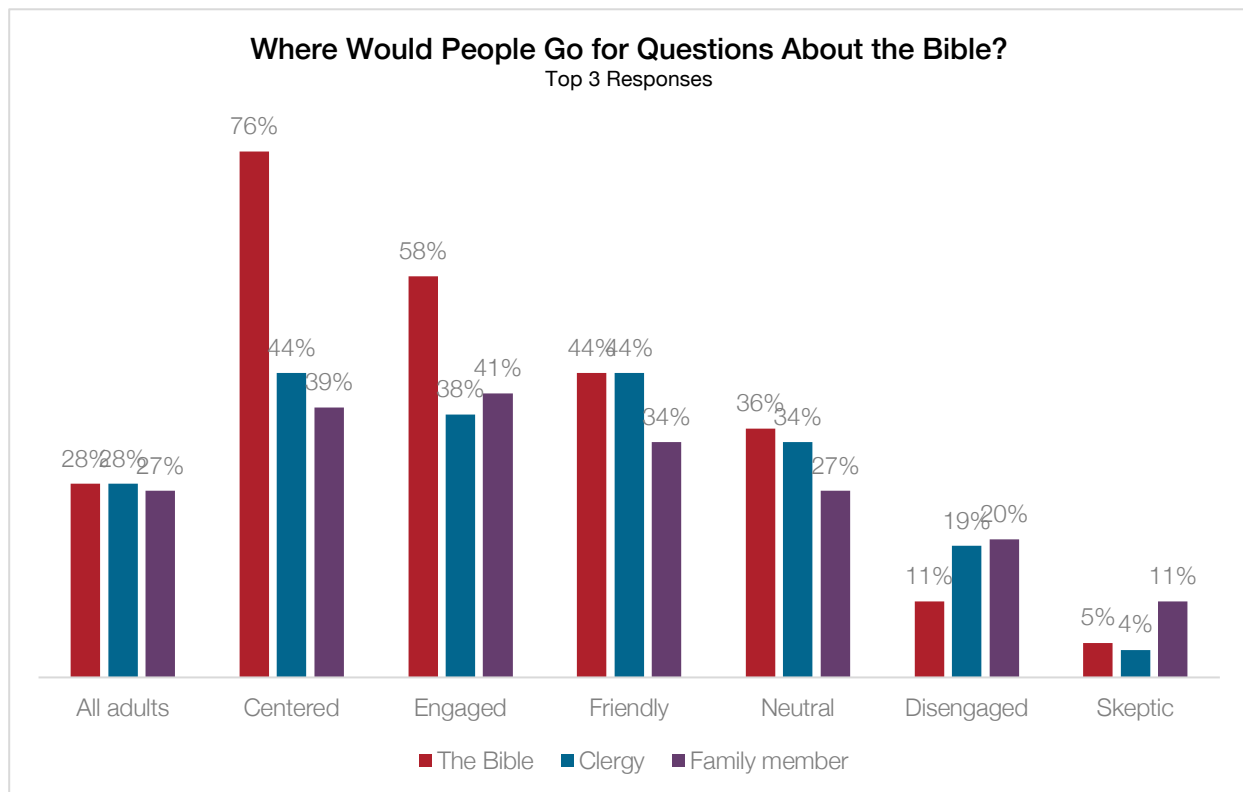
Asked where Americans would turn to if they had a question about faith or the Bible, most predict that they would turn to members of the clergy, a family member or the Bible itself.

Adults who are already engaged in Bible use are more likely than those who are not to turn to the Bible. Three in four Bible Centered (76%) and more than half of Bible Engaged adults (58%) would turn to the Bible, compared to 44% of Friendlies, 36% of Bible Neutrals, 11% of Disengaged, and 5% of Skeptics.

Elders are most likely to turn to clergy members, while Millennials are least likely to do so (52% and 17% respectively). The younger you are, the more likely you are to turn to family members with questions. Women are more likely to turn to a friend or family member, while men are more likely than women to turn to a member of the clergy or other religious authority.

Other places people envision turning to with questions are the Internet (23%), followed by a friend or neighbor whose faith you respect (18%) and books or other media (10%). Relatively few would turn to colleagues (3%).

One quarter of all adults say they do not have any questions about faith or the Bible. This is particularly true among Bible Skeptics and Disengaged.



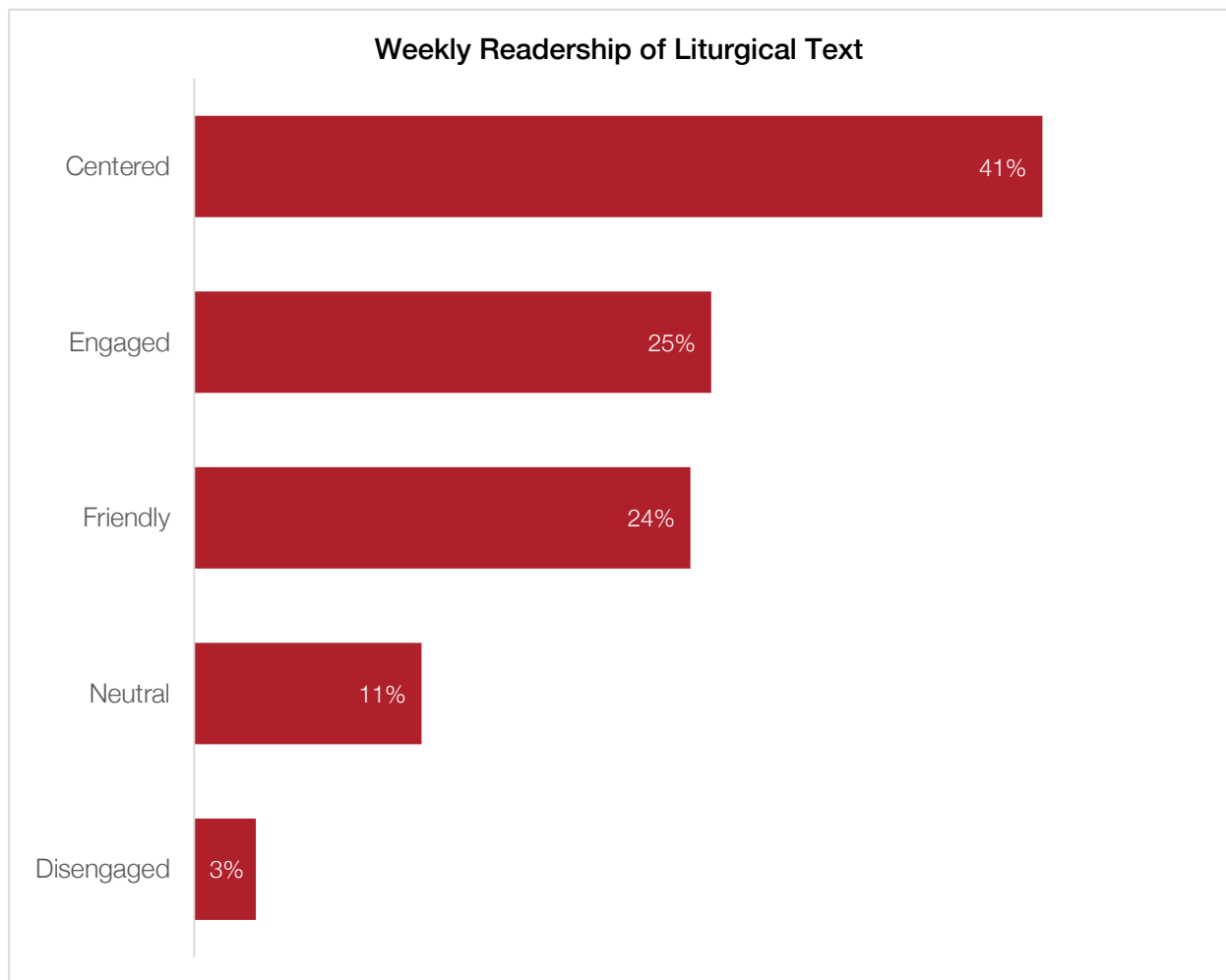
Readership of Liturgical Texts

[Table 1.11, page 69]

Readership of Scripture in a liturgical text, such as the Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours or Lectio Divina resources remains relatively uncommon, with just one in seven adults reporting having read one of these in the past week. Readership has hovered between 14% and 18% since tracking began in 2015.

Two in five Bible Centered adults (41%) have read liturgical texts in the past week compared to one in four Bible Engaged and Friendly. Just 11% of Bible Neutrals and 3% of Bible Disengaged have done so.

Practicing Catholics (35%) are more likely than Practicing Protestants (25%) to have read a liturgical text, as are African Americans and those who reside in the South.



2. BIBLE IMPACT

Bible Impact on Thoughts and Behaviors

[Table 2.1, pages 70-72]

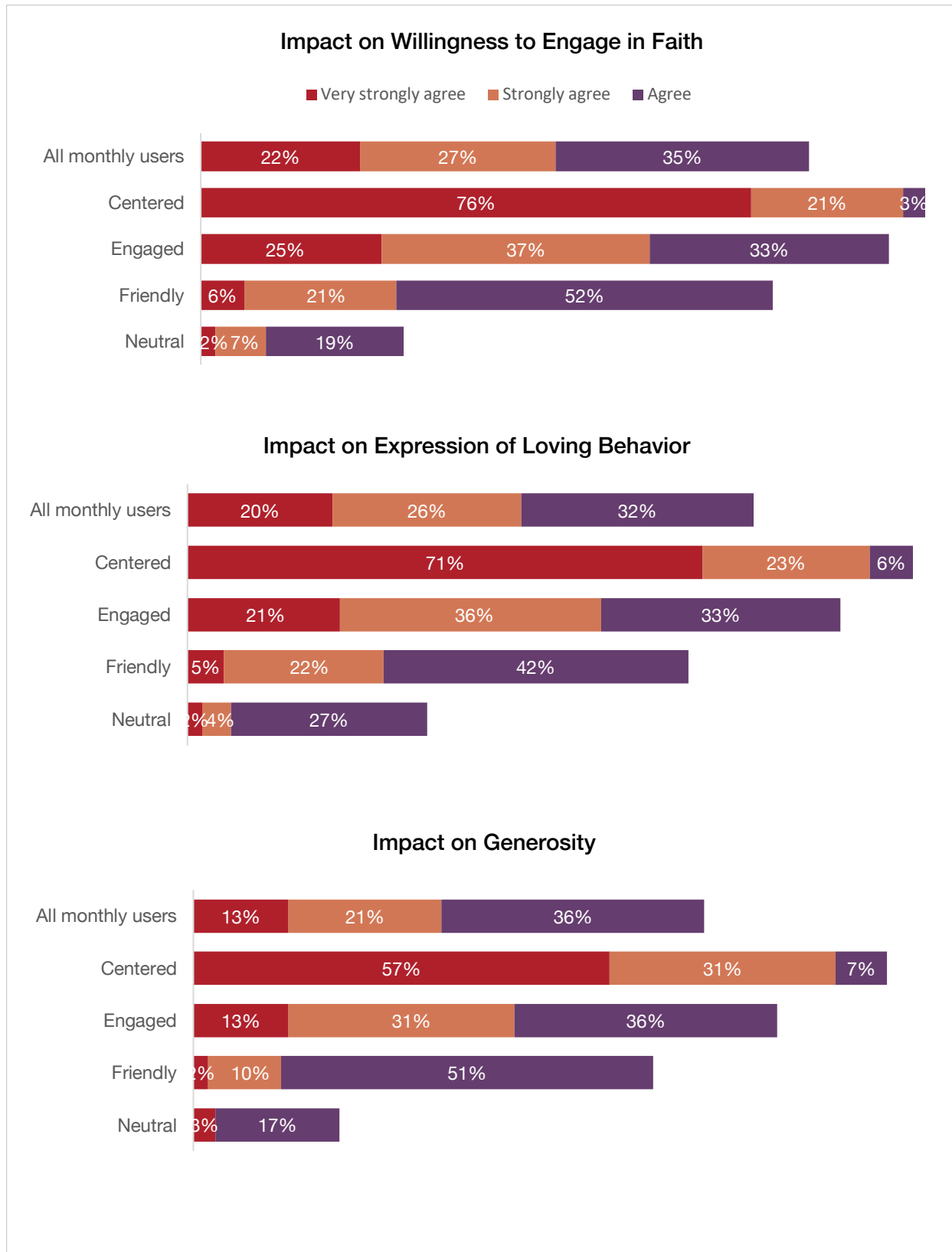
Next, Bible users were asked to consider what impact their experience with the Bible in the past month had on their thoughts and behaviors.

One half of monthly Bible users (49%) agree very strongly or strongly that their engagement with the Bible has made them feel more willing to engage with their faith. Another 46% show more loving behavior toward others, and one in three (34%) are more generous with their time, energy or financial resources as a result of their Scripture engagement.

The data reveals a stark contrast between adults who are heavily engaged with the Bible and those who are engaged with the Bible to a lesser extent, when it comes to their behaviors. More than seven in 10 Bible Centered strongly agree that their Bible use has resulted in their increased willingness to engage in their faith (76%) and show more loving behavior to others (71%) compared to far fewer Engaged adults who are more willing to engage in their faith (25%) or show more loving behavior (21%). Similarly, 57% of Bible Centered adults are inclined to be more generous with their time and finances compared to just 13% among Engaged adults. The number of Bible Friendlies and Bible Neutral adults who strongly agree that the Bible has influenced any of these three behaviors is in the single digits.

Practicing Protestants are more likely to agree strongly that the Bible has made a positive mark on their generosity and their expression of love for others than are Practicing Catholics. Those who earn between \$50K and \$99K are more likely to report greater generosity than those in the lower- and upper-income brackets.

This year, fewer monthly Bible users report strong agreement with each of the three outcomes as a result of their Bible engagement, dropping between five and seven percentage points each.



Bible Impact on Relationship with God

[Table 2.2, pages 73-74]

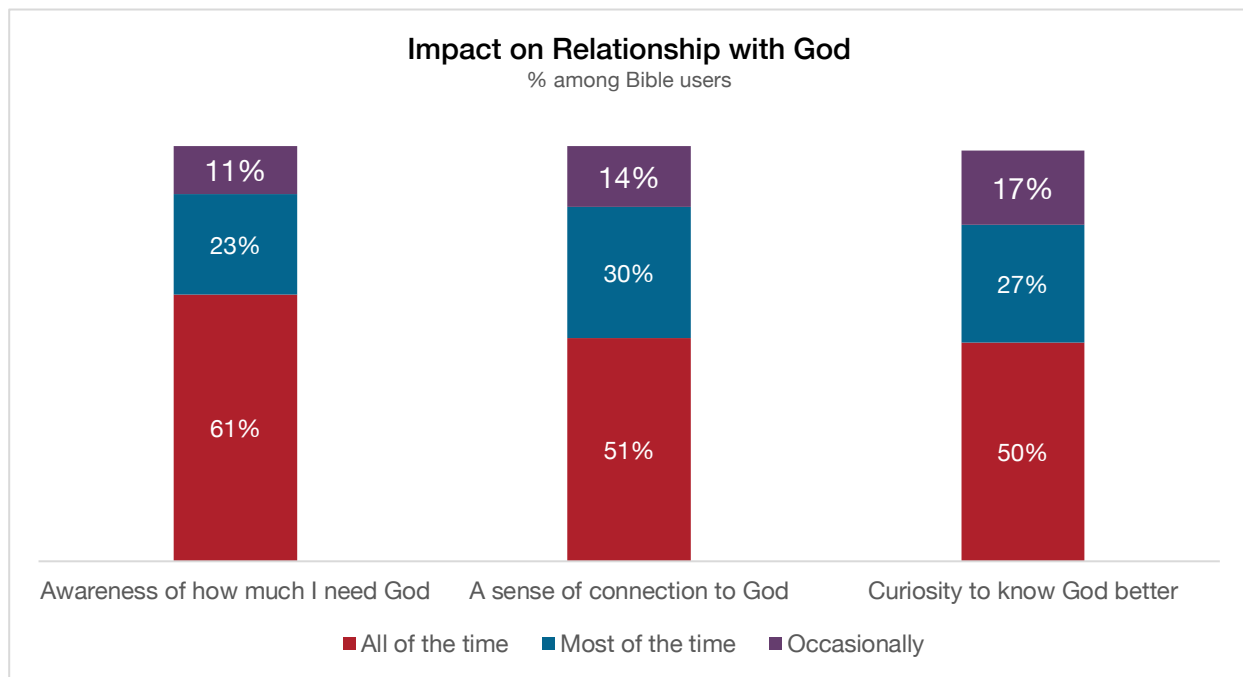
Among adults who use the Bible at least three to four times a year, three in five (61%) contend that they always experience a greater awareness of how much they need God. Half agree that they always feel a sense of connection with God (51%) and a similar proportion (50%) are curious to know God better. Again, we see that the more engaged people are with the Bible, the more they experience all three of these outcomes all of the time.

Bible users are slightly more likely than they were in 2018 to say they experience both a greater awareness of their need for God and a sense of connection.

When it comes to a heightened awareness of the need for God, African Americans are more likely than other ethnic groups to say they feel this all of the time. This is also true of residents of the South and Practicing Protestants.

Curiosity to know God better is most consistently experienced by African Americans, Practicing Protestants, and residents of the South.

African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to feel a sense of connection with God, compared to other ethnicities. Residents of the South are also more likely to report feeling a connection to God, while residents of the Midwest are least likely to do so.



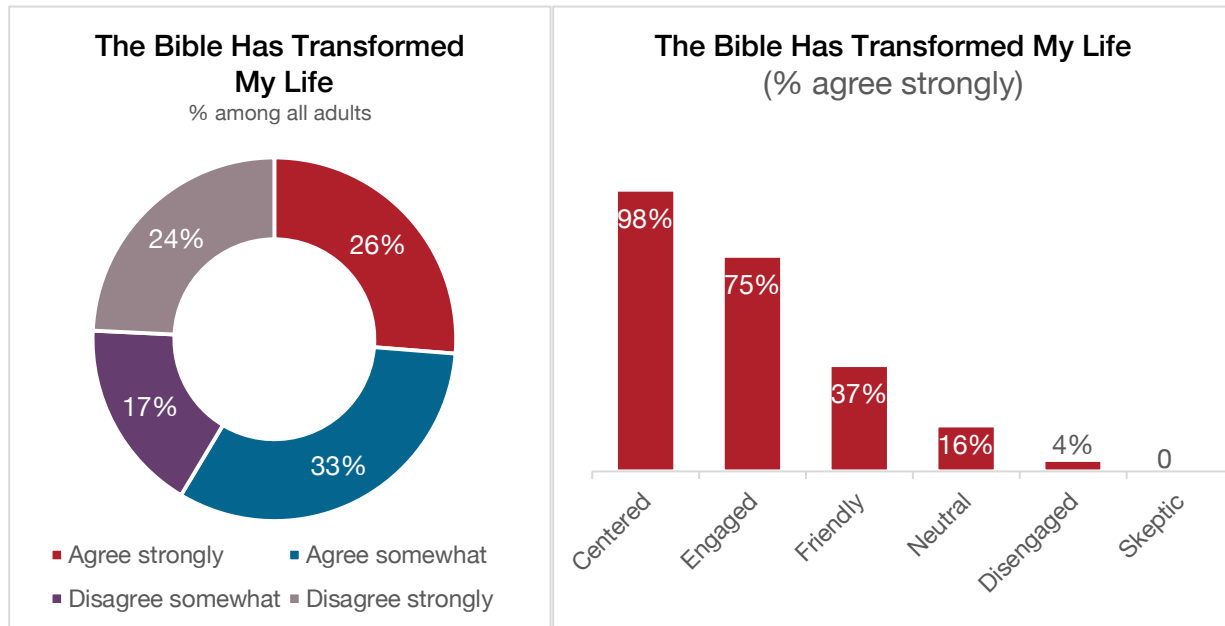
The Bible as Transformative

[Table 2.3, page 75]

Overall, 59% of Americans agree that the Bible has transformed their life, including 26% of adults who agree strongly. Roughly two in five adults (42%) say the Bible has not transformed their lives.

As expected, Bible Centered adults universally believe the Bible is transformative, compared to 75% of Bible Engaged, 37% of Friendlies, and significantly fewer Neutrals, Disengaged, and Skeptics.

Adults from low- and mid-income levels are more likely to report that the Bible has transformed their lives, compared to those who earn \$100K or more. African Americans, Gen X, and Practicing Protestants are also more likely to report life transformation as a result of their Bible use.

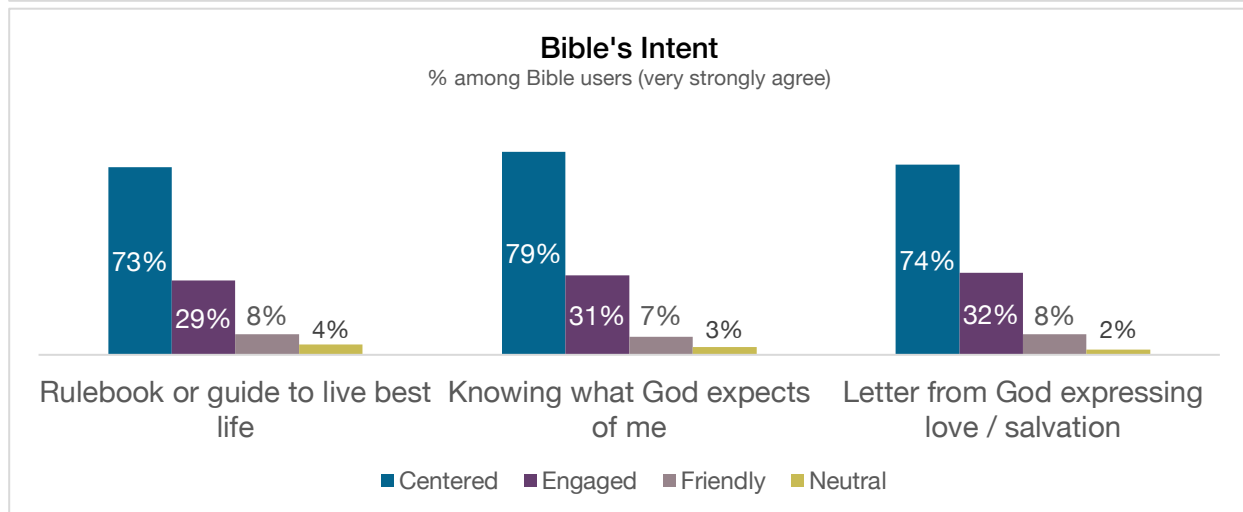
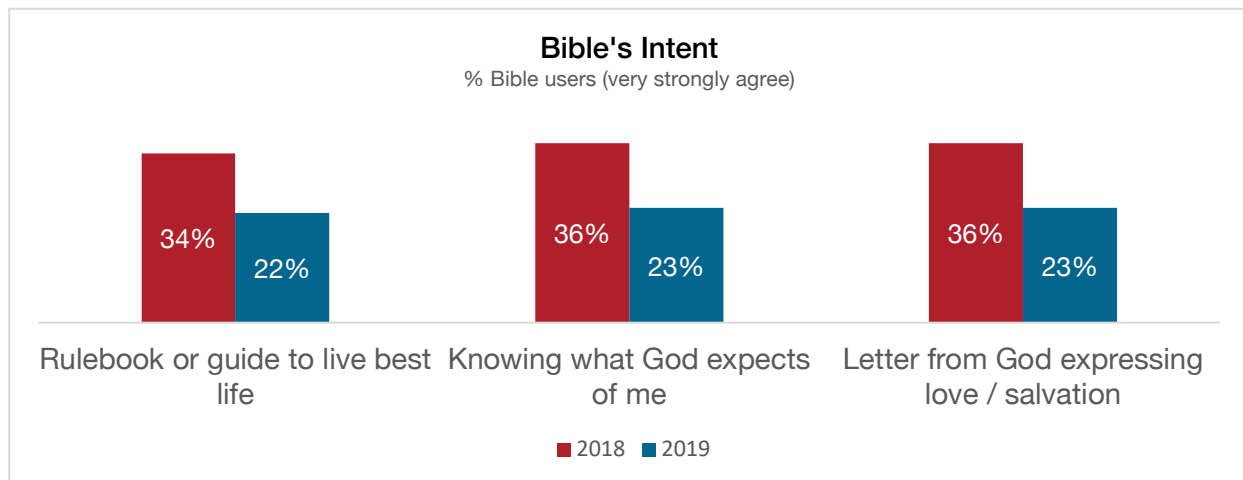


The Bible's Message

[Table 2.4, pages 76-78]

When asked a series of three questions designed to understand what Americans think the intent of the Bible is, half of adults are in strong agreement with each of the three statements presented. This represents an average of 10-percentage points decrease among adults who agree strongly that the Bible is: a letter from God expressing his love and salvation for me, a way to know what God expects from me, and a rulebook on how to live my best life. The most dramatic decrease is in the number of adults who agree very strongly with each of these three statements.

The more engaged a person is with Scripture, the more he or she is to agree with each of these statements. Additionally, residents of the South and adults from lower and middle-income levels are also more likely to affirm each message. Women are more likely than men to view the Bible as a letter expressing God's love for humanity and as a way to know what God expects from us.



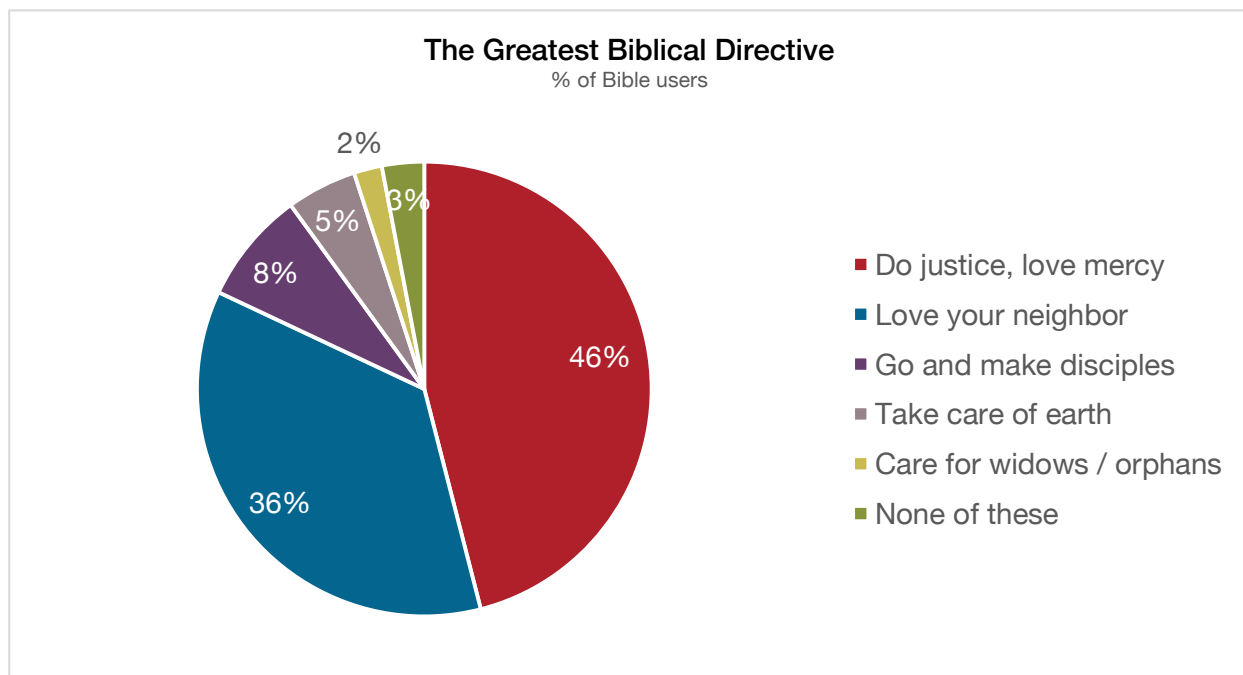
The Most Important Biblical Directive

[Table 2.5, page 79]

Bible users were presented with a list of five Biblical directives and asked to choose which one they think is most important. Overall, a plurality of adults said to *do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God* was the most important (46%), followed next by *love your neighbor as yourself* (36%). Other directives mentioned by fewer than one in 12 include *go and make disciples* (8%), *take care of the earth* (5%), and *to care for widows and orphans* (2%).

Bible Centered adults are statistically evenly divided when it comes to choosing between their belief that the most important decree is *love for their neighbor* (46%) and *doing justice, loving mercy and walking with God* (41%). For Engaged and Bible Friendly adults, half believe *doing justice, love, mercy and walking humbly* is a greater command than is than *love for one’s neighbor*. Bible Neutrals are the most likely segment to identify *taking care of the earth* as most important.

Millennial Bible users are more likely than older generations to believe they are to place the greatest priority on taking care of the earth. Practicing Catholics are more likely to believe they are to do *justice*, etc. than are Practicing Protestants who place greater emphasis on *loving their neighbor*.



3. RELIGIOSITY AND SPIRITUALITY

Being a Spiritual Person, a Religious Person, or a Christian

[Table 3.1, page 80]

Roughly seven in 10 adults (71%) describe themselves as a Christian, a percentage that has been on the decline in the last decade. But do people prefer the term “spiritual” or “religious,” and if so, what impact does being spiritual or religious have on their relationships?

Overall, 73% of the population agrees that the phrase “a spiritual person” describes them very or somewhat accurately, with 32% who claim the term is very accurate. Just over half of adults (52%) believe the term “a religious person” describes them very or somewhat well.

Just under half of adults who do not identify as Christian (49%) say they are a spiritual person compared to 85% of Christians who use this term to describe themselves. Relatively few Non-Christians (14%), including 6% of those who align with no religious faith, describe themselves as a religious person, compared to 71% of Christians.

Not surprisingly, Bible Centereds are more likely to say that “a spiritual person” (87%) or a “religious person” (54%) is very accurate, compared to Engaged (65% spiritual, 48% religious), Bible Friendlies (30%, 24%), Bible Neutrals (27%, 10%) and Disengaged (18%, 4%).

Religious Beliefs and Family Relationships

[Table 3.2, page 81]

Overall, 85% of people who describe themselves as being a religious person believe their religious beliefs help them at least somewhat in relationships with their family, including 55% who deduce that these beliefs help them a lot. Only 12% believe their religious beliefs help them a little, compared to just 3% who assert that these beliefs are not at all helpful.

Fulfillment from Spiritual Practices

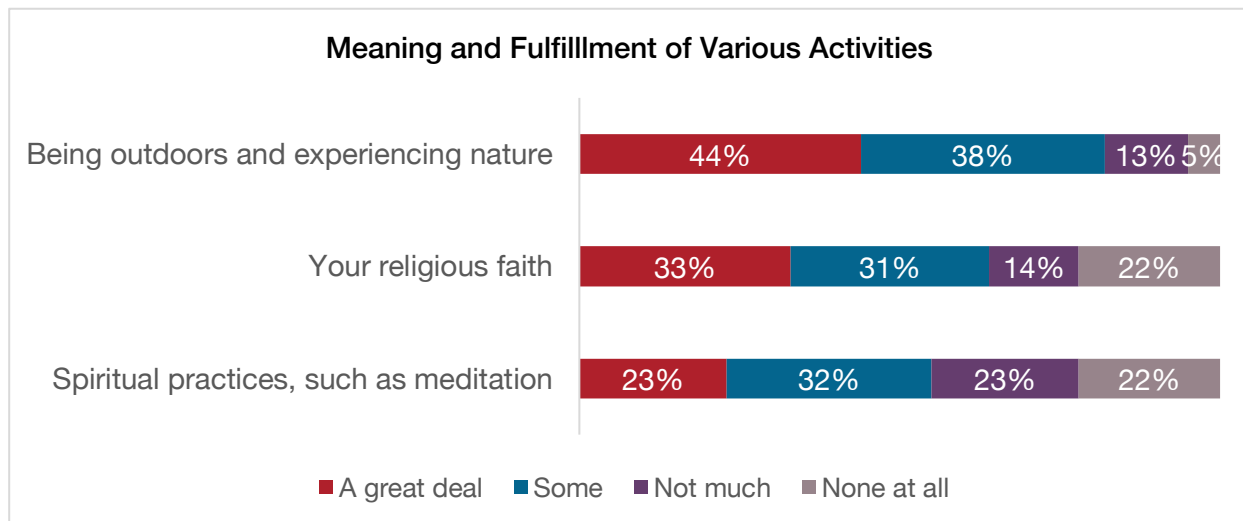
[Table 3.3, pages 81-82]

More than four out of five Americans claim they receive either a great deal (44%) or some fulfillment (38%) from being outdoors and experiencing nature. While Bible Centered adults are more likely to receive a great deal of fulfillment from being outdoors (60%), the remaining Bible engagement segments who draw a great deal of satisfaction from being outdoors is relatively consistent with national norms (39-44%). Residents who live in small towns or rural areas tend to get more fulfillment from nature than do their suburban counterparts.

Two-thirds of the population (64%) believes that their religious faith is something that provides them at least some meaning and fulfillment, with 33% reporting a great deal. Of course, those who engage with their faith more regularly find greater fulfillment in their faith than those who don't. Elders note a greater sense of fulfillment than do Millennials. The same is also true among African Americans.

A substantial, yet smaller proportion of the population derives fulfillment from spiritual practices such as meditation (55% receive at least some meaning and fulfillment), including 23% who find a great deal of fulfillment. Millennials and Gen X are more likely to find fulfillment from these spiritual practices than are Boomers. Those who are less educated and earn less than \$50K a year are more likely to find a great deal of fulfillment than are more educated and higher income earners. Other segments more likely to find meaning from meditation include African Americans, city dwellers, and parents with minor children at home.

When it comes to Bible engagement, Bible Centered and Bible Engaged adults find more fulfillment from such practices than do Bible Friendlies, Bible Neutrals, or Disengaged.



Heaven, Hell and Spiritual Energy

[Tables 3.4, page 83]

Although the majority of adults believe in heaven and hell, fewer believe in the spiritual energy located in physical objects, such as mountains, trees or crystals.

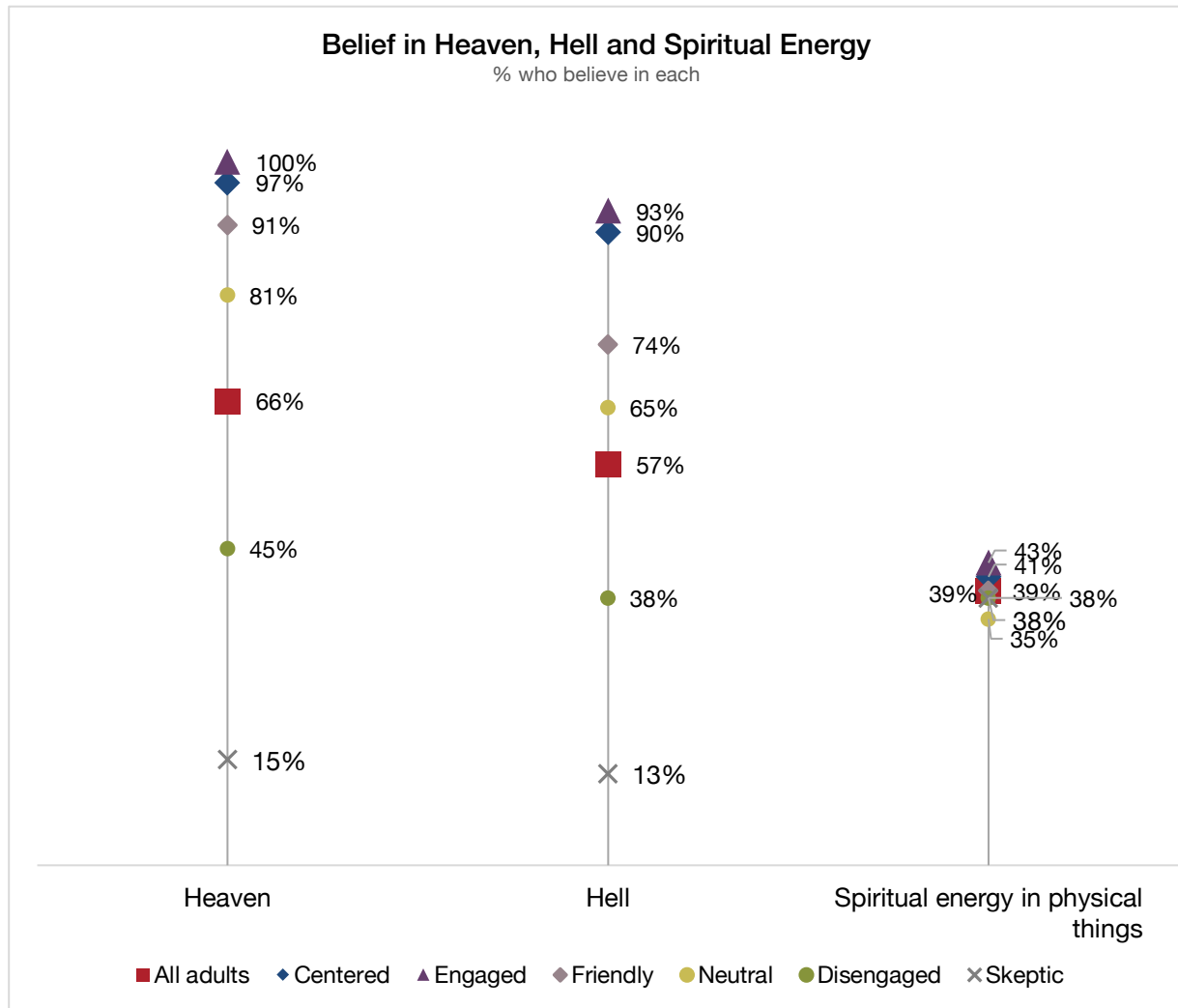
Two-thirds of adults (66%) believe in heaven, compared to 18% who do not believe and another 15% who are unsure. While the vast majority of those who are Bible Centered, Engaged, Friendly and Neutral believe in heaven, less than half of Disengaged adults do (45%) and just 15% of Skeptics believe in heaven.

Overall, 57% of Americans affirm a belief in hell, while 26% reject that belief, and another 17% are unsure. Nine in 10 Bible Centered and Engaged adults are confident that hell exists, compared to 74% of Friendlies, 65% of Neutrals, 38% of Disengaged and 13% of Skeptics.

Adults are more skeptical of the belief that spiritual energy is located in physical objects, such as mountains, trees, or crystals. Roughly two in five (39%) believe in the power of these physical objects, compared to a similar number (36%) who say this is not something they believe in. Yet it should be noted that another one in four adults says they are uncertain whether or not spiritual energy can be found in these items. There is very little difference by Bible engagement segments among those who profess a belief in spiritual energy of these inanimate objects.

Generationally, Gen X is more likely to regard heaven and hell as real compared to other generations. Millennials are significantly more likely to believe in the spiritual energy in trees, mountains and crystals than other generations.

African Americans are more likely than other ethnicities to have faith in each of the three items presented. Women are more likely to believe in heaven and spiritual energy, and express higher levels of uncertainty than men when it comes to a belief in hell.



Pew Religious Typology

In an effort to understand more about the Bible Engagements segments, this year’s State of the Bible survey included questions used in the Pew Research Center Religious Typology*. Pew’s typology categorizes U.S. adults according to their religious affiliations as well as beliefs about spirituality.

The Religious Typology: The highly religious, nonreligious and in between



Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.
 The Religious Typology

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

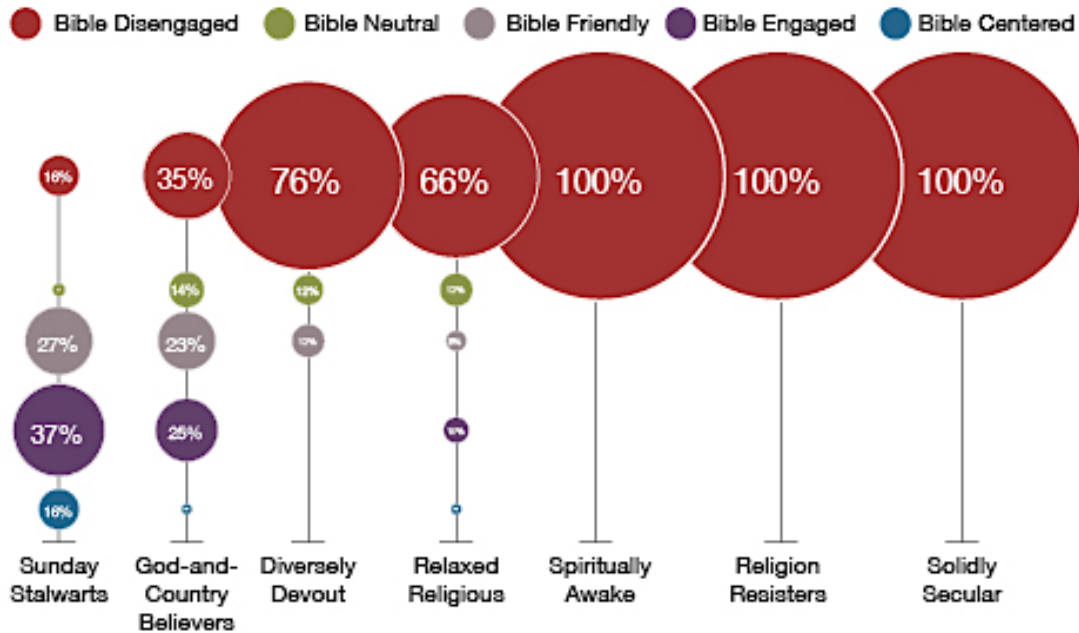
* <https://www.pewforum.org/2018/08/29/the-religious-typology/>

Note that some questions used for the State of the Bible survey, such as beliefs about the Bible, were slightly different in wording and scale from the Pew survey, due to the tracking nature of the State of the Bible report; however, scales were adjusted to match the Pew questions as closely as possible.

Using this typology, or segmentation approach, we are able to see how the Bible Engagement segments and other key State of the Bible metrics align with different faith engagement frameworks for comparison and validation.

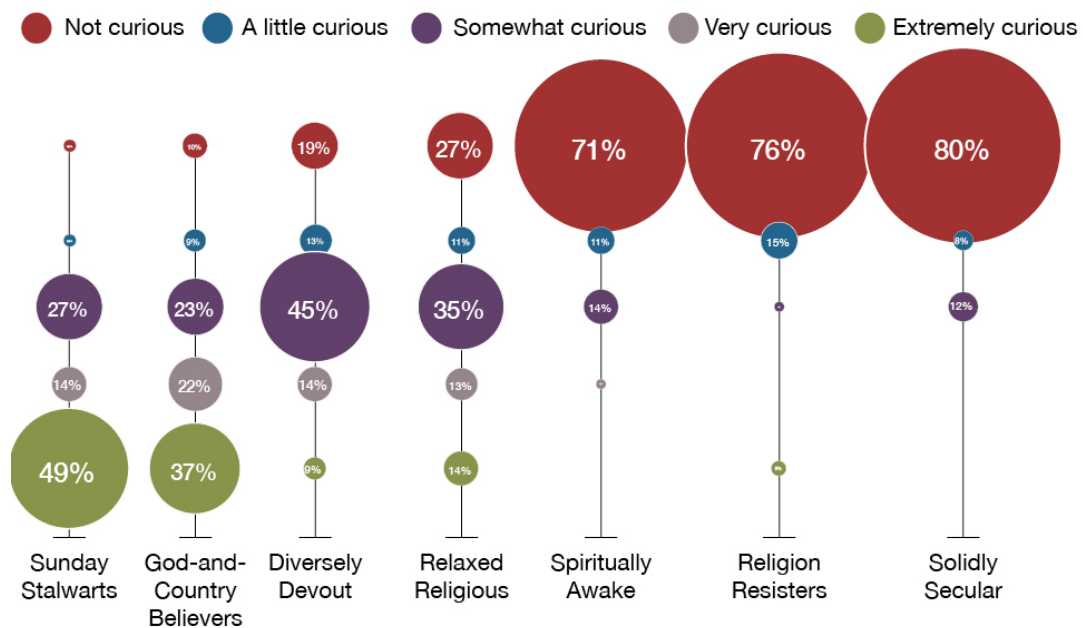
The more religious groups in Pew’s typology are more engaged with the Bible, while the more secular or religiously disaffiliated do not read the Bible.

Pew Religious Groups by Bible Engagement Segments



Looking at an aggregate measure of curiosity (based on *I am curious about what the Bible says* and *I am curious to know more about who Jesus Christ is*), again we see the more religious segments showing more curiosity but with some curiosity in the more secular groups.

Pew Religious Groups by Curiosity



4. The Bible and Technology

Use of Bible Formats

[Tables 4.1 and 4.2, pages 84-86]

The use of a physical copy of the Bible remains strong at 91%. More than half of Bible users have also used the Internet on a computer to read Bible content (55%) or searched for Bible verses or Bible content on their phone (56%), and another 44% have downloaded or used a Bible app on their smartphone. Roughly one-third have listened to a teaching about the Bible via podcast or listened to an audio version of the Bible.

Although there has been a significant rise in the past 8 years in the percent of Bible users who turn to alternative forms of technology to access the Bible, use of smartphones and computers seems to have plateaued in the past three years.

Bible Engaged and Centered are more likely than average to have used *all* formats in the past year, compared to Bible Friendly and Neutrals, although Bible Friendlies also report similar use of the Internet to search for Bible content as do the more engaged Bible segments. African Americans and Hispanics are also more likely than whites to engage with other formats.

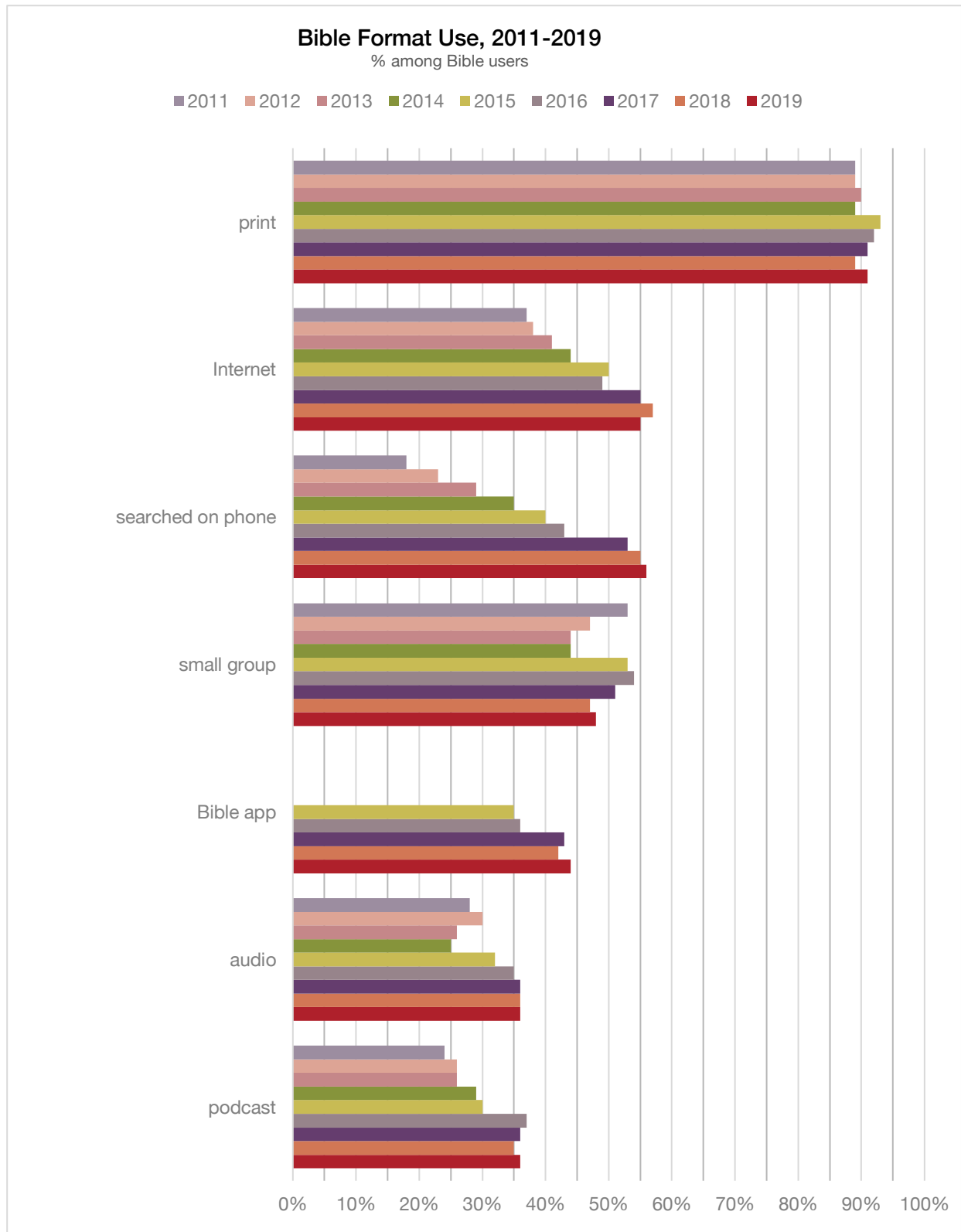
As expected, younger generations are more likely to use their computers and smart phones to engage with scripture than are older generations. As many as 72% of Millennials and 69% of Gen X have used their smart phone to access the Bible compared to 40% of Boomers and just 13% of Elders. Although more Millennials and Gen X report using a hard copy to access the Bible than other Bible formats, they do so less frequently than Boomers and Elders.

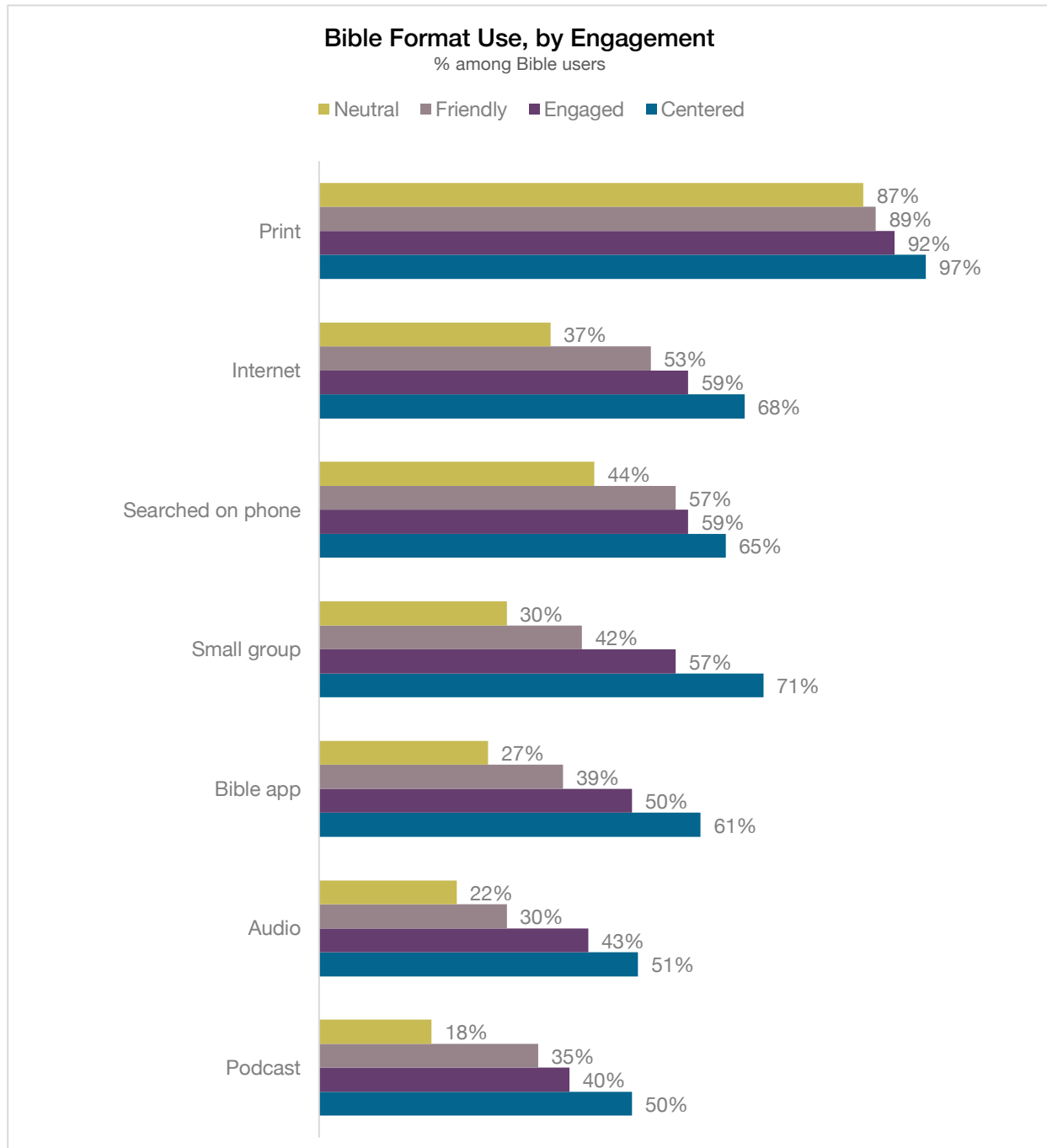
More than four in five Bible users (85%) continue to hear the Bible read at a worship service or mass, a number that has remained relatively consistent in the past few years. All generations alike are equally as likely to have heard the Bible read at church.

Just under half of Bible users have attended a small group or Bible study where they have heard the Bible read in the past year (48%). These small group attenders are slightly more likely to be Millennials and Gen X than they are Boomers and Elders.

When asked how often they use a Bible specifically through a Bible app, through an audio version of the Bible, including a podcast, or Internet search, half (50%) have used a format other than a print version in the past week. More than half of Bible Centered adults report using a Bible app at least four or more times a week, compared to just 15% of Bible Engaged.

Millennials and Gen X are more likely than Boomers to report using an app at least weekly. Practicing Protestants are also more likely to use a Bible app than are practicing Catholics.





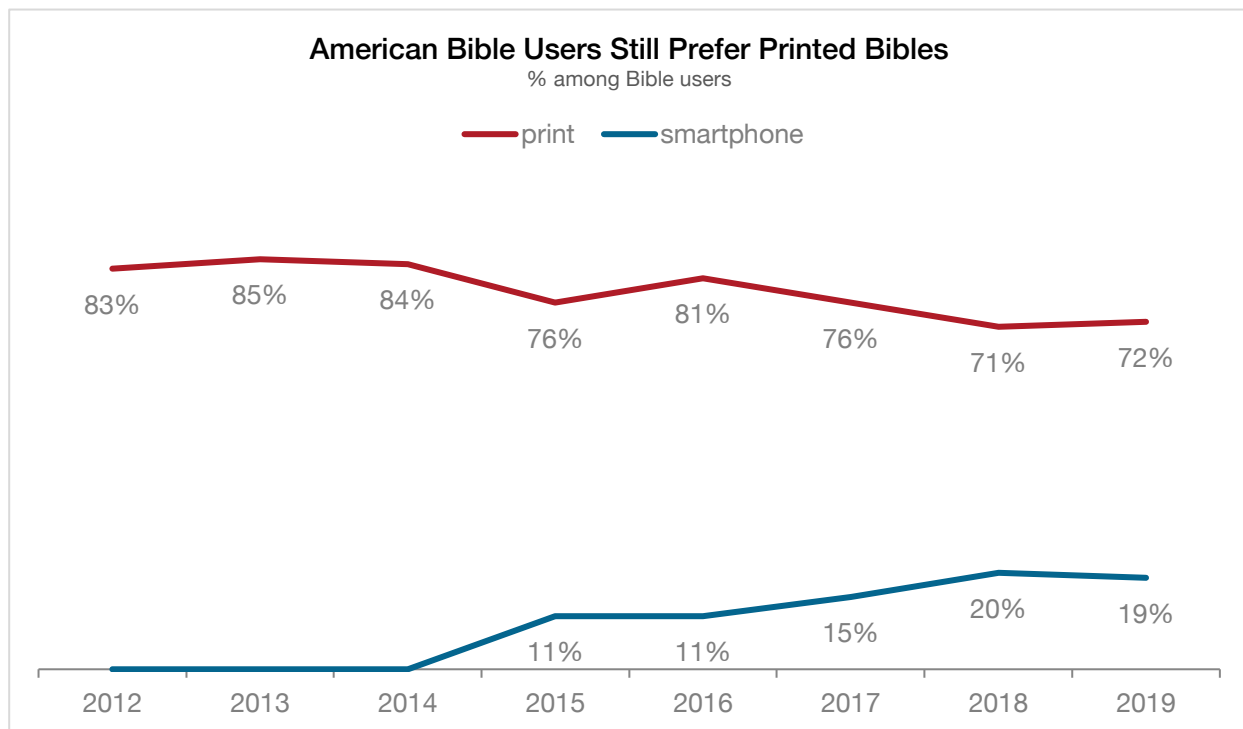
Preferred Bible Format

[Table 4.3, page 86]

When asked to choose a single format they most prefer, the majority (72%) of Bible users still prefer to read a physical copy of the Bible. Their preference for print out-numbers their preference for smartphones or tablet app nearly four to one (19%). Less than one in 20 Bible users prefer an online or audio resource. Even though Americans have been engaging more often with their smartphone over the years for Bible content, the increasing preference for Bible content through smartphones or tablet apps seems to have stabilized.

All Bible users, regardless of age, prefer a print version of the Bible. However, one in four Millennials (27%) and Gen X adults (26%) prefers to use their phone or tablet, compared to 9% of Boomers and 2% of Elders who prefer a hand-held electronic device.

Just 15% of whites prefer a smartphone compared to 28% of African Americans, 28% of Asians, and 24% of Hispanics. Households with minor children at home (25%) also prefer their smartphones over those without minor children (15%).



Note: The use of smartphones was not tested until 2015.

5. BIBLE PERCEPTIONS

Beliefs about the Bible

[Table 5.1, pages 87-88]

More than three out of five adults (63%) agree somewhat or strongly that the Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life, while 38% strongly believe this. The data shows a continuing downward trend from the previous year (42% who agree strongly) and the all-time high of 53% in 2011.

Bible Centered and Engaged are most likely to agree strongly with this statement (88% Centered, 82% Engaged). Roughly half of Bible Friendlies (52%), 24% of Bible Neutrals, 11% of Disengaged, and 7% of Skeptics express strong agreement with this statement. The biggest shift in the decline is among adults who are less engaged with the Bible. The percent of Disengaged who agreed strongly with this notion in 2018 (19%) is nearly double what it is currently (11%).

Millennials are less likely than older generations to believe that the Bible can help them live a meaningful life (28%). Strong belief is more commonly found among older generations (39%-43% among non-Millennials), African Americans, married adults, parents with children at home, residents of the South, and practicing Protestants.

More than half of Americans (58%) accept the idea that the Bible, Koran, and the book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths (agree strongly or somewhat). Just 27% strongly reject this idea. While the number of Americans who agree or disagree strongly with this statement has remained unchanged from the previous year, there are more people in 2019 who are wavering in their understanding of whether or not this is true. The number of those agreeing somewhat has decreased (39% vs 34%); those disagreeing somewhat declined by four-percentage points to its current level of 15% (19% in 2018).

At least half of Bible Centered (54%) and Bible Engaged (50%) strongly dismiss this as truth; far fewer Bible Friendly (26%), Neutral (16%) and Disengaged (18%) do so.

Millennials are more likely to consider these books all the same than are Gen X, Boomers and Elders. Despite the fact that African Americans generally rank higher in their engagement with the Bible, they are more likely than other ethnic groups to view all sacred literature, even non-Christian literature, as the same (32% agree strongly).

The Country Would be Worse Off Without the Bible

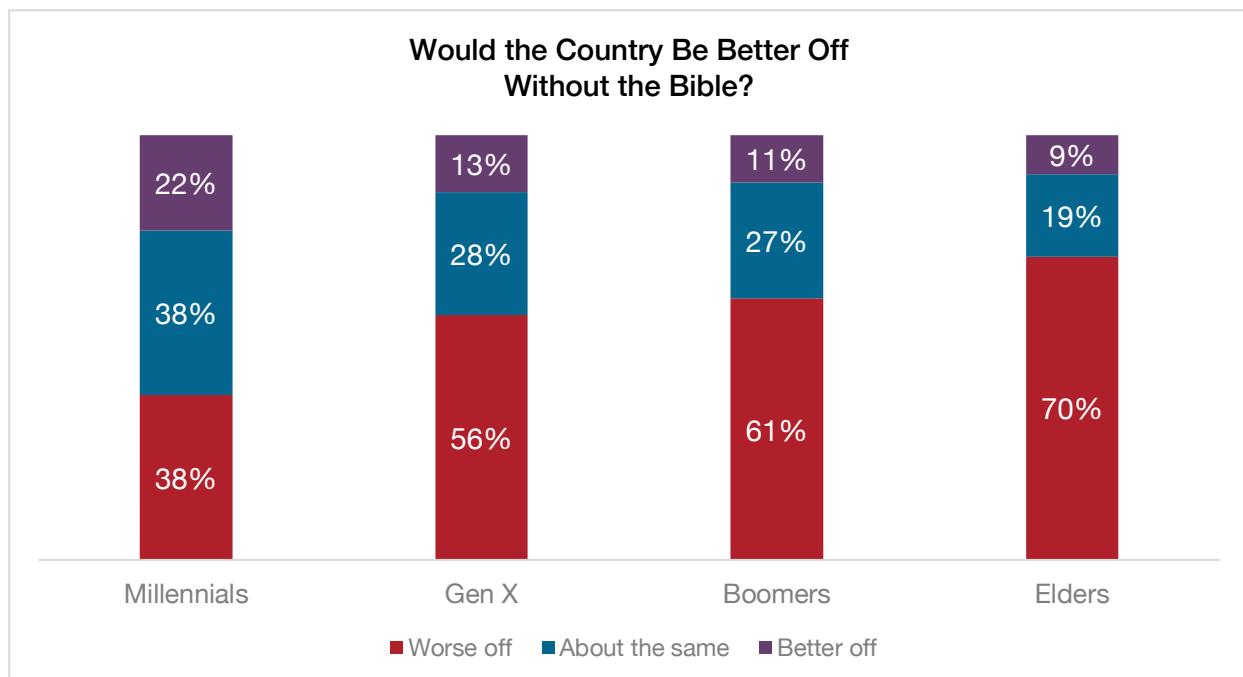
[Table 5.2, page 88]

A small majority of Americans agree that the country would be worse off without the Bible (55%), compared to 30% who say it would be about the same. One in seven (15%) believes the country would be better off without the Bible’s influence.

Seven in 10 Elders (72%) think the country would be worse off without the Bible, not surprisingly given that they grew up during a time when Christianity was more accepted in public places such as schools, in monuments, and government. Boomers (61%) and Gen X (58%) feel the same, but to a lesser degree. Less than two in five Millennials (39%) feel that not having the Bible would be a detriment to the country. Millennials are just as likely to believe the country would be about the same (39%) without the Bible, while another 22% think it would actually be better off without it.

More than eight in 10 Bible Centered (83%) and Engaged (81%) feel the country would be worse off, compared to 73% of Bible Friendly, and 60% of Bible Neutrals. While three in 10 (32%) Disengageds suspect the country would be worse off, Disengaged adults most commonly say the country would be about the same (46%). Approximately one in five (23%) say the country would be better off without the Bible.

Other segments more likely to believe the country would be worse off without the Bible include practicing Protestants, African Americans, whites, married adults, mid- to high-income earners, households with children, residents of the South, and those who live in small town or rural communities.



The Bible as the Moral Fabric of Our Country

[Table 5.3, page 89]

When asked to choose between whether the Bible or the U.S. Constitution is more important to the moral fabric of this country, adults view the Constitution as slightly more important than the Bible (53% and 47%, respectively). Although there has been a modest shift in adults who identify the Bible as more important than the previous year, the percentages are the same as observed in 2017.

The Bible is more commonly deemed more important by women, African Americans, married adults, parents of young children, residents of the South, and practicing Protestants. The perceived importance of the Bible over the Constitution also increases by age.

As many as 90% of Bible Centered and 83% of Bible Engaged adults identify the Bible as more important, but that number decreases among Friendly (65%), Neutral (52%), Disengaged (20%) and Skeptics (8%).

6. BIBLE PENETRATION

Bible Ownership

[Tables 6.1 and 6.2, pages 90-91]

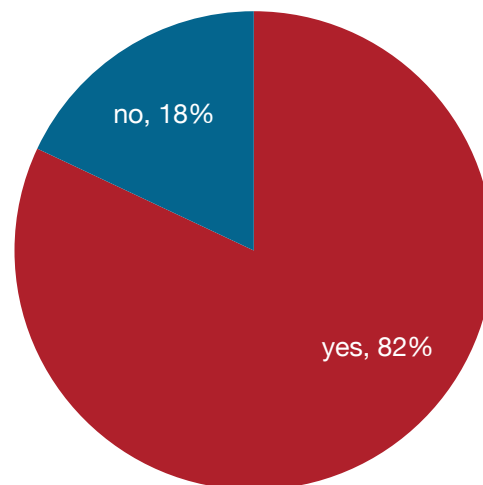
More than four out of five households (84%) own a Bible. Although this represents a two-percentage point increase in Bible ownership, ownership overall has declined since 2011 (88%) and its high in 1993 (92%).

When a follow-up question was asked to determine whether or not the household Bible is in a language and format they understand, this number dips to 82% of all adults.

Bible ownership corresponds with age: the older a person is, the more likely they are to own a Bible in a language they can understand. More than nine in 10 Elders (92%) own an understandable Bible, while 85% of Boomers, 82% of Gen X, and 75% of Millennial households do. Other households where Bible ownership is more common include the typical Bible-friendly segments: African Americans, whites, married adults, Southern and Midwestern residents and households with children.

At least nine in 10 Bible Centered, Engaged, Friendly and Neutral households own a Bible in a language and format they understand. Even Disengaged households (65%) and Skeptics are likely to own a Bible (50%). In fact, previous years' data suggests that most households own an average of three Bibles. Not having a Bible at home does not seem to be factor in Bible use.

Households who own a Bible In an Understandable Language and Format?



7. BIBLE LITERACY

To determine actual Bible knowledge, several questions were asked to distinguish those who say they know the Bible from those who actually do.

Self-Assessment of Bible Knowledge

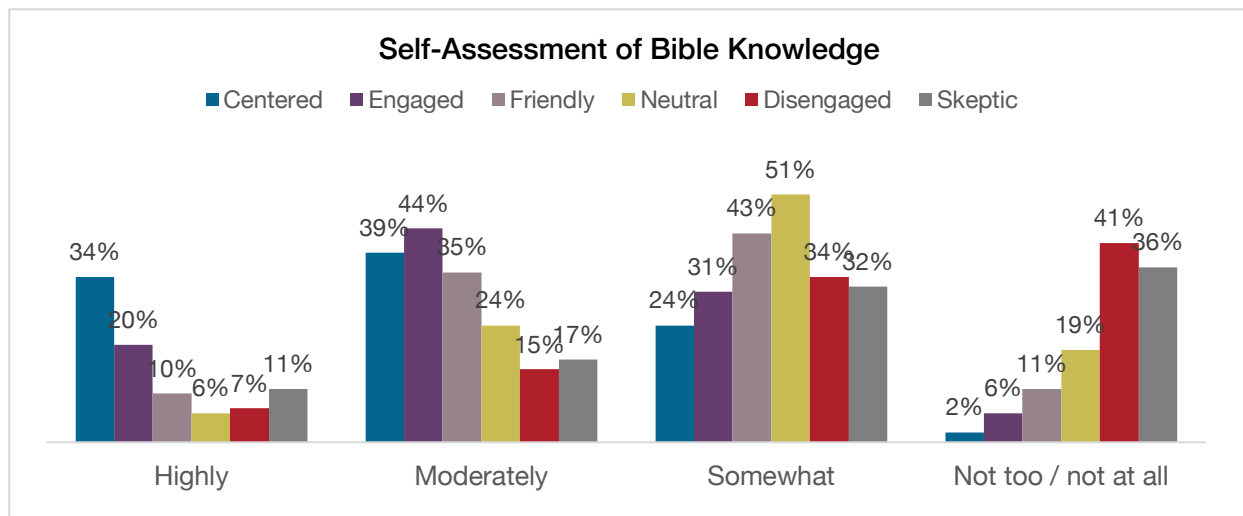
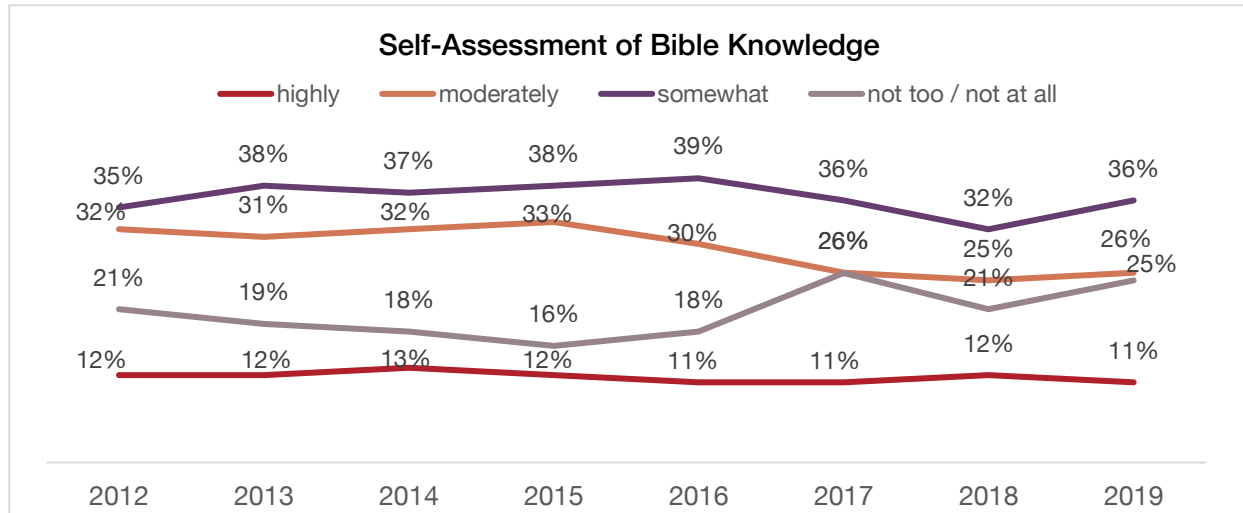
[Table 7.1, page 92]

Nearly three-quarters of Americans (73%) profess at least some knowledge of the Bible, of which one in ten (11%) say they are highly knowledgeable and another one in four say they are moderately knowledgeable (26%). Only one-third of adults admit that they are not too or not at all knowledgeable about the Bible, and 2% say they are not sure.

The number of adults who profess at least some knowledge of the Bible has increased by four-percentage points in 2019. Although those who say they are highly or moderately knowledgeable has remained unchanged, more adults say they are somewhat confident in their knowledge than they did a year ago (32% in 2018 and 36% in 2019).

More than four in five adults with at least some engagement with Scripture says they are at least somewhat certain in their knowledge, ranging from 97% among Bible Centered to 81% among Bible Neutrals. Even the majority of Disengaged (56%) and Bible Skeptics (60%) say they are somewhat knowledgeable. However, the real difference in engagement can be seen among those who self-assess their knowledge as very strong. One-third of Bible Centered (34%) claim they are highly knowledgeable, compared to 20% Engaged, 10% of Friendlies, 6% of Neutrals, and 7% of Disengaged. Surprisingly, the biggest change in those who rate themselves as highly knowledgeable this year compared to last are Bible Centered, decreasing 13 percentage points from 47% to 34%.

Groups more likely to express a great knowledge of scripture include African Americans and adults who have not attended college. Men are more likely to say they feel moderately knowledgeable than women. There is no statistical difference between the various age groups on how much knowledge they believe they possess of the Bible.



Knowledge of Jesus' Birthplace

[Table 7.2, page 93]

Out of a list of four cities, adults were asked to choose which city Jesus was born in. Two-thirds (68%) correctly named Bethlehem as Jesus' birthplace. Jerusalem and Nazareth tied for second at 10 percent each. One in every 14 people said they had no idea. Less than one percent selected Jericho.

More Elders (78%) and Boomers (76%) identified Jesus' birthplace than did Gen X (72%). Millennials fell significantly behind in their ability to name his birthplace, with just over half choosing Bethlehem (53%). Jerusalem was identified by Millennials at nearly double the rate of the national average, at 20%. One in 10 Millennials admit they are unsure, compared to far fewer adults of other generations.

Despite their increased engagement with the Bible and a greater self-assessment of Bible knowledge, African Americans are no more likely to identify Bethlehem than Hispanics or Asians. Three quarters of whites identified Jesus' birthplace (74%) compared to 60% of Asians, 59% of African Americans and 53% of Hispanics.

Naturally, Bible Centered (82%) and Bible Engaged adults (78%) have higher levels of awareness than do Bible Friendlies (68%) and Neutrals (66%), however awareness among Disengaged is relatively high at 63% and 56% among Skeptics.

Knowledge of the Ten Commandments

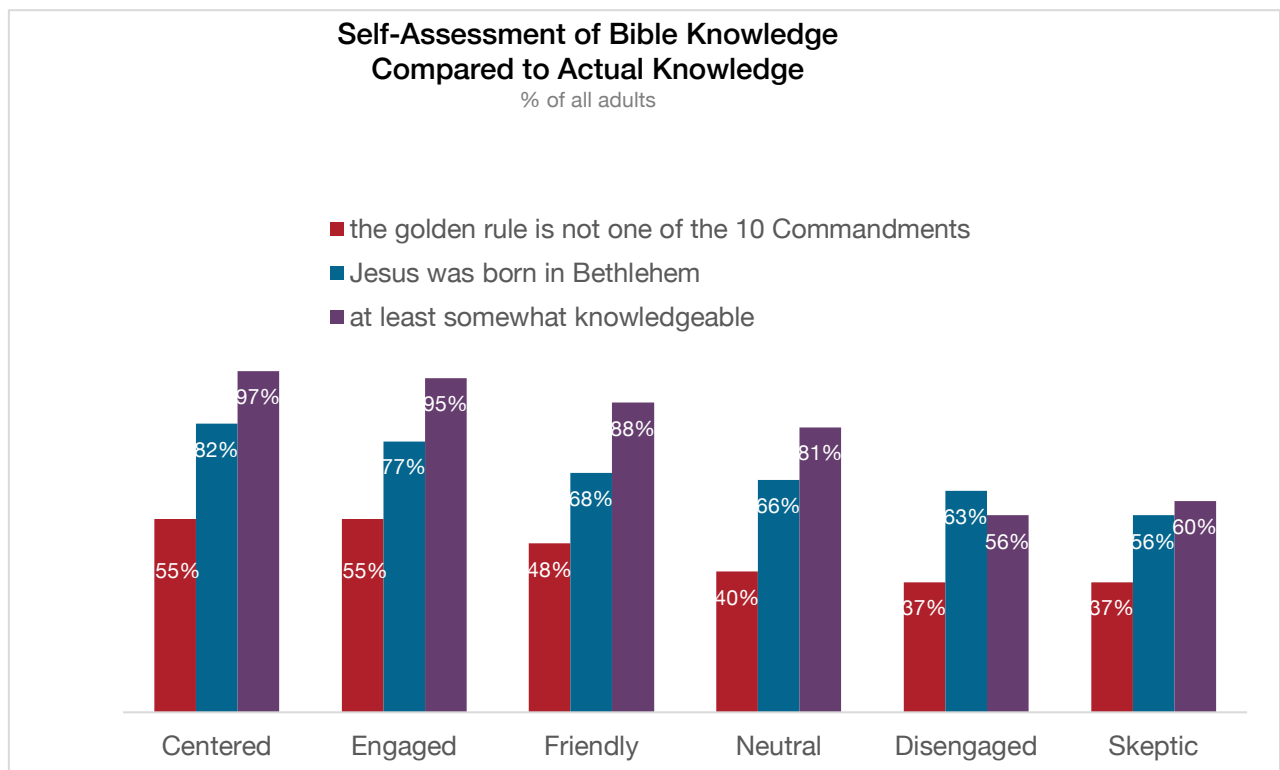
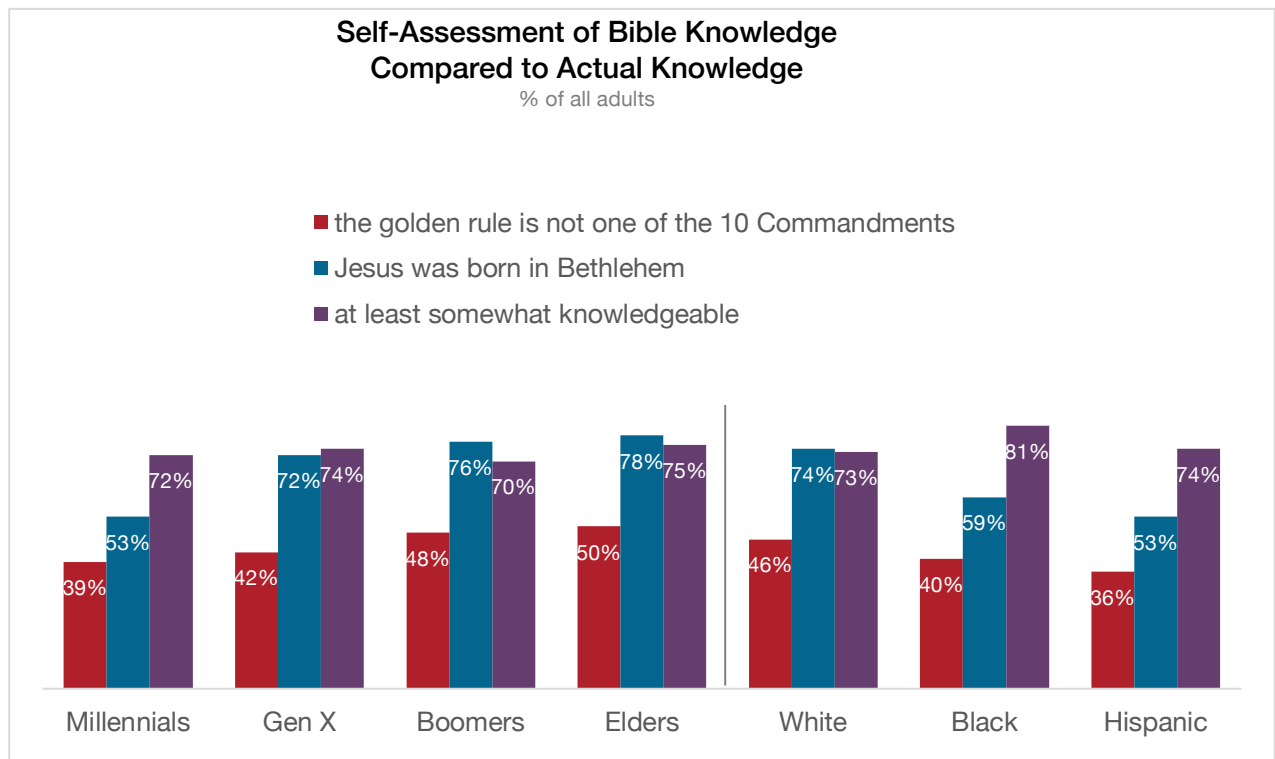
[Table 7.3, page 93-94]

When asked to identify which commandment was *not* one of the Ten Commandments from a list of four, 44% of adults correctly identified *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you* as not being one of the Commandments. Roughly half that number chose *Keep the Sabbath holy* (22%), which is statistically on par with the number of adults who said all four phrases offered are part of God's Ten Commandments. The directives *Do not steal* and *Do not commit adultery* were chosen by just 1-2%.

Only a little more than half of Bible Centered (55%) and Engaged (55%) identified the "golden rule" as being incorrect. Bible Friendlies are statistically equal to more engaged segments at 48% who identified the incorrect Commandment, while 40% of Bible Neutrals, 37% of Disengaged and 38% of Skeptics selected the right answer.

Again, older generations are more likely than younger generations to spot the erroneous statement.

When comparing self-assessment of Bible knowledge and actual knowledge, it is clear that Millennials are more likely than older generations to overstate their knowledge of the Bible, followed by Gen X. This is also true with African Americans, and to a lesser extent, Hispanics. Comparing Bible engagement segments, Neutral, Disengaged and Skeptics tend to have a pretty realistic view of their knowledge of the Bible, compared to Engaged, Centered and Bible Friendly.



Bible as Literal or Inspired Word of God

[Tables 7.4 and 7.5, pages 94-96]

Presented with five different ways of describing the Bible, more adults believe the Bible is *inspired* (with some symbolism) than *literal*. A plurality of Americans believe the Bible is the inspired word and is without errors, yet some verses are meant to be symbolic rather than literal, a view held by 30%.

The second most common belief is that the Bible is the actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word (22%). An equal number of adults believe that the Bible is just another book of teachings written by men that contains stories and advice (21%). The remainder of Americans believe it is inspired but contains factual or historical errors (17%) or that it is not inspired by God but tells how the writers understood the ways and principles of God (10%).

Although these findings are consistent with the previous year's tracking, the number of adults who believe the Bible is inspired and contains no errors has declined, while the number of adults who hold the view that it is just another book has increased 10-percentage points since 2011.

The belief that the Bible is the actual word of God is most commonly held by Bible Engaged (68%), followed by an understanding that it is inspired but without errors (31%). Adults who are Bible Engaged are just as likely to view the Bible as God's actual word (47%) as they are to say it is inspired with some symbolism (41%), a difference that is within the range of sampling error.

While Bible Friendlies most commonly believe the Bible to be inspired with no errors (47%), one in four believes it to be the actual word (24%) and another 18% think it is inspired with errors. Bible Neutrals are most likely to believe Scripture is inspired, but are just as likely to say it has errors (30%) as they are to believe it is error-free (32%). Those who don't interact with the Bible at all, the Disengaged, are most likely at 41% to see the Bible as just another book of teachings written by men.

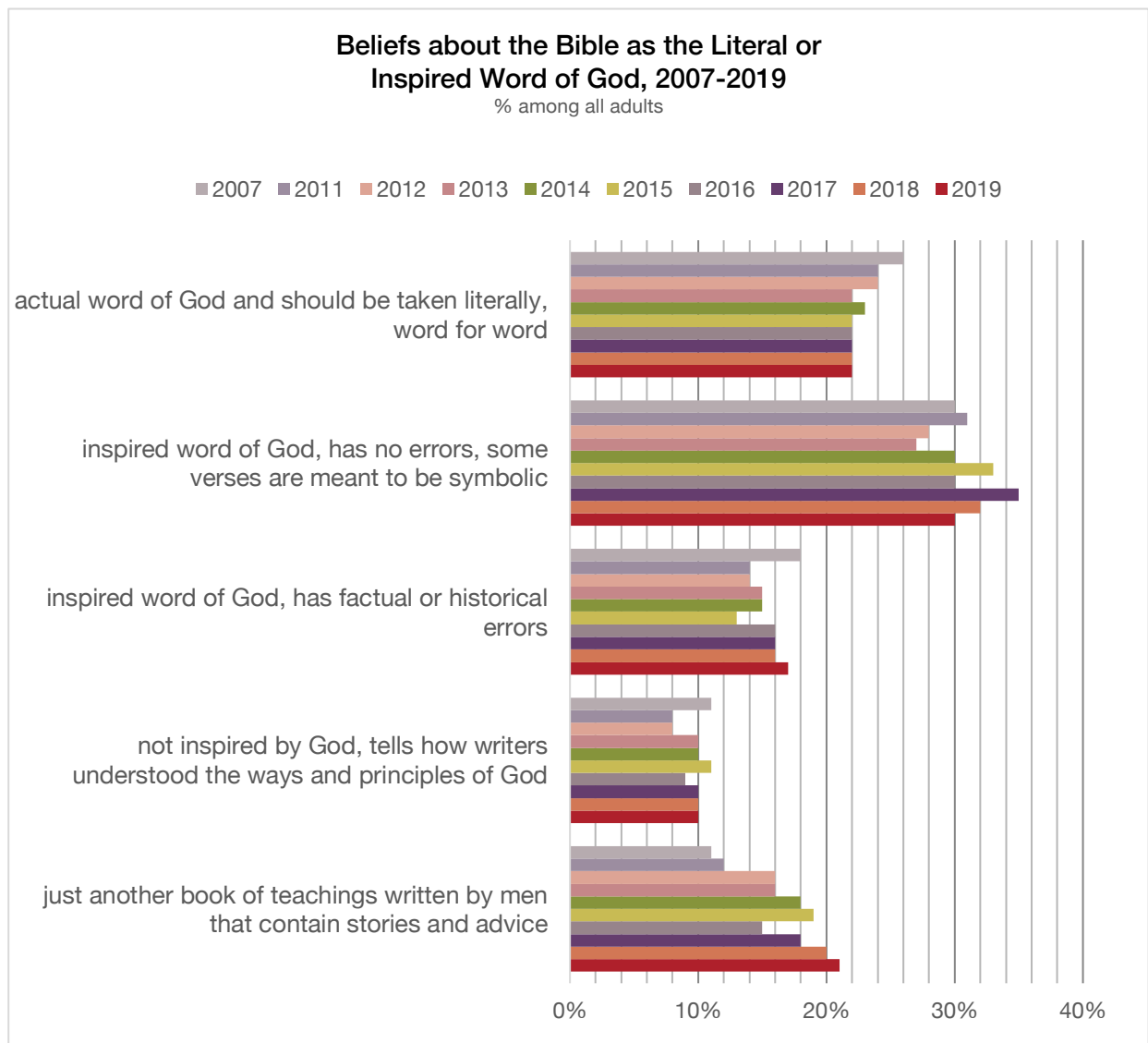
Women more than men (25% and 19%) believe it is God's actual word, while men are more likely than women to say it is just another book (24%, 18%).

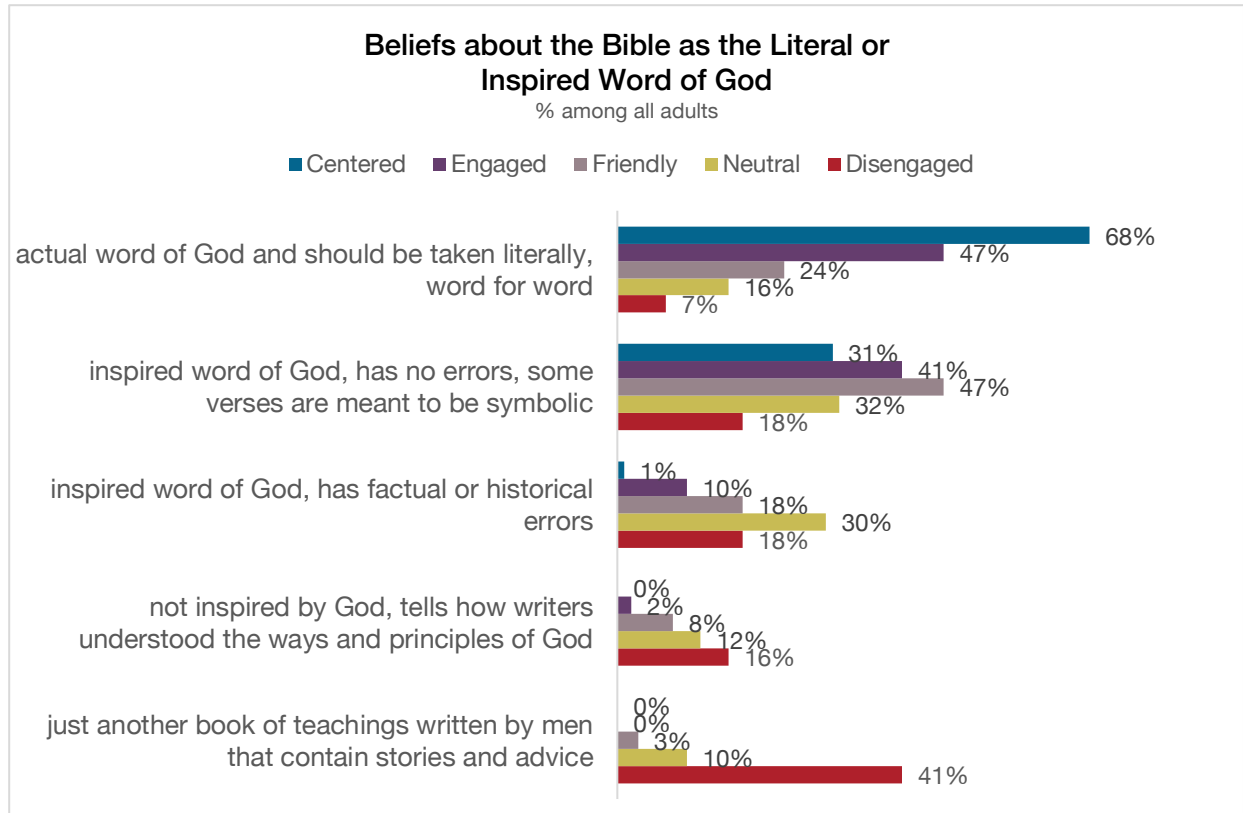
Educational attainment plays a part in views of the Bible. The less educated a person is, the more he or she is to believe it is the actual word (32%) compared to those who attended college but did not graduate (20%) and those who obtained a college degree (11%). More than one quarter (27%) of college graduates believe it is just another book compared to adults with some college (20%) or no college (18%).

African Americans also more commonly believe the Bible is the actual word of God (37%). Hispanics are most likely to view the Bible as the inspired word without errors (35%), while Asians are most skeptical about the Bible as the divine word of God, instead choosing to believe it is just another book of teachings (41%).

The younger a person is, the more likely he or she is to say the Bible is just another book of teachings written by men. More than one in four Millennials believe this (27%), compared to one in five Gen X (21%), Boomers (18%) and Elders (14%).

Among those who claim the Bible is just another book of teachings, a follow-up question was asked to determine if they are skeptical about the Bible or if they have a more opposing perspective. A plurality of Disengaged adults, who represent 95% of those who believe the Bible is just another book of advice, believe either strongly (47%) or somewhat (29%) that the Bible was written to control or manipulate others. Just one-quarter of Disengaged adults believe it was *not* written to control others.





Influence of the Bible

[Table 7.6, pages 96-101]

Of the nine possible ways the Bible can influence people’s decisions, more adults say the Bible influences them at least somewhat on how they treat people who are of a different race than themselves (62% agree, while 29% agree strongly).

More than half of all adults also say the Bible influences their support for refugees and people displaced by wars and conflicts (55%), and the decisions they make at work or school (53%). Just under half also draw at least some connection between the Bible and the decisions they make about sex and sexuality (49%). However, fewer than half believes the Bible influences their support for wars our country fights (43%), movies and television they watch (38%), and what they choose to buy (31%). When it comes to politics, two in five adults say the Bible influences their decision on whom to vote for (40%), while 36% say it influences their political party affiliation.

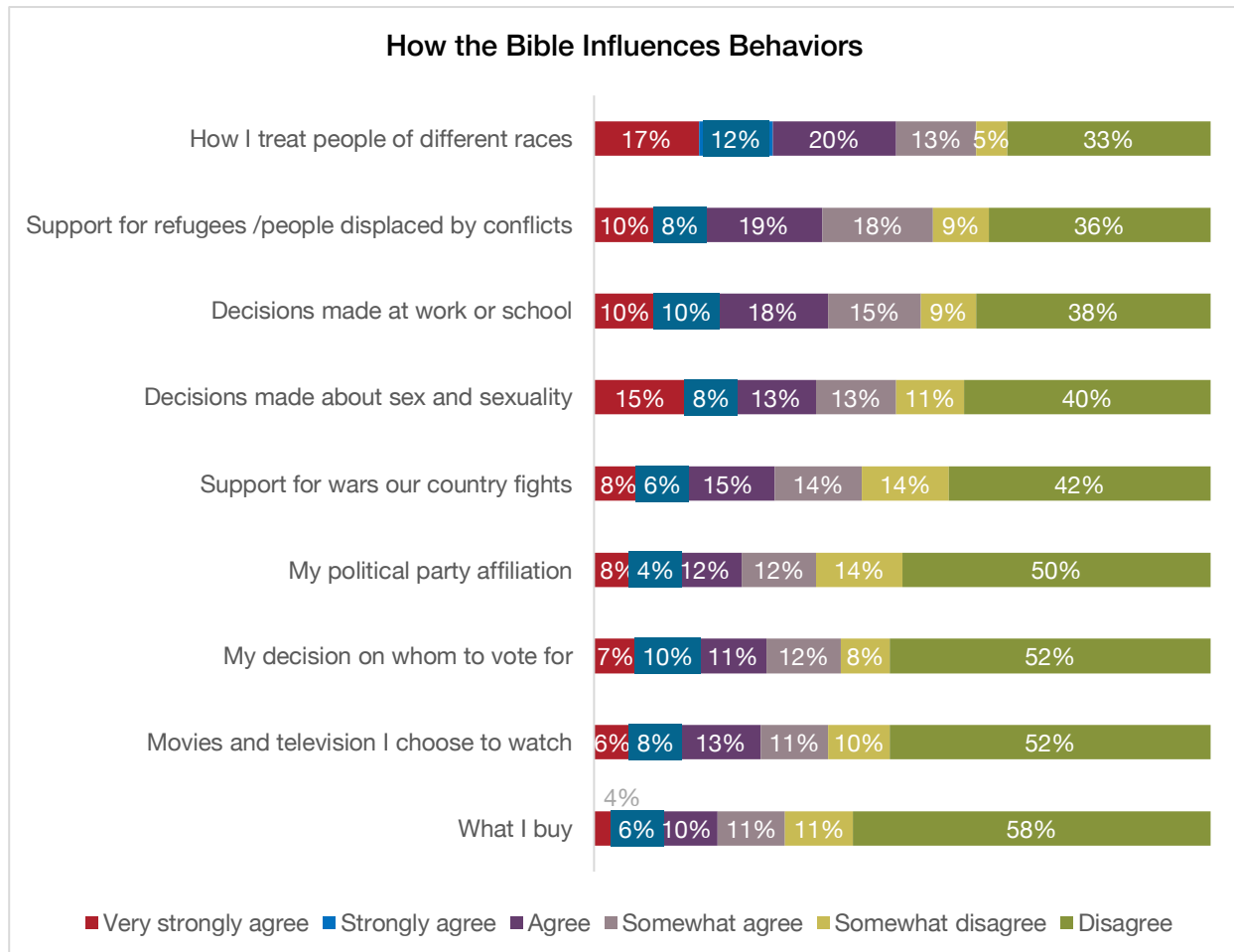
Yet it should be noted that relatively few adults – less than three in 10 – express strong agreement that the Bible influences *any* of the remaining behaviors presented.

The more engaged a person is in the Bible, the more likely he or she is to ascribe at least some influence to each statement presented. Bible Centered adults are most likely to agree with

each of these items, with these faithful Bible readers reporting strong agreement (very strongly agree or strongly agree) in the 66% to 95% agreement range for each. Like the general population, Bible Centered adults rate the Bible’s influence on how they treat others highest.

African Americans are less likely to disagree strongly or somewhat that the Bible influences them on most of the behaviors examined.

While men and women hold relatively similar views on the level of influence the Bible has on their beliefs and behaviors, it is noteworthy that men are more likely than women to disagree that the Bible influences what they watch on movies or television, and women are more likely to disagree the Bible has much influence in the purchases they make. Women are also more likely to believe the Bible strongly influences how they treat people of different races and the decisions they make at school or work.



The Bible's Influence on Civic Issues

[Table 7.7, pages 102-103]

Two out of five adults (42%) believe the Bible encourages awareness of civic and government issues, and just 13% believe the Bible strongly encourages this. When asked if the Bible encourages people to get personally involved by participating in civic issues, 37% agreed, with one in 10 (11%) who say the Bible strongly encourages such involvement.

Many adults are unsure about what the Bible says about civic awareness (35%) or personal involvement (36%). Less than one in 10 adults believes the Bible does not encourage either of these activities.

Adults who are more engaged with scripture more commonly say the Bible encourages civic engagement than are those who are less engaged. Nearly half of Disengaged admit that they don't know what the Bible says about civic involvement.

African Americans, residents of the South, practicing Protestants, and people who live in the city are more likely to believe the Bible strongly encourages involvement. Although Boomers and Elders are just as likely as younger generations to say the Bible strongly encourages people to know what is going on in the government, they are less likely than Millennials or Gen X to believe the Bible encourages them to actually participate in civic activities.

Oppressiveness Towards Certain People Groups

[Table 7.8, pages 103-104]

When asked whether or not the Bible is oppressive towards LGBT people, women, and certain races, 61% of Americans agree either strongly or somewhat that the Bible is oppressive when it comes to the LGBT community. While there has been a slight increase in this belief this year, it is eight percentage points below what it was when first asked in 2017. The proportion of adults who agree in the Bible's oppressiveness to women (47%) and to certain races (38%) has remained unchanged in the past year.

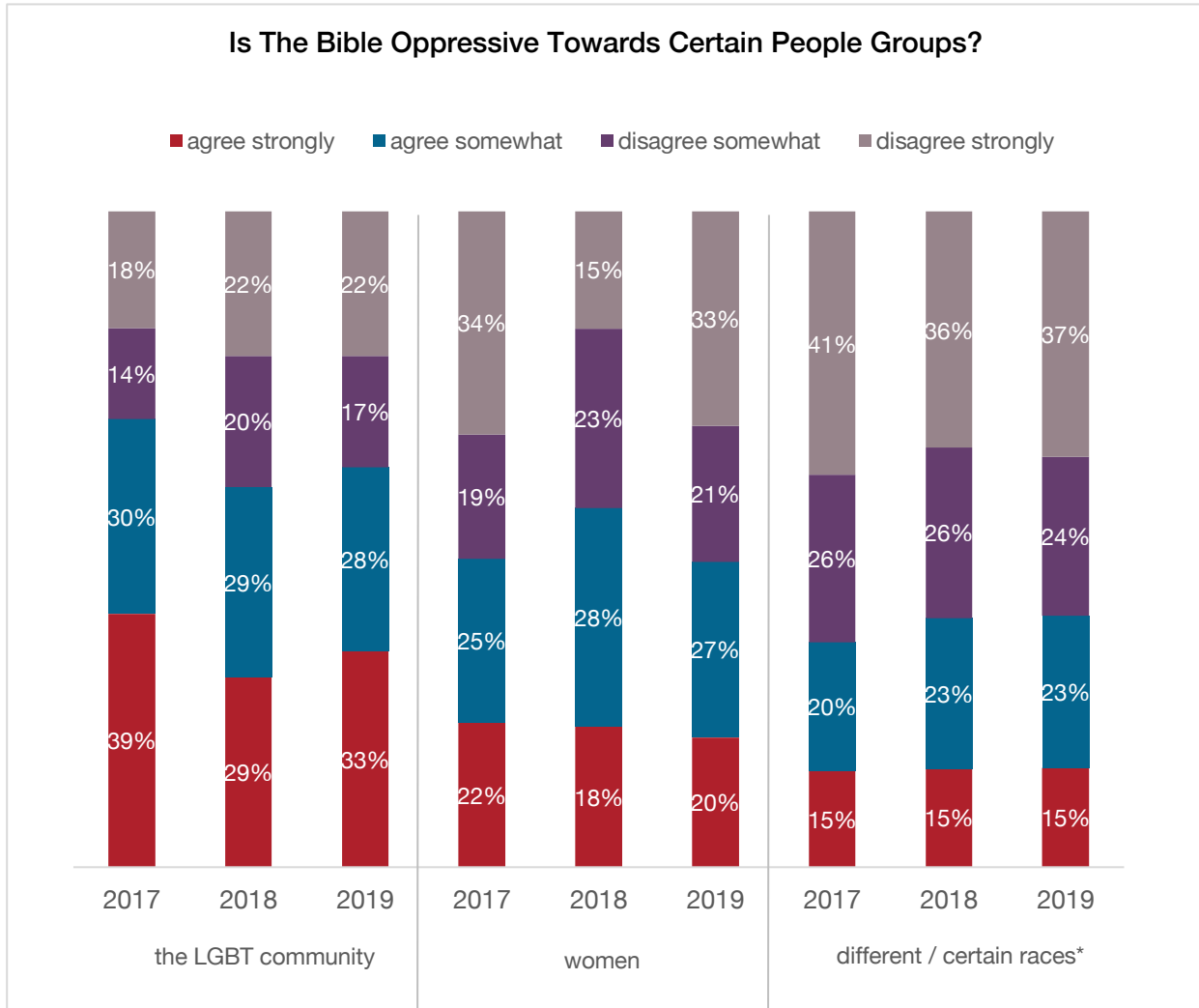
Concerning LGBT issues, people on the far ends of the Bible Engagement scale – Bible Centered (42%) and Disengaged (39%) are more likely to agree strongly than Engaged (23%), Friendly (22%), and Neutral (25%).

Regarding the Bible's oppressiveness towards women, men are no less likely to see the Bible as oppressive to women than are women themselves. African Americans are more likely than whites to agree strongly. While there is little difference by engagement segments, Skeptics are more than twice as likely as the average adult to agree strongly with this notion.

Although most people do not believe the Bible is oppressive to certain races, African Americans are more than twice as likely than whites to agree strongly with this assertion.

Overall, one in four African Americans agrees strongly (24%) compared to just 13% of whites. Skeptics, and particularly adults who are hostile to the Bible, are significantly more likely to equate the Bible with being oppressive to certain races.

More Millennials, and to a lesser extent, Gen X adults, strongly identify the Bible as being oppressive to all three people groups tested, compared to Boomers and Elders.



* In 2018, "different races" was changed to "certain races."

8. MORALITY

Belief that Morality Is on the Decline

[Table 8.1, page 105]

Four out of five adults (80%) agree that the values and morals of America are declining, statistically unchanged from the previous year.

Millennials are less likely to see the change in morality (72%) than all of the three generations that came before. Nine in 10 Bible Centered (92%) and Bible Engaged (90%) recognize this decline compared to 85% of Friendlies, Neutrals (82%) and Disengaged (73%).

Cause of Moral Decline

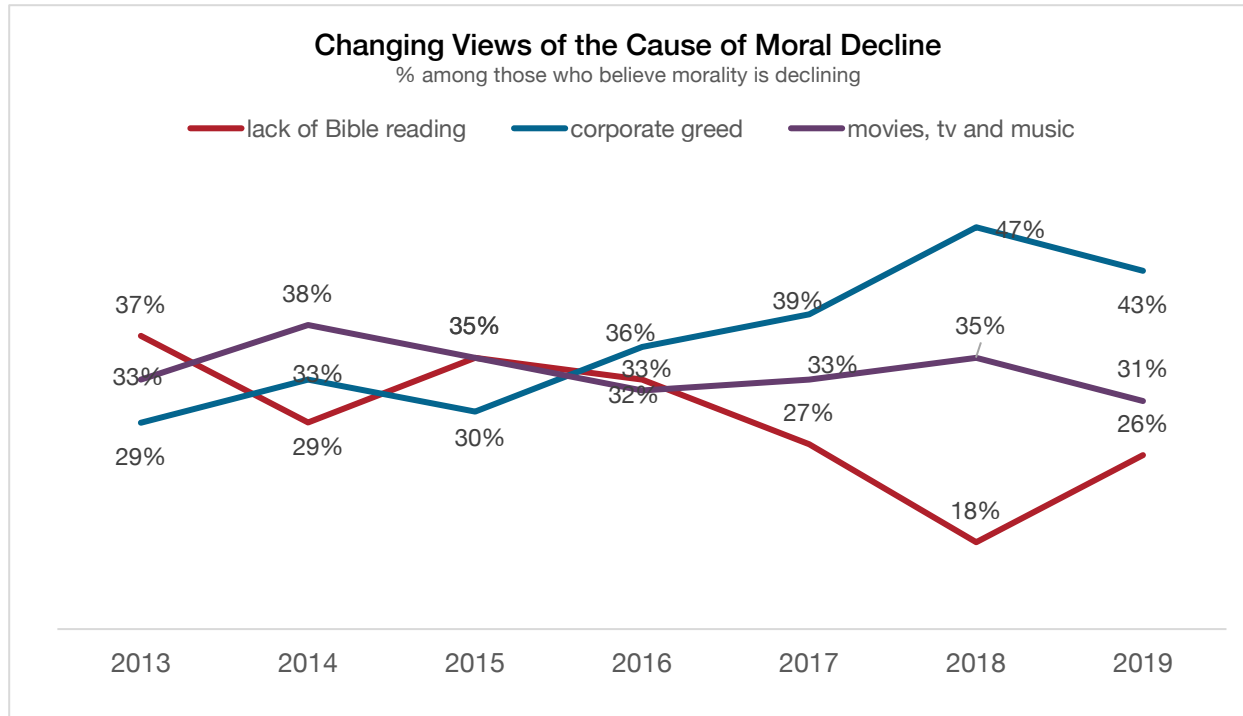
[Table 8.2, pages 105-106]

As a follow-up question, adults who said they believe morality is on the decline were asked to determine what they thought was most responsible for declining values from a list of three options. The corruption that comes from corporate greed is ranked highest of the three possible reasons at 43%. One in three adults (31%) believes the negative influences of movies, television and music are to blame, while the remaining 26% attribute the decline to a lack of Bible reading.

Millennials are most likely to hold greedy corporations as the most responsible for moral decline (56%), while Boomers (37%) and Elders (45%) are more apt to believe this negative shift in morality is caused by the influence of television, movies and music. One in five Millennials (20%) believes not reading the Bible is the main cause, compared to 29% of Gen X, 27% of Boomers and 32% of Elders.

Bible Centered (57%) and Engaged adults (51%) are the only Bible engagement segments in which half of the population fault a lack of Bible reading. Bible Friendly adults place the blame equally among the three possible causes. The less engaged segments – Disengaged (59%), Neutrals (42%) – more commonly list corruption from corporate greed.

Fewer people assign blame to greedy corporations and the negative influence of what we watch and listen to than in the previous year, while significantly more people in 2019 say the cause is a lack of Bible reading. It is important to note however that assigning culpability to a lack of Bible reading is still down 14-percentage points since 2013.



The Bible’s Impact on Morals and Politics

[Table 8.3, page 107]

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) agree that you don’t have to believe in God in order to be moral or to have good values, including 37% who are in strong agreement. Just 18% strongly refute this statement, and another 17% disagree somewhat.

Disengaged adults most commonly express strong agreement (51%) compared to other engagement segments. Asians, whites, and non-Christians are most likely to agree strongly with this statement. The more engaged a person is with the Bible, the more they are likely to *disagree strongly* with this statement.

More than three-quarters of adults (78%) recognize that a sincere follower of the Bible could belong to a different political party than they do. The older a person is, the more likely he or she is to agree strongly with this idea. Whites are also more likely to support this belief (53%) compared to 43% of African Americans, 41% of Hispanics and 21% of Asians. Bible Centered and Engaged adults are more on board with this belief than are Bible Neutrals and Disengaged adults.

9. TRAUMA AND CRISIS

Comfort During Crisis

[Table 9.1, page 108]

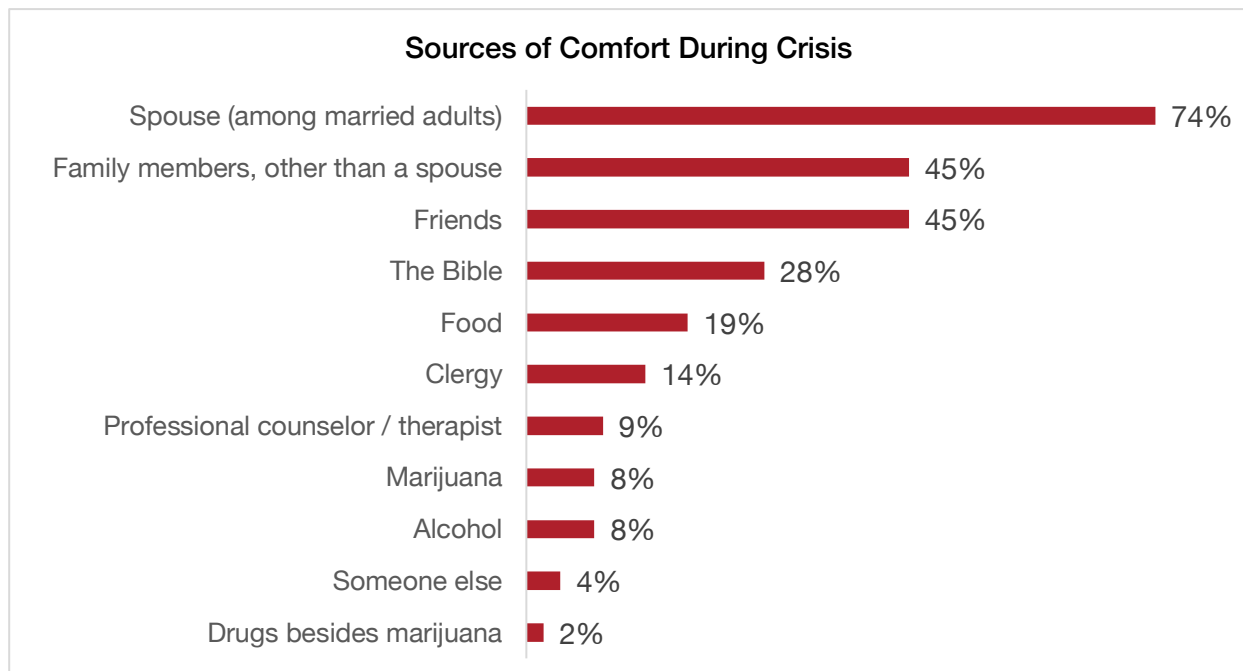
Faced with a crisis, Americans commonly turn to friends or family members (45% each). Nearly three-quarters of married adults (74%) rely on their spouse during times of crisis.

The second most common place people turn to for comfort during a crisis is their Bible at 28%. The Bible is a particular source of comfort for Bible Centered (80%), Engaged (77%), and Friendlies (50%). Practicing Protestants, African Americans, parents with children at home, and households earning less than \$50K annually are more likely to turn to Scripture as well.

Turning to food for comfort ranks third, mentioned by one in five Americans (19%). Additionally, one in seven (14%) say they seek help from a pastor or other clergy member. Among those who are engaged with the Bible, between 25% and 32% seek help from a member of the clergy.

Fewer than one in 10 looks for help from the remaining sources offered, including a therapist (9%), marijuana (8%), alcohol (8%), other drugs (2%), or someone else (4%).

One in 10 adults (10%) contends that they do not seek help from any of the 11 possible sources given.



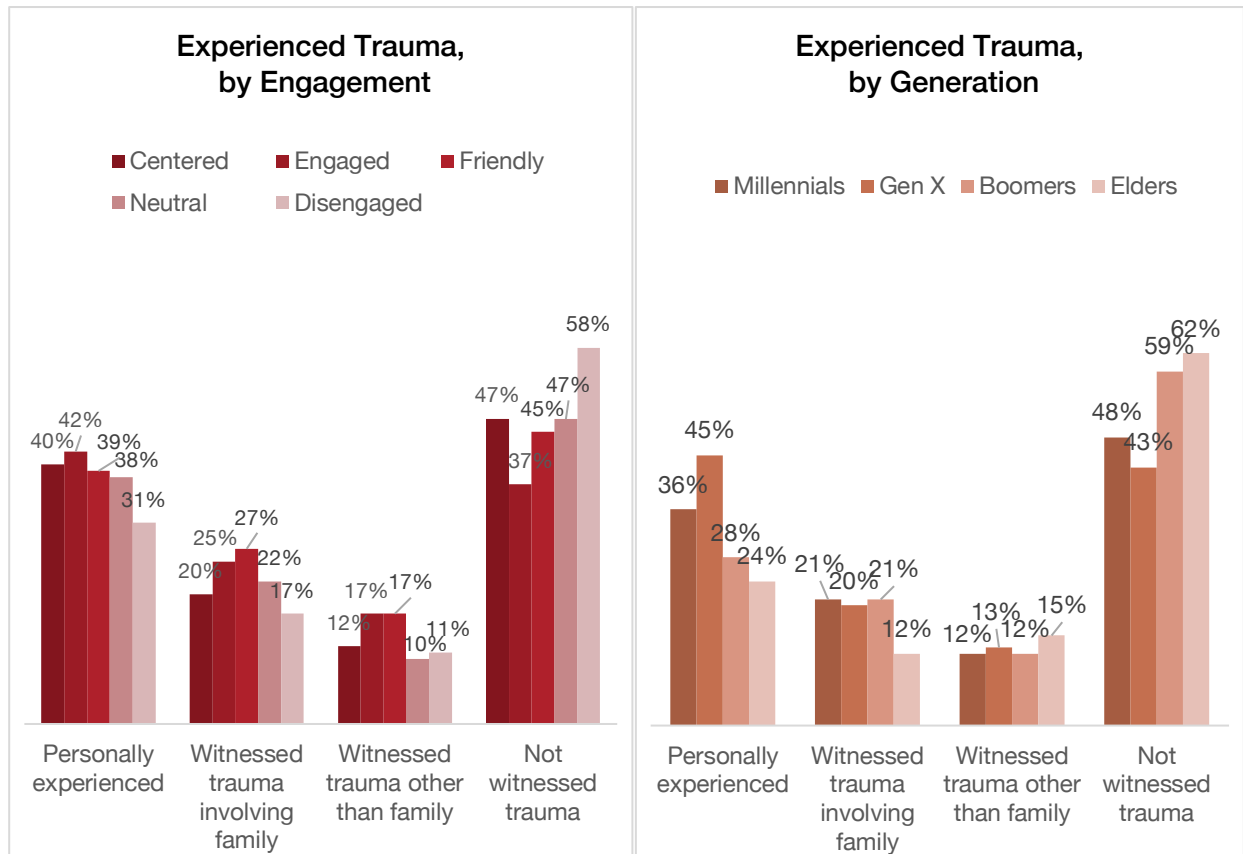
Experience with Trauma

[Table 9.2, page 109]

Half of adults (49%) have experienced some type of physical, psychological or emotional trauma, which is on par with the previous year’s findings. More than one third (35%) have personally experienced a trauma, one in five (20%) have witnessed a trauma involving an immediate family member, and 13% witnessed a trauma experienced by someone other than a family member. Slightly fewer Americans report having seen others outside of their family go through trauma than the previous year (17% in 2018).

While the survey did not inquire the specific nature of the trauma was, Millennials (52%) and Gen X (57%) are more likely to report having experienced or witnessed trauma than are Boomers (41%) and Elders (38%). While Millennials are less likely to have experienced a trauma personally, Gen X are more likely to say their trauma was personal. Women are more likely than men to say that the trauma was personal as well.

Disengaged adults are the only Engagement segment who are less likely than the more engaged segments to report never having experienced a trauma.

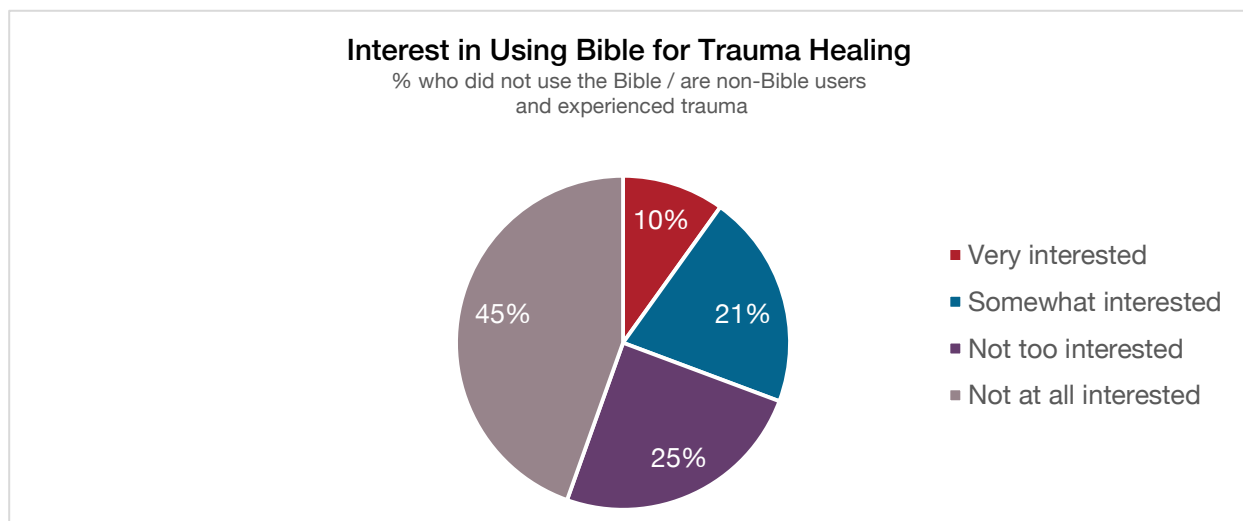
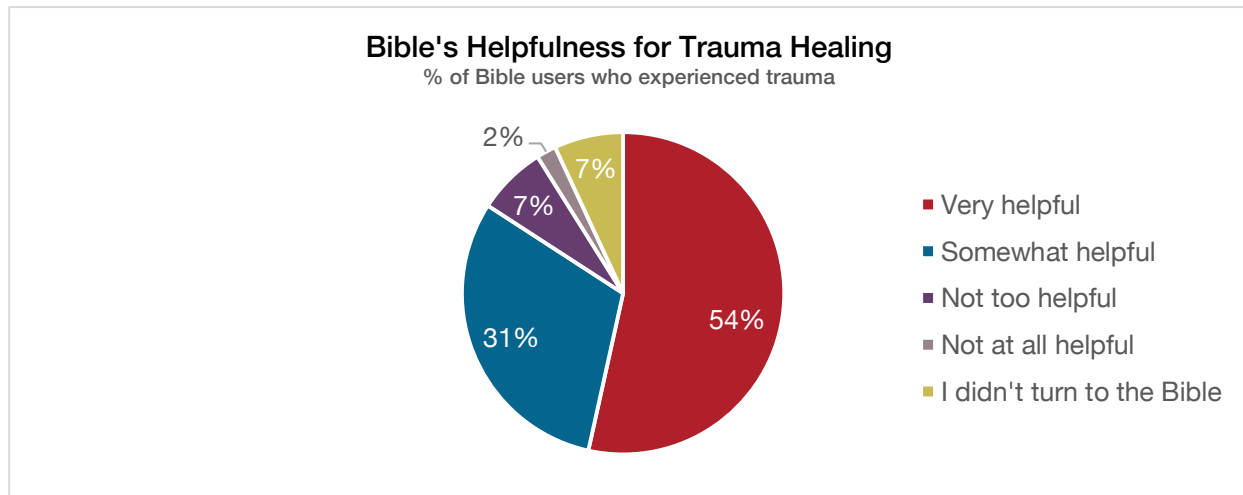


Using the Bible as a Resource During Trauma

[Tables 9.3 and 9.4, page 110]

Most Bible users who have experienced a trauma say the Bible helped them with the trauma they experienced or witnessed. More than half (54%) say the Bible was very helpful and another 31% regard it as somewhat helpful. Less than one in 10 did not find the Bible helpful in dealing with trauma. Just seven percent said they did not turn to the Bible for help at all. Those who found Scripture most helpful are those who are engaged with it on a regular basis.

Seven in 10 (70%) Americans who have experienced trauma and who did not turn to the Bible or who do not use the Bible express little to no desire to engage with the Bible when they are faced with trauma. Only one in 10 (10%) say they would be very interested in receiving help from the Bible, and 21% profess moderate interest.



10. CHURCH PERCEPTIONS

Perceptions of Local Churches and Christians

[Table 10.1, pages 111-112]

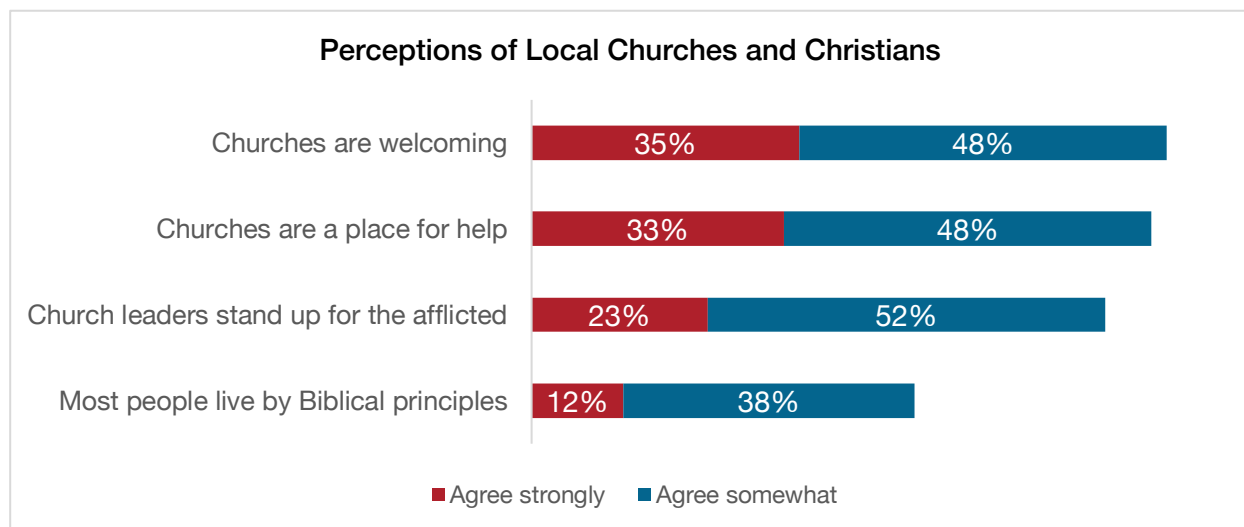
Overall, local churches are seen as welcoming (83%) and a place where people can go for help (81%). Roughly one-third of adults strongly agree with both of these statements. Three-quarters (75%) also agree strongly or somewhat that their local church leaders stand up for the vulnerable and afflicted, although fewer agree strongly with this sentiment (23%).

Adults place less confidence in their view that people in their city or town live according to Biblical principles. In general, half of adults believe this to be true, including one in eight (12%) who are in strong agreement.

Not surprisingly, the more engaged with scripture people are, the more likely they are to affirm churches as warm and welcoming, and that they live in an area in which most people live according to Biblical principles.

African Americans, church attenders, households with children at home, and residents of the Midwest and South are all more likely to perceive the church to be welcoming and a place for people can go to for help. African Americans, men, and weekly church attenders also agree that church leaders stand up for the vulnerable.

African Americans and residents of the South are also more likely to contend that most people in their town live according to Biblical principles. Millennials and Gen X are more likely to perceive the people around them as living according to Biblical principles than are older generations.



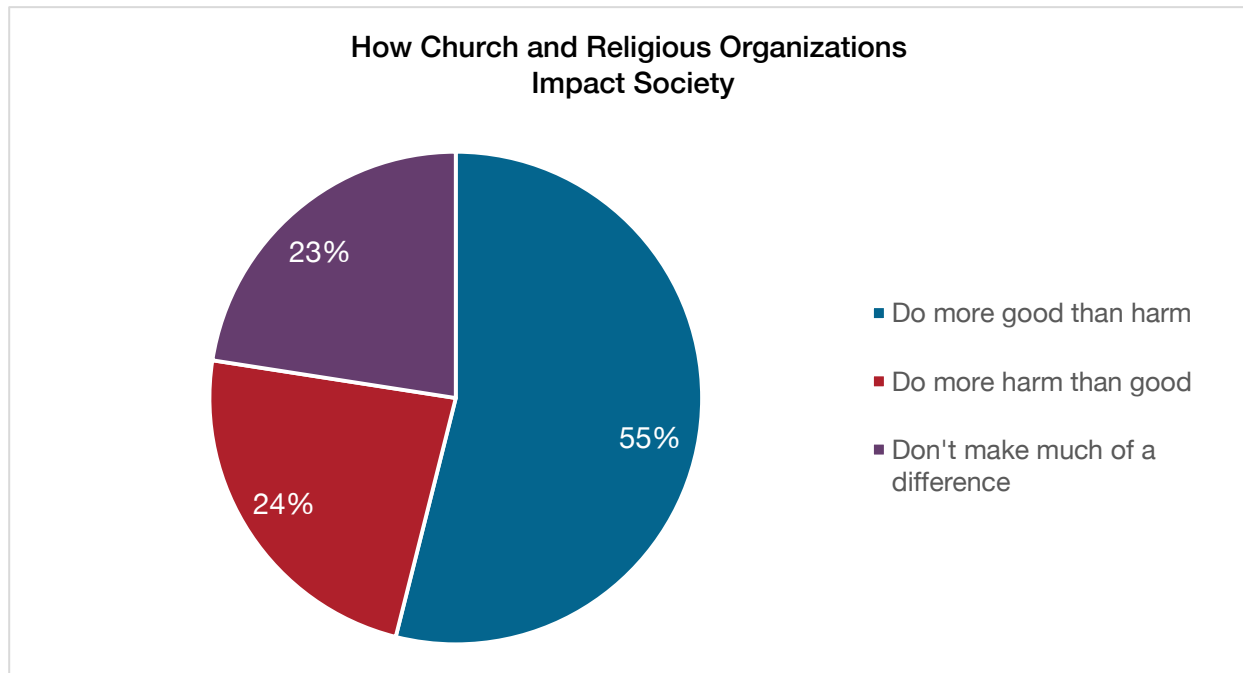
Impact of Churches and Faith Organizations on Society

[Table 10.2, page 113]

Asked to think about the impact churches and religious organizations have on American society today, more than half of adults (55%) say they do more good than harm. While half as many adults believe they do more harm than good (24%), just as many don't see churches and faith organizations as making much of a difference (22%).

A significant number of Bible Centered (82%), Engaged (75%), Friendly (77%) and Neutral (64%) adults assess the church as making a positive difference. Although a plurality of Disengaged also believe the church does more good than harm, three in ten (31%) perceive the church as doing more harm than good, while nearly as many (27%) don't think they make much difference.

Millennials are more likely to say churches do more harm than good, more than any other generation. African Americans and whites more commonly see the church as doing more good than do Hispanics or Asians.



11. GIVING TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Donations to Non-Profit Organizations

[Table 11.1, page 114]

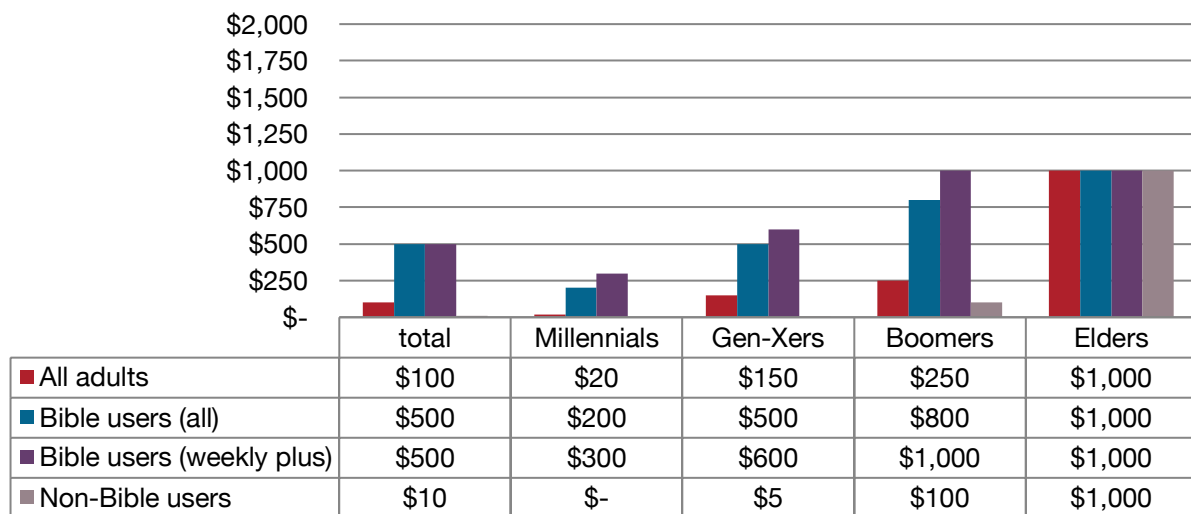
Overall, seven in 10 (70%) American report giving to a non-profit organization of some type in the previous year. The typical (median) amount given is \$100. Both the number of people who donated to a non-profit and the average amount given has remained consistent with the previous year.

The older a person is, the more likely he or she is to have donated money to a non-profit. Six in 10 (61%) Millennials report giving money to a charity in the past year, compared to 68% of Gen X, 76% of Boomers, and 87% of Elders. The median amount donated also rises with each subsequent generation. Millennials give the least, donating around \$20, while Elders report donating the most at a median of \$1,000.

Bible users are more likely to donate than are non-Bible users. The typical non-Bible user donated \$10, compared to Bible users, who gave an average of \$500.

Similarly, Scripture engagement also corresponds with giving. Fewer than one in five Centered, Engaged, and Friendlies did not donate any money to a non-profit compared to 24% of Neutrals and 44% of Disengaged. Bible Centered adults gave an average of \$1,000 in 2018 compared to \$20 among Disengaged, and \$5 among Skeptics.

Non-Profit Giving by Age
median annual dollar amount



APPENDIX I

Table o | Profile of Demographic Profile of Respondents

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
National average	27%	32%	29%	8%	64%	13%	14%	36%	49%	51%
Generation										
Gen Z (18-19)	0	0	0	0	3	4	7	5	4	4
Millennials (20-34)	100	0	0	0	19	36	50	42	25	29
Gen X (35-53)	0	100	0	0	31	33	28	33	29	34
Boomers (54-72)	0	0	100	0	35	23	14	18	31	26
Elders (73+)	0	0	0	100	12	3	1	2	10	7
Average age (in years)	26	44	62	79	52	39	31	36	48	45
Gender										
Male	45	45	54	60	51	40	46	45	100	0
Female	55	55	46	40	49	60	54	55	0	100
Education										
High school or less	47	37	35	38	40	45	47	42	39	42
Some college	31	36	29	25	29	31	34	34	28	34
College graduate	22	27	36	38	30	24	19	24	32	24
Marital status										
Married	28	58	67	62	59	30	37	36	52	51
All single	72	42	33	38	41	70	63	64	48	49
Never married	69	25	11	3	23	55	54	52	35	31
Children under 18 at home										
Yes	37	51	9	5	26	32	42	37	24	36
No	63	49	91	95	74	68	58	63	76	64
Military family										
Yes (active or retired)	17	19	26	47	25	19	16	20	25	21
Online and telephone sample n=	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

Table o | Profile of Demographic Profile of Respondents (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
National average	27%	32%	29%	8%	64%	13%	14%	36%	49%	51%
Geographic location										
City	40	32	25	18	22	52	47	47	30	31
Suburb	33	36	35	32	36	29	32	31	35	33
Small town	14	13	18	30	19	10	13	13	18	16
Rural	13	19	21	20	23	9	8	9	17	19
Region										
Northeast	14	22	28	23	26	14	15	13	22	21
Midwest	25	18	26	26	27	20	9	15	22	24
South	34	41	26	25	25	60	45	49	31	36
West	27	19	20	26	22	6	31	23	24	20
Ethnicity										
White alone, not Hispanic	45	64	78	91	100	0	0	0	68	62
Black alone, not Hispanic	17	14	11	5	0	100	0	37	11	15
Hispanic (any)	26	12	7	1	0	0	100	40	13	15
Asian	5	6	2	1	0	0	0	11	4	4
All non-white	55	36	22	8	0	100	100	100	32	38
Household income										
under \$50K	58	42	39	50	42	63	50	55	42	51
\$50K to \$99K	26	31	38	26	33	25	27	27	30	31
\$100K or more	17	27	23	24	25	12	23	18	27	18
Practicing Christian*										
Practicing Protestant	15	23	25	26	20	33	14	23	18	24
Practicing Catholic	10	6	9	13	9	6	11	8	8	9
Christian, not practicing	36	41	43	46	43	37	45	37	43	39
Non-Christian / no faith	41	28	25	16	29	25	28	31	31	28
Church attendance										
Within the past week	22	33	36	45	31	41	31	34	32	33
Within the past month, not week	12	11	10	8	10	12	13	11	9	12
Within the past 6 months, not past month	12	9	7	9	9	10	11	11	8	11
Unchurched	54	47	47	37	50	37	46	43	51	44
Online and telephone sample n=	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

* Does not equal 100% because Christians who do not specify a specific denominational affiliation are not included here.

1. SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Table 1.1 | Profile of Scripture Engagement Segments

(see definitions on page 5)

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
National average	100%	5%	19%	19%	9%	48%	23%
Generation							
Gen Z (18-19)	4	4	3	5	2	4	4
Millennials (20-34)	27	20	18	27	39	29	34
Gen X (35-53)	32	33	38	33	24	30	32
Boomers (54-72)	29	33	30	27	28	29	24
Elders (73+)	8	9	11	8	6	8	6
Average age (in years)	46	46	49	43	43	45	41
Gender							
Male	49	38	45	49	48	52	57
Female	51	62	55	51	52	48	43
Education							
High school or less	41	47	45	43	45	37	37
Some college	31	28	30	30	34	32	29
College graduate	28	26	25	27	21	31	34
Marital status							
Married	51	61	58	53	46	48	45
All single	49	39	42	47	54	52	55
Never married	33	25	24	33	44	36	42
Children under 18 at home							
Yes	30	41	36	33	30	26	21
No	70	59	64	67	70	74	79
Military family							
Yes (active or retired)	23	25	25	22	31	21	19
Online and telephone sample n=	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	403

Table 1.1 | Profile of Bible Engagement Segments (cont'd)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
National average	100%	5%	19%	19%	9%	48%	23%
Geographic location							
City	31	29	27	34	35	31	34
Suburb	34	29	30	34	26	38	35
Small town	17	16	18	18	21	16	16
Rural	18	26	25	14	19	16	15
Region							
Northeast	22	16	17	17	24	26	24
Midwest	23	21	20	28	24	22	19
South	33	46	50	36	25	26	24
West	22	17	13	19	27	26	34
Ethnicity							
White alone, not Hispanic	65	63	57	58	68	70	66
Black alone, not Hispanic	13	21	20	21	15	8	7
Hispanic (any)	14	12	14	15	22	13	14
Asian	4	1	5	2	1	5	7
All non-white	35	37	43	42	42	30	34
Household income							
under \$50K	47	50	49	48	52	44	47
\$50K to \$99K	31	33	32	25	32	32	30
\$100K or more	23	17	19	27	17	24	24
Practicing Christian*							
Practicing Protestant	21	60	53	31	12	2	0
Practicing Catholic	9	7	11	20	7	3	2
Christian, not practicing	41	17	28	41	67	44	22
Non-Christian / no faith	30	12	6	9	14	52	75
Church attendance							
Within the past week	32	70	68	51	24	10	5
Within the past month, not week	11	16	12	19	16	6	3
Within the past 6 months, not past month	10	5	8	10	19	10	6
Unchurched	48	10	13	21	41	74	86
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	403

* Does not equal 100% because Christians who do not specify a specific denominational affiliation are not included here.

Table 1.2 | Overall Bible Use

Realistically, how often do you use the Bible?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Never	31%	0%	0%	1%	2%	63%	72%
Less than once a year	10	0	0	1	3	19	9
Once or twice a year	8	0	1	7	28	8	7
Three or four times a year	6	0	3	12	22	3	3
Once a month	7	1	5	15	20	3	2
Once a week	9	2	13	22	15	2	3
Several times/4+ times a week	14	14	34	29	8	0	2
Every day	16	83	45	14	2	1	2
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	378	387	179	962	403

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Never	36%	32%	27%	21%	33%	18%	28%	26%	31%	30%
Less than once a year	10	7	12	13	10	6	11	9	11	9
Once or twice a year	7	7	8	9	9	5	8	6	8	7
Three or four times a year	5	7	7	5	7	6	7	6	7	6
Once a month	11	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Once a week	7	9	10	10	9	11	9	9	8	10
Several times/4+ times a week	12	17	14	16	13	18	16	16	14	14
Every day	11	17	17	20	13	29	14	20	15	17
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	568	166	1,286	263	279	703	985	1,020

Table 1.2 | Overall Bible Use (cont'd)

	2018	2019
Never	30%	31%
Less than once a year	12	10
Once or twice a year	8	8
Three or four times a year	7	6
Once a month	6	7
Once a week	9	9
Several times/4+ times a week	13	14
Every day	15	16
Online and telephone sample n =	2,024	2,013

Table 1.3 | Bible Users

How often do you use the Bible on your own, not including times when you are at a large church service or Mass?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Never	35%	0%	0%	0%	0%	73%	76%
Less than once a year	10	0	0	0	0	20	7
Once or twice a year	7	0	1	9	36	4	6
Three or four times a year	6	0	3	13	28	1	3
Once a month	7	1	8	20	17	1	3
Once a week	8	3	10	22	13	0	4
Several times/4+ times a week	14	26	36	26	5	0	1
Every day	14	71	42	10	1	0	1
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	378	387	179	962	403

Table 1.3 | Bible Users (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- -ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
Never	40%	36%	31%	27%	37%	22%	31%	31%	37%	33%
Less than once a year	7	6	14	15	11	4	10	7	10	9
Once or twice a year	9	7	7	6	8	6	6	6	7	8
Three or four times a year	7	5	6	6	7	7	6	5	6	7
Once a month	9	7	6	8	7	8	7	7	7	7
Once a week	7	7	8	7	6	9	12	10	7	8
Several times/4+ times a week	11	16	14	12	12	20	18	17	13	15
Every day	10	15	14	20	12	25	10	17	13	15
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	572	167	1287	263	281	705	989	1,020

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*	2019*
Never	25%	26%	26%	26%	28%	27%	32%	32%	35%
Less than once a year	13	10	12	9	10	14	10	12	10
Once or twice a year	11	10	10	11	10	9	8	8	7
Three or four times a year	8	9	9	8	6	8	6	8	6
Once a month	8	8	7	8	9	7	7	6	7
Once a week	8	7	8	9	8	8	7	8	8
Several times/4+ times a week	15	13	13	13	14	14	14	13	14
Every day	11	13	13	15	14	13	16	14	14
Not sure	3	5	1	2	1	2	<1	<1	<1
Online and telephone sample n =	2,014	2,011	2,068	2,027	1,997	2,008	2,030	2,024	2,013

* 2011-2016 only asked about Bible readership. 2017 and 2018 was revised to ask about total exposure on one's own.

Table 1.4 | Motivations for Using the Bible

I'd like to read a few reasons that people may use the Bible. Please tell me which statement is most true for you?

% of Bible users	Bible Engagement				
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
It brings me closer to God	47%	60%	54%	41%	31%
It helps me discern God's will for my life	12	12	15	11	2
I need comfort	10	9	7	10	21
It tells me about the nature of God	10	5	11	11	9
I have a problem I need to solve or I need direction	8	1	6	11	14
It shows me how to treat others	7	10	5	8	11
I know I'm supposed to	4	4	1	6	6
It is part of my studies at school	1	0	0	1	5
Online sample n =	395	57	156	124	54

Scripture Disengaged and Bible skeptic not shown due to limited sample size.

% of Bible users	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
It brings me closer to God	48%	48%	49%	45%	48%	34%	55%	46%	49%	46%
It helps me discern God's will for my life	11	9	13	30	12	13	8	11	10	13
I need comfort	9	10	13	2	11	12	9	9	8	13
It tells me about the nature of God	8	12	10	8	10	14	6	11	11	9
I have a problem I need to solve or I need direction	14	9	4	5	7	5	15	9	7	10
It shows me how to treat others	5	6	11	10	7	14	4	8	11	4
I know I'm supposed to	4	6	1	0	4	5	4	4	4	4
It is part of my studies at school	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1
Online sample n=	110	141	101	31*	224	80	63	171	188	208

*Caution: small sample size.

While this question was asked in previous years, response options were changed in 2019 that makes this question not comparable.

Table 1.5 | Desire for Bible Use

Do you wish that you used the Bible more or not?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Yes	56%	94%	89%	80%	68%	27%	11%
No	42	4	11	17	32	70	86
Not sure	2	2	1	3	0	2	3
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
% of Bible users	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Yes	52%	62%	54%	58%	53%	70%	65%	62%	52%	60%
No	46	37	44	40	46	27	33	35	46	38
Not sure	2	1	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*	2019*
Yes	67%	60%	61%	62%	61%	61%	58%	57%	56%
No	31	38	37	36	38	36	41	40	42
Not sure	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	2
Online and telephone sample n =	1,011	1,020	1,005	1,012	1,010	1,008	2,030	2,040	2,013

*In 2011-2016, adults were asked if they wanted to read the Bible more. In 2017-2019, the survey asked about desire to read or listen to the Bible more.

Table 1.6 | Level of Bible Use

Would you say that your own personal use of the Bible has increased, decreased, or is about the same as one year ago?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Stayed the same	70%	38%	49%	67%	68%	83%	83%
Increased	20	60	47	25	15	3	4
Decreased	10	2	4	7	17	12	10
Not sure	1	0	0	1	0	2	2
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

Table 1.6 | Level of Bible Use (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Stayed the same	62%	70%	76%	80%	75%	56%	57%	59%	73%	67%
Increased	21	20	18	16	16	33	26	27	16	23
Decreased	15	9	6	4	8	10	16	12	10	9
Not sure	2	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	1
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1,291	262	281	705	990	1,023

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Stayed the same	58%	63%	71%	66%	66%	67%	65%	70%
Increased	27	26	18	22	23	21	21	20
Decreased	12	9	9	12	8	10	12	10
Not sure	3	2	1	1	3	2	2	1
Online and telephone sample n =	1,020	1,005	2,027	2,005	2,007	2,026	2,040	2,013

Table 1.7 | Curiosity about Jesus and the Bible

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
I am curious to know more about who Jesus Christ is							
Disagree strongly	21%	3%	2%	4%	5%	35%	64%
Disagree somewhat	18	1	4	6	13	26	23
Agree somewhat	32	14	19	54	53	29	9
Agree strongly	29	82	75	36	29	9	5
I am curious about what the Bible says							
Disagree strongly	20	3	3	4	3	33	60
Disagree somewhat	17	0	4	7	16	24	23
Agree somewhat	34	12	21	49	55	34	14
Agree strongly	29	85	72	40	25	9	3
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 1.7 | Curiosity about Jesus and the Bible (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- -ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
I am curious to know more about who Jesus Christ is										
Disagree strongly	22 %	19 %	23 %	20%	22 %	12 %	16 %	20 %	23 %	20 %
Disagree somewhat	17	16	21	20	20	9	13	13	17	18
Agree somewhat	35	28	32	40	34	31	33	29	34	30
Agree strongly	26	37	24	20	24	48	38	39	26	32
I am curious about what the Bible says										
Disagree strongly	24	19	19	14	21	11	17	20	21	19
Disagree somewhat	15	11	22	24	18	9	15	13	17	16
Agree somewhat	35	34	33	42	36	35	34	32	36	32
Agree strongly	27	35	26	20	25	46	33	36	26	32
Online sample n =	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

	2018	2019
I am curious to know more about who Jesus Christ is		
Disagree strongly	21%	21%
Disagree somewhat	16	18
Agree somewhat	32	32
Agree strongly	31	29
I am curious about what the Bible says		
Disagree strongly	19	20
Disagree somewhat	15	17
Agree somewhat	37	34
Agree strongly	29	29
Online sample n =	1,036	1,012

Table 1.8 | Frustrations with Bible Use

Which of the following would you say is your most significant frustration when it comes to using the Bible?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
None / no frustrations	24%	49%	41%	25%	20%	16%	14%
Never have enough time to use it	19	25	25	30	29	9	4
Language is difficult to relate to	8	4	8	9	8	7	4
Don't feel excited about using it	6	2	2	3	6	10	11
You don't know where to start	6	10	6	10	6	4	1
Don't understand background or history of the Bible	4	1	4	4	7	3	2
The stories are confusing	3	0	3	4	5	3	2
The layout is difficult to navigate	3	1	3	4	4	2	2
Can never find the stories or verses you are looking for	4	3	4	6	8	1	1
Do not use the Bible	18	0	0	0	1	36	50
Other	4	3	3	3	6	5	6
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	2
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
None / no frustrations	20%	23%	27%	43%	23%	33%	22%	26%	26%	23%
Never have enough time to use it	13	22	21	18	20	16	18	17	18	20
Language is difficult to relate to	6	7	11	4	7	9	9	9	7	9
Don't feel excited about using it	11	5	4	4	7	4	6	5	8	5
You don't know where to start	8	7	4	2	5	10	9	8	4	8
Don't understand background or history of the Bible	5	3	3	2	3	6	6	6	4	4
The stories are confusing	4	4	1	3	4	3	4	3	3	4
The layout is difficult to navigate	4	4	1	1	2	4	3	3	2	3
Can never find the stories or verses you are looking for	5	3	4	0	3	4	7	5	3	4
Do not use the Bible	18	15	20	16	19	6	13	14	21	15
Other	5	5	3	5	4	3	2	4	5	4
Don't know	2	1	1	2	1	3	0	1	1	1
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

Table 1.8 | Frustrations with Bible Use

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Never have enough time to read it / use it	32%	30%	35%	33%	31%	23%	19%	19%
None / no frustrations	18	22	17	17	17	22	23	24
Language is difficult to relate to	12	14	11	13	14	8	10	8
Don't understand background or history of the Bible	7	7	7	7	10	5	5	4
Can never find the stories or verses you are looking for	6	5	7	7	5	1	2	4
You don't know where to start	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7	7	6
The stories are confusing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	3	3
The layout is difficult to navigate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	2	3
Don't feel excited about reading it	11	12	10	11	12	9	8	6
Other	3	3	5	5	4	4	4	4
Don't use the Bible	8	6	6	6	6	15	16	18
Don't know	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	1
Online and telephone sample n =	1,020	1,005	1,012	1,010	1,008	2,030	2,040	2,040

NA – option not offered in 2012-2016

Table 1.9 | Favorable Emotions When Using the Bible

The last time you used the Bible, what was the primary favorable emotion you experienced, if any? Did you feel... (multiple response allowed)

% ever used the Bible on their own	Bible Engagement					
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged
Peaceful	46%	67%	64%	50%	29%	26%
Encouraged	40	68	48	51	33	13
Hopeful	33	61	40	33	28	17
A sense of direction	31	60	32	26	34	20
Happy	24	57	33	23	16	5
Intrigued	12	19	9	14	11	10
None	11	0	1	4	8	33
Online sample n =	587	57	159	146	75	150

Skeptical not shown due to limited sample size.

% ever used the Bible on their own	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Peaceful	44%	56%	41%	40%	44%	62%	41%	51%	46%	47%
Encouraged	47	42	33	34	36	54	38	46	40	40
Hopeful	38	38	29	8	31	33	38	37	30	36
A sense of direction	34	33	27	21	27	34	34	36	28	34
Happy	35	26	15	6	18	36	31	33	24	24
Intrigued	22	7	12	0	10	14	17	14	14	9
Not sure / None	7	5	19	16	12	3	9	9	12	10
Online sample n =	155	190	172	51	356	94	92	229	293	294

Table 1.9 | Favorable Emotions When Using the Bible (cont'd)

% ever read the Bible / used the Bible on their own	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
Peaceful	34%	37%	42%	45%	57%	52%	41%	46%
Encouraged / inspired	33	29	33	41	48	45	33	40
Hopeful	27	30	29	35	48	49	35	33
A sense of direction	25	26	25	34	44	35	24	31
Happy	18	19	25	28	40	32	25	24
Other	1	2	6	9	5	NA	NA	NA
Intrigued	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	20	14	12
Not sure / None	13	6	14	9	8	9	10	11
Online sample n =	786	775	770	765	777	668	636	587

NA: Option not included in survey.

*2018 is the first year those who "use" the Bible was included. Prior years were asked only among Bible "readers."

Table 1.10 | Where People Turn to For Questions About the Bible

If you had a question about faith or the Bible, where are you most likely to turn? (multiple responses allowed)

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
The Bible	28%	76%	58%	44%	36%	11%	5%
Member of the clergy or religious authority	28	44	38	44	34	19	4
Family member	27	39	41	34	27	20	11
Internet resources	23	28	22	19	30	23	19
Friend or neighbor whose faith you respect	18	32	28	22	28	12	8
Books or other media	10	15	15	15	10	6	5
Colleagues	4	7	4	7	2	3	2
Don't know where to take questions about faith	3	2	1	2	3	4	3
Don't have questions	25	3	6	7	8	39	61
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
The Bible	29%	34%	23%	27%	25%	42%	34%	34%	29%	28%
Member of the clergy or religious authority	17	25	34	52	32	18	23	21	32	24
Family member	33	31	19	22	24	37	31	32	23	31
Internet resources	25	19	25	20	23	18	28	23	21	25
Friend or neighbor whose faith you respect	20	22	14	13	17	23	19	21	16	21
Books or other media	10	10	8	11	8	11	12	11	11	8
Colleagues	6	3	3	3	2	6	5	6	5	3
Don't know where to take questions about faith	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	3
Don't have questions	22	24	30	24	26	17	20	23	27	23
Online sample n =	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 1.11 | Readership of Liturgical Text

In the last 7 days, did you read Scripture in a liturgical text such as the Book of Common Prayer, Liturgy of the Hours or a Lectio Divina resource?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Yes	14%	41%	25%	24%	11%	3%	3%
No	84	52	71	74	88	96	96
Don't know	2	7	3	2	0	1	1
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Yes	15%	14%	12%	19%	12%	26%	14%	18%	14%	14%
No	84	85	86	77	87	72	84	80	85	84
Don't know	1	1	2	4	1	3	2	2	2	12
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1291	263	281	705	990	1,023

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Yes	14%	18%	14%	18%	14%
No	84	78	85	81	84
Don't know	2	4	1	1	2
Online and telephone sample n =	1,010	1,008	2,030	2,040	2,013

2. Bible Impact

Table 2.1 | Impact on Thoughts and Behaviors

Think about your Bible experience in the past month. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. As a result of using the Bible, I...?

% who used the Bible in the past month	Bible Engagement				
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
Am more generous with my time, energy or financial resources					
Disagree	7%	0%	3%	7%	26%
Somewhat disagree	6	1	3	7	24
Somewhat agree	15	4	12	21	28
Agree	36	7	36	51	17
Strongly agree	21	31	31	10	0
Very strongly agree	13	57	13	2	3
Not sure	2	0	3	2	2
Show more loving behavior towards others					
Disagree	3	0	1	3	12
Somewhat disagree	5	0	2	4	26
Somewhat agree	12	0	6	22	22
Agree	32	6	33	42	27
Strongly agree	26	23	36	22	4
Very strongly agree	20	71	21	5	2
Not sure	2	0	2	3	6
Feel more willing to engage in my faith					
Disagree	3	0	0	2	13
Somewhat disagree	3	0	0	3	13
Somewhat agree	10	0	3	14	44
Agree	35	3	33	52	19
Strongly agree	27	21	37	21	7
Very strongly agree	22	76	25	6	2
Not sure	1	0	1	1	2
Online and telephone sample n =	849	101	367	301	65

Disengaged and Skeptic not shown due to limited sample size.

Table 2.1 | Impact on Thoughts and Behaviors (cont'd)

% who used the Bible in the past month	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Am more generous with my time, energy or financial resources										
Disagree	10%	7%	4%	10%	6%	9%	6%	8%	8%	6%
Somewhat disagree	8	6	5	7	7	5	6	5	7	5
Somewhat agree	21	13	11	16	14	18	16	17	15	16
Agree	31	36	41	34	35	33	37	36	36	36
Strongly agree	17	24	24	20	22	19	22	20	18	23
Very strongly agree	12	14	13	9	14	16	11	13	14	13
Not sure	1	2	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	2
Show more loving behavior towards others										
Disagree	2	4	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
Somewhat disagree	7	3	5	4	5	4	6	5	5	4
Somewhat agree	20	7	11	16	12	13	15	13	11	13
Agree	28	28	37	39	35	24	35	28	34	31
Strongly agree	19	34	25	22	23	26	27	30	25	27
Very strongly agree	21	22	19	11	19	26	14	20	19	21
Not sure	3	2	1	4	2	4	0	2	3	2
Feel more willing to engage in my faith										
Disagree	2	3	3	1	3	2	4	3	3	3
Somewhat disagree	4	1	3	2	2	3	5	3	3	2
Somewhat agree	14	9	7	11	10	10	9	10	11	9
Agree	32	31	40	40	37	27	38	32	35	35
Strongly agree	27	30	23	26	25	27	26	28	27	26
Very strongly agree	19	25	21	18	21	31	17	23	20	24
Not sure	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	1
Online and telephone sample n=	202	285	240	78	481	164	130	359	394	455

Table 2.1 | Impact on Thoughts and Behaviors (cont'd)

% who used the Bible in the past month	2018	2019
Am more generous with my time, energy or financial resources		
Disagree	4%	7%
Somewhat disagree	5	6
Somewhat agree	17	15
Agree	29	36
Strongly agree	22	21
Very strongly agree	20	13
Not sure	2	2
Show more loving behavior towards others		
Disagree	3	3
Somewhat disagree	2	5
Somewhat agree	13	12
Agree	28	32
Strongly agree	27	26
Very strongly agree	27	20
Not sure	0	2
Feel more willing to engage in my faith		
Disagree	2	3
Somewhat disagree	2	3
Somewhat agree	10	10
Agree	29	35
Strongly agree	29	27
Very strongly agree	27	22
Not sure	1	1
Online and telephone sample n=	827	849

Table 2.2 | Impact on Relationship with God

When I use the Bible, I experience the following...?

% among Bible users	Bible Engagement					
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Skeptic
A sense of connection to God						
Never	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	15%
Rarely	3	0	1	3	9	8
Occasionally	14	1	7	18	36	25
Most of the time	30	9	30	37	38	39
All of the time	51	90	62	42	15	13
Curiosity to know God better						
Never	2	2	1	2	4	14
Rarely	4	0	1	3	15	19
Occasionally	17	0	7	21	49	38
Most of the time	27	11	28	34	21	8
All of the time	50	88	64	41	11	22
Awareness of how much I need God						
Never	2	0	1	2	4	30
Rarely	4	0	0	2	13	26
Occasionally	11	0	4	13	35	24
Most of the time	23	6	20	29	30	4
All of the time	61	94	76	54	19	16
Online and telephone sample n=	970	101	378	351	114	50

Disengaged not shown due to limited sample size.

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
A sense of connection to God										
Never	2%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Rarely	3	3	3	2	4	2	3	2	3	3
Occasionally	22	12	10	10	15	13	15	15	17	12
Most of the time	23	31	35	34	33	28	27	26	35	26
All of the time	50	53	52	53	47	57	55	57	44	58
Curiosity to know God better										
Never	4	3	1	3	2	2	4	3	2	2
Rarely	7	2	2	8	4	1	7	4	5	4
Occasionally	18	16	16	14	19	13	16	14	18	15
Most of the time	23	27	31	32	29	24	23	23	31	23
All of the time	48	53	51	44	46	61	50	56	44	56
Awareness of how much I need God										
Never	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	2
Rarely	7	3	2	1	3	1	9	4	6	2
Occasionally	13	9	10	10	12	9	10	9	13	9
Most of the time	25	22	23	22	25	15	28	20	26	19
All of the time	53	63	64	66	58	73	51	65	53	68
Online and telephone sample n=	239	315	273	85	557	180	145	395	445	516

Table 2.2 | Impact on Relationship with God (cont'd)

% among Bible users	2018	2019
A sense of connection to God		
Never	3%	1%
Rarely	2	3
Occasionally	18	14
Most of the time	31	30
All of the time	47	51
Curiosity to know God better		
Never	2	2
Rarely	3	4
Occasionally	16	17
Most of the time	32	27
All of the time	48	50
Awareness of how much I need God		
Never	2	2
Rarely	2	4
Occasionally	10	11
Most of the time	29	23
All of the time	57	61
Online and telephone sample n=	972	970

Table 2.3 | The Bible as Transformative

Indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement: *The message of the Bible has transformed my life.*

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Agree strongly	26%	98%	75%	37%	16%	4%	0%
Agree somewhat	33	2	24	59	65	27	7
Disagree somewhat	17	0	1	5	14	27	17
Disagree strongly	24	0	0	0	4	42	75
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Agree strongly	27%	34%	20%	21%	23%	42%	28%	32%	24%	28%
Agree somewhat	26	33	34	45	33	34	36	31	37	28
Disagree somewhat	18	12	22	18	19	9	15	14	16	19
Disagree strongly	29	22	24	16	24	15	21	23	23	25
Online sample n =	1,278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

	2018	2019
Agree strongly	29%	26%
Agree somewhat	29	32
Disagree somewhat	19	17
Disagree strongly	23	24
Online sample n =	1,036	1,012

Table 2.4 | The Bible’s Message

Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. The Bible is...:

% among Bible users	Bible Engagement					
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Skeptic
A letter from God expressing his love and salvation for me						
Disagree	5%	2%	1%	5%	9%	19%
Somewhat disagree	5	0	2	4	16	27
Somewhat agree	10	1	3	15	30	11
Agree	30	2	24	46	33	29
Strongly agree	27	22	39	22	10	14
Very strongly agree	23	74	32	8	2	0
A way to know what God expects from me						
Disagree	3	0	1	1	8	17
Somewhat disagree	3	0	0	6	7	6
Somewhat agree	13	2	4	13	44	35
Agree	30	4	22	50	29	24
Strongly agree	28	16	42	23	9	13
Very strongly agree	23	79	31	7	3	4
A rulebook or guide on how to live my best life						
Disagree	3	1	1	2	6	16
Somewhat disagree	5	0	1	8	14	16
Somewhat agree	14	1	5	19	37	28
Agree	28	1	24	39	32	27
Strongly agree	28	24	41	23	7	11
Very strongly agree	22	73	29	8	4	2
Online and telephone sample n =	968	101	378	346	114	49

Disengaged not shown due to limited sample size.

Table 2.4 | The Bible’s Message (cont’d)

% among Bible users	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
A letter from God expressing his love and salvation for me										
Disagree	7%	5%	4%	7%	6%	6%	1%	5%	5%	5%
Somewhat disagree	6	4	5	2	5	3	6	4	6	4
Somewhat agree	12	9	13	9	11	10	13	10	11	10
Agree	30	30	30	28	30	32	26	30	31	29
Strongly agree	24	28	24	36	26	26	29	27	28	25
Very strongly agree	22	24	25	19	23	23	25	24	20	26
A way to know what God expects from me										
Disagree	3	4	2	3	3	1	1	3	3	3
Somewhat disagree	5	2	2	2	3	3	5	4	3	3
Somewhat agree	23	9	8	10	14	11	14	11	13	12
Agree	25	32	34	30	29	34	29	32	32	29
Strongly agree	27	26	30	35	28	23	29	26	29	27
Very strongly agree	18	27	24	20	23	28	22	24	20	26
A rulebook or guide on how to live my best life										
Disagree	4	3	2	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
Somewhat disagree	8	5	2	3	4	4	8	7	7	3
Somewhat agree	23	13	10	13	14	13	16	14	13	15
Agree	22	26	34	28	28	28	22	27	29	27
Strongly agree	25	28	29	28	28	26	30	26	26	29
Very strongly agree	18	25	23	25	22	25	22	23	21	23
Online and telephone sample n =	234	319	274	88	564	178	145	393	447	519

Table 2.4 | The Bible’s Message (cont’d)

% among Bible users	2018	2019
A letter from God expressing his love and salvation for me		
Disagree	3%	5%
Somewhat disagree	3	5
Somewhat agree	10	10
Agree	24	30
Strongly agree	24	27
Very strongly agree	36	23
A way to know what God expects from me		
Disagree	3	3
Somewhat disagree	2	3
Somewhat agree	11	13
Agree	23	30
Strongly agree	26	28
Very strongly agree	36	23
A rulebook or guide on how to live my best life		
Disagree	2%	3%
Somewhat disagree	3	5
Somewhat agree	11	14
Agree	25	28
Strongly agree	25	28
Very strongly agree	34	22
Online and telephone sample n=	975	968

Table 2.5 | Most Important Biblical Directive

In your opinion, which one of these Biblical directives is the most important?

% among Bible users	Bible Engagement				
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God	46%	41%	52%	50%	31%
Love your neighbor as yourself	36	46	30	37	43
Go and make disciples	8	11	12	2	4
Take care of the earth	5	1	1	8	11
Care for widows and orphans	2	2	2	2	4
None of these	3	0	3	1	7
Online sample n=	395	57	156	124	54

Disengaged and Skeptics not shown due to limited sample size.

% among Bible users	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God	38	47	51	55	47	39	51	45	41	51
Love your neighbor as yourself	34	36	40	39	39	38	34	33	36	37
Go and make disciples	11	9	4	6	8	6	2	8	11	5
Take care of the earth	11	2	0	0	2	10	8	8	6	4
Care for widows and orphans	4	2	1	0	1	3	5	3	4	1
None of these	2	3	3	0	3	3	0	2	2	3
Online sample n=	110	141	101	31*	224	80	63	171	188	208

* Caution: small sample size

3. RELIGIOSITY AND SPIRITUALITY

Table 3.1 | Self Descriptions

To what extent do you consider yourself to be each of the following?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
A spiritual person							
Very	32%	87%	65%	30%	27%	18%	15%
Somewhat	41	11	31	60	48	42	31
Not too	14	1	2	9	23	19	19
Not at all	13	1	1	1	2	21	36
A religious person							
Very	17	54	48	24	10	4	1
Somewhat	35	28	39	64	51	25	6
Not too	21	9	11	11	31	27	16
Not at all	27	9	3	1	8	44	77
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
A spiritual person										
Very	33%	34%	32%	24%	27%	48%	32%	39%	29%	34%
Somewhat	37	43	42	49	44	36	41	37	41	42
Not too	17	12	14	16	16	13	15	12	15	14
Not at all	14	11	13	10	13	2	12	12	15	10
A religious person										
Very	19	19	14	16	15	29	16	21	17	17
Somewhat	29	36	35	49	35	38	35	35	35	35
Not too	22	18	26	16	22	14	26	19	20	22
Not at all	31	26	25	19	27	19	23	25	27	26
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 3.2 | Impact of Religious Beliefs on Family Relationships

How much, if at all, do you find that your religious beliefs help you in your family relationships?

% who describe themselves as a religious person (very + somewhat)	All adults	Bible Engagement				
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged
A lot	55%	97%	79%	53%	27%	34%
Some	30	3	20	36	58	35
A little	12	0	1	10	13	24
Not at all	3	0	1	2	2	7
Online sample n=	528	47	137	128	46	170

Skeptics not shown due to limited sample size.

% who describe themselves as a religious person (very + somewhat)	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
A lot	46%	62%	54%	62%	53%	57%	55%	59%	56%	55%
Some	41	28	26	22	30	31	38	31	30	30
A little	8	7	17	12	14	10	7	8	12	11
Not at all	4	2	2	4	3	2	0	2	2	4
Online sample n=	132	177	146	52	324	88	73	203	263	265

Table 3.3 | Fulfilment from Spiritual Practices

How much meaning and fulfillment, if any, do each of the following provide you?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Being outdoors and experiencing nature							
A great deal	44%	60%	42%	43%	39%	44%	48%
Some	387	32	37	42	44	36	30
Not much	13	6	17	14	14	12	10
None at all	5	2	4	1	4	7	12
Your religious faith							
A great deal	33	83	77	51	30	11	3
Some	31	14	21	43	53	30	7
Not much	14	0	1	5	15	21	17
None at all	22	3	1	0	2	38	73
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 3.3 | Fulfilment from Spiritual Practices (Cont'd)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Spiritual practices, such as meditation							
A great deal	23%	58%	51%	28%	15%	12%	11%
Some	32	27	34	48	43	27	22
Not much	23	3	8	18	23	30	29
None at all	22	12	8	6	19	31	38
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Being outdoors and experiencing nature										
A great deal	47%	41%	44%	45%	44%	39%	45%	44%	46%	43%
Some	35	39	38	40	39	36	35	34	38	37
Not much	11	14	15	11	12	19	16	16	12	15
None at all	6	6	3	4	5	6	4	6	5	6
Your religious faith										
A great deal	29	36	32	42	31	41	33	36	30	35
Some	26	33	33	32	31	34	35	31	33	29
Not much	18	10	15	7	15	11	14	11	13	15
None at all	27	20	20	19	22	14	18	22	24	21
Spiritual practices, such as meditation										
A great deal	27	29	16	20	20	34	26	29	23	24
Some	31	33	31	38	32	36	35	32	32	32
Not much	21	18	29	27	24	17	18	21	23	23
None at all	22	20	23	14	23	13	21	18	22	21
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 3.4 | Belief in Heaven, Hell and Spiritual Energy

Which of the following do you believe in?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Heaven							
Believe in	66%	97%	100%	91%	81%	45%	15%
Don't believe in	18	3	0	3	5	31	62
Not sure	15	0	0	6	14	24	23
Hell							
Believe in	57	90	93	74	65	38	13
Don't believe in	26	9	4	14	17	38	68
Not sure	17	1	3	11	17	24	19
Spiritual energy located in physical things, such as mountains, trees or crystals							
Believe in	39	41	43	39	35	38	38
Don't believe in	36	51	45	27	33	35	42
Not sure	25	9	12	34	32	27	20
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Heaven										
Believe in	61%	76%	62%	63%	66%	82%	63%	67%	62%	70%
Don't believe in	20	16	21	16	18	11	22	18	23	14
Not sure	19	9	16	21	16	8	15	15	15	16
Hell										
Believe in	51	65	55	55	57	68	54	57	55	58
Don't believe in	28	22	29	29	27	19	26	24	31	22
Not sure	21	13	16	17	16	13	21	20	14	20
Spiritual energy located in physical things, such as mountains, trees or crystals										
Believe in	49	41	33	25	35	51	48	46	34	43
Don't believe in	25	35	42	49	41	24	26	27	42	30
Not sure	26	24	25	26	24	25	25	27	24	26
Online sample n =	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

4. THE BIBLE AND TECHNOLOGY

Table 4.1 | Use of Bible Formats

These days, the Bible is available and used in different formats. For each format I read, please tell me whether or not you have used that format in the past year.

% among Bible users	All adults	Bible Engagement				
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Skeptic
Read from a print version of the Bible on your own	91%	97%	92%	89%	87%	83%
Heard the Bible read in a worship service or mass	85	93	90	83	73	48
Searched for Bible verses or Bible content on a smart phone or cell phone	56	65	59	57	44	40
Used the Internet on a computer to read Bible content	55	68	59	53	37	52
Attended a small group or Bible study, where you studied the Bible in a group, not including weekend worship services	48	71	57	42	30	18
Downloaded or used a Bible app on a smartphone	44	61	50	39	27	33
Listened to an audio version of the Bible	36	51	43	30	22	27
Listened to a teaching about the Bible via podcast	36	50	40	35	18	9
Online and telephone sample n=	1,011	101	378	351	114	51

Disengaged not shown due to limited sample size.

% among Bible users	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
Read from a print version of the Bible on your own	89%	89%	95%	92%	93%	90%	86%	88%	91%	91%
Heard the Bible read in a worship service or mass	83	83	88	89	86	85	77	83	82	87
Searched for Bible verses or Bible content on a smart phone or cell phone	72	69	40	13	48	65	73	68	54	59
Used the Internet on a computer to read Bible content	68	57	49	25	51	63	61	60	55	55
Attended a small group or Bible study, where you study the Bible in a group, not including weekend worship services	51	53	43	36	43	59	54	56	45	51
Downloaded or used a Bible app on a smart phone	58	54	27	11	34	58	62	58	42	45
Listened to an audio version of the Bible	46	41	27	21	25	47	58	52	37	35
Listened to a teaching about the Bible via podcast	44	40	28	16	31	49	35	42	36	36
Online and telephone sample n =	237	319	276	88	565	182	146	398	455	517

% among those who use the Bible at least 3-4 times a year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018*	2019*
Read from a print version of the Bible on your own	89%	89%	90%	89%	93%	92%	91%	89%	91%
Attended a small group or Bible study, where you study the Bible in a group, not including weekend worship services	53	47	44	44	53	54	51	47	48
Used the Internet on a computer to read Bible content	37	38	41	44	50	49	55	57	55
Listened to an audio version of the Bible	28	30	26	25	32	35	36	36	36
Listened to a teaching about the Bible via podcast	24	26	26	29	30	37	36	35	36
Searched for Bible verses or Bible content on a smart phone or cell phone	18	23	29	35	40	43	53	55	56
Heard the Bible read in a worship service or mass	NA	NA	NA	NA	83	90	88	85	85
Downloaded or used a Bible app on a smart phone	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	36	43	42	44
n =	633	597	603	590	583	570	1,013	978	1,011

* 2017-2019 wording included those who read, heard or prayed with the Bible on their own.

Table 4.2 | Use of a Bible App

How often, if ever, do use the Bible specifically through a Bible app, through an audio version of the Bible including a podcast, or as a result of an internet search of the Bible?

% among those who use formats other than print or just hearing it at church	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
Once or twice a year	23%	14%	15%	29%	45%
Three or four times a year	15	0	13	21	25
Once a month	13	7	10	15	20
Once a week	16	16	20	16	5
Several times a week	19	10	27	19	4
At least four times a week	15	53	15	1	2
Online sample n=	315	47	128	96	42

% among those who use formats other than print or just hearing it at church	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Once or twice a year	20%	20%	39%	NA	29%	18%	17%	18%	27%	21%
Three or four times a year	12	14	17	NA	17	13	15	12	19	11
Once a month	18	11	5	NA	11	12	16	15	10	15
Once a week	17	14	11	NA	16	14	25	16	11	20
Several times a week	23	23	10	NA	16	20	14	21	20	17
At least four times a week	10	19	16	NA	12	23	13	18	13	16
Online sample n=	106	119	63	14*	160	68	62	155	141	174

* Not shown due to limited sample size.

% among those who use formats other than print or just hearing it at church	2017*	2018	2019
Once or twice a year	32%	22%	23%
Three or four times a year	12	16	15
Once a month	12	14	19
Once a week	17	17	16
Several times a week	14	12	19
At least four times a week	13	19	15
Online sample n=	938	865	315

* In 2017, respondents who only heard the Bible read at church removed for comparability with 2018 and 2019.

Table 4.3 | Preferred Bible Format

All things considered, in what format do you prefer to use the Bible: print, digital or audio?

% Bible users	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
Print	72%	75%	73%	67%	76%
Smartphone or tablet app	19	17	19	22	13
Online	4	4	3	4	7
Audio	4	3	4	5	4
Other	1	0	1	1	0
Not sure	1	2	0	1	0
Online and telephone sample n=	974	101	378	351	114

% Bible users	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Print	63%	64%	80%	91%	77%	59%	66%	63%	71%	72%
Smartphone or tablet app	27	26	9	2	15	28	25	25	18	20
Online	2	4	5	1	3	4	4	5	3	4
Audio	4	5	4	5	3	5	4	5	6	3
Other	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0
Not sure	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Online and telephone sample n=	239	319	276	88	567	182	146	398	455	519

% among Bible users	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Print	83%	85%	84%	76%	81%	76%	71%	72%
Smartphone or tablet app	NA	NA	NA	11	11	15	20	19
Online	NA	NA	NA	6	3	3	5	4
Digital	8	8	10	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Audio	7	6	5	6	4	3	3	4
Video	<1	<1	<1	0	0	<1	<1	NA
Other	<1	1	1	1	<1	<1	<1	1
Not sure	2	1	1	2	1	1	<1	1
n =	597	603	590	583	570	1,376	1,376	974

NA: Different response options were presented in 2015-2019 than in previous years.

5. BIBLE PERCEPTIONS

Table 5.1 | Beliefs about the Bible

I would like to read some statements about sacred literature and would like to know whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
The Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life							
Agree strongly	38%	88%	82%	53%	24%	11%	7%
Agree somewhat	25	9	15	31	45	25	15
Disagree somewhat	19	1	2	10	24	29	25
Disagree strongly	19	2	1	6	7	35	54
The Bible, the Koran, and the book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths							
Agree strongly	21	26	18	23	23	20	20
Agree somewhat	37	13	21	36	45	45	39
Disagree somewhat	16	7	12	16	16	18	19
Disagree strongly	27	54	50	26	16	18	22
Online and telephone sample n=	1,885	99	359	361	164	903	420

Table 5.1 | Beliefs about the Bible

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
The Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life										
Agree strongly	28%	42%	43%	39%	36%	50%	39%	42%	34%	41%
Agree somewhat	25	23	23	38	25	25	27	24	26	24
Disagree somewhat	22	16	21	12	20	13	15	16	19	18
Disagree strongly	26	19	14	11	19	13	19	18	20	18
The Bible, the Koran, and the book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths										
Agree strongly	25	20	18	14	18	32	22	26	22	19
Agree somewhat	40	33	37	37	37	36	40	37	36	37
Disagree somewhat	16	16	15	16	17	13	15	13	14	17
Disagree strongly	19	32	30	32	29	19	23	24	28	26
Online and telephone sample n=	516	595	538	146	1195	252	265	674	934	951

Table 5.1 | Beliefs about the Bible (Cont'd)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
The Bible contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life*									
Agree strongly	53%	48%	47%	50%	49%	45%	44%	41%	37%
Agree somewhat	22	21	19	19	20	21	25	26	25
Disagree somewhat	11	15	14	16	16	15	15	16	18
Disagree strongly	12	12	17	14	14	18	15	16	19
Not sure	2	5	3	2	2	2	1	2	1
The Bible, the Koran, and the book of Mormon are all different expressions of the same spiritual truths									
Agree strongly	17	15	16	18	16	16	17	18	19
Agree somewhat	33	31	31	29	32	29	39	39	34
Disagree somewhat	17	18	19	15	16	16	21	19	15
Disagree strongly	28	28	28	29	28	30	22	24	25
Not sure	6	8	7	9	9	9	<1	0	6
*Online and telephone sample n=	1,982	1,969	2,030	2,008	1,976	2008	2,030	2,040	2,013
Online sample n=	1,011	1,020	1,005	1,012	1,010	1,008	1,028	1,036	NA

Table 5.2 | The US Would Be Worse Off Without the Bible

Do you think our country would be worse off or better off, or about the same without the Bible?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Worse off	55%	83%	81%	75%	60%	32%	11%
About the same	30	3	10	19	36	46	50
Better off	15	15	9	7	5	23	39
Online and telephone sample n=	1,970	101	381	380	175	933	397

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Worse off	39%	58%	61%	72%	57%	60%	47%	51%	54%	55%
About the same	39	29	28	19	29	28	34	33	30	31
Better off	22	13	11	10	14	12	19	16	15	14
Online and telephone sample n=	527	620	567	165	1,264	259	274	692	970	1,000

Table 5.3 | Moral Fabric of our Country

Which is more important for the moral fabric of our country?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
The U.S Constitution	53%	10%	18%	35%	49%	80%	92%
The Bible	47	90	83	65	52	20	8
Online and telephone sample n=	1,992	100	368	361	170	923	442

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millen-nials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
The U.S Constitution	65%	50%	49%	40%	54%	36%	56%	51%	56%	50%
The Bible	35	51	51	60	46	64	44	49	44	50
Online and telephone sample n =	522	601	557	155	1236	250	272	671	944	978

	2017	2018	2019
The U.S Constitution	53%	56%	53%
The Bible	47	44	47%
Online and telephone sample n =	1,011	1,036	1,992

6. BIBLE PENETRATION

Table 6.1 | Bible Ownership

Does your household own a Bible?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Yes	84%	97%	99%	99%	95%	68%	52%
No	16	3	1	1	5	32	48
Online and telephone sample n =	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Yes	79%	83%	87%	94%	84%	89%	84%	84%	83%	85%
No	21	17	13	6	16	11	16	16	17	15
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1291	263	281	705	990	1,023

	1993*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Yes	92%	88%	85%	88%	88%	88%	86%	87%	82%	84%
No	8	12	15	12	12	13	14	13	18	16
n=	601	2,011	2,014	2,071	2,028	2,007	2,005	2,026	2,040	2,013

Historical data (1993) collected by telephone interviews; 2011-2018 data collected by telephone and online surveys.

Table 6.1 | Bible Ownership: Segmentation

Segmentation Analysis Household Owns a Bible (average 84%)	
<i>Above average ownership</i>	
▲	Weekly church attenders (99%)
▲	Bible friendlies (99%)
▲	Bible engaged (99%)
▲	Bible users (98%)
▲	Monthly church attenders who do not attend weekly (97%)
▲	Bible centered (97%)
▲	Self-identified Christians (95%)
▲	Elders, ages 73+ (94%)
▲	Blacks (89%)
▲	Residents of the South (89%)
▲	Married adults (88%)
▲	Residents of the Midwest (88%)
<i>Below average ownership</i>	
▼	Atheists and agnostics (50%)
▼	Bible skeptics (52%)
▼	Non-Bible users (66%)
▼	Asians (66%)
▼	Adults who align with a non-Christian faith group (68%)
▼	Disengaged (71%)
▼	Unchurched adults (not attended church within the past 6 months) (72%)
▼	Residents of the West (76%)
▼	Never married (77%)
▼	Millennials, ages 20-34 (79%)
▼	Singles (80%)
▼	Residents of the Northeast (80%)

All differences listed are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level or higher.

Table 6.2 | Own a Bible in An Understandable Language and Format

Do you have a Bible that is in a language and format you can understand?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Yes	82%	95%	98%	97%	94%	65%	50%
No	19	5	3	3	6	35	50
Online and telephone sample n*=	2013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Yes	75%	82%	85%	92%	82%	87%	79%	80%	80%	83%
No	25	18	15	8	18	13	21	20	20	17
Online and telephone sample n*=	540	636	573	168	1291	263	281	705	990	1,023

* recalculated to show the full-base of respondents, including those who don't own a Bible

7. BIBLE LITERACY

Table 7.1 | Self-Assessment of Bible Knowledge

How knowledgeable do you feel about the Bible?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Highly knowledgeable	11%	34%	20%	10%	6%	7%	11%
Moderately knowledgeable	26	39	44	35	24	15	17
Somewhat knowledgeable	36	24	31	43	51	34	32
Not too knowledgeable	17	2	5	9	16	26	20
Not at all knowledgeable	8	0	1	2	3	15	16
Not sure	2	1	0	1	1	3	5
Online and telephone sample n=	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- -ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Female
Highly knowledgeable	12%	12%	8%	11%	9%	19%	12%	15%	12%	10%
Moderately knowledgeable	29	26	25	26	26	32	27	27	28	25
Somewhat knowledgeable	31	36	37	38	38	30	35	33	34	38
Not too knowledgeable	16	16	20	17	18	13	18	15	17	17
Not at all knowledgeable	8	8	9	6	8	5	7	8	7	8
Not sure	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
Online and telephone sample n =	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Highly knowledgeable	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%	11%	12%	11%
Moderately knowledgeable	32	31	32	33	30	26	25	26
Somewhat knowledgeable	35	38	37	38	39	36	32	36
Not too knowledgeable	16	13	12	12	13	18	21	17
Not at all knowledgeable	5	6	6	4	5	8	9	8
Not sure	1	1	1	1	1	<1	1	2
n=	1,020	1,005	1,012	1,010	1,008	2,030	2,040	2,013

Table 7.2 | Knowledge of Jesus' Birthplace

Where was Jesus born?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Bethlehem	68%	82%	77%	68%	66%	63%	56%
Jerusalem	12	5	11	15	14	11	13
Nazareth	11	8	8	10	9	13	14
Jericho	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
None of these places	2	3	1	1	1	3	5
Not sure	7	3	1	6	8	10	13
Online and telephone sample n=	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Bethlehem	53%	72%	76%	78%	74%	59%	53%	57%	66%	69%
Jerusalem	20	10	8	7	8	17	21	19	12	12
Nazareth	12	9	11	9	11	10	15	11	13	8
Jericho	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
None of these places	2	2	1	0	1	5	2	3	3	1
Not sure	11	7	3	4	6	9	9	10	6	8
Online and telephone sample n=	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

Table 7.3 | Knowledge of the Ten Commandments

Which one of the following is not one of the Ten Commandments:

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you	44%	55%	55%	48%	40%	37%	37%
Keep the Sabbath holy	22	14	14	23	20	26	24
Do not steal	2	4	2	2	3	1	2
Do not commit adultery	1	3	1	2	2	1	1
All are in the Ten Commandments	24	25	26	22	28	24	22
Not sure	7	0	2	4	7	11	16
Online and telephone sample n=	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

Table 7.3 | Knowledge of the Ten Commandments (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you	39%	42%	48%	50%	46%	40%	36%	38%	46%	41%
Keep the Sabbath holy	28	22	18	15	21	19	32	25	21	23
Do not steal	3	1	2	1	2	3	1	2	2	2
Do not commit adultery	2	1	0	2	1	1	3	2	2	1
All are in the Ten Commandments	19	27	27	25	24	30	21	24	21	27
Not sure	10	6	5	7	6	7	7	9	7	7
Online and telephone sample n=	540	636	573	168	1,291	263	281	705	990	1,023

Table 7.4 | Bible as Literal or Inspired Word of God

Which of the following statements comes closest to describing what you believe about the Bible?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
Actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word	22%	68%	47%	24%	16%	7%	0%
Inspired word of God, no errors, some verses symbolic	30	31	41	47	32	18	0
Inspired word of God, has factual or historical errors	17	1	10	18	30	18	0
Not inspired, tells how writers understood the ways and principles of God	10	0	2	8	12	16	0
Just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	21	0	0	3	10	41	100
Online and telephone sample n=	1,944	101	376	376	164	928	408

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word	19%	24%	22%	24%	20%	37%	21%	26%	19%	25%
Inspired word of God, no errors, some verses symbolic	29	32	28	32	29	33	35	32	29	31
Inspired word of God, has factual or historical errors	15	16	20	13	18	12	15	13	17	17
Not inspired, tells how writers understood the ways and principles of God	10	8	12	16	12	7	7	8	11	10
Just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	27	21	18	14	21	12	21	20	24	18
Online and telephone sample n=	524	617	552	158	1,248	256	274	682	951	993

Table 7.4 | Bible as Literal or Inspired Word of God (cont'd)

	2007*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Actual word of God and should be taken literally, word for word	25%	27%	27%	25%	24%	22%	24%	22%	22%	22%
Inspired word of God, no errors, some verses symbolic	31	34	31	30	32	34	33	35	32	30
Inspired word of God, has factual or historical errors	20	16	16	17	15	14	17	16	16	17
Not inspired, tells how writers understood the ways and principles of God	13	9	9	11	10	11	10	10	10	10
Just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	11	14	18	17	19	19	17	18	20	21
n=	952	2,025	1,794	1,831	1,911	1,935	1,855	1,993	1,971	1,944

Research conducted by Barna in 2007 in OmniPoll®

Table 7.5 | Bible Used to Manipulate or Control People

For the following statement, please tell me if you agree or disagree: The Bible was written to control or manipulate other people.

% the Bible is just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	All adults (Skeptics)	Disengaged
Agree strongly	46%	47%
Agree somewhat	28	29
Disagree somewhat	17	17
Disagree strongly	9	7
Online and telephone sample n =	403	378

Other segments not shown due to limited sample size.

% the Bible is just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Agree strongly	47%	54%	36%	NA	50%	40%	43%	37%	48%	43%
Agree somewhat	25	21	38	NA	27	29	28	31	26	31
Disagree somewhat	19	16	18	NA	15	17	17	22	19	14
Disagree strongly	8	9	8	NA	8	14	12	11	6	12
Online and telephone sample n =	140	127	95	21	263	30*	57	136	228	175

* Caution: small sample size

Table 7.5 | Bible Used to Manipulate or Control People (cont'd)

% the Bible is just another book of teachings written by men that contain stories and advice	2017	2018	2019
Agree strongly	41%	43%	46%
Agree somewhat	37	34	28
Disagree somewhat	13	15	17
Disagree strongly	9	9	9
Online and telephone sample n =	343	385	403

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible

The Bible has a lot of influence on...?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
What I buy*							
Disagree	58%	4%	19%	49%	69%	80%	92%
Somewhat disagree	11	2	9	16	18	10	3
Somewhat agree	11	3	20	19	9	5	2
Agree	10	20	29	11	4	3	1
Strongly agree	6	34	17	5	0	1	0
Very strongly agree	4	37	6	1	0	2	2
My decision on whom to vote for*							
Disagree	52	2	16	34	65	76	89
Somewhat disagree	8	1	5	10	10	9	3
Somewhat agree	12	5	13	25	15	6	2
Agree	11	10	22	20	6	5	3
Strongly agree	10	21	31	9	3	2	1
Very strongly agree	7	61	14	2	1	2	1
*Online and telephone sample n=	1,981	99	373	382	178	949	455
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible (cont'd)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
The movies and television I choose to watch*							
Disagree	52%	1%	12%	38%	64%	77%	87%
Somewhat disagree	10	3	6	12	18	10	5
Somewhat agree	11	5	12	22	15	6	3
Agree	13	15	31	21	4	4	2
Strongly agree	8	25	25	6	0	2	1
Very strongly agree	6	52	13	1	0	2	2
My political party affiliation							
Disagree	50	11	17	22	43	71	86
Somewhat disagree	14	1	6	26	23	13	5
Somewhat agree	12	6	21	19	23	7	2
Agree	12	12	27	24	8	5	5
Strongly agree	4	17	14	4	2	1	0
Very strongly agree	8	53	16	4	1	3	2
My support for wars our country fights							
Disagree	42	3	8	12	31	64	85
Somewhat disagree	14	1	10	19	21	15	8
Somewhat agree	14	10	18	25	30	9	1
Agree	15	20	29	36	11	6	3
Strongly agree	6	18	18	6	6	2	0
Very strongly agree	8	48	18	2	1	4	3
The decisions I make about sex and sexuality							
Disagree	40	3	3	9	25	64	88
Somewhat disagree	11	0	2	15	35	11	4
Somewhat agree	13	1	9	27	19	12	3
Agree	13	12	22	19	13	8	3
Strongly agree	8	8	22	19	2	2	0
Very strongly agree	15	76	42	11	5	3	3
Online and telephone sample n=	1,981	99	373	382	178	949	455
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible (cont'd)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
The decisions I make at work or school							
Disagree	38%	1%	2%	9%	18%	62%	86%
Somewhat disagree	9	0	1	9	19	11	5
Somewhat agree	15	4	12	21	37	12	2
Agree	18	8	31	42	20	10	5
Strongly agree	10	26	26	17	4	2	0
Very strongly agree	10	60	27	2	1	3	2
My support for refugees and people displaced by wars and conflicts							
Disagree	36	1	3	9	23	58	83
Somewhat disagree	9	1	4	8	21	10	4
Somewhat agree	18	12	16	29	32	14	5
Agree	19	8	34	37	15	12	4
Strongly agree	8	20	23	9	9	2	1
Very strongly agree	10	58	20	8	1	4	2
How I treat people who are of a different race than me							
Disagree	33	1	2	7	17	53	81
Somewhat disagree	5	0	0	2	6	7	5
Somewhat agree	13	0	9	12	34	14	3
Agree	20	3	23	38	27	15	8
Strongly agree	12	13	27	22	14	5	1
Very strongly agree	17	82	39	19	2	6	2
Online and telephone sample n=	1,981	99	373	382	178	949	455
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
What I buy*										
Disagree	61%	55%	57%	52%	61%	55%	57%	52%	61%	43%
Somewhat disagree	10	12	13	10	10	12	13	10	11	16
Somewhat agree	11	11	9	15	11	11	9	15	10	13
Agree	10	9	12	13	10	9	12	13	10	11
Strongly agree	5	6	7	9	5	6	7	9	6	8
Very strongly agree	4	6	2	2	4	6	2	2	3	8
My decision on whom to vote for*										
Disagree	58	49	52	44	53	44	48	50	53	51
Somewhat disagree	7	9	8	7	8	12	6	8	7	9
Somewhat agree	15	9	10	14	11	13	15	13	11	12
Agree	9	11	14	12	11	11	16	11	11	11
Strongly agree	6	12	9	15	9	12	8	10	11	9
Very strongly agree	6	9	7	7	8	8	7	7	7	8
The movies and television I choose to watch*										
Disagree	58	50	53	42	54	45	50	49	57	49
Somewhat disagree	8	12	11	8	10	12	6	9	9	11
Somewhat agree	14	9	10	11	11	10	12	11	10	12
Agree	10	12	13	20	12	14	17	14	11	14
Strongly agree	5	10	8	13	8	8	8	8	8	8
Very strongly agree	5	8	5	6	5	11	8	9	6	7
My political party affiliation										
Disagree	49	45	57	43	51	38	51	49	50	50
Somewhat disagree	11	13	16	21	15	18	8	12	14	14
Somewhat agree	14	13	11	10	12	11	16	13	10	14
Agree	13	12	9	17	12	11	13	11	12	11
Strongly agree	7	5	2	2	4	10	3	5	5	3
Very strongly agree	7	12	5	7	7	12	8	9	8	8
*Online and telephone sample n=	531	629	563	165	1,276	259	279	691	970	1,011
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
My support for wars our country fights										
Disagree	45%	39%	45%	30%	43%	29%	44%	40%	41%	43%
Somewhat disagree	9	15	18	17	15	13	8	13	15	14
Somewhat agree	16	12	14	16	14	17	14	14	12	16
Agree	15	13	13	29	16	13	17	13	16	14
Strongly agree	6	9	5	4	5	15	7	10	8	5
Very strongly agree	9	11	6	5	7	13	9	10	8	9
The decisions I make at work or school										
Disagree	43	32	42	29	39	23	36	37	39	38
Somewhat disagree	7	8	13	9	10	12	8	8	9	9
Somewhat agree	17	13	15	18	14	20	16	16	14	15
Agree	16	19	17	26	19	18	20	17	19	18
Strongly agree	7	14	8	12	9	12	10	10	11	8
Very strongly agree	9	15	6	6	9	15	9	12	8	12
My support for refugees and people displaced by wars and conflicts										
Disagree	39	36	36	24	36	21	39	35	35	37
Somewhat disagree	9	10	11	6	10	10	3	8	9	10
Somewhat agree	19	14	20	27	18	18	20	19	19	17
Agree	18	17	18	31	19	28	17	18	20	17
Strongly agree	9	9	5	9	7	9	9	9	7	8
Very strongly agree	7	14	10	4	10	13	12	11	10	10
The decisions I make about sex and sexuality										
Disagree	44	35	45	24	40	27	41	40	41	39
Somewhat disagree	10	11	12	18	13	8	9	9	11	12
Somewhat agree	15	11	12	22	13	17	15	14	14	13
Agree	10	15	11	18	12	19	12	13	13	13
Strongly agree	7	9	10	5	8	7	9	8	9	8
Very strongly agree	14	19	11	12	14	21	15	17	14	16
Online and telephone sample n=	531	629	563	165	1,276	259	279	691	970	1,011
*Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 7.6 | Influence of the Bible (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- -ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
How I treat people who are of a different race than me										
Disagree	39%	31%	32%	19%	34%	20%	31%	32%	33%	33%
Somewhat disagree	5	5	6	3	5	5	4	5	5	5
Somewhat agree	16	10	16	10	13	18	16	14	12	14
Agree	13	18	21	46	21	19	19	17	24	15
Strongly agree	13	14	9	11	10	15	16	15	12	12
Very strongly agree	13	22	16	11	17	24	14	17	14	20
Online and telephone sample n=	531	629	563	165	1,276	259	279	691	970	1,011
*Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

	2016	2017	2018*	2019*
The decisions you make about finances and money (2017) / What I buy (2018-2019)				
A lot / Strong agreement	16%	18%	12%	10%
Some / Moderate agreement	17	18	22	21
Your support for refugees and people displaced by wars and conflicts				
A lot / Strong agreement	14	19	15	18
Some / Moderate agreement	21	22	35	37
Your support for wars our country fights				
A lot / Strong agreement	11	12	12	14
Some / Moderate agreement	17	19	28	29
The movies and television I choose to watch				
A lot / Strong agreement	NA	NA	15	14
Some / Moderate agreement	NA	NA	23	24
Decision on whom to vote for				
A lot / Strong agreement	NA	NA	17	17
Some / Moderate agreement	NA	NA	23	23
n=	981	1,025	1,036	1,012/2013

* In 2018-2019, different response options were offered. Strong agreement in 2018-2019 includes “very strongly agree or strongly agree; moderate agreement includes “agree or somewhat agree.”

Table 7.7 | The Bible’s Influence on Civic Issues

There are some attitudes and behaviors that are specifically addressed in the Bible, while others are not addressed. For each one of the following, please tell me whether or not you feel the Bible encourages or discourages each action, or if you feel the Bible is silent on this issue.

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Being aware of civic and government issues							
Strongly encourages	13%	53%	29%	10%	11%	6%	4%
Somewhat encourages	29	21	40	40	34	24	18
Somewhat discourages	5	2	5	10	9	4	6
Strongly discourages	1	2	0	4	3	1	1
Silent	16	9	10	12	16	19	19
Not sure	35	13	16	24	28	46	52
Personally participating in civic and government issues							
Strongly encourages	11	39	29	9	5	4	3
Somewhat encourages	26	25	32	39	33	21	13
Somewhat discourages	6	5	4	10	16	5	5
Strongly discourages	3	4	3	4	5	2	3
Silent	18	13	13	14	17	20	22
Not sure	36	13	19	24	24	48	54
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Being aware of civic and government issues										
Strongly encourages	13%	18%	10%	10%	12%	25%	7%	16%	14%	13%
Somewhat encourages	26	25	32	48	31	24	33	26	35	24
Somewhat discourages	10	3	3	5	4	9	9	7	5	5
Strongly discourages	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	2
Silent	12	15	21	10	17	12	15	13	16	15
Not sure	37	38	33	26	35	29	32	35	28	41
Personally participating in civic and government issues										
Strongly encourages	13	15	7	4	9	23	10	15	11	10
Somewhat encourages	23	21	30	40	27	27	30	25	32	21
Somewhat discourages	9	5	4	6	7	5	7	6	6	6
Strongly discourages	5	2	1	5	2	5	7	5	2	4
Silent	13	17	22	21	20	10	14	14	19	16
Not sure	37	39	36	24	36	31	32	36	30	42
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 7.7 | The Bible’s Influence on Civic Issues (cont’d)

	2018	2019
Being aware of civic and government issues / Political awareness in the government*		
Strongly encourages	10%	13%
Somewhat encourages	19	29
Somewhat discourages	8	5
Strongly discourages	7	1
Silent	19	16
Not sure	37	35
Personally participating in civic and government issues / Civic activism in the government*		
Strongly encourages	7	11
Somewhat encourages	19	26
Somewhat discourages	10	6
Strongly discourages	6	3
Silent	19	18
Not sure	40	36
Online sample n=	1,036	1,012

Because 2019 is slightly different than the 2018 wording, comparability is questionable.

Table 7.8 | Oppressiveness Towards Certain People Group

For each of the following people groups, please mark if you agree or disagree. I believe the Bible is oppressive towards...

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
The LGBT community							
Agree strongly	33%	42%	23%	22%	25%	39%	52%
Agree somewhat	28	9	24	27	31	30	29
Disagree somewhat	17	15	18	21	23	16	9
Disagree strongly	22	33	35	30	21	15	9
Women							
Agree strongly	20	22	19	13	7	23	41
Agree somewhat	27	8	14	22	31	33	36
Disagree somewhat	21	12	14	24	34	21	11
Disagree strongly	33	58	54	41	28	23	12
Certain races							
Agree strongly	15	24	15	6	5	18	35
Agree somewhat	23	4	13	25	19	28	34
Disagree somewhat	24	17	11	22	40	27	16
Disagree strongly	37	55	61	47	36	27	15
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 7.8 | Oppressiveness Towards Certain People Group (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
The LGBT community										
Agree strongly	39%	34%	29%	23%	33%	33%	31%	32%	31%	35%
Agree somewhat	26	26	31	29	28	26	32	28	28	27
Disagree somewhat	17	16	18	22	18	16	18	16	17	17
Disagree strongly	18	24	22	26	21	25	20	23	23	20
Women										
Agree strongly	29	19	13	13	18	28	23	23	19	20
Agree somewhat	29	28	26	20	27	21	30	27	25	28
Disagree somewhat	17	21	24	22	22	23	17	18	19	22
Disagree strongly	26	33	37	45	34	29	31	31	36	30
Certain races										
Agree strongly	19	18	9	9	13	24	17	20	15	15
Agree somewhat	32	20	19	22	23	18	28	24	22	24
Disagree somewhat	21	24	28	27	27	21	21	21	25	24
Disagree strongly	28	38	43	43	38	36	34	36	38	37
Online sample n =	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

	2017*	2018	2019
The LGBT community			
Agree strongly	39%	29%	33%
Agree somewhat	30	29	28
Disagree somewhat	14	20	17
Disagree strongly	18	22	22
Women			
Agree strongly	22	18	20
Agree somewhat	25	28	27
Disagree somewhat	19	23	21
Disagree strongly	34	31	33
Different races (2017) / Certain races (2018-2019)			
Agree strongly	15	15	15
Agree somewhat	20	23	23
Disagree somewhat	25	26	24
Disagree strongly	41	36	37
Online sample =	817	1,036	1,012

8. MORALITY

Table 8.1 | Belief that Morality is on the Decline

Do you believe the values and morals of America are declining or not?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Yes	80%	92%	90%	85%	82%	71%	63%
No	18	8	8	12	12	27	33
Not sure	2	0	2	2	6	2	4
Online and telephone sample n=	2,013	101	383	387	179	962	465

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Yes	72%	82%	85%	80%	81%	78%	79%	78%	79%	81%
No	24	16	13	19	18	17	20	19	19	17
Not sure	4	2	1	1	2	5	1	3	2	2
Online and telephone sample n=	540	636	573	168	1291	263	281	705	990	1,023

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Yes	77%	81%	80%	76%	81%	79%	80%
No	19	16	17	20	18	18	18
Not sure	4	3	3	4	1	3	2
n=	1,005	1,012	1,010	1,008	2,030	2,040	2,013

Table 8.2 | Cause of Moral Decline

Which of the following do you think is most responsible for the moral decline in America?

	Bible Engagement						
% believe values and morals are declining	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Corruption from corporate greed	43%	22%	23%	36%	42%	59%	73%
Negative influences of movies, television and music	31	22	26	32	41	32	21
Lack of Bible reading	26	57	51	32	17	9	7
Online and telephone sample n=	1,457	92	305	291	134	635	261

Table 8.2 | Cause of Moral Decline (cont'd)

% believe values and morals are declining	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Corruption from corporate greed	56%	42%	37%	23%	42%	46%	46%	45%	41%	45%
Negative influences of movies, television and music	23	28	37	45	32	22	29	28	34	29
Lack of Bible reading	20	29	27	32	25	31	25	27	26	27
Online and telephone sample n=	361	472	450	121	937	192	207	510	703	754

% believe values and morals are declining	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lack of Bible reading	37%	29%	35%	33%	27%	18%	26%
Negative influences of movies, television and music	33	38	35	32	33	35	31
Corruption from corporate greed	29	33	30	36	39	47	43
n=	673	716	714	687	1,556	1,481	1,457

2013-2016 percentages calculated without 'don't know' and 'something else' for comparability with 2017.

Table 8.3 | The Bible’s Impact on Morals and Politics

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disengaged	Skeptic
It is not necessary to believe in God in order to be moral or have good values							
Disagree strongly	18%	44%	31%	14%	21%	12%	14%
Disagree somewhat	17	15	19	26	34	12	7
Agree somewhat	29	19	33	41	30	26	8
Agree strongly	37	23	17	20	15	51	71
A sincere follower of the Bible could belong to a different political party than mine							
Disagree strongly	12	5	5	5	11	16	26
Disagree somewhat	10	3	8	8	9	11	10
Agree somewhat	30	32	30	36	39	28	28
Agree strongly	48	60	57	51	41	45	37
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille- nnials	Gen X	Boom- ers	Elders	White	Black	His- panic	All non- white	Male	Fe- male
It is not necessary to believe in God in order to be moral or have good values										
Disagree strongly	19	22	12	9	15	22	21	22	14	22
Disagree somewhat	19	14	16	25	16	22	18	18	15	18
Agree somewhat	26	29	31	35	30	30	30	26	32	26
Agree strongly	36	35	41	31	38	26	32	33	39	34
A sincere follower of the Bible could belong to a different political party than mine										
Disagree strongly	16	13	8	3	10	15	15	15	10	13
Disagree somewhat	13	11	6	5	10	9	8	9	9	11
Agree somewhat	34	28	28	34	27	34	35	36	31	29
Agree strongly	37	48	58	57	53	43	41	40	50	47
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

9. TRAUMA AND CRISIS

Table 9.1 | Comfort During Crisis

What gives you comfort when you face a crisis? (Multiple response allowed)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
Other family member besides spouse	45%	47%	48%	52%	48%	42%	38%
Friends	45	44	51	46	51	42	43
Spouse	43	43	46	40	28	45	42
The Bible	28	80	77	50	34	4	1
Food	19	9	13	20	25	21	20
A clergy member or pastor	14	32	24	27	18	5	1
Professional counselor / therapist	9	11	6	8	18	8	9
Marijuana	8	12	3	8	15	8	12
Alcohol	8	1	3	9	12	9	12
Someone else	4	0	4	4	11	4	5
Drugs, besides marijuana	2	6	0	4	2	1	0
None of these	10	4	3	6	7	14	17
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
Other family member besides spouse	47%	51%	41%	38%	44%	44%	52%	47%	39%	52%
Friends	51	47	37	38	43	45	50	48	44	46
Spouse	38	41	52	52	48	34	35	35	43	43
The Bible	25	34	26	25	25	45	32	35	26	30
Food	30	20	11	10	18	23	23	22	16	22
A clergy member or pastor	8	13	15	32	15	14	9	11	14	13
Professional counselor / therapist	10	9	6	10	9	6	7	8	8	9
Marijuana	15	9	2	0	5	15	14	14	8	8
Alcohol	11	8	5	6	7	9	11	9	9	7
Someone else	4	3	4	4	3	5	7	5	4	4
Drugs, besides marijuana	4	2	1	0	1	3	4	3	2	2
None of these	9	10	12	10	12	7	7	8	12	9
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	212

Table 9.2 | Experience with Trauma

Have you ever experienced physical, psychological or emotional trauma? That is extreme violence, abuse, or near-death experience that produces a response of intense fear, helplessness, or horror? (Multiple response allowed)

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
You personally experienced a trauma	35%	40%	42%	39%	38%	31%	33%
You witnessed a trauma involving an immediate family member	20	20	25	27	22	17	16
You witnessed a trauma involving someone other than a family member	13	12	17	17	10	11	12
None of these apply	51	47	37	45	47	58	57
Online sample n =	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
You personally experienced a trauma	36%	45%	28%	24%	34%	30%	41%	37%	31%	39%
You witnessed a trauma involving an immediate family member	21	20	21	12	20	17	24	21	18	22
You witnessed a trauma involving someone other than a family member	12	13	12	15	13	9	12	12	14	11
None of these apply	48	43	59	62	53	52	44	48	53	49
Online sample n =	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

	2017	2018	2019
You personally experienced a trauma	32%	35%	35%
You witnessed a trauma involving an immediate family member	20	21	20
You witnessed a trauma involving someone other than a family member	15	17	13
None of these apply	55	52	51
Online sample n =	1,025	1,036	1,012

Table 9.3 | Helpfulness of Bible When Experience Trauma

How much, if at all, did the Bible help you, personally, with the trauma you experienced or witnessed?

% among Bible users who have experienced / witnessed trauma	All adults	Bible Engagement			
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral
Very helpful	54%	96%	63%	41%	11%
Somewhat helpful	31	4	25	44	43
Not too helpful	7	0	5	9	20
Not at all helpful	2	0	0	1	8
I did not turn to the Bible for help	7	0	7	5	17
Online sample n=	234	30*	100	73	28*

* Caution: small sample size. Disengaged and Skeptic not shown due to limited sample size.

Table 9.3 | Helpfulness of Bible When Experience Trauma

% among Bible users who have experienced / witnessed trauma	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Very helpful	45%	65%	47%	NA	52%	41%	55%	55%	53%	54%
Somewhat helpful	39	26	31	NA	29	43	31	32	33	28
Not too helpful	5	5	10	NA	9	10	2	5	4	10
Not at all helpful	6	1	1	NA	0	2	8	5	1	3
I did not turn to the Bible for help	5	3	11	NA	9	4	4	3	9	5
Online sample n=	69	92	51	12	131	42*	39*	103	111	122

* Caution: small sample size.

Table 9.4 | Interest in Bible Experience for Trauma Healing

How interested would you be in a Bible-based experience that could help you heal from your experience of trauma?

% who have experienced / witnessed trauma and who did not turn to Bible or who do not use the Bible	All adults	Disengaged	Skeptic
Very interested	10%	9%	1%
Somewhat interested	21	20	7
Not too interested	25	25	15
Not at all interested	45	47	77
Online sample n=	286	269	113

Other segments not shown due to small sample size.

% who have experienced / witnessed trauma and who did not turn to Bible or who do not use the Bible	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
Very interested	9%	12%	10%	NA	10%	NA	14%	11%	11%	9%
Somewhat interested	22	24	14	NA	20	NA	31	23	18	24
Not too interested	21	15	35	NA	25	NA	29	24	26	23
Not at all interested	48	49	41	NA	45	NA	26	43	45	44
Online sample n=	78	90	88	25	194	23	42*	92	134	152

* Caution: small sample size.

10. CHURCH PERCEPTIONS

Table 10.1 | Perceptions of Local Churches and Christians

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:?

	All adults	Bible Engagement					
		Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
The churches in my city or town are welcoming							
Agree strongly	35%	80%	55%	53%	27%	22%	9%
Agree somewhat	48	15	37	39	54	56	54
Disagree somewhat	11	2	7	7	11	15	22
Disagree strongly	5	3	1	1	7	7	15
The churches in my city or town are a place where people can go for help							
Agree strongly	33	77	53	49	21	20	10
Agree somewhat	48	18	43	41	54	53	50
Disagree somewhat	13	2	3	7	21	18	24
Disagree strongly	6	3	1	3	4	9	17
Church leaders in my city or town stand up for the vulnerable and afflicted							
Agree strongly	23	56	39	39	9	13	5
Agree somewhat	52	39	52	46	65	53	42
Disagree somewhat	18	1	6	13	20	24	34
Disagree strongly	8	3	2	3	7	11	18
Most people in my city or town live according to Biblical principles							
Agree strongly	12	40	25	14	7	5	4
Agree somewhat	38	27	42	42	31	38	28
Disagree somewhat	34	22	21	33	48	37	39
Disagree strongly	16	12	13	10	13	19	30
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

Table 10.1 | Perceptions of Local Churches and Christians (cont'd)

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	Elders	White	Black	Hispanic	All non-white	Male	Female
The churches in my city or town are welcoming										
Agree strongly	33%	34%	36%	46%	36%	45%	29%	35%	37%	33%
Agree somewhat	45	47	52	48	49	43	48	46	49	48
Disagree somewhat	13	14	9	3	11	6	16	13	10	13
Disagree strongly	8	5	3	2	4	6	7	7	4	6
The churches in my city or town are a place where people can go for help										
Agree strongly	34	33	31	43	32	43	34	35	34	32
Agree somewhat	43	46	53	48	51	41	41	42	49	46
Disagree somewhat	14	16	12	6	13	9	15	14	12	14
Disagree strongly	10	6	3	3	5	8	10	9	4	8
Church leaders in my city or town stand up for the vulnerable and afflicted										
Agree strongly	20	21	24	33	23	32	16	22	26	20
Agree somewhat	48	48	58	57	54	48	47	48	53	51
Disagree somewhat	20	23	14	5	16	12	23	19	15	20
Disagree strongly	12	8	4	5	6	8	13	11	6	9
Most people in my city or town live according to Biblical principles										
Agree strongly	15	13	7	8	8	26	13	17	12	11
Agree somewhat	38	30	43	55	40	38	38	35	41	36
Disagree somewhat	30	33	40	32	38	23	27	28	34	34
Disagree strongly	17	23	10	6	14	14	21	20	13	19
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	365	500	512

Table 10.2 | Impact of Churches and Faith Organizations on Society

What impact do you believe churches and religious organizations have on American society today?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
They do more good than harm	55%	82%	75%	77%	64%	40%	18%
They do more harm than good	24	3	14	12	9	33	57
Don't make much of a difference	22	15	12	10	27	27	24
Online sample n=	1,012	57	159	146	75	575	240

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Fe-male
They do more good than harm	47%	56%	58%	69%	57%	61%	46%	51%	58%	52%
They do more harm than good	31	21	23	15	21	24	29	28	23	24
Don't make much of a difference	23	23	20	16	22	15	25	21	20	24
Online sample n=	278	320	300	80	644	132	142	644	500	512

11. GIVING TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Table 11.1 | Donations to Non-Profit Organizations

For the year that just ended— 2018— what was the total amount of money that you donated to all charities and non-profit organizations, including churches and religious organizations, if any?

	Bible Engagement						
	All adults	Centered	Engaged	Friendly	Neutral	Disen-gaged	Skeptic
None	30%	10%	17%	13%	24%	44%	47%
Less than \$100	13	7	8	13	19	14	12
\$100 to \$199	9	6	6	10	16	9	8
\$200 to \$399	10	10	11	14	11	9	10
\$400 to \$999	10	13	11	13	14	8	10
\$1,000 to \$1,999	9	16	13	13	4	6	5
\$2,000 to \$4,999	9	14	17	10	10	5	3
\$5,000 or more	9	24	18	13	2	5	5
mean	\$1,657	\$3,243	\$3,205	\$1,695	\$691	\$1,101	\$644
median	\$100	\$1,000	\$600	\$300	\$100	\$20	\$5
Online and telephone sample n=	1,841	89	330	344	160	918	435

	Generation				Ethnicity				Gender	
	Mille-nnials	Gen X	Boom-ers	Elders	White	Black	His-panic	All non-white	Male	Female
None	39%	32%	24%	13%	28%	29%	35%	33%	31%	29%
Less than \$100	20	10	9	7	10	15	20	18	10	16
\$100 to \$199	10	9	9	6	9	12	9	9	8	10
\$200 to \$399	11	9	11	12	10	11	14	11	9	12
\$400 to \$999	8	11	13	8	11	8	9	9	12	9
\$1,000 to \$1,999	4	11	11	12	10	8	4	6	9	9
\$2,000 to \$4,999	4	7	12	21	9	11	5	7	10	8
\$5,000 or more	4	11	10	23	11	6	4	6	12	7
mean	\$621	\$1,831	\$1,682	\$5,002	\$1,882	\$1,090	\$637	\$1,240	\$2,056	\$1,267
median	\$20	\$150	\$250	\$1,000	\$200	\$100	\$50	\$75	\$200	\$100
Online and telephone sample n=	506	592	516	144	1,173	235	269	660	911	930

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
None	29%	25%	24%	22%	23%	30%	30%
Less than \$100	14	12	12	13	11	15	13
\$100 to \$199	10	9	7	11	9	10	9
\$200 to \$399	10	10	12	11	12	10	10
\$400 to \$999	11	10	14	13	14	10	10
\$1,000 to \$1,999	10	11	9	10	10	9	9
\$2,000 to \$4,999	10	12	13	10	11	9	9
\$5,000 or more	7	11	9	12	10	7	9
mean	\$989	\$1,693	\$1,812	\$2,202	\$1,729	\$1,320	\$1,657
median	\$100	\$200	\$250	\$200	\$250	\$100	\$100
Online and telephone sample n=	1,842	1,645	1,674	1,471	1,539	1,922	1,841

APPENDIX II

Methodology

Two methods of data collection, telephone interviews and online surveys, were used for this study.

Telephone

The telephone survey included 1,001 interviews conducted among a representative sample of adults 18 and older from all 50 of the United States. The survey was conducted from January 29 through February 7, 2019. The sampling error for this study is +/-2.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The research included 533 interviews conducted by contacting respondents on their cell phone.

Survey calls were made at various times during the day and evening so that every individual selected for inclusion was contacted up to five separate days, at different times of the day, to maximize the possibility of contact. This is a quality-control procedure that ensures those in the sampling frame have an equivalent probability of inclusion within the survey, thereby increasing the survey reliability.

The cooperation rate for the telephone survey was 38%. A high cooperation rate significantly raises the confidence we may place in the resulting statistics.

Based on U.S. Census data sources, regional and ethnic quotas were designed to ensure that the final group of adults interviewed reflected the distribution of adults nationwide and adequately represented the three primary ethnic groups within the U.S. (those groups which comprise at least 10% of the population: white, black and Hispanic).

Online

The online portion of the study covered a subset of core questions that were also used in the telephone questionnaire as well as some questions that were unique to the online study. This study included 1,012 surveys conducted among a representative random sample of adults 18 and older within all 50 states and was conducted January 15 through January 30, 2019 recruited and surveyed through a national consumer panel. The panel is representative by age, gender, region and socioeconomic grade, and no other screening criteria were applied. The sampling error for a sample of this size is +/-2.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Aggregated Data

Data for core questions included in both the telephone and online studies was aggregated. The sampling error for the combined data (n=2,013) is +/-2.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Bible Engagement Definitions

In 2017, American Bible Society and Barna conducted additional research on the nature of interactions with and perspectives about the Bible. Since 2018, that study has been used to define Bible engagement that demonstrates how consistent interaction with the Bible shapes people's choices and transforms their relationships with God, self and others.

Fourteen questions are used to define different segments of Scripture, or Bible, engagement. These questions are as follows:

1. Realistically, how often do you use the Bible?
2. How often do you use the Bible on your own, not including times when you are at a large church service or Mass?
3. When I use the Bible, I experience a sense of connection to God
4. When I use the Bible, I experience curiosity to know God better
5. When I use the Bible, I experience an awareness of how much I need God
6. As a result of using the Bible in the past month, I feel more willing to engage in my faith
7. As a result of using the Bible in the past month, I am more generous with my time, energy or financial resources
8. As a result of using the Bible in the past month, I show more loving behavior towards others
9. I believe that the Bible is a rulebook or guide on how to live my best life
10. I believe that the Bible is a letter from God expressing his love and salvation for me
11. I believe that the Bible is a way of knowing what God expects from me
12. The Bible has a lot of influence on what I buy
13. The Bible has a lot of influence on my decision on who to vote for
14. The Bible has a lot of influence on the movies and television I choose to watch

The 14 questions fall into categories that most influence the concept of Scripture engagement: Frequency (how often people interact with the Bible), Centrality (how the Bible shapes their choices), and Impact (how the Bible transforms their relationships).

The resulting five Bible Engagement segments were developed using an algorithm cultivated from statistical modeling techniques. An overall score across all 14 questions, incorporating the statistical influence of each on the concept of Bible Engagement, is generated. Those highest on the engagement scale score highly on the combined factors of Scripture engagement, while those who are disengaged score the lowest. The model provides greater sensitivity around means of engaging with the Bible, whereas nearly half of the population falls into the Disengaged category.

Interpreting Survey Data

The range of sampling error indicates the accuracy of the results, and it is dependent on two factors: 1) the sample size and 2) the degree to which the result you are examining is close to 50 percent or to the extremes, 0 percent and 100 percent.

You can estimate the accuracy of your survey results using the table below. First, find the column heading that is closest to your sample size. Next, find the row whose label is closest to the response percentages for a particular question from your survey. The intersection of the row and column displays the number of percentage points that need to be added to, and subtracted from, the result to obtain the range of error. There is a 95 percent chance that the true percentage of the group being sampled is in that range.

Result	100	200	300	400	500	600	800	1,000	1,200	1,500	2,000	2,500
05% or 95%	4.4	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.1	.96	.87
10% or 90%	6.0	4.3	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.2
15% or 85%	7.1	5.1	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.6	1.4
20% or 80%	8.0	5.7	4.6	4.0	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.6
25% or 75%	8.7	6.1	5.0	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.3	1.9	1.7
30% or 70%	9.2	6.5	5.3	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.8
35% or 65%	9.5	6.8	5.5	4.8	4.3	3.9	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.1	1.9
40% or 60%	9.8	7.0	5.7	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.0
45% or 55%	9.9	7.0	5.8	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.0

Note that the above statistics only relate to the sampling accuracy of survey results. When comparing the results of two subgroups (e.g., men versus women), a different procedure is followed and usually requires a greater sample size. Further, there is a range of other errors that may influence survey results (e.g., biased question wording, inaccurate data tabulation)—errors whose influence cannot be statistically estimated.