

Pastor Views on Bible Reading

Survey of Protestant Pastors

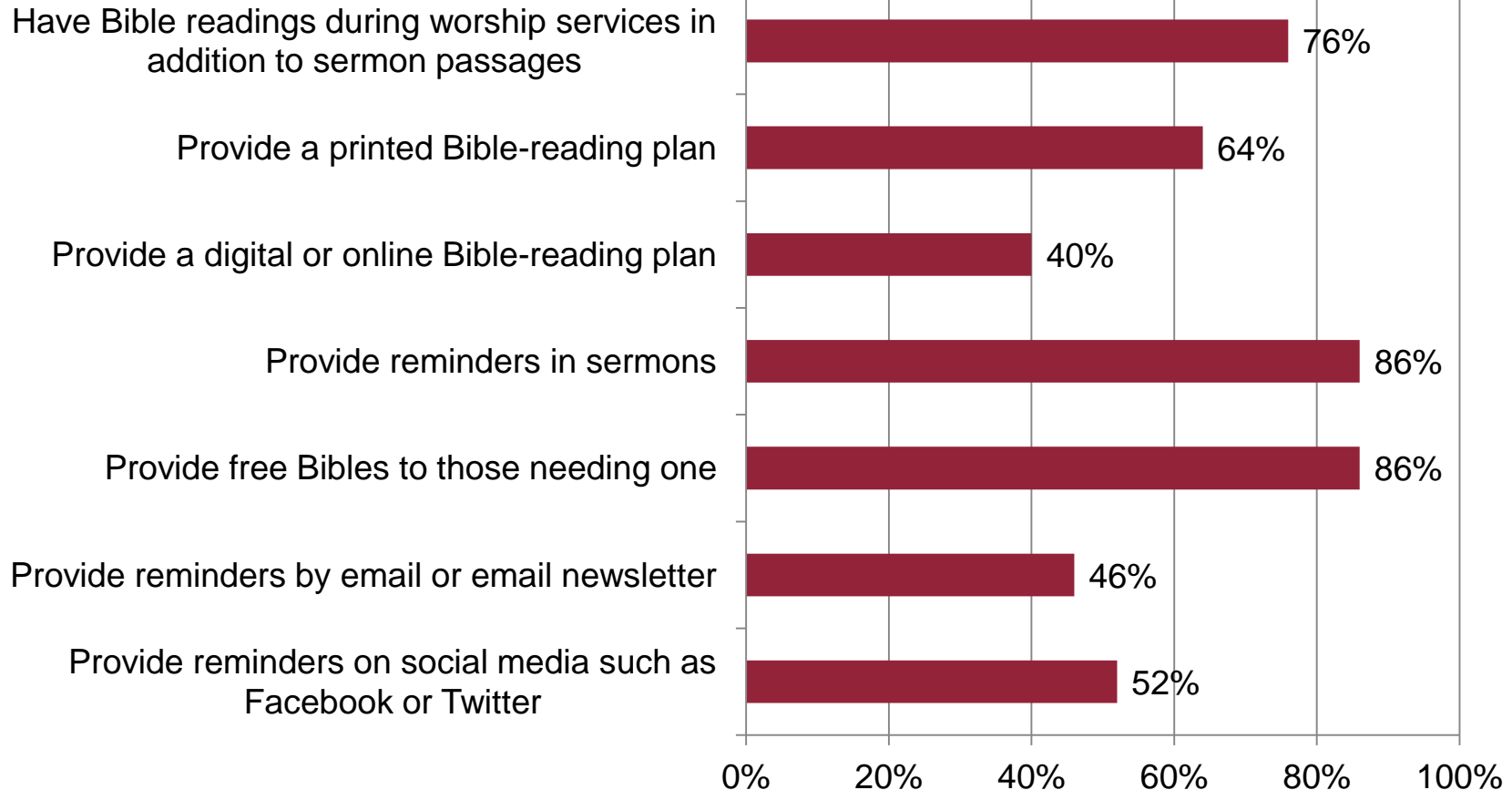
Methodology

- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- ❑ 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

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Among Protestant Pastors



None of these 1%

Not sure <1%

Q: “In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own? (Select all)”

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

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 age and ethnicity.

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

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

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

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Have Bible readings during worship services in addition to the passages used in the sermon

- Pastors age 65+ (81%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (72%)
- Lutherans(82%) are more likely to select than Baptists (71%) and Pentecostals (69%)

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Provide a printed Bible reading plan

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250 or more are the most likely to select (80%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (72%) are more likely to select than African-American pastors (50%)
- Evangelical pastors (69%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (59%)
- Baptists (69%) and Church of Christ (72%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (56%)
- Those with a Bachelor's (67%) or a Master's degree (67%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (53%)

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Provide a digital or online Bible reading plan

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (60%); pastors of church with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (25%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (26%)
- African-American pastors are the least likely to select (22%)
- Evangelical pastors (44%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (34%)
- Baptists (42%), Lutherans (41%), Pentecostals (42%), Church of Christ (45%), and Holiness (46%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (27%)

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Provide reminders in sermons

- No significant differences

Provide free Bibles to those needing one

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (94%)
- Evangelical pastors (89%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (80%)
- Baptists (91%), Church of Christ (93%), and Holiness (90%) are more likely to select than Methodists (77%)

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Provide reminders by email or email newsletter

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (59%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (50%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (39%)
- Pastors of Ethnicities (55%) are more likely to select than African-American pastors (34%)
- Lutherans (56%), Methodists (58%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (53%) are more likely to select than Baptists (38%)
- Those with a Master's (49%) or a Doctoral degree (48%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (35%) or a Bachelor's (38%)

“In what ways, if any, do you encourage your congregation to read the Bible on their own?”

Provide reminders on social medial such as Facebook or Twitter

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (61%) and 250+ (67%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (35%) and 50-99 (48%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (33%)

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