

# American Views of Disasters, Relief, and Prayer

Survey of 1,040 American Adults



# Methodology

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- The online survey of adult Americans was conducted May 23-24, 2013
- A sample of an online panel representing the adult population of the US was invited to participate
- Responses were weighted by region, age, ethnicity, gender and income to more accurately reflect the population

# Methodology Continued

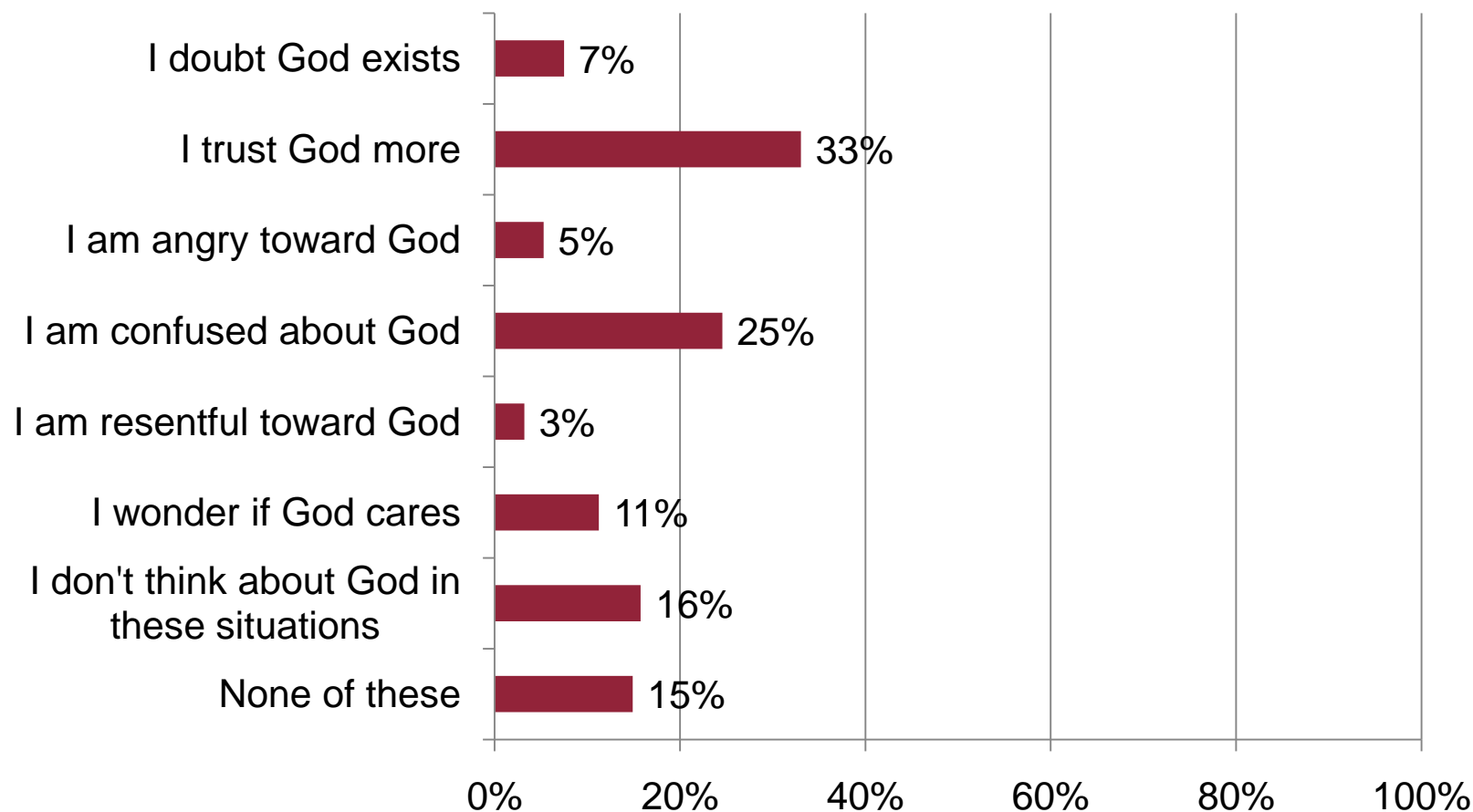
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- The completed sample is 1,040 online surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from this panel does not exceed  $\pm 3.1\%$
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

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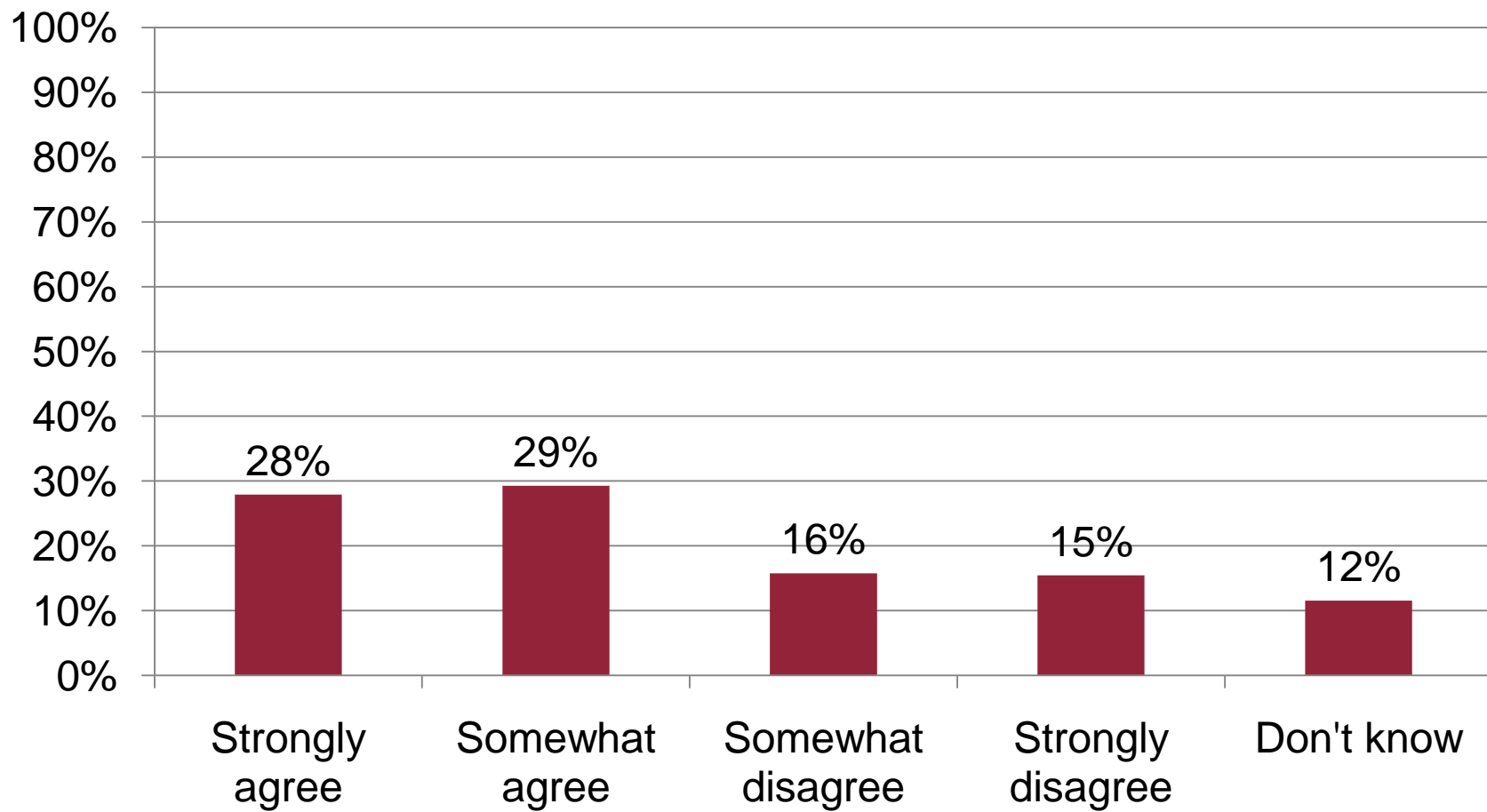
# One-third of Americans trust God more in times of suffering.



Sponsored by LifeWay's *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum

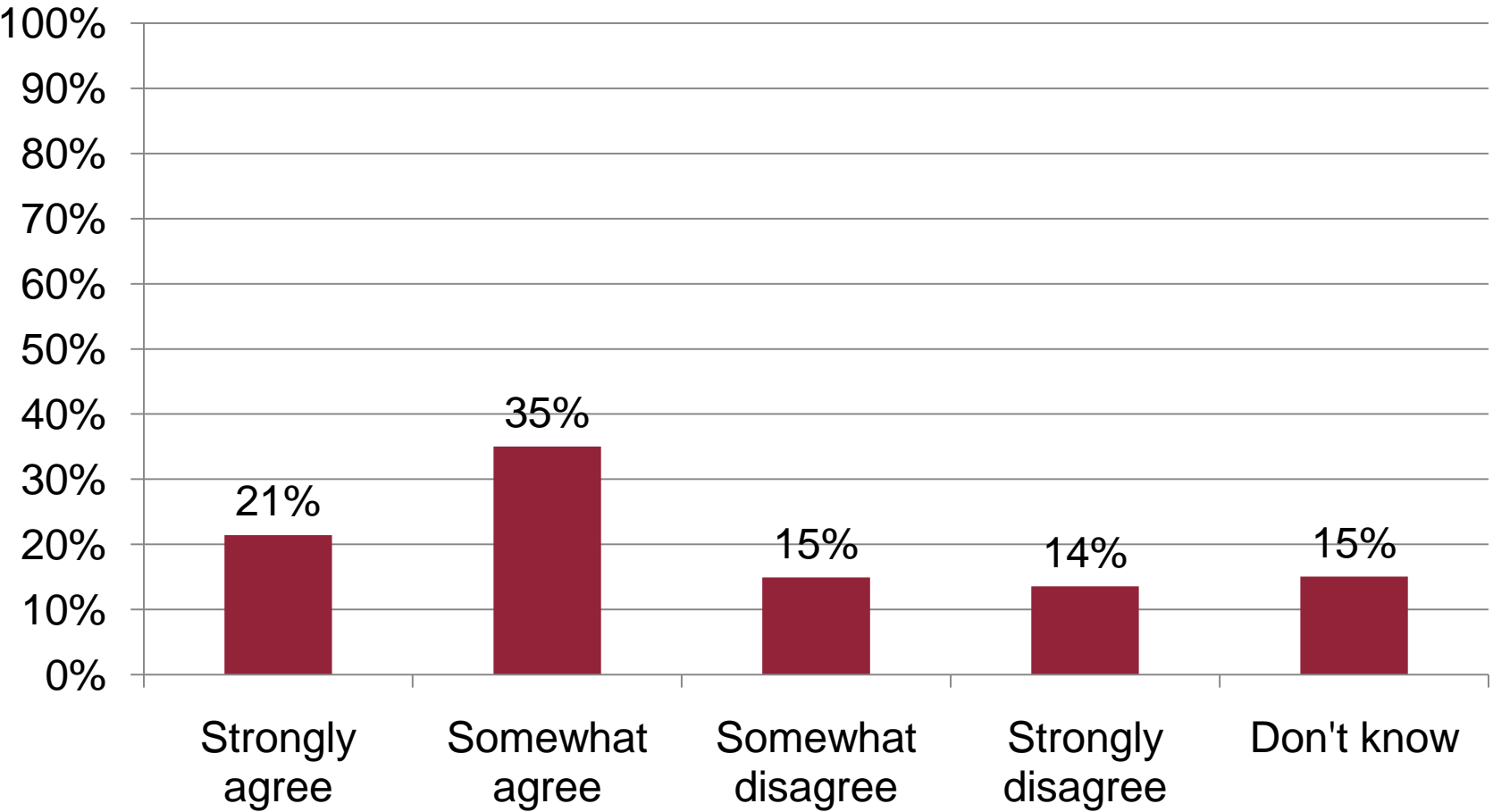
Q: "How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?"

# Nearly 60% of Americans agree their interest in God increase when a natural disaster occurs.



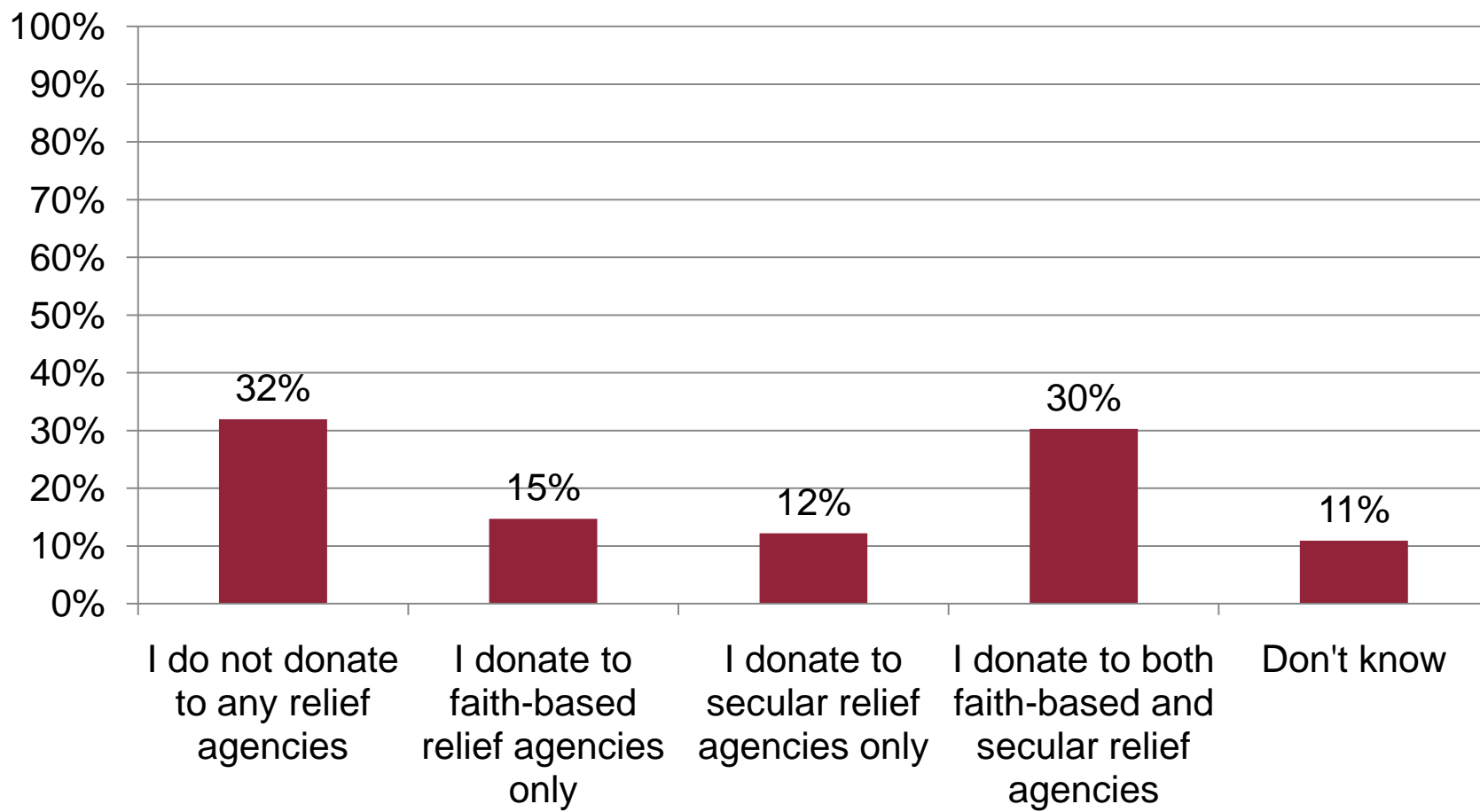
Q: "When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases."

# A majority of Americans trust faith-based agencies to be more responsible with donations than secular groups.



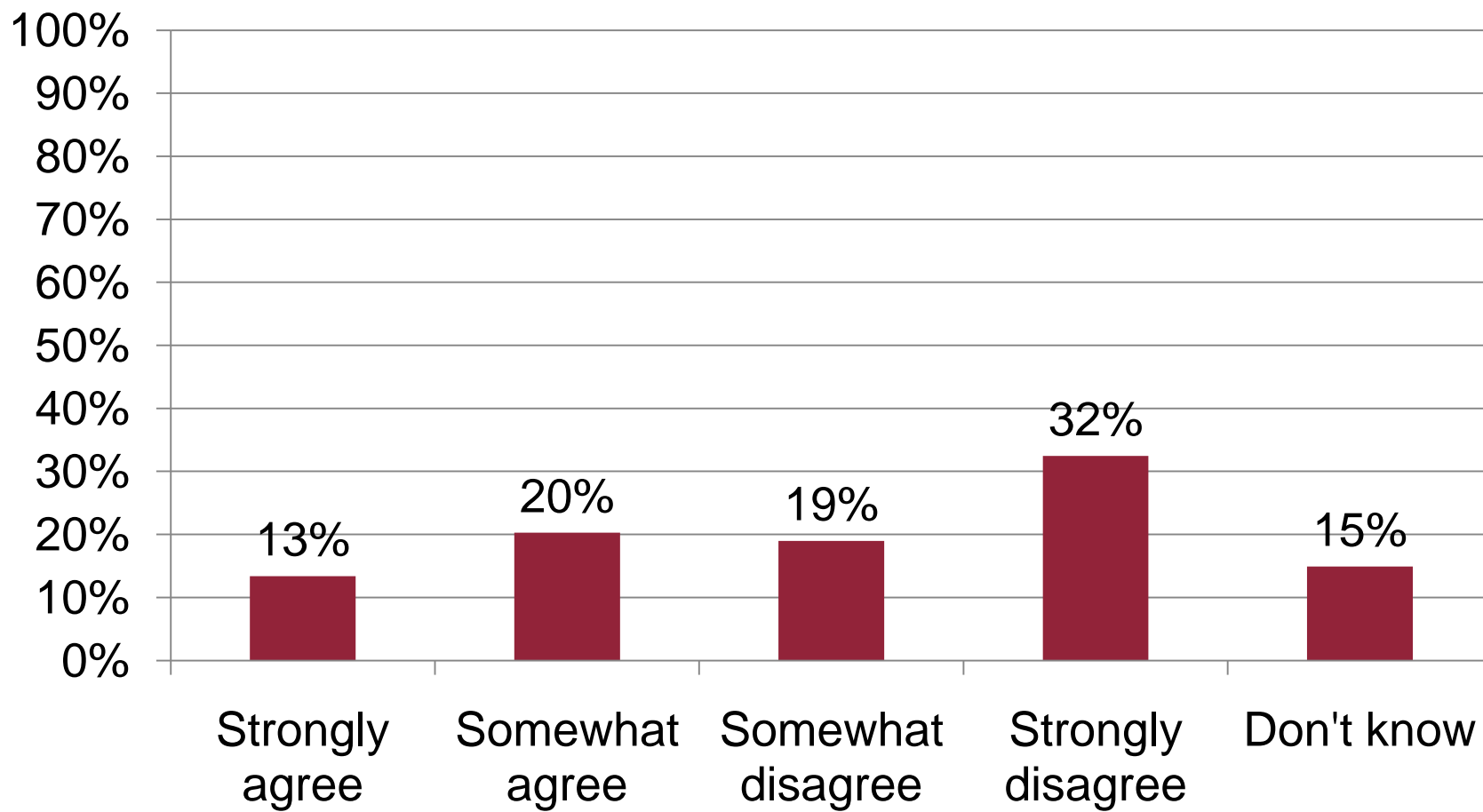
Q: "I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups."

# Almost 60% of Americans donate to relief agencies when a natural disaster occurs.



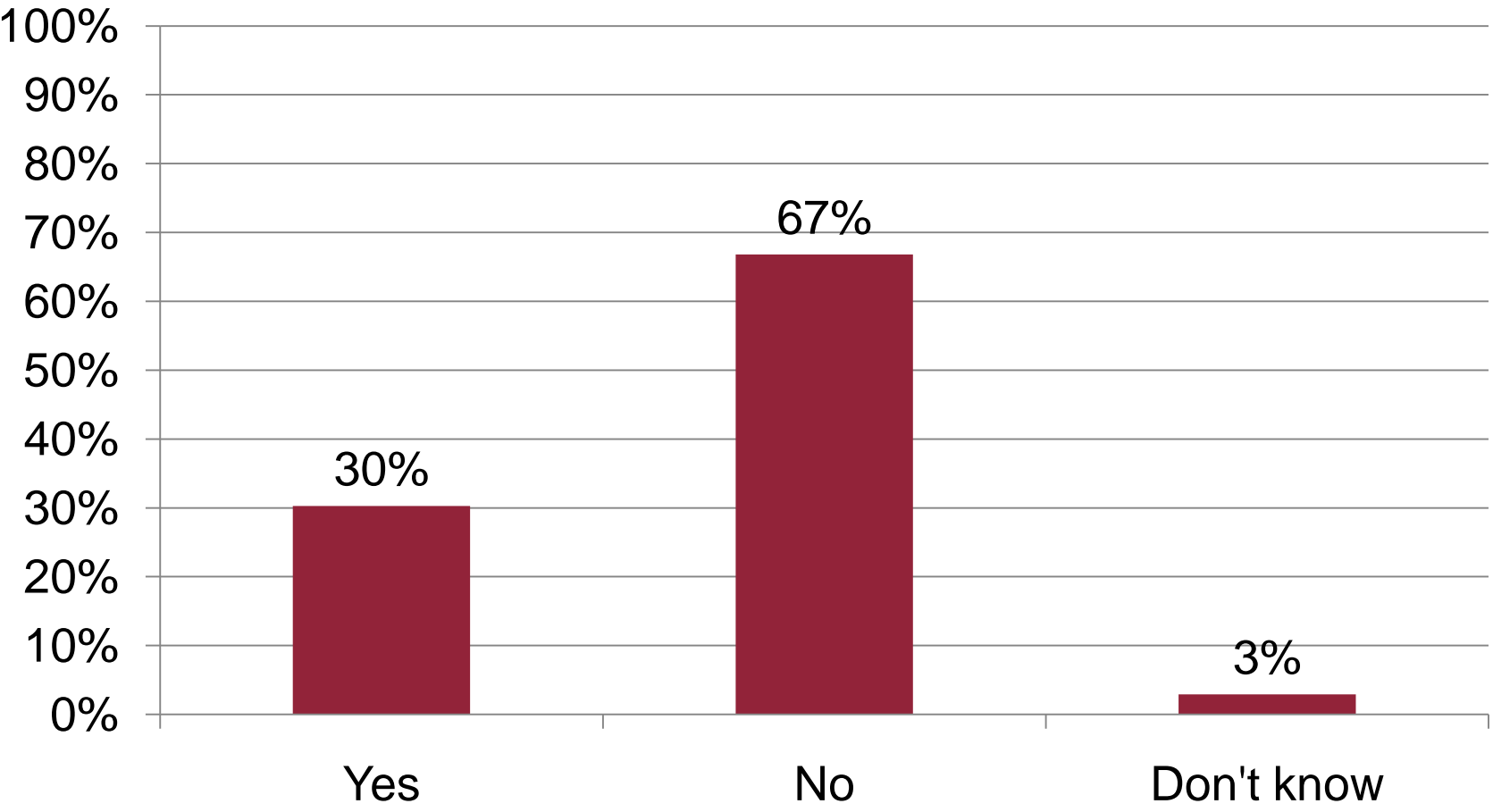


# A third of Americans agree that praying can avert natural disasters.



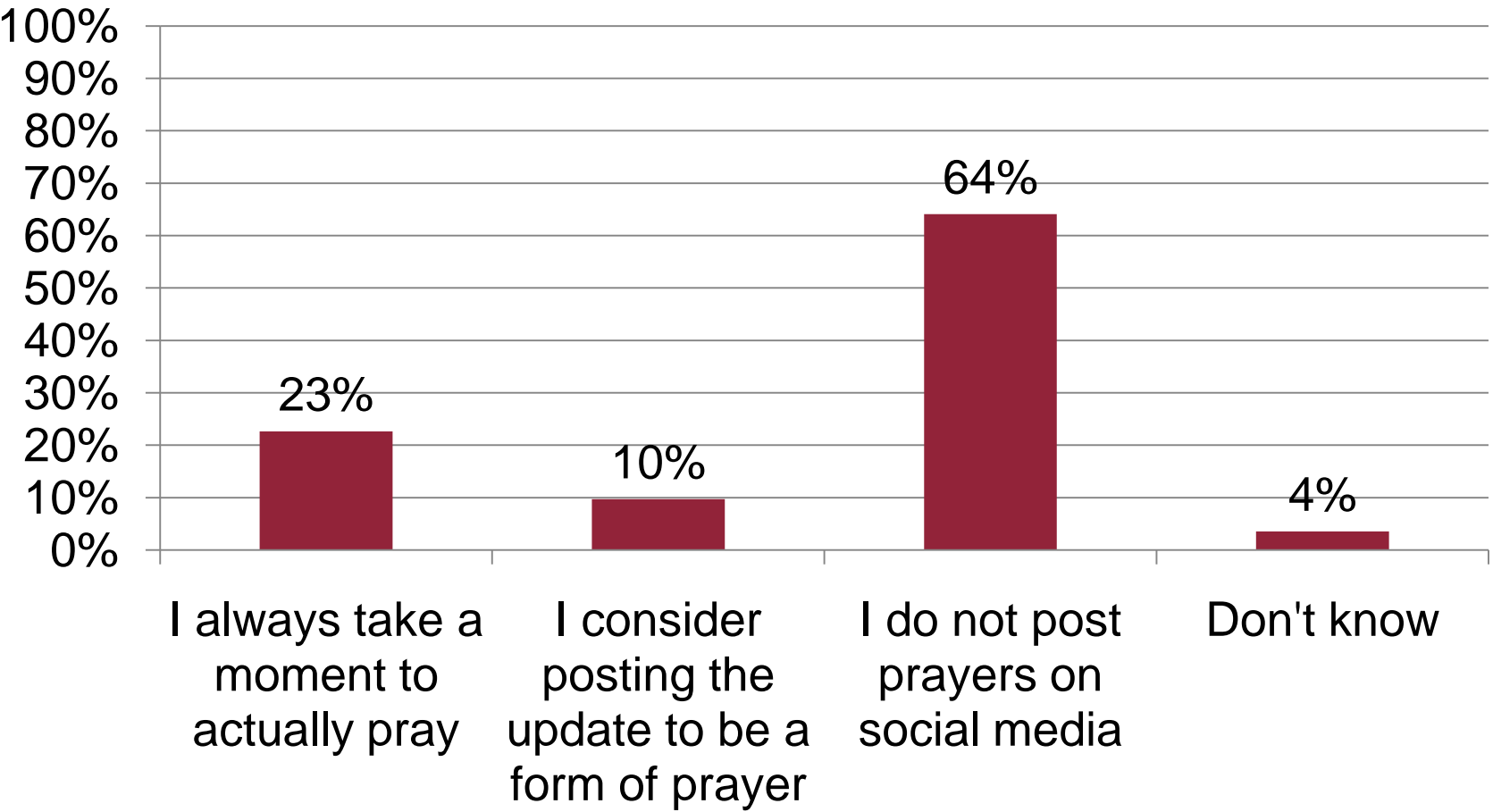
Q: "Praying can avert natural disasters."

# 30% of Americans will post a prayer using social media.



Q: "Do you post that you are praying for someone or something on social media (like Facebook or Twitter)?"

# By about a 2-to-1 ratio, people who post prayers take a moment to actually pray versus consider the update a form of prayer



Q: "If I post a prayer on social media,"



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# Significant Differences

Region

Age

Gender

Education Level

Church Attendance

Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among region of the country, age, gender, and education level. Each category was divided into four groups.

Region	Age	Gender	Education Level
Northeast	18-29	Male	No College Degree
Midwest	30-44	Female	College Degree
South	45-54		
West	55-64		
	65+		

Notes:

Region is defined by US Census locations

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences in church attendance and whether they consider themselves a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian.

Church Attendance	Born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian
More than once a week, About once a week	Yes
Once or twice a month	No, Don't Know
Only on religious holidays	
Rarely	
Never	

# “How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

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- “I doubt God exists”
  - Americans age 18-29 (15%) are the most likely
  - Men are more likely than women (9% to 6%)
  - Americans who Never (19%) attend worship services are the most likely
- “I trust God more”
  - Americans in the South (40%) are the most likely
  - Women are more likely than men (37% to 29%)
  - Americans without a college degree are more likely than those with one (36% to 27%)
  - Americans who attend at least About once a week (50%) and Once or twice a month (43%) are more likely than those who attend Only on religious holidays (21%), Rarely (23%), and Never (11%)
  - Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are more likely (57% to 23%)

# “How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

## continued

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- “I am angry toward God”
  - American in the South (7%) are more likely than those in the West (3%)
  - Americans age 18-29 (8%) are more likely than those age 30-44 (3%) and 65+ (3%)
  - Americans age 55-64 (7%) are more likely than those age 30-44 (3%)
- “I am confused about God”
  - Americans age 65+ (17%) are less likely than those age 18-29 (29%) and 45-54 (29%)
  - Americans who Never (18%) attend worship services are less likely than those who attend Once or twice a month (28%), Only on religious holidays (31%), and Rarely (30%)
- “I am resentful toward God”
  - Americans age 18-29 (6%) are more likely than those age 55-64 (1%) and 65+ (1%)
- “I wonder if God cares”
  - Americans age 45-54 (5%) are less likely than those age 18-29 (15%), 30-44 (13%), and 55-64 (12%)
  - Americans without a college degree are more likely than those with one (12% to 8%)



# “How do you feel about God when suffering occurs that appears unfair?”

## continued

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- “I don’t think about God in these situations”
  - Americans age 45-54 (8%) are the least likely
  - Men are more likely than women (19% to 13%)
  - Americans who Never (35%) attend worship services are the most likely
  - Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are less likely (6% to 20%)
- “None of these”
  - Americans in the Northeast (21%) are more likely than those in the South (13%) and West (12%)
  - Americans age 45-54 (22%) and 65+ (20%) are more likely than those age 18-29 (10%) and 30-44 (11%)
  - Americans who attend Only on religious holidays (23%) are more likely than those who attend at least About once a week (13%) and Once or twice a month (9%)
  - Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are less likely (9% to 17%)

# “When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases.”

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- Americans in the South (32%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Northeast (21%)
- Americans in the Northeast (21%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Midwest (13%) and South (12%)
- Americans age 45-54 (20%) are less likely to Somewhat agree compared to those age 18-29 (37%), 30-44 (30%), and 65+ (32%)
- Americans age 65+ (10%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those age 18-29 (17%) and 45-54 (18%)
- Women when compared to men are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (31% to 25%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (12% to 19%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (24% to 31%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (20% to 14%)

# “When a natural disaster occurs, my interest in God increases.” continued

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- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the most likely to Strongly agree (43%) and the least likely to Somewhat disagree (9%)
- Americans who Never attend are the least likely to Somewhat agree (12%) and the most likely to Strongly disagree (42%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (47% to 21%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (4% to 20%)

# “I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups.”<sup>20</sup>

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- Americans in the Midwest (28%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Northeast (16%) and West (17%)
- Americans in the West (19%) are more likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Midwest (12%) and South (11%)
- Americans age 30-44 (42%) and 65+ (39%) are more likely to Somewhat agree compared to those age 45-54 (27%) and 55-64 (28%)
- Americans age 18-29 (19%) and 55-64 (21%) are more likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those age 30-44 (10%) and 45-54 (11%)
- Americans age 18-29 (9%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those age 30-44 (15%), 45-54 (19%), and 55-64 (16%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (17% to 23%)
  - More likely to Somewhat disagree (17% to 12%)
  - More likely to Strongly disagree (19% to 11%)

# “I trust faith-based disaster relief agencies to use their donations more responsibly than secular groups.” continued <sup>21</sup>

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- Americans who Never (37%) attend are the most likely to Strongly disagree
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (38% to 15%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat disagree (10% to 17%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (8% to 16%)

# “When a natural disaster occurs, to what type of relief agencies do you donate?”

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- Americans in the Midwest (22%) are more likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only compared to those in the Northeast (9%) and South (13%)
- Americans in the West (18%) are more likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only compared to those in the Midwest (8%) and South (10%)
- Men are more likely than women to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (18% to 12%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Not donate to any relief agencies (27% to 37%)
  - More likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (16% to 11%)

# “When a natural disaster occurs, to what type of relief agencies do you donate?”

## continued

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- Americans who Never (44%) or Rarely (41%) attend are the most likely to Not donate to any relief agencies
- Americans who attend At least about once a week are
  - Most likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (26%)
  - Least likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (4%)
- Americans who Never (16%) attend are the least likely to Donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - Less likely to Not donate to any relief agencies (27% to 34%)
  - More likely to Donate to faith-based relief agencies only (21% to 12%)
  - Less likely to Donate to secular relief agencies only (6% to 15%)
  - More likely to Donate to both faith-based and secular relief agencies (38% to 27%)

# “Praying can avert natural disasters.”

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- Americans in the South (18%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Midwest (10%) and West (9%)
- Americans in the Northeast (14%) are less likely to Somewhat agree compared to those in the Midwest (25%) and South (21%)
- Americans in the South (27%) are less likely to Strongly disagree than those in the Northeast (39%) and West (35%)
- Americans age 55-64 (14%) are less likely to Somewhat disagree compared to those age 18-29 (22%) and 45-54 (23%)
- Americans age 45-54 (22%) are the least likely to Strongly disagree
- Women as compared to men are
  - Less likely to Somewhat agree (18% to 23%)
  - Less likely to Somewhat disagree (16% to 22%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Strongly agree (9% to 17%)
  - More likely to Strongly disagree (39% to 30%)



# “Praying can avert natural disasters.” continued

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- Americans who attend worship services at least About once a week are the most likely to Strongly agree (23%) and the least likely to Strongly disagree (17%)
- Americans who Never attend worship services are the least likely to Somewhat agree (8%), least likely to Somewhat disagree (11%), and the most likely to Strongly disagree (60%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Strongly agree (28% to 7%)
  - More likely to Somewhat agree (28% to 17%)
  - Less likely to Strongly disagree (15% to 39%)

# “Do you post that you are praying for someone or something on social media (like Facebook or Twitter)?”

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- Americans in the South (36%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the Northeast (25%) and West (25%)
- Americans in the South (61%) are less likely to select “No” than those in the Northeast (73%) and West (72%)
- Americans age 65+ are the least likely to select “Yes” (12%) and the most likely to select “No” (86%)
- Women as compared to men are
  - More likely to select “Yes” (36% to 24%)
  - Less likely to select “No” (61% to 73%)
- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the most likely to select “Yes” (45%) and the least likely to select “No” (52%)
- Americans who Never attend are the least likely to select “Yes” (13%) and the most likely to select “No” (87%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to select “Yes” (51% to 22%)
  - Less likely to select “No” (47% to 75%)

# “If I post a prayer on social media,”

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- Americans in the South (26%) are more likely to Always take a moment to actually pray compared to those in the West (17%)
- Americans in the South (59%) are less likely to Not post prayers than those in the Northeast (68%) and West (69%)
- Americans age 65+ are the least likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (10%) and the most likely to Not post prayers (84%)
- Women as compared to men are
  - More likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (25% to 20%)
  - More likely to Consider posting the update to be a form of prayer (12% to 8%)
  - Less likely to Not post prayers (59% to 69%)
- Americans with a college degree compared to those without one are
  - Less likely to Always to a moment to actually pray (17% to 23%)
  - More likely to Not post prayers (70% to 62%)

# “If I post a prayer on social media,” continued

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- Americans who attend at least About once a week are the
  - Most likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (37%)
  - Least likely to Not post prayers (48%)
- Americans who Never attend are the
  - Least likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (7%)
  - Most likely to Not post prayers (88%)
- Self-identified born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christians are
  - More likely to Always take a moment to actually pray (39% to 16%)
  - Least likely to Not post prayers (46% to 71%)

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