



Academic Bible Engagement Report

2024



FOR THE **WORD** OF GOD IS LIVING AND EFFECTIVE AND SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD, PENETRATING AS FAR AS THE SEPARATION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, JOINTS AND MARROW.
HEB 4:12-13

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About Logos & ABHE

ABOUT LOGOS

Founded in 1992, Logos has grown from a couple of programmers in a basement into the largest developer of Bible study software and a worldwide leader in multilingual electronic publishing. We partner with hundreds of publishers in more than nine languages to make Bible study resources available to customers around the world.

As the world's premier Bible study platform, the Logos app—our flagship product—is designed to support academic and ministry endeavors through features designed for Bible study, theology, Greek and Hebrew studies, Bible translation, and more. Logos has worked with over 220 academic institutions around the world to provide students and faculty with reliable and respected digital resources and tools for in-depth study of the Bible.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION

The Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE):

- Comprises a network of more than 160 institutions of biblical higher education
- Enrolls more than 72,000+ students
- Offers undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities via traditional residential, extension, and distance education modalities
- Encompasses campus locations in eight time zones stretching from the Canadian Maritimes to Hawaii, from Alaska to Puerto Rico

Scattered across North America, our member colleges feature diverse histories, ethnicities, and doctrinal/denominational affiliations, indicative of the rich and extraordinary breadth and diversity of higher educational institutions for which Canada and the United States are envied around the world. Our common commitments, however, mark us more deeply and distinctively than our diversity. We are committed to education that is legitimately postsecondary and academically rigorous, challenging students to develop critical thinking skills and leading them in the formation of a biblically grounded Christian worldview. Our colleges excel in many significant measures of postsecondary effectiveness, including retention and graduation rates, student loan default rates, learning outcomes achieved, and success in post-baccalaureate education.

Summary

The Bible is the Word of God, but for those in academic studies or professions, it is also a textbook—the textbook, if you will. We at Logos and ABHE wanted to learn how those who study the Bible for academic purposes engage with Scripture outside the classroom and what challenges they face.

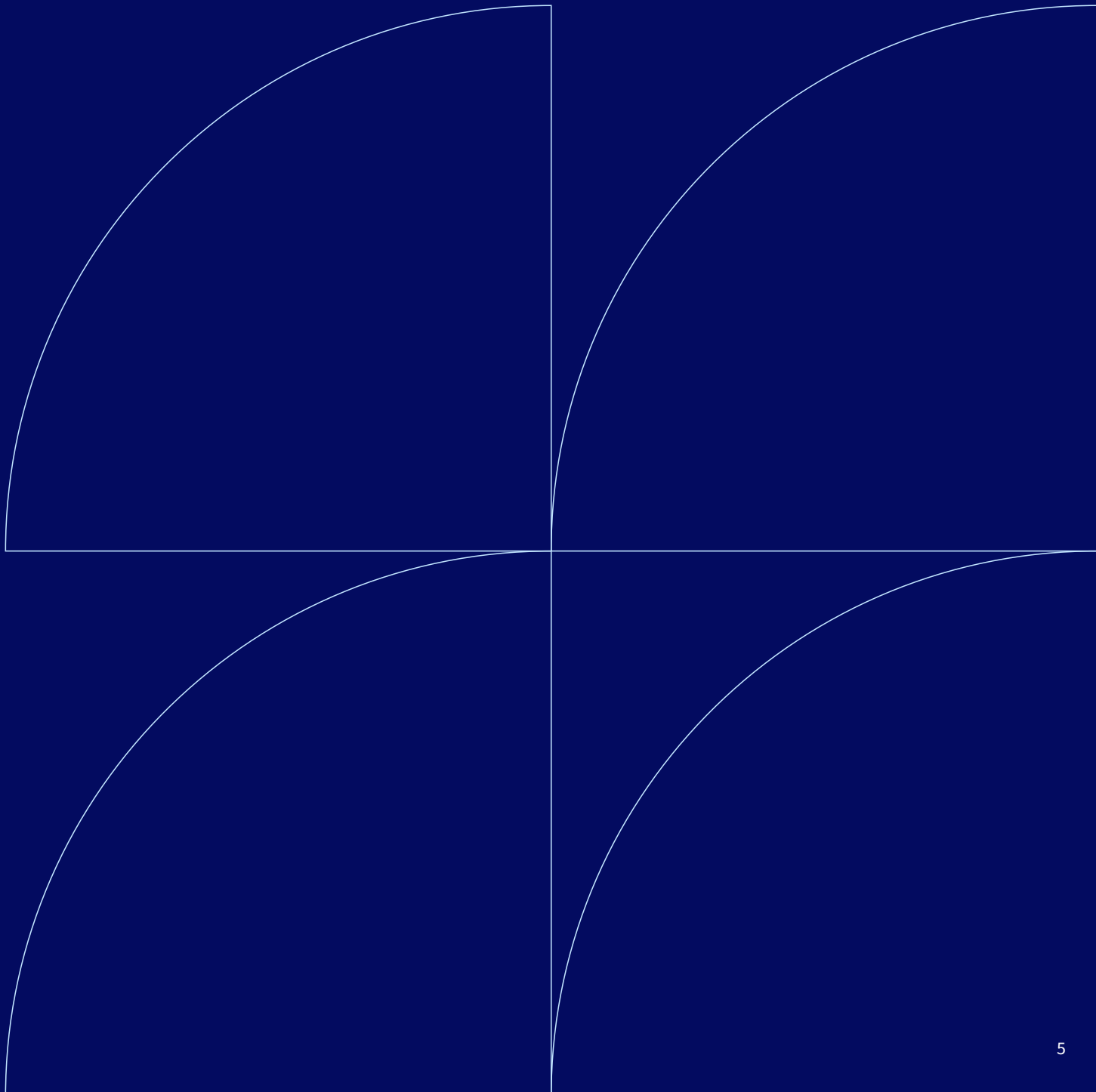
In this report, we will share survey responses from over 1,200 individuals from ABHE institutions. Of 810 respondents,

- **71% (869) are students**
 - 76% of students are in undergraduate programs (37% of which plan to attend seminary/graduate school)
 - 20% of students are in master's or doctoral programs (7.4% of masters-level students plan to pursue a doctoral-level degree)
- **29% (351) are faculty**
 - 54.1% are teaching faculty
 - 14.2% are faculty leaders
 - 21.9% are staff/admin
 - 4.3% are execs

What follows in this report is a short list of questions broken down between faculty and student responses.

Findings

ACADEMIC
BIBLE
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REPORT



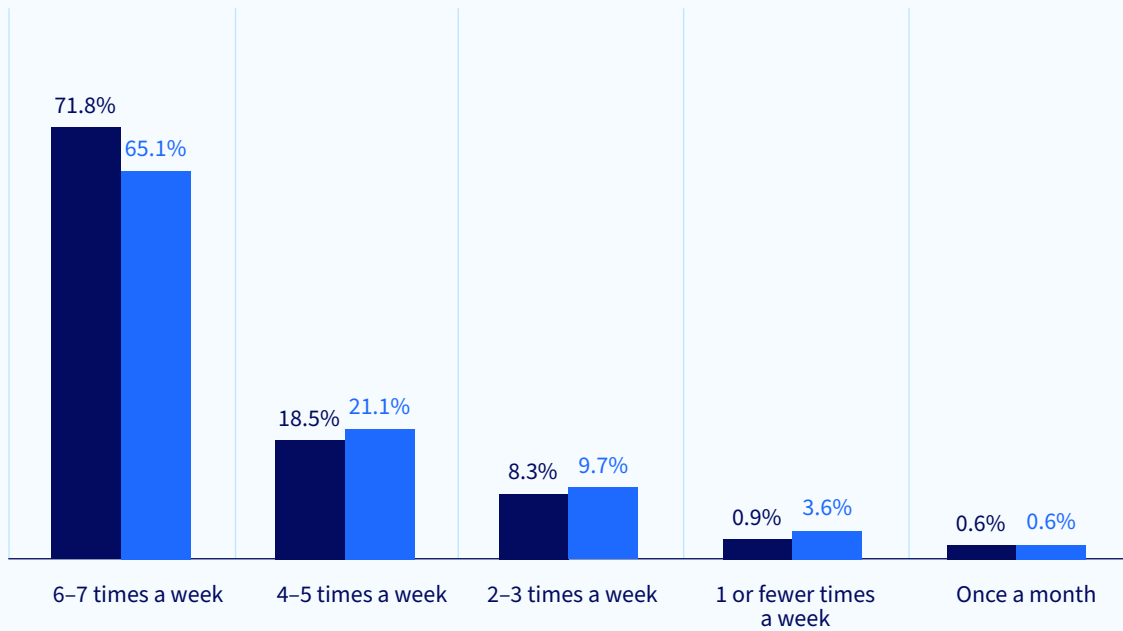
Bible engagement outside the classroom

Do those who use the Bible in scholarly work engage less frequently with Scripture beyond the classroom? And is their Bible engagement more focused on their academic pursuits than their spiritual growth? That's what we sought to understand with the questions in this section.

What we discovered, however, is that nearly all faculty/staff and students read the Bible at least four times a week (90% of faculty, 86% of students). Faculty/staff and students have remarkably similar reading habits when it comes to the length of time they spend in Scripture. The overwhelming majority of both faculty/staff and students spend between 15 to 45 minutes reading Scripture per session (70.4% faculty, 72.1% staff). These individuals' regular and prolonged time in the Bible reveals a deep interest in Scripture stretching beyond the church and the classroom.

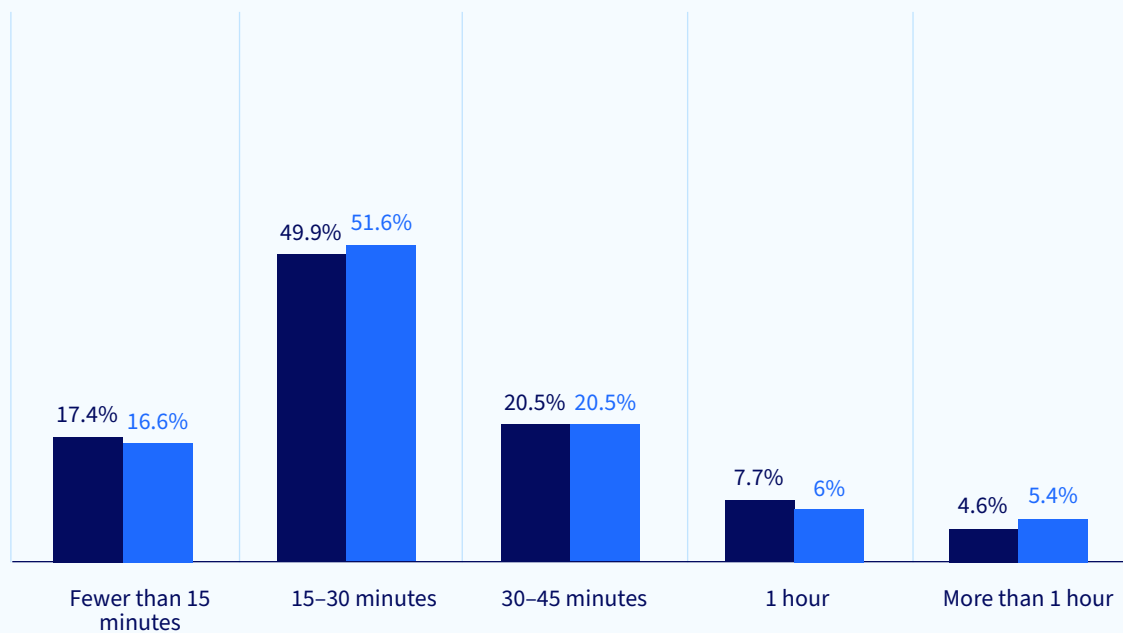
Question: Apart from using the Bible in the classroom, I read my Bible:

Faculty Students



Question: When you read your Bible, how much time do you typically spend reading?

Faculty Students



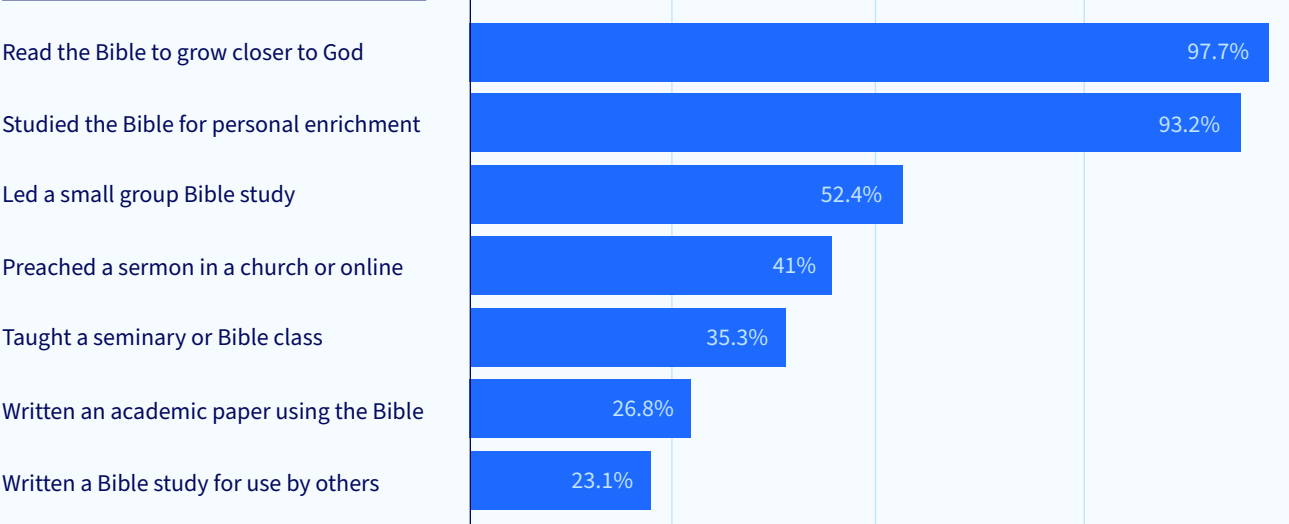
Reasons for Bible engagement

While faculty/staff and students study Scripture for their academic and ministry work, their primary goal in Bible reading is related to growth in their relationship with God.

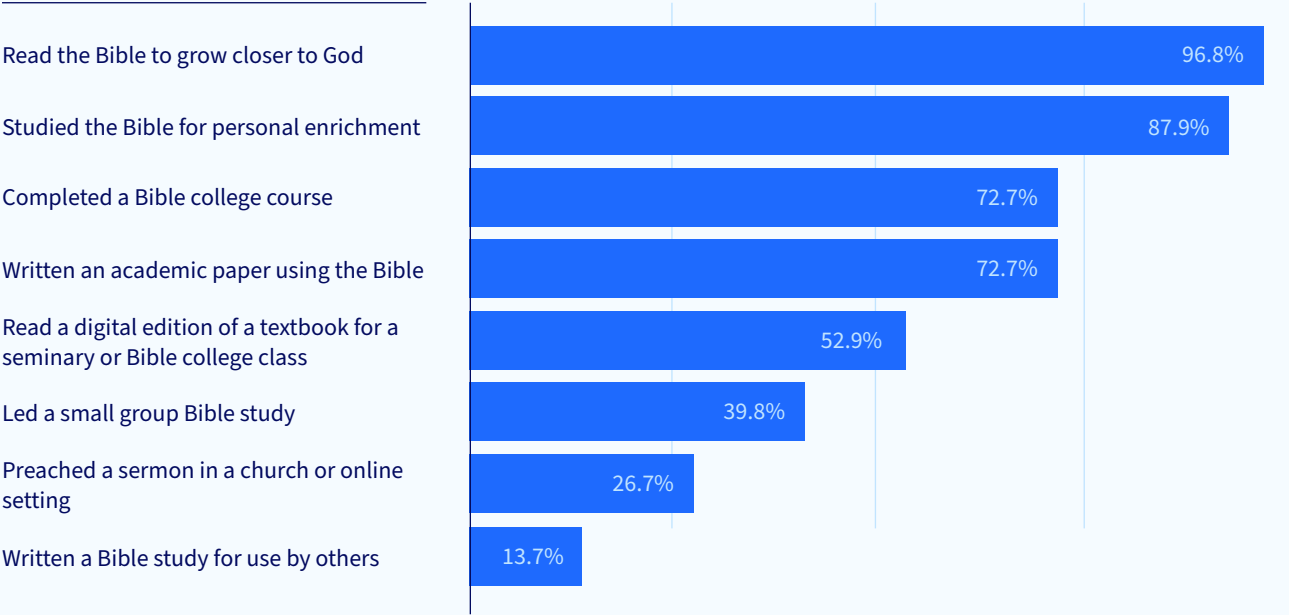
This finding demonstrates that Bible engagement is almost always for the primary purpose of growing closer to God, even above academic and ministry purposes. Therefore, tools or methods for Bible engagement recommended for classroom use should also be valuable for personal study.

Question: Which of the following have you done in the last 12 months? Please check all that apply.

FACULTY



STUDENTS



Methods of Bible engagement

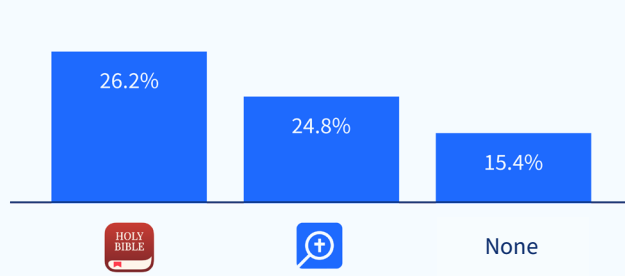
Our findings show faculty/staff are more likely to use paid or premium Bible software/apps, whereas students are significantly more likely to use free tools like YouVersion or Google. Faculty/staff and students alike use a combination of Bible study tools, including free (or freemium) sites like Bible Gateway and Bible Hub.

Compared to last year's report, the only notable differences were an increase in the helpfulness of YouVersion (+15.3% faculty/staff, +6.1% students) and a decrease among students in the helpfulness of Google (-10.5%). These results reflect a growing preference for Bible-specific tools compared to search engines like Google.



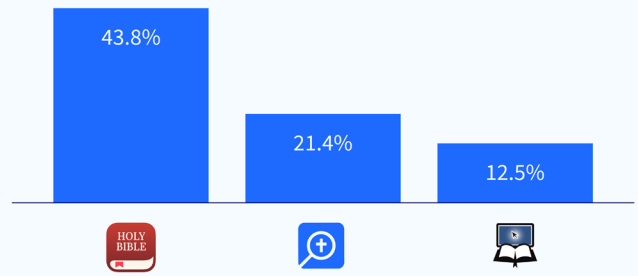
FACULTY

Faculty members reported that the Logos Bible study platform (24.8%), Olive Tree (12%) and “other” services (such as websites like Bible Gateway) are their top three tools.



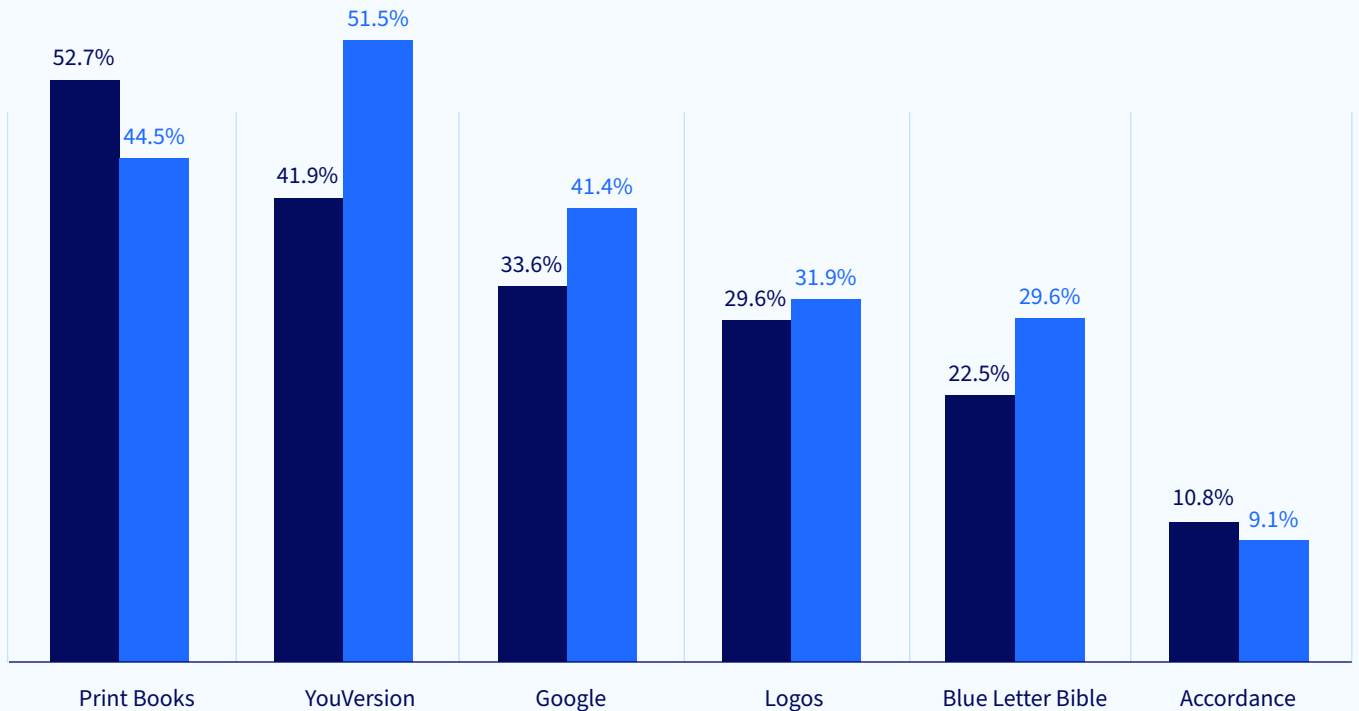
STUDENTS

Students' top three tools are YouVersion (43.8%), Logos (21.4%), and Blue Letter Bible (12.5%).



Question: What is the most helpful tool you currently have to study the Bible? (Select all that apply.)

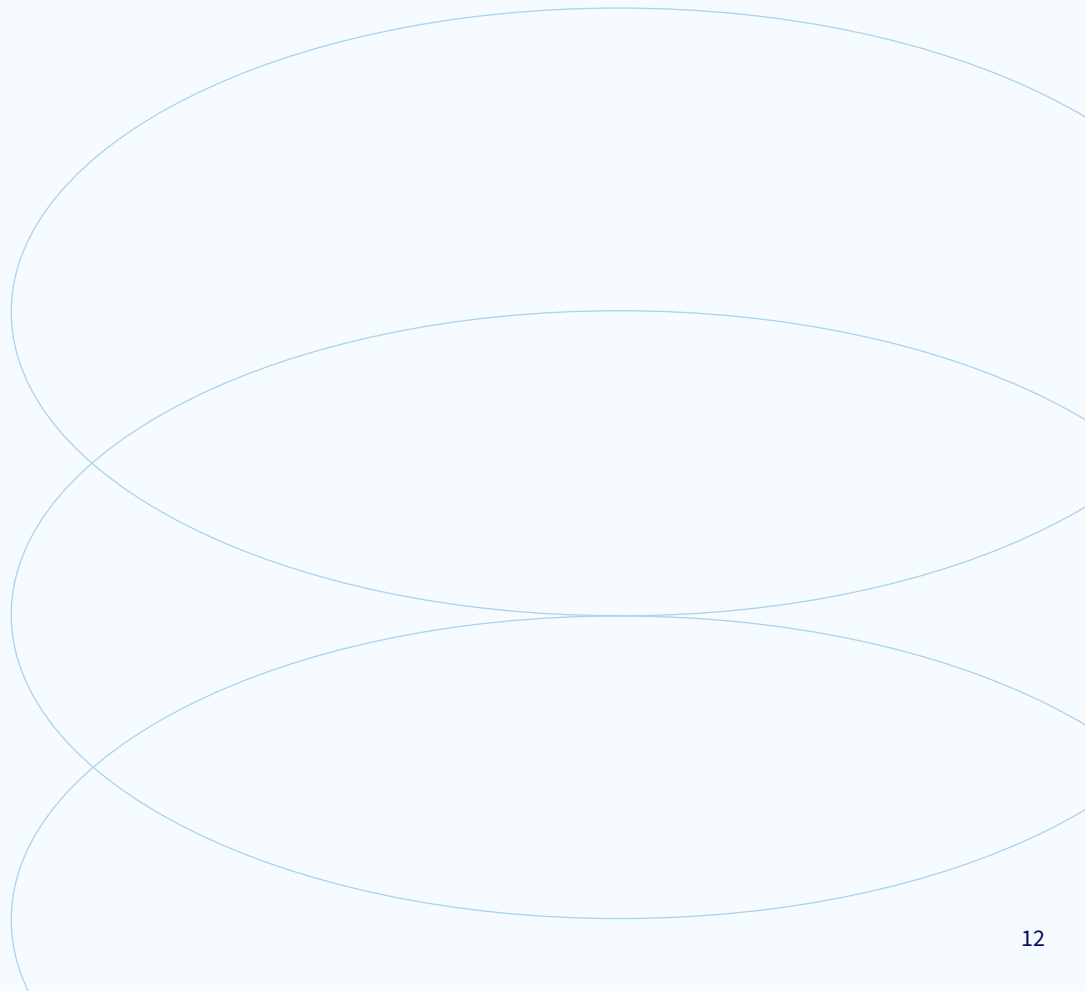
Faculty
 Students



Print and digital Bible study resources compared

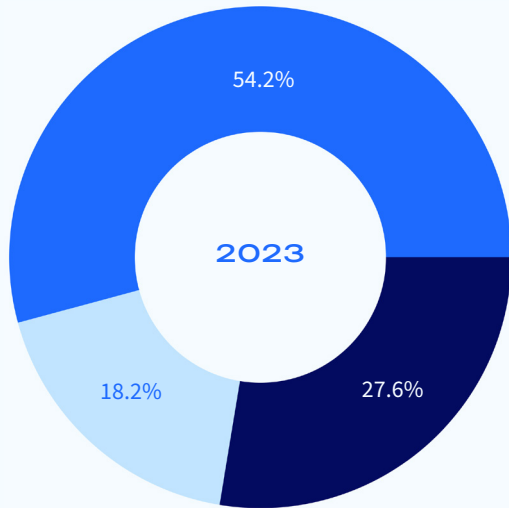
Both faculty/staff and students show a dramatic increase in using a hybrid library; that is, combining print and digital books (an increase of 28% and 29%, respectively). Even so, faculty/staff show a slight preference for digital resources over print ones.

Additionally, using digital Bible study resources correlates to more regular study. The data below shows that those who prefer print resources use them fewer times during the week than those who prefer digital resources or a combination of both.

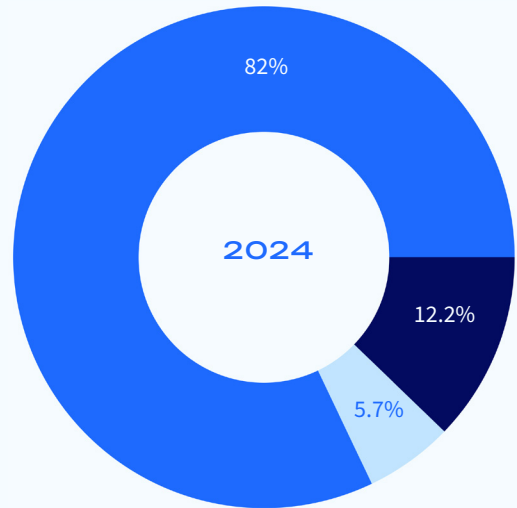


Question: Do you prefer print or digital Bible study resources (commentaries, Bibles, textbooks, books, etc.)?

FACULTY

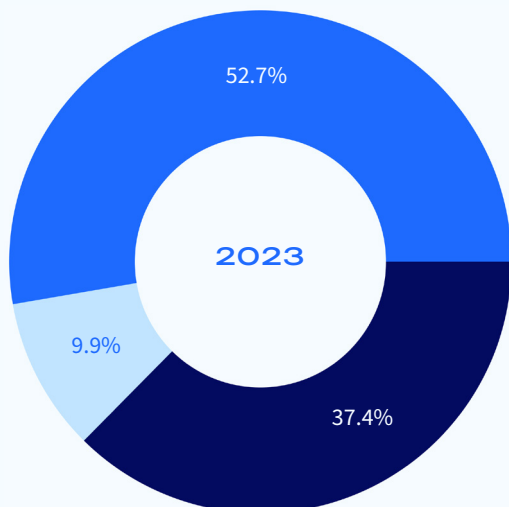


Print Digital Both

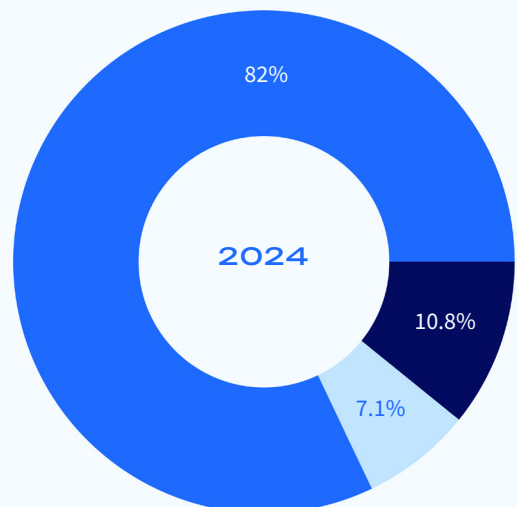


Print Digital Both

STUDENTS



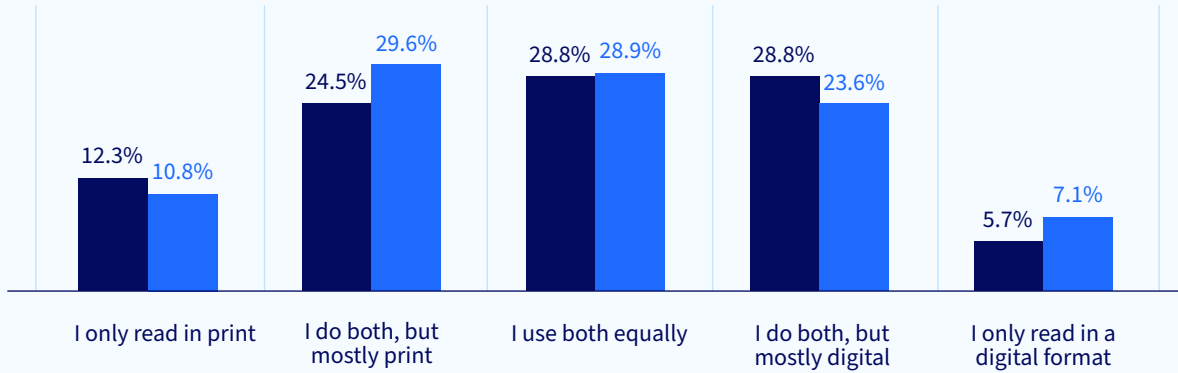
Print Digital Both



Print Digital Both

How do you use Bible study resources (commentaries, textbooks, books, etc.)?

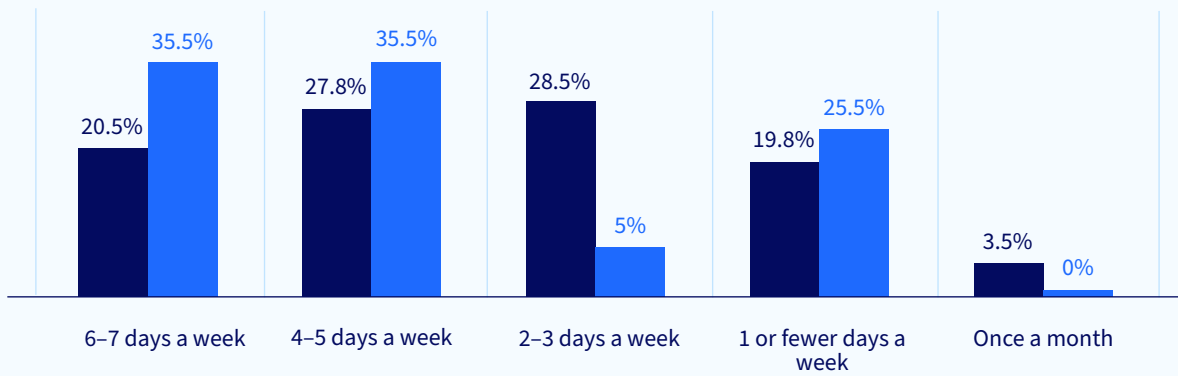
Faculty Students



Question: How often do you use digital Bible study resources each week?

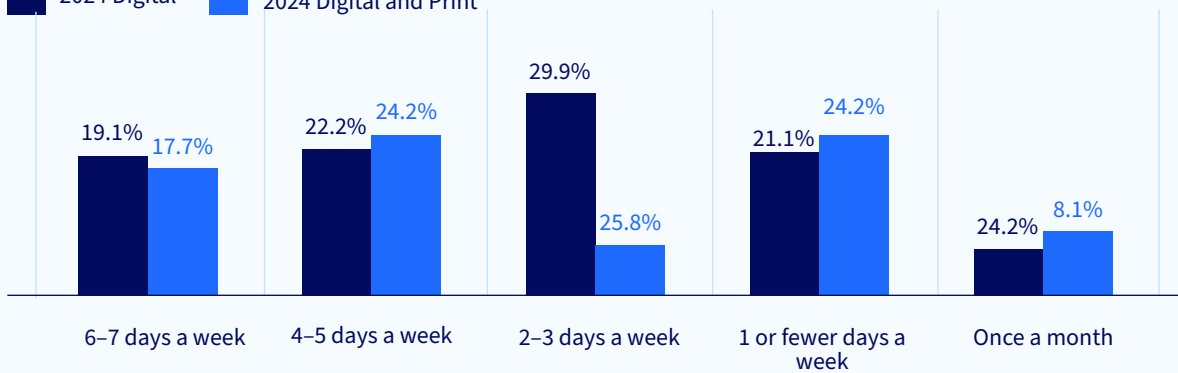
FACULTY

2024 Digital 2024 Digital and Print



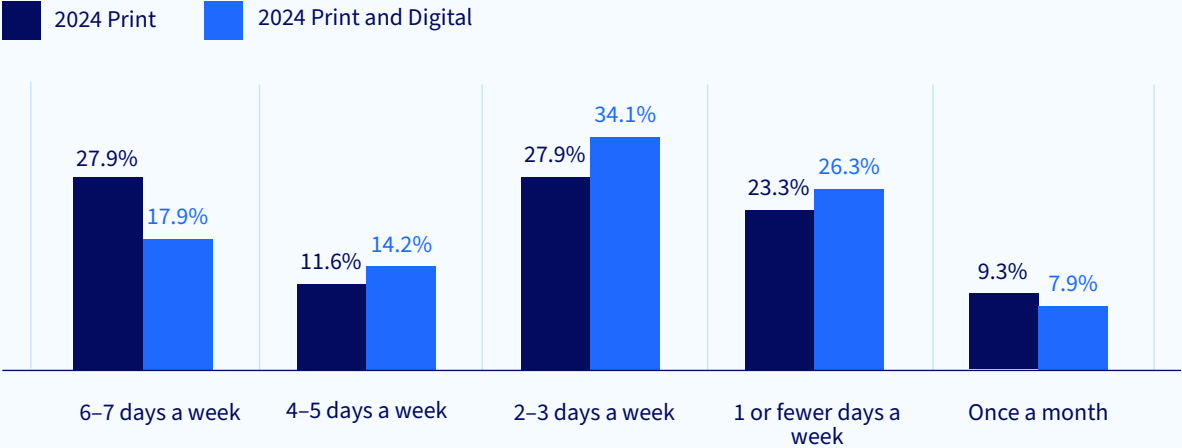
STUDENTS

2024 Digital 2024 Digital and Print

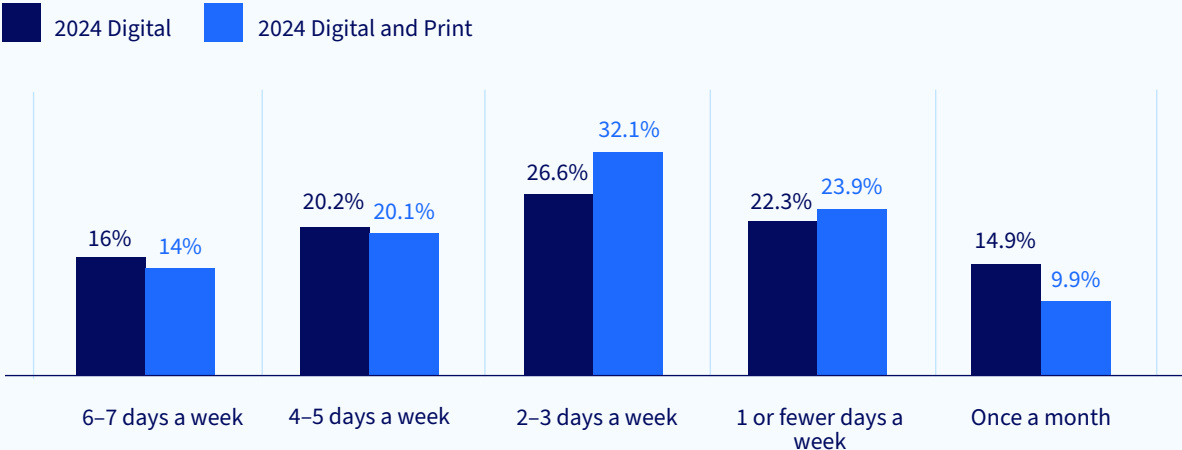


Question: How often do you use print Bible study resources each week?

FACULTY

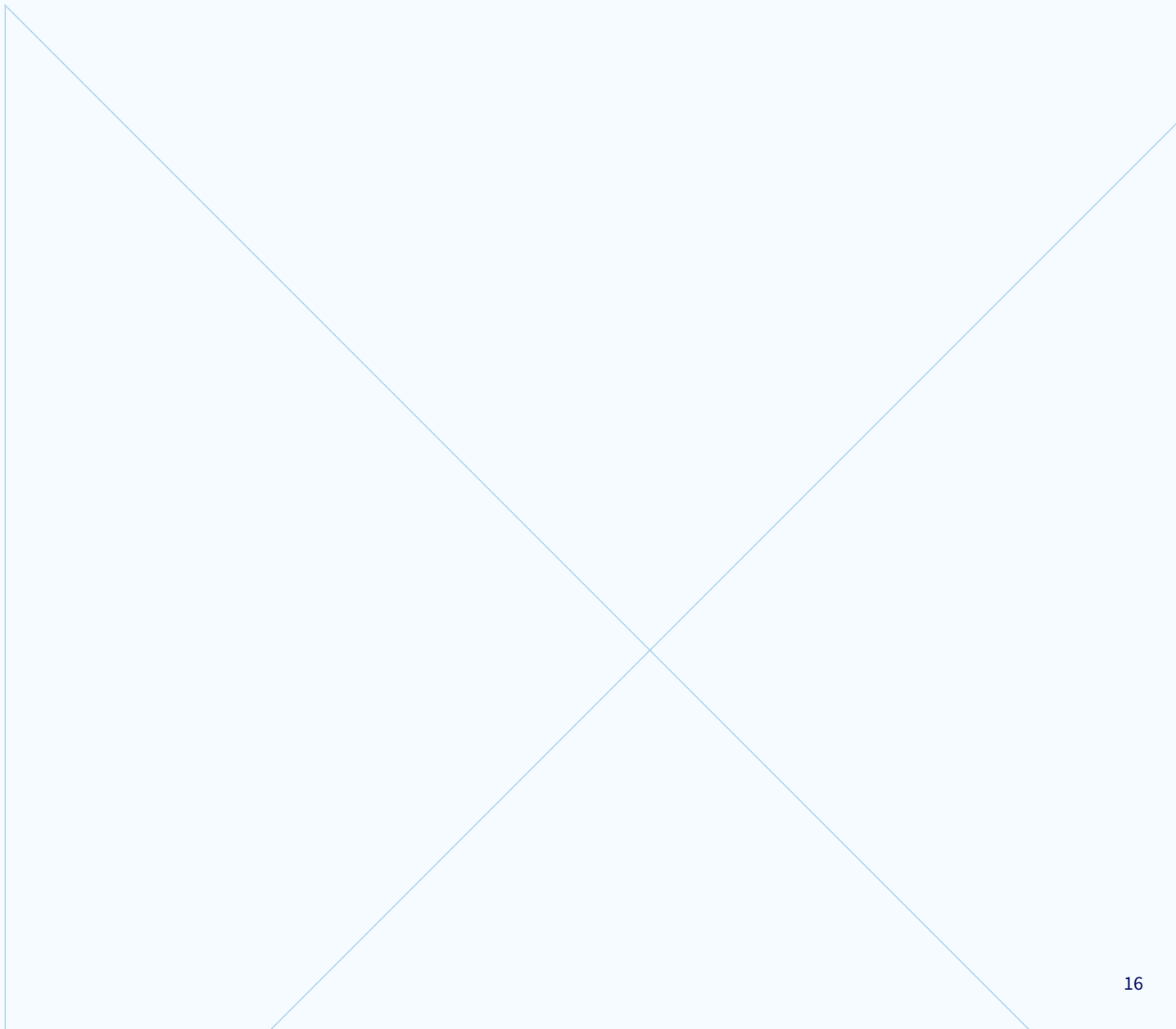


STUDENTS



Trends and challenges in academia

In analyzing our survey results, we discovered four key trends: some positive and some negative.



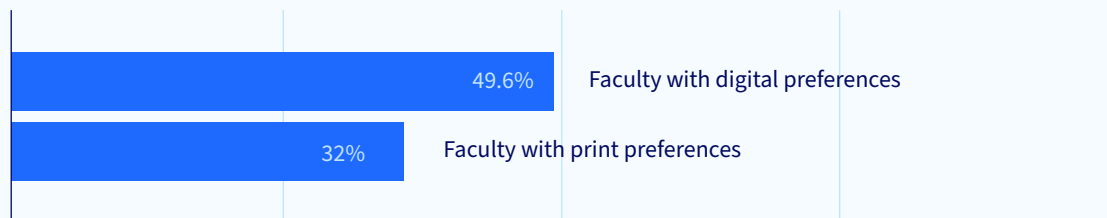
Trend 1: Bible engagement outside the classroom

Almost all faculty/staff and students read Scripture frequently for personal growth. This is discussed more above (see “Reasons for Bible engagement”), but included here to draw attention to something worth celebrating related to Bible engagement. According to the 2023 State of the Bible report, only 39% of Americans use the Bible three or more times per year, compared to 95% of faculty/staff and students who use the Bible at least twice per week. It is encouraging to see that ABHE member institutions that promote the integration of faith and learning are seeing their students and faculty/staff engage deeply with Scripture in and out of the classroom.

Trend 2: Digital Bible study resource use

We also noted above (see “Print and digital Bible study resources compared”) that faculty/staff and students are growing more reliant on a hybrid library combining print and digital resources, in contrast to a print-only or digital-only library. Not only that, but those who prefer a digital or hybrid library use their resources more often.

Half (49.6%) of faculty/staff who prefer a digital or hybrid library use digital resources four or more times per week, compared to only 32% of faculty/staff who use print resources four or more times per week. The disparity is less pronounced among students, but still visible: 41% of students use digital resources four or more times per week, compared to the 34% who use print resources the same amount.



Read Bible resources four or more times a week

This data shows great potential for schools that equip their faculty/staff and students with digital resources in addition to their on-site physical library. While we did not ask specifically about the effect of these resources, it follows that regularly using Bible study resources has a positive impact on individuals’ productivity or spiritual growth.

Trend 3: Executive leaders and ministry involvement

We saw 69 leaders (deans, provosts, presidents, chief academic officers, etc.) complete the survey. This cohort showed a surprisingly high level of engagement with Scripture, ministry, and teaching. A few high-level findings:

- 97% of executive leaders report reading the Bible for personal enrichment and preaching
- 71% led a small group
- 62% preached in a church or online setting
- 50% taught a seminary or Bible class
- 31% wrote a Bible study

While there may be a perception that executive leaders exist in an ivory tower, these findings reveal how close they remain to Scripture, students, and ministry work.

Trend 4: Students' biggest challenges with Bible reading

We asked an open-ended question to learn what are students' greatest challenges when it comes to Bible engagement. Faculty/staff and students agree that finding time to read Scripture and understand what they read remains challenging.

Question to Students: What are your main challenges when it comes to reading the Bible?

“The academic load primarily draws me away from finding time to read the Bible.”

“The main challenge I face while reading the Bible is finding enough uninterrupted time to fully engage with the text and reflect on its meaning. Despite using methods like inductive Bible study, time constraints often hinder my ability to delve deeper into understanding, comprehension, and relevance.”

“Sometimes when reading passages that are not as clear, I struggle to understand what I am reading; however, using other resources helps with that and writing out what I am learning helps me keep up with the flow of thought in the passage.”

Question to Faculty/Staff: What are the biggest challenges you face today in getting your students to engage with the Bible?

“Helping them to see how Bible reading needs to be a part of a daily discipline in personal growth and faith.”

“Relevancy to their daily needs, the fact that Christ wants a personal relationship with us and how to do that.”

“Sitting down to take time to read, slowing down.”

“Believing it is important and engaging in critical thinking/study for how it applies to us in modern times.”

“It seems that with each generation, students’ attention spans get shorter and shorter. Using a variety of teaching and study methods seem to help (audiobooks, YouTube videos, group discussions, etc.). Providing historical context and presenting the Bible as a grand narrative helps immerse them into what they’re reading, engage with it, and apply it to their life.”

In summary, students and faculty/staff alike see the need to spend meaningful time in the Bible, but they’re realistic about the challenges. Students struggle to find time to read Scripture, but they also have difficulty studying deeply enough to understand and apply what they have read. Faculty/staff who use a variety of teaching methods, including digital resources, may find greater success in helping students develop healthy Bible engagement habits, not only for their studies, but for a lifetime.



Conclusion

Perhaps the most important conclusion to draw from these data sets is that academics—on both sides of the lectern—are deeply committed to the Bible, not limiting its use to the classroom. God’s Word is, first and foremost, faculty and students’ way to know God better and experience his work in their lives. These two years of data reveal that faculty/staff and students have a persistent, growing desire to know and experience God through his Word. They are committed to Scripture, regardless of the format they use to study it.

The Logos and ABHE partnership reflects our mutual commitment to equipping current and future generations of Christian academics for study of the Word and the good of God’s people.

Logos for Education provides biblical studies and theology resources through textbook delivery, custom libraries curated specifically for your school, and research libraries. Books and study resources are delivered through the powerful Logos Bible study platform, providing powerful search capabilities, automatic citations, digital note taking, and much more. With over thirty years’ experience building technology for Bible study, Logos has transformed the way millions of people interact with the Word of God. Trusted by professors and pastors, we put critical study tools, language resources, and search capabilities in your hands.

See how Logos can increase biblical engagement at your institution:
www.logos.com/education

The Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) supports Bible colleges and seminaries by offering accreditation for academically rigorous, Bible-focused programs.

Learn more about the ABHE and its programs:
<https://www.abhe.org/>