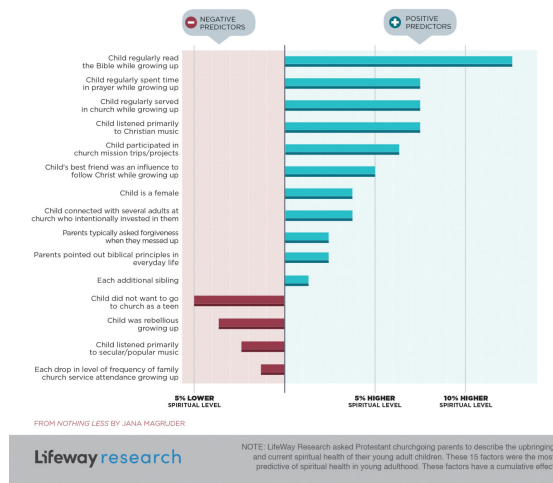


DIY Faith

- “You won’t know if you’re successful as youth pastor until 10 years from now. You can’t gauge your success as a youth pastor based off the weekly attendance, the number of kids who come to a certain event, or the excitement that surrounds your youth group. In 10 years, look to see who is still following Jesus. That’s how you’ll know if you were a successful YP or not.”
- Lifeway Research did a study to find the best predictors of spiritual health amongst YA’s and they found that the most positive predictor of spiritual health for a YA is that “the child regularly read the Bible while growing up.”

Best predictors of spiritual health among young adults



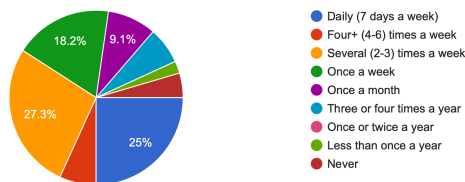
- Judges 2:10-14- “...another generation grew up who did not know the Lord or what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord...The Lord was angry with the people of Israel, so he handed them over...”
- Another study was conducted where they followed 250,000 Christians over the course of 10 years to track their spiritual growth and they found that attending a weekend church service 4 or 40x a year is not the key to spiritual growth and maturity.
- The real tool and predictor of spiritual growth and health is spending time with God by meditating on His Word...and doing so at least 4 times a week.
- They found that those who read the Bible on your own: 1-3 times a week showed no difference in spiritual health than the person who didn’t read the Bible at all.
- Here are some important quotes from the study conducted by the Center for Bible Engagement. “People who engage the Bible one to three days a week indicate basically the same effect on their personal lives as those who do not engage at all... There are profound differences between people who engage the Scriptures at least four times a

week and those who engage with Scripture less often... The eye opener happened when Bible engagement reached at least four times a week... A steady climb of impact would have been expected, but that was not the case. The level was basically stagnant over days one and two, with a small bump on day three. But when day four was reached, the effects spiked in an astounding way. The stunning findings include the following:

- Feeling lonely drops 30%
- Anger issues drop 32%
- Bitterness in relationships drops 40%
- Alcoholism drops 57%
- Sex outside of marriage drops 68%
- Feeling spiritually stagnant drops 60%
- Viewing pornography drops 61%
- Sharing your faith jumps 200%
- Discipling others jumps 230%

<https://research.lifeway.com/2021/04/30/the-key-to-life-changing-biblical-engagement/>
<https://bttbfiles.com/web/docs/cbe/Scientific Evidence for the Power of 4.pdf>
<https://www.amazon.com/Move-Churches-Reveal-Spiritual-Growth/dp/0310529948>

How often do you use the Bible on your own?
 44 responses



- Awaken Student Ministries went from 46% of students who didn't read the Bible even once a month, to now only 14%.
- Now 77% of our students read the Bible at least once a week. 59% read it at least 2-3x a week. The goal we're shooting for of Four or more- 32%. And 25% read it every day!
- There are different kinds of Christians. A Biblical Christian is one who obeys the commands of scripture and walks in the footsteps of Jesus. They submit themselves to what the Bible teaches.
- A Cultural Christian is one who looks very similar to a Biblical Christian. A cultural Christian goes to church, know Christian songs, they have a favorite Bible verse, wear Christian clothes, love and adore Jesus...but not following Him. They don't act like Jesus, they don't obey Him. And a big reason they're not obeying Him is that they don't even know what His word says!
- **We can't follow or submit to that which we don't know.
- Story: Installing new shower head.

- It wasn't that I set out to do it wrong! I had all the right intentions! I wanted to do the right thing...but because I neglected to read the instructions in full, I was left looking like a fool.
- I couldn't follow instructions that I didn't know. I needed to read them fully. And this is why it's so important that we read the Bible.
- You don't want to get to the end of your life, to find out you were doing it wrong! You were sinning against the Lord, you were missing the mark, you were wasting your time on trivial things! Reading the Bible is SO important!
- DIY mode- DIY stands for Do it yourself. Don't hire someone and pay hundreds of dollars, just do it yourself and do it your way. It leaves a lot of room for creativity and personalizing your project so that it's just the way you want it to be. Do it yourself and do it your way.
- Yogurt on Union...
- At the end, we both have frozen yogurt, but it's DIY. We both have frozen yogurt, but it's very different.
- Christians can be a lot like this- They're both Christians, but they live very differently. Because one is doing it Jesus' way and one is doing it their own way.
- I'm sad to see this DIY attitude creeping into the church. Christianity in America is becoming more and more like DIY Faith. Do it yourself and do it your way.
- DIY is great in many areas, but it's TERRIBLE and dangerous when it comes to our faith. We must not personalize our faith.
- You must have a personal walk with Jesus but it can't be personalized.
- Because life is so personalized to us, we think we can personalize our walk with Jesus. And we end up having DIY Faith: a faith where we do it our way.
- Here's what DIY Faith looks like: I love Jesus!!!...but I also love my vulgar music. I love Jesus and want to be in His presence...but I don't go to church, I love Jesus!!!...but I don't read the Bible, I love Jesus!!!...but I'm ok with getting drunk on some occasions, I love Jesus!!!...but I also love my partner- so we have sex outside of marriage, I love Jesus!!!... but I don't feel too convicted about gossip.
- I love Jesus!!!...but I'm ok with lying here and there, I love Jesus!!!...but I'm ok with same sex marriage- it doesn't bother me, it's not hurting anyone- so let them do it bc love is love. I love Jesus!!!...but if it makes them happy, if it makes me happy- why not? Isn't that the point of Jesus- to make us happy?
- DIY Faith is wrong. Personalizing your faith and beliefs based off of your preferences and personal feelings or experiences is wrong...and it's dangerous.
- In 2 Kings we read about these groups of people who moved in Israel and they wanted to please God because they wanted favor on their lives. They wanted His blessing and protection.
- They believed in God, they knew He was powerful and they wanted to know how to please Him. So they get God's priests and they learn from them how to worship God and win His favor.

- Then after learning how to worship God, they follow the instructions of the priests...
- 2 Kings 17:33, 40-41- They worshiped the LORD, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought...They persisted in their former practices. Even while these people were worshiping the LORD, they were serving their idols.”
- They worshiped the Lord...but.
- They were making sacrifices and bringing offerings, they were worshiping God- but. They were serving their own gods too. At the same time, while they were worshiping the Lord, these people were serving their idols.
- How can you worship God, and serve an idol?
 - Even while they attended Sunday morning worship, they were checking their phones.
 - They were good Christians, they worshiped God...but they sinned against Him a lot.
- Worship means *to adore. To love. To have reverence for.*
- This word ‘served’ in Hebrew means: *to serve, to be enslaved to, to work for.*
- We worship the Lord: we revere Him; we adore Him. I adore Jesus!! I go to church and worship! I pray before my meals. I play worship in my house and car. I worship the Lord!
- But I also serve- my own gods. I work for my reputation. I’m enslaved to my sexual desires. I’m serve my sinful appetite. I work for what makes me happy. I’m enslaved to my temper and anger. I serve my kids sports team...etc.
- I love Jesus, I adore and worship Him...but I do some things my own way...I worship the Lord, but this is how I treat my enemy...
- I worship the Lord, but I have my own personal convictions on that subject. I worship the Lord, but I cuss a little bit. I worship the Lord, but I don't have a problem with those kinds of movies. I worship the Lord, but this is how we do things in my family. I worship the Lord, but they hurt me and I just can't find it in myself to turn the other cheek. I worship the Lord, but I will not forgive that person.
- DIY Faith- do it yourself and do it your way is NOT Christianity! DIY Faith is not Christianity.
- Christianity and the way of Jesus is dying to self. Christianity is throwing out my preference and my way of living and instead submitting myself to the Bible.
- Christianity is saying, “This is what the instruction manual says, so I’m going to follow it. I will obey it. I will do what Jesus said whether I like it or not. I will not just adore and revere Him, I will serve Him!
- I will be work for Him and be enslaved to righteousness. That’s what Christianity is. Jesus in the garden praying, “Father, not My will but Yours be done.” THAT is Christianity.
- Loving your enemy, blessing those who curse you, praying for those who persecute you- THAT is Christianity!
- Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit- that is Christianity.

- We don't want to get to the end of our lives, to find that we were doing it halfway right and halfway wrong. We were worshiping the Lord, but we weren't serving Him.
- So what can we do?
 1. Read the Bible. We must commit to reading the Bible, studying it to discover who the Lord is and how we can please Him.
 2. Submit to what it says. Don't just read and enjoy and agree with. Do what it says!
 - James 1:22- Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
 - Romans 6:16-18- Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. **18** You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.
 - If we are to be slaves of righteousness, we must die to ourselves. Die to our wants and desires, our plans and preferences. We must die to our DIY faith, and instead do life God's way.