



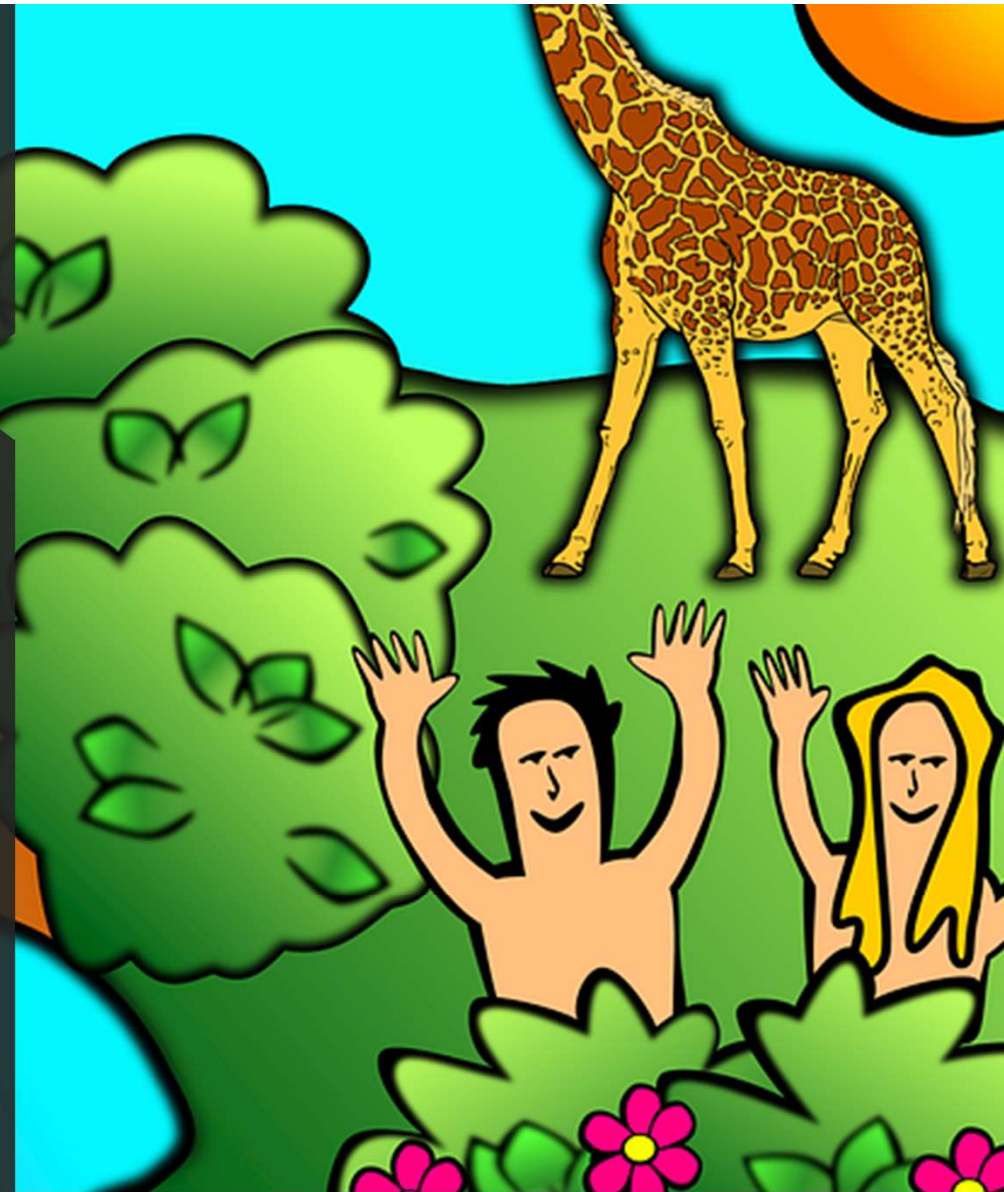
Broken Belonging

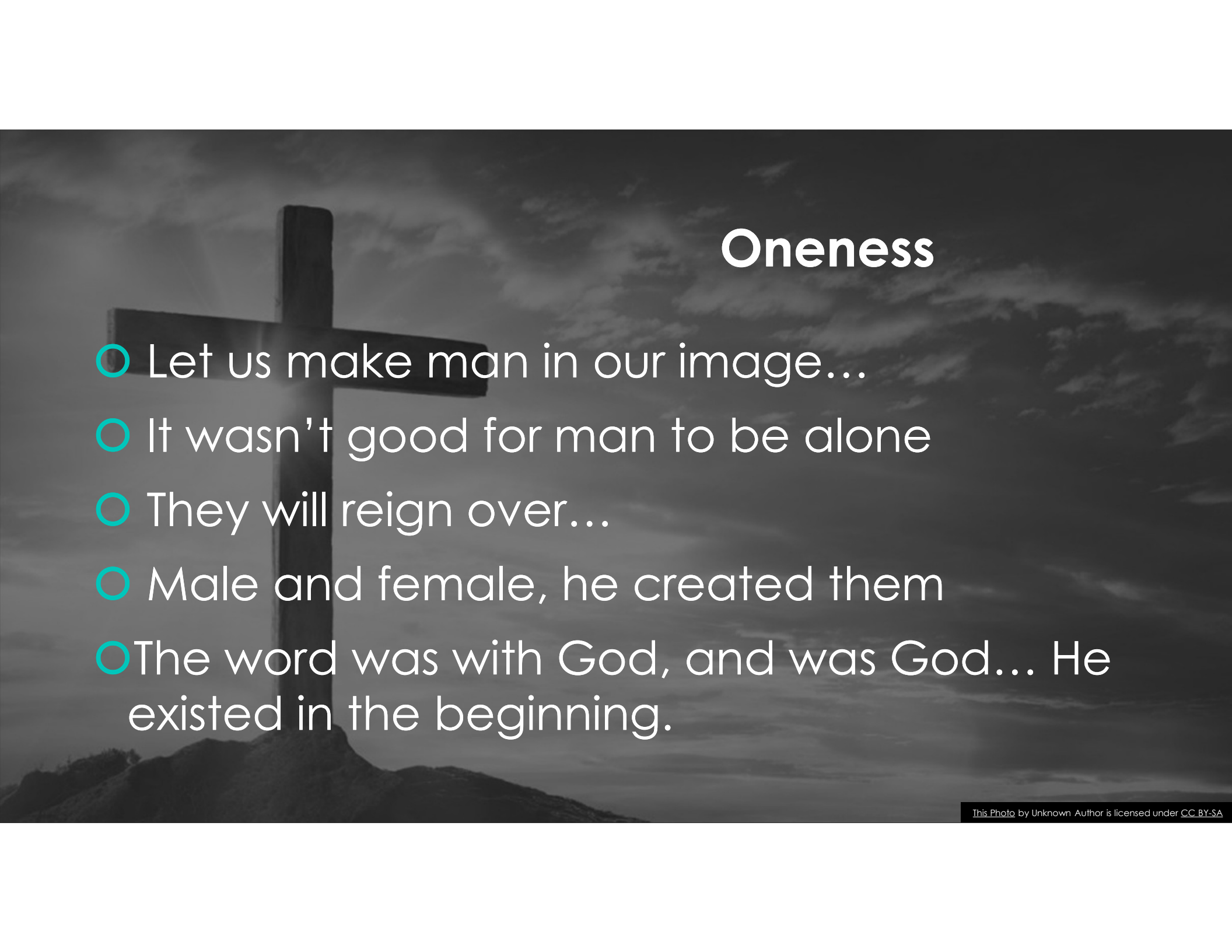
Understanding what happened and what to do

Where Belonging Begins

Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Genesis 1:31





Oneness

- Let us make man in our image...
- It wasn't good for man to be alone
- They will reign over...
- Male and female, he created them
- The word was with God, and was God... He existed in the beginning.

Broken Belonging



The experience of a deep sense of hurt, abandonment, or pain resulting from the loss of a place or community where one felt truly connected. It describes a state where an individual's sense of acceptance and identity within relationships has been severed, leading to feelings of isolation, grief, or disconnection from oneself and others. This brokenness disrupts access to safety, authenticity, and love.

Otherness: The Fear of Man

Defining and identifying people or groups as fundamentally different from me, which often leads to social exclusion and marginalization. This differentiation introduces competition as groups or individuals compare themselves to Others to assert superiority or maintain status. It breeds animosity because it emphasizes differences and creates hierarchies.



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Insecurity

What happened, Adam?

Insecurity emerges when one forgets, rejects, or questions what God says about them or Himself.

Without God, we must find alternate, arbitrary, and substitute ways to sustain our belief that we should exist.



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Humility



All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have **left God's paths** to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him (Jesus) the sins of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

Loneliness



Loneliness "can increase the risk for premature death as much as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day." Loneliness and lack of social connection are associated with higher risks of heart disease, stroke, anxiety, depression and dementia.

(US Surgeon General's Advisory, "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation", 2023)

Bringing Belonging Back

- Forgiveness
- Humility enables Confidence
- Engage with the Bible
- Engage with Community



Bible Engagement



“One of the greatest barriers to effective Scripture engagement—inside and outside the church—is our lack of unity. Not uniformity in traditions or approach, but our unity in our love for the gospel and our belief that the message of Jesus transforms lives.”

(Jennifer Holloran, DSL, President/CEO American Bible Society)

Bible Use

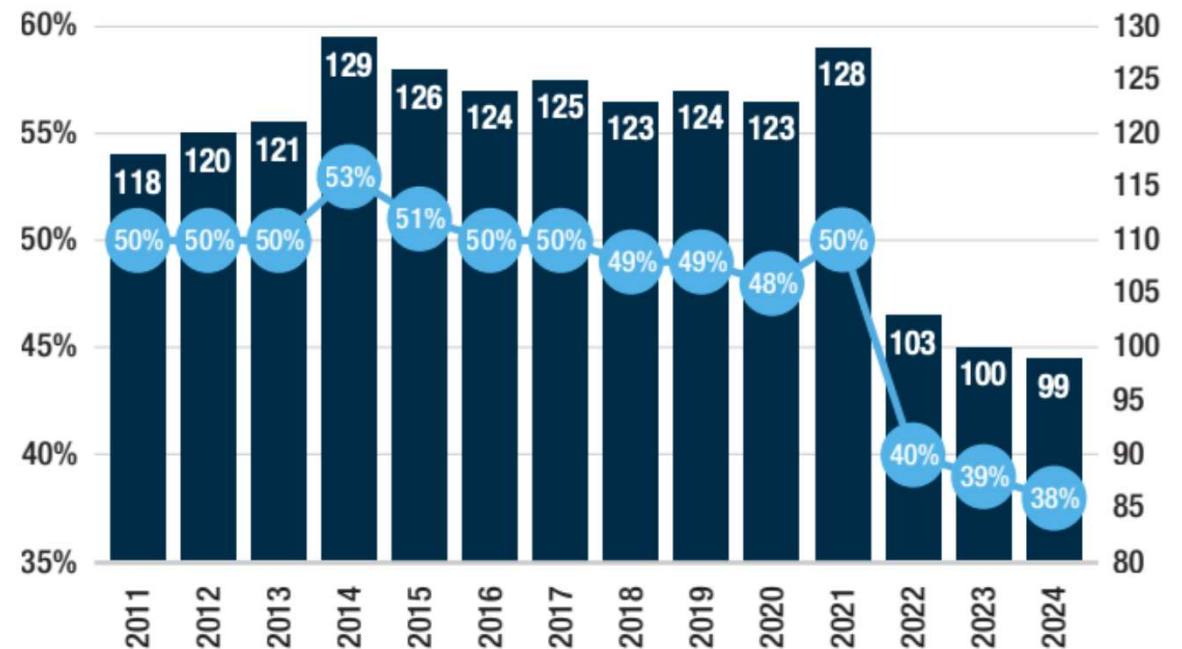
"Interacting with
scripture 3-4 times
per year"

(State of the Bible, 2024)



**Adult Bible Users
2011–2024**

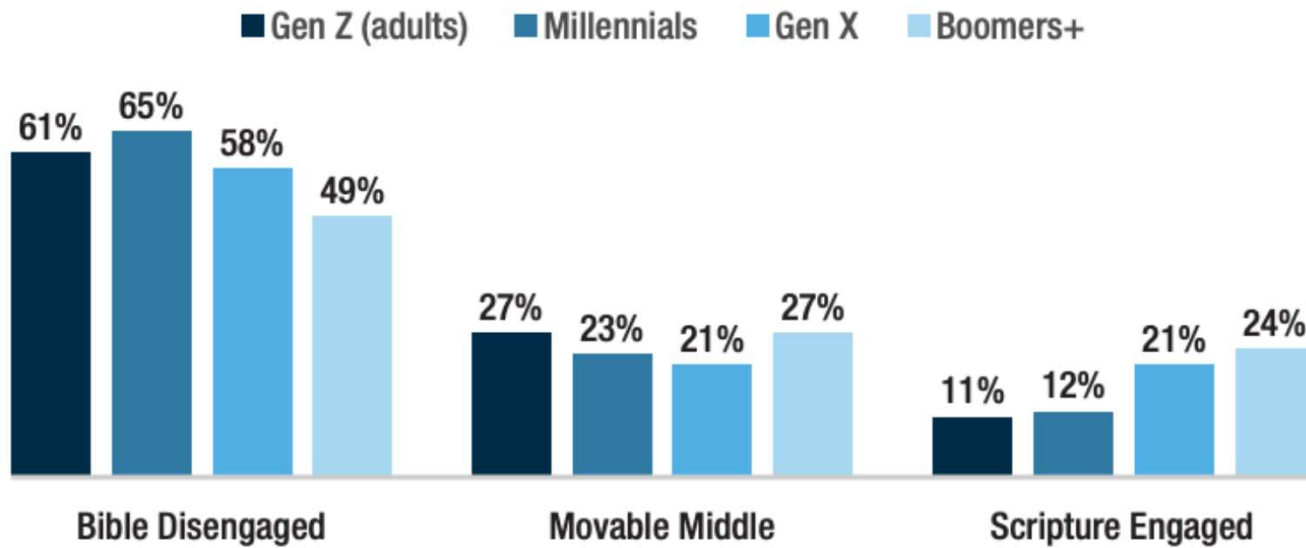
■ Millions ● Percentage



Generational View



Scripture Engagement by Generation



Discipleship

"Do you understand what you are reading?" the eunuch replies, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

Acts 8:26-40





Gathering Groups