

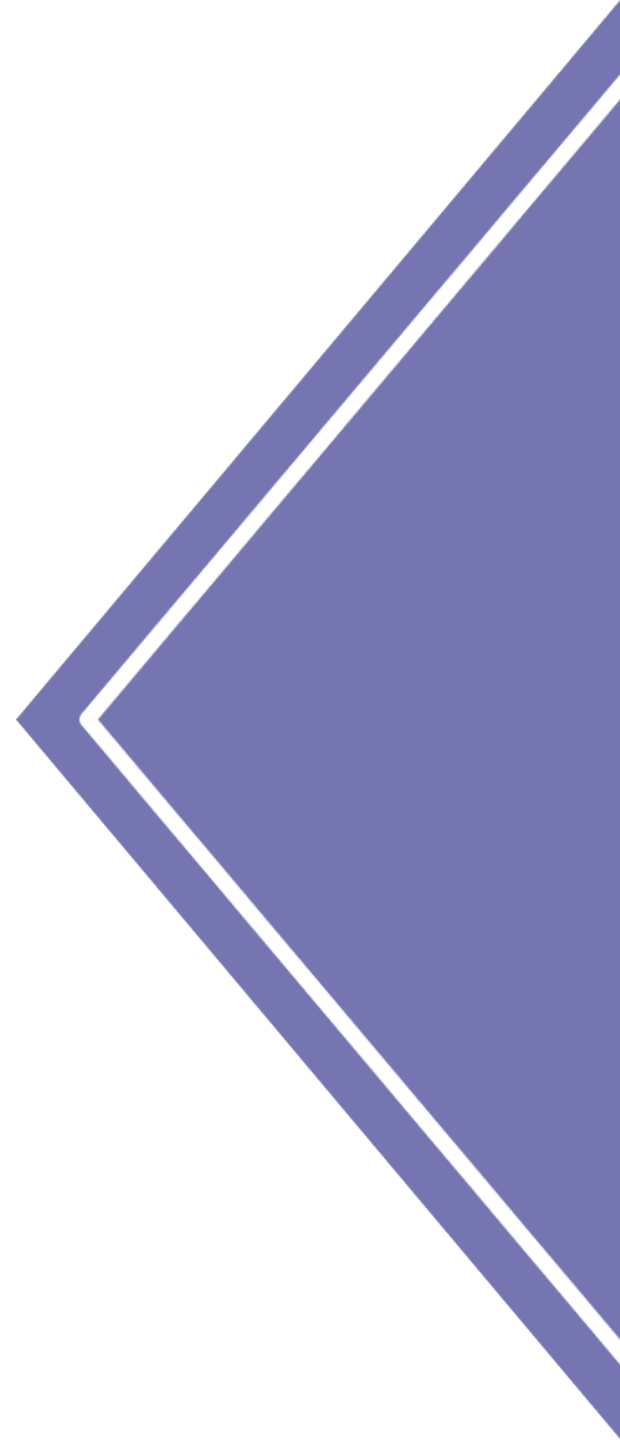
Pastors' Views on the State of Discipleship

Survey of American Protestant Pastors

Methodology

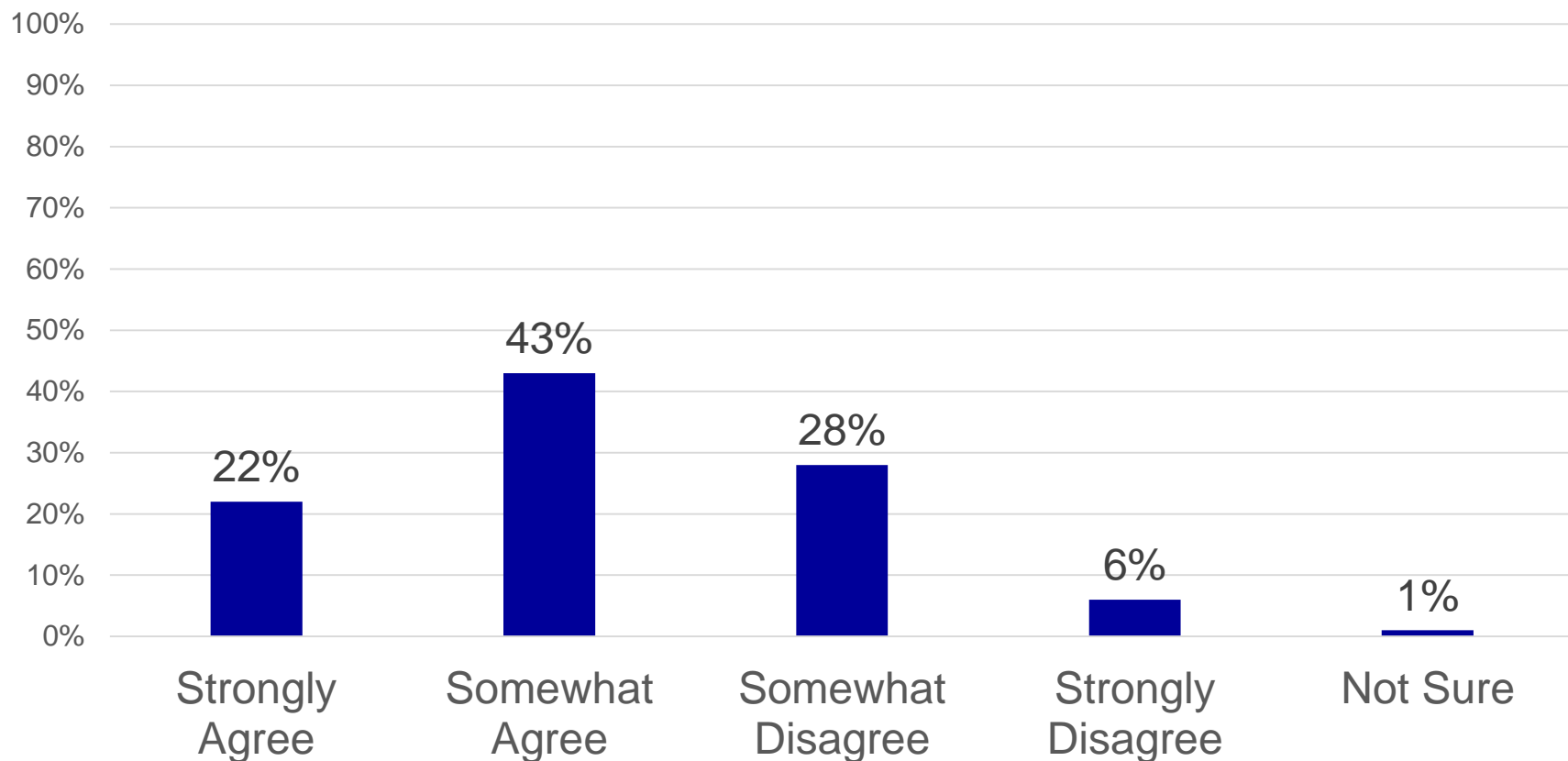
- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Survey Responses



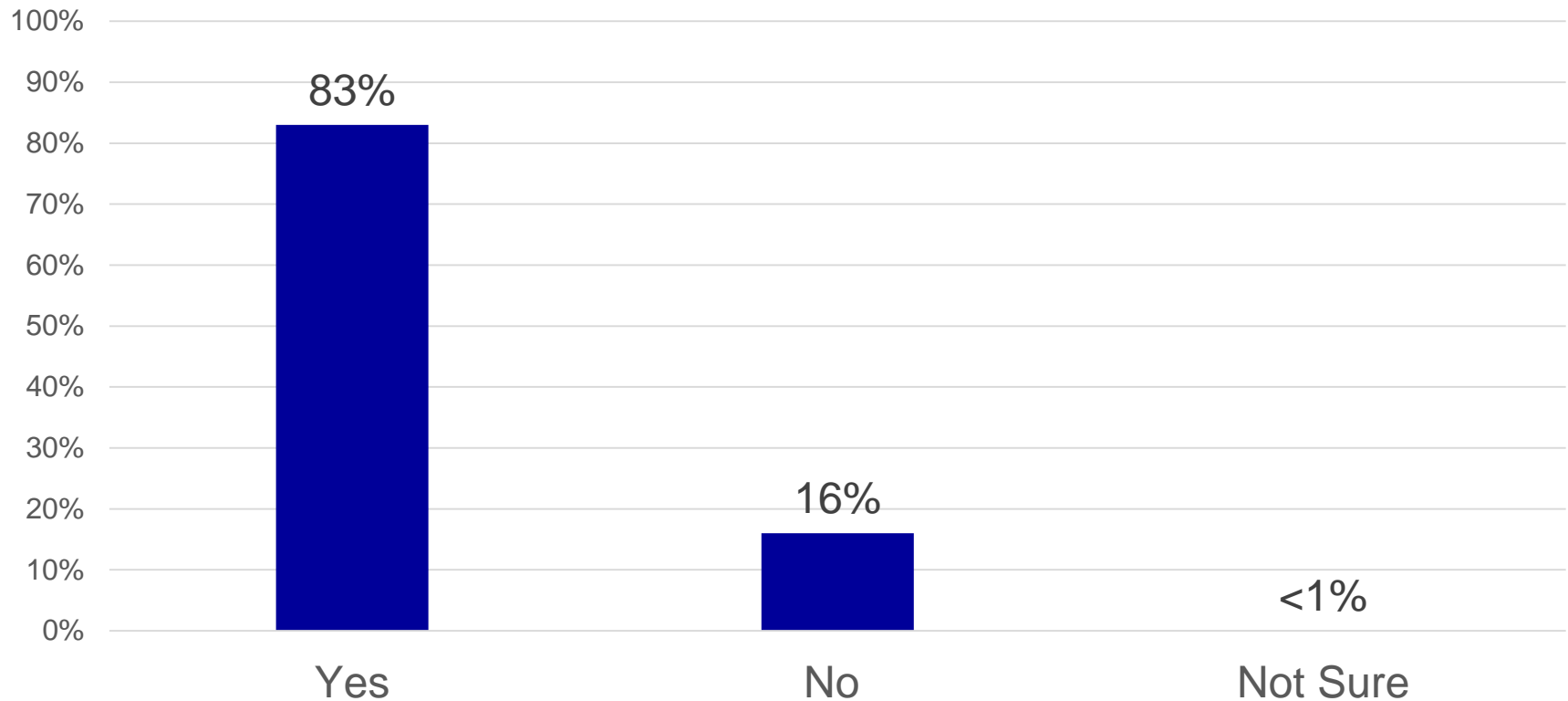
65% are satisfied with the state of discipleship and spiritual formation in their local church

Among Protestant Pastors



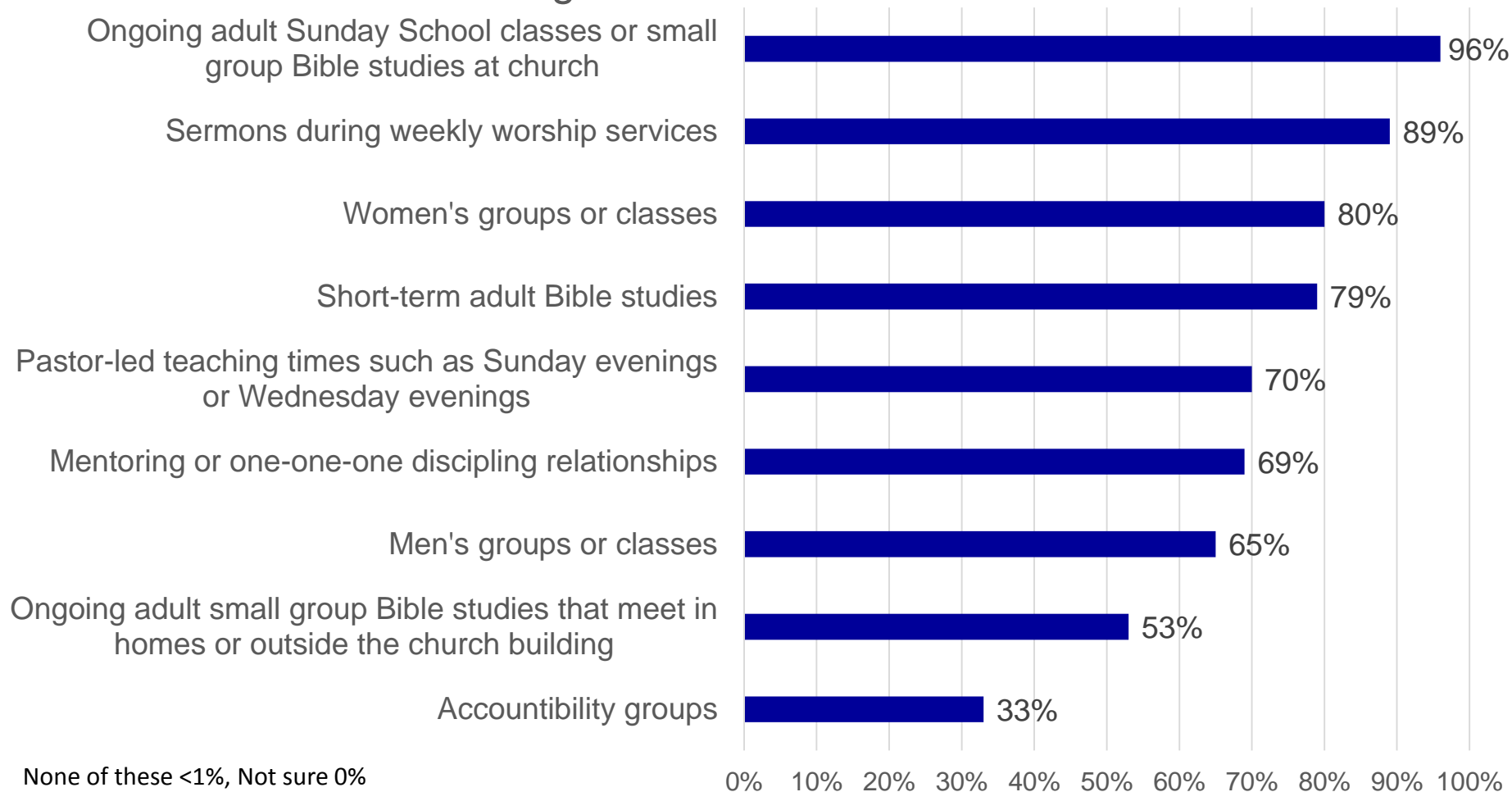
83% say they have an intentional plan for discipling individuals

Among Protestant Pastors



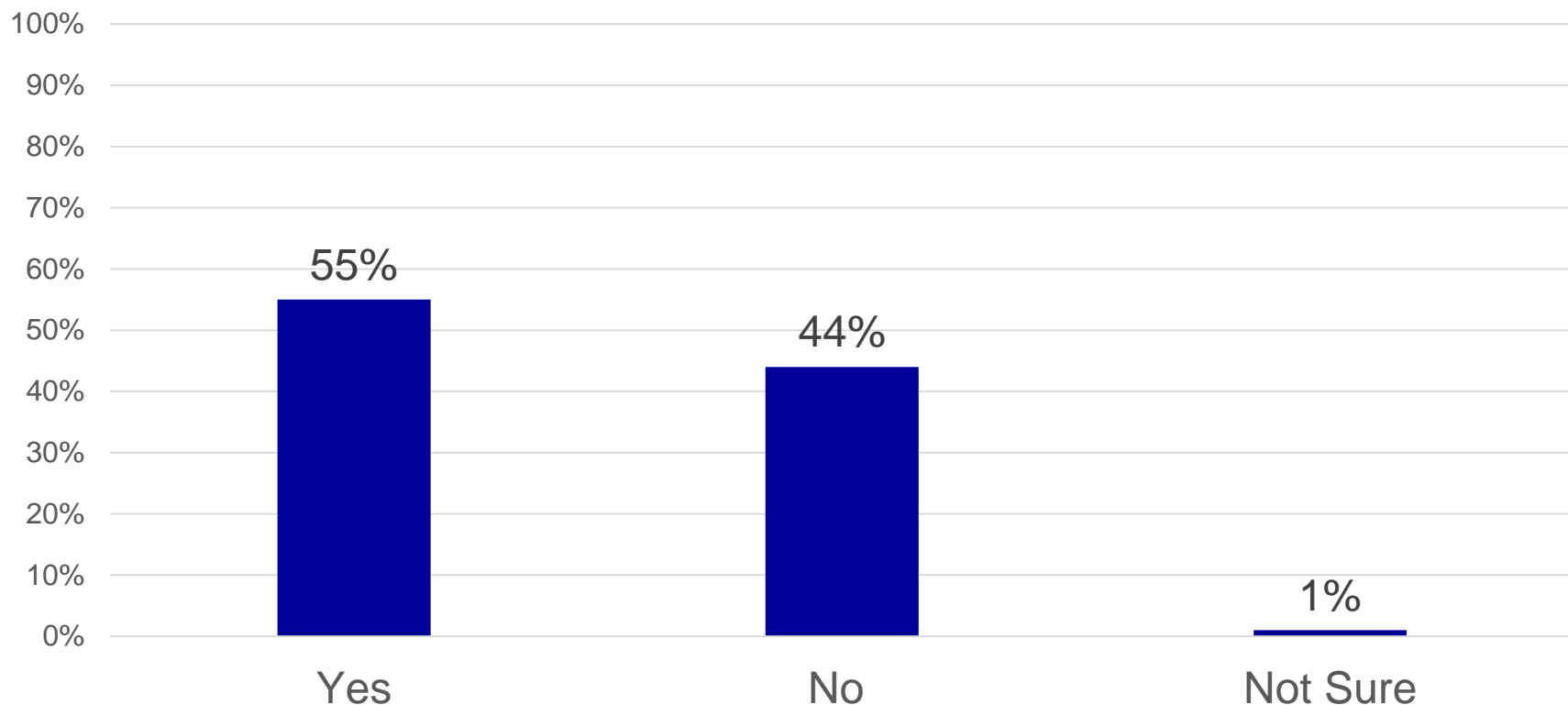
“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?”

Among Protestant Pastors



55% say they regularly evaluate the discipleship progress of their church

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's gender, age and ethnicity.

| Attendance | Region | Pastor's Gender | Pastor's Age | Ethnicity |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 0-49 | Northeast | Male | 18-44 | White |
| 50-99 | Midwest | Female | 45-54 | African-American |
| 100-249 | South | | 55-64 | Other Ethnicity |
| 250+ | West | | 65+ | |

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's denomination and the pastor's education level and identification as evangelical or mainline.

| Education Level | Self-Identified | Denomination |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| No College Degree | Evangelical | Baptist |
| Bachelor's Degree | Mainline | Lutheran |
| Master's Degree | | Methodist |
| Doctoral Degree | | Pentecostal |
| | | Presbyterian/ Reformed |
| | | Christian/ Church of Christ |

“I am satisfied with the state of discipleship and spiritual formation in our local church.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (70%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 50-99 (61%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (74% v. 63%)
- Pastors age 65+ (72%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 55-64 (63%)
- Pastors with no college degree (74%) or a Bachelor's degree (77%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master's degree (59%) or a Doctoral degree (62%)
- Pentecostals (75%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (63%) and Methodists (54%)

“Does your church have an intentional plan for discipling individuals in your congregation and encouraging their spiritual growth?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “No” (28%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than females (86% v. 73%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (88%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 55-64 (80%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (92%) are more likely to select “Yes” than White pastors (82%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (87%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with no college degree (78%)
- Baptists (87%) and Pentecostals (90%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (77%) and Methodists (73%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?”

Ongoing adult Sunday School classes or small group Bible studies at church

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 50-99 (97%) and 100-249 (97%) are more likely to select than those at churches of 0-49 (89%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (98%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (93%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ¹⁴

Ongoing adult small group Bible studies that meet in homes or outside the church building

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (77%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (56% v. 44%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (38%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (62%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (49%) or a Master’s degree (50%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (58% v. 47%)
- Christian/Church of Christ are the most likely to select (70%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ¹⁵

Short-term adult Bible studies

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (86%) and 250+ (92%) are more likely to select than those at churches of 0-49 (62%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (82%) and 45-54 (82%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (72%)
- White pastors (79%) are more likely to select than African-American pastors (64%)
- Methodists (84%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (70%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ¹⁶

Men’s groups or classes

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (88%)
- Pastors in the South (71%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (56%) and Midwest (60%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (68% v. 55%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (73%) are more likely to select than those 18-44 (64%) and 65+ (55%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (73%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (62%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (70% v. 62%)
- Baptists (74%), Pentecostals (71%), and Christian/Church of Christ (80%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (56%), Methodists (55%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (52%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ¹⁷

Women’s groups or classes

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (54%)
- Pastors in the South (83%) are more likely to select than those in the West (72%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (83%) and 45-54 (83%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (72%)
- Baptists (84%) and Christian/Church of Christ (89%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (70%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ¹⁸

Accountability groups

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (58%)
- Pastors in the South (36%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (29%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (44%) are more likely to select than White pastors (31%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (40%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (29%)
- Baptists (35%), Methodists (36%), and Pentecostals (42%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (17%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (23%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued)

Mentoring or one-on-one discipling relationships

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (78%) are more likely to select than those at churches of 0-49 (64%) and 50-99 (67%)
- Pastors in the West (77%) are more likely to select than those in the South (67%) and Midwest (67%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (71% v. 61%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (82%) are more likely to select than White pastors (67%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (77%) or a Doctoral degree (77%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (64%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (73% v. 62%)
- Baptists (75%), Pentecostals (82%), Presbyterian/Reformed (69%), and Christian/Church (70%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (54%) and Methodists (49%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ²⁰

Pastor-led teaching times such as Sunday evenings or Wednesday evenings

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (55%)
- Pastors in the South are the most likely to select (75%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (73% v. 55%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (74%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (63%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (78%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (67%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (75% v. 67%)
- Baptists (83%) and Pentecostals (84%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (54%), Methodists (60%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (59%)

“What approaches does your church specifically use to disciple and encourage the spiritual development of adults in your congregation?” (continued) ²¹

Sermons during weekly worship services

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (79%)
- African-American pastors are the least likely to select (70%)

“Does your church regularly evaluate discipleship progress among your congregation?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Yes” (71%)
- Pastors in the South (59%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the Midwest (51%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than females (57% v. 49%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (60%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 65+ (49%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (62%) or a Doctoral degree (64%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Master’s degree (51%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than Mainline pastors (60% v. 51%)
- Pentecostals (67%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (39%) and Presbyterians (51%)

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