

Academic Bible Engagement Report

2025



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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 250 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
- Includes 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. Such features indicate the extraordinary breadth and diversity of the many admired higher education institutions across Canada and the United States. Yet our common commitments 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 not merely a topic of study. It is the living Word of God, foundational to the life and mission of every Christ-centered institution. At ABHE-affiliated colleges and seminaries, Scripture forms both the content and context of learning. It shapes hearts, informs scholarship, and anchors students and faculty alike in the unchanging truth of God's revelation.

This joint report from Logos and the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) represents an ongoing effort to understand how Scripture is engaged in the daily lives of those preparing for ministry and scholarship. Drawing on nearly 1,000 responses from students, faculty, and staff across ABHE institutions, the 2025 survey builds on trends first observed in 2023 and 2024.

What emerges is a rich portrait of Bible engagement marked by devotion, academic rigor, and a shared desire to know and follow Christ. At the same time, the data reveals growing challenges, particularly for students, in maintaining consistent, personal engagement with Scripture amid the pressures of academic life and rapid technological change.

This report is offered as a resource to institutional leaders, educators, and ministry practitioners who are committed to forming students who will not only handle the Word of truth accurately but love it deeply.

Of 902 respondents,

77% (697) are students

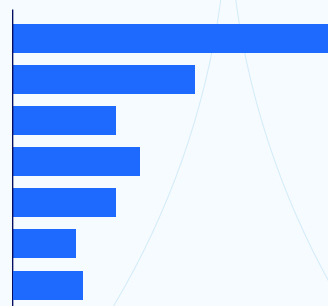
- 74% of students are in undergraduate programs (39.1% of whom plan to attend seminary/graduate school)
- 19.1% of students are in masters or doctoral programs (7.6% of masters-level students plan to pursue a doctoral-level degree)
- 6.6% of students are in a different program
- 68.3% of students are between 18 and 34)

23% (205) are faculty or staff members

- 65.4% are teaching faculty
- 11.7% are faculty leaders
- 12.7% are staff/admin
- 5.9% are execs
- 4.4% are other

Student age

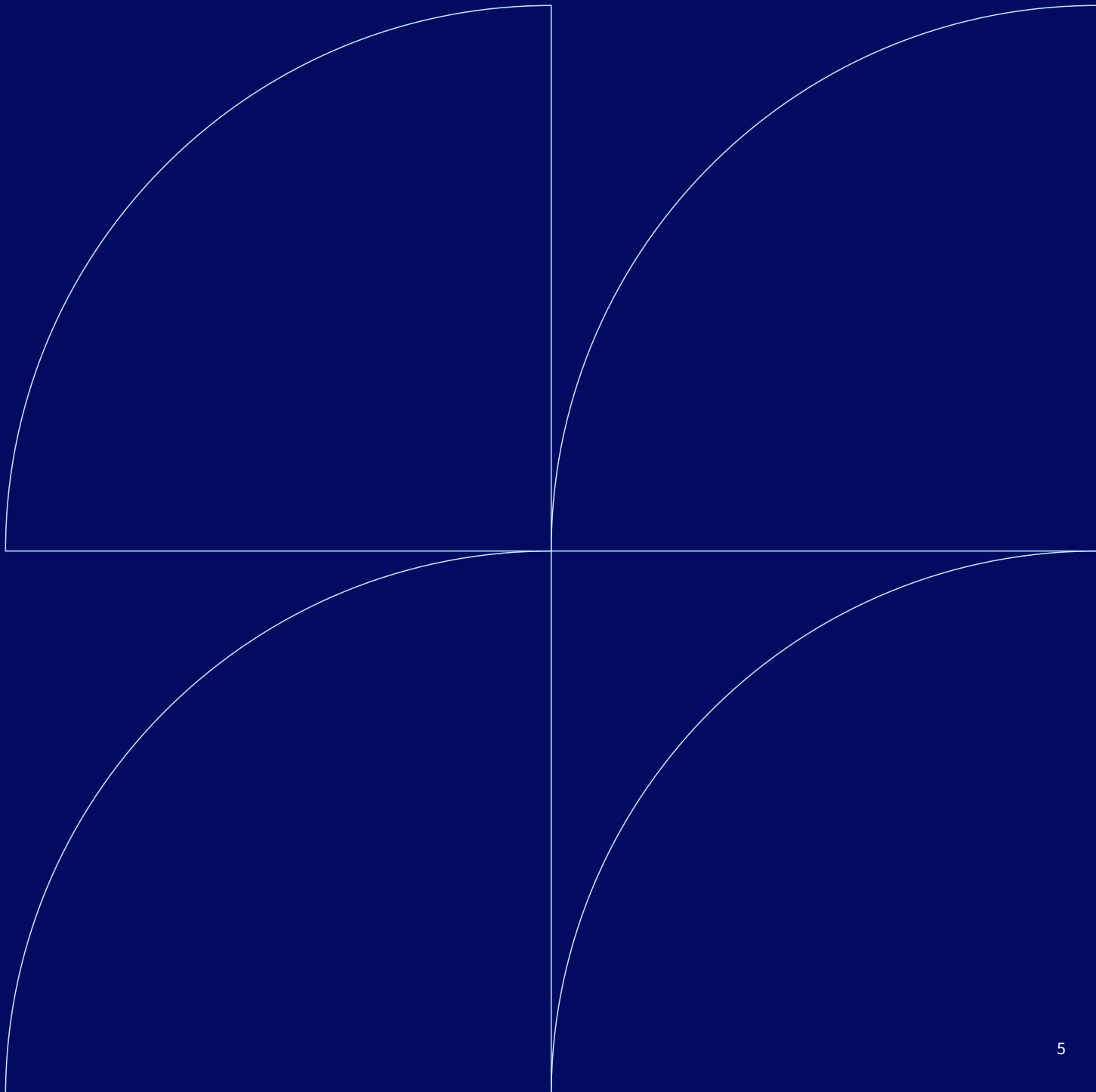
53.8% are 18–24
14.5% are 25–34
7.9% are 35–44
9.9% are 45–54
7.2% are 55–64
4.5% are 65–74
.9% are 75 or older
2% prefer not to answer



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

Findings

ACADEMIC
BIBLE
ENGAGEMENT
REPORT



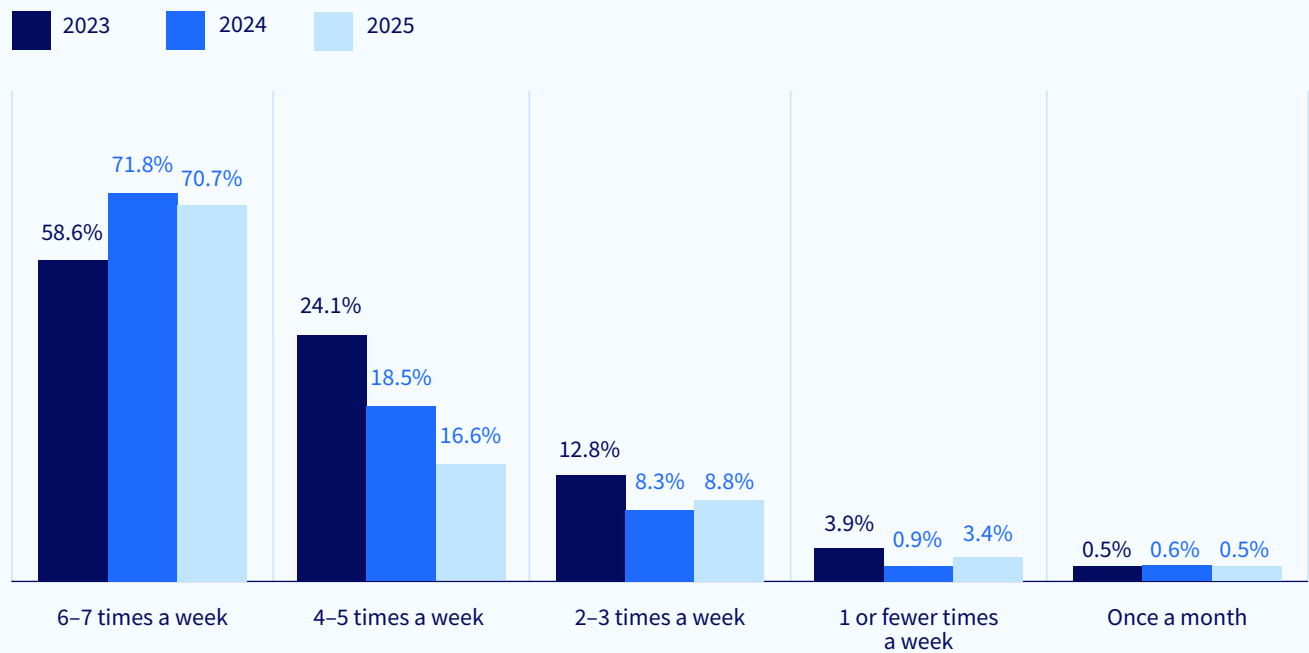
Bible engagement outside the classroom

At ABHE institutions, Scripture is more than a part of the curriculum. It is an essential part of everyday life. In 2025, 87% of faculty and 70% of students report reading the Bible at least four times each week. This mirrors the patterns observed in 2023 and 2024 and underscores a deep and steady rhythm of personal engagement with God's Word.

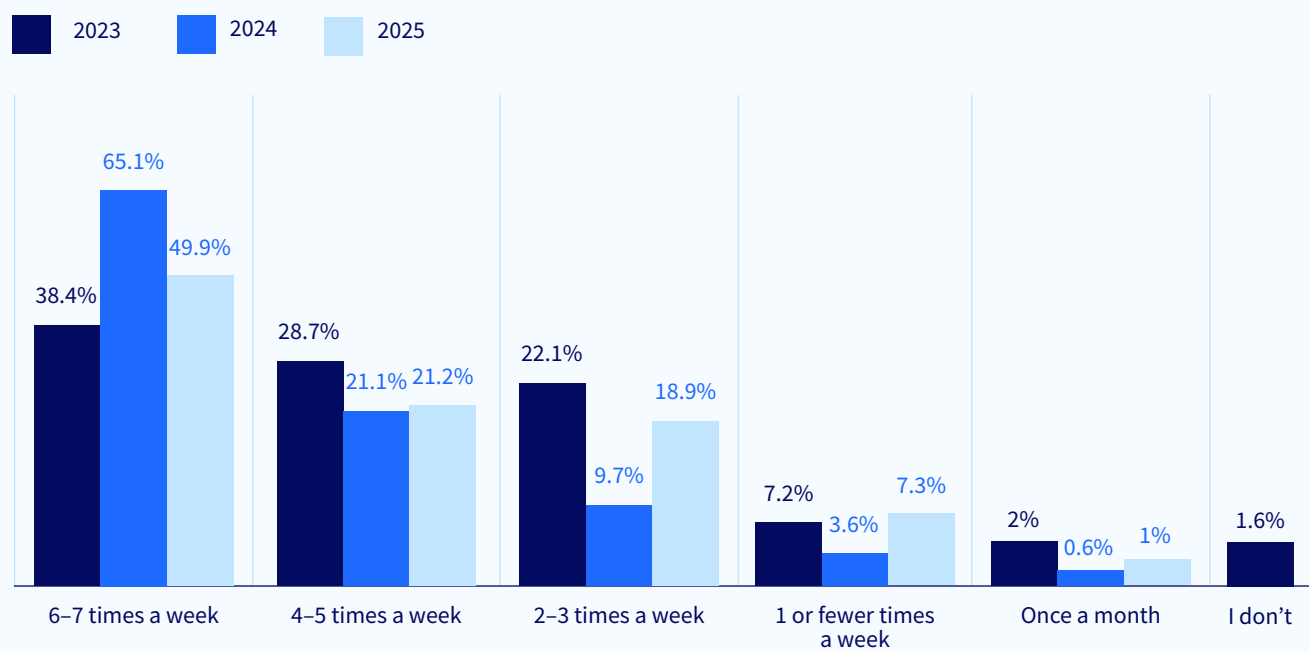
The time spent in Scripture is surprisingly consistent. Most faculty and students read for 15 to 45 minutes per session, signaling not just routine but intention. These numbers reflect a community shaped by the Bible, where academic study and spiritual devotion are closely intertwined.

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

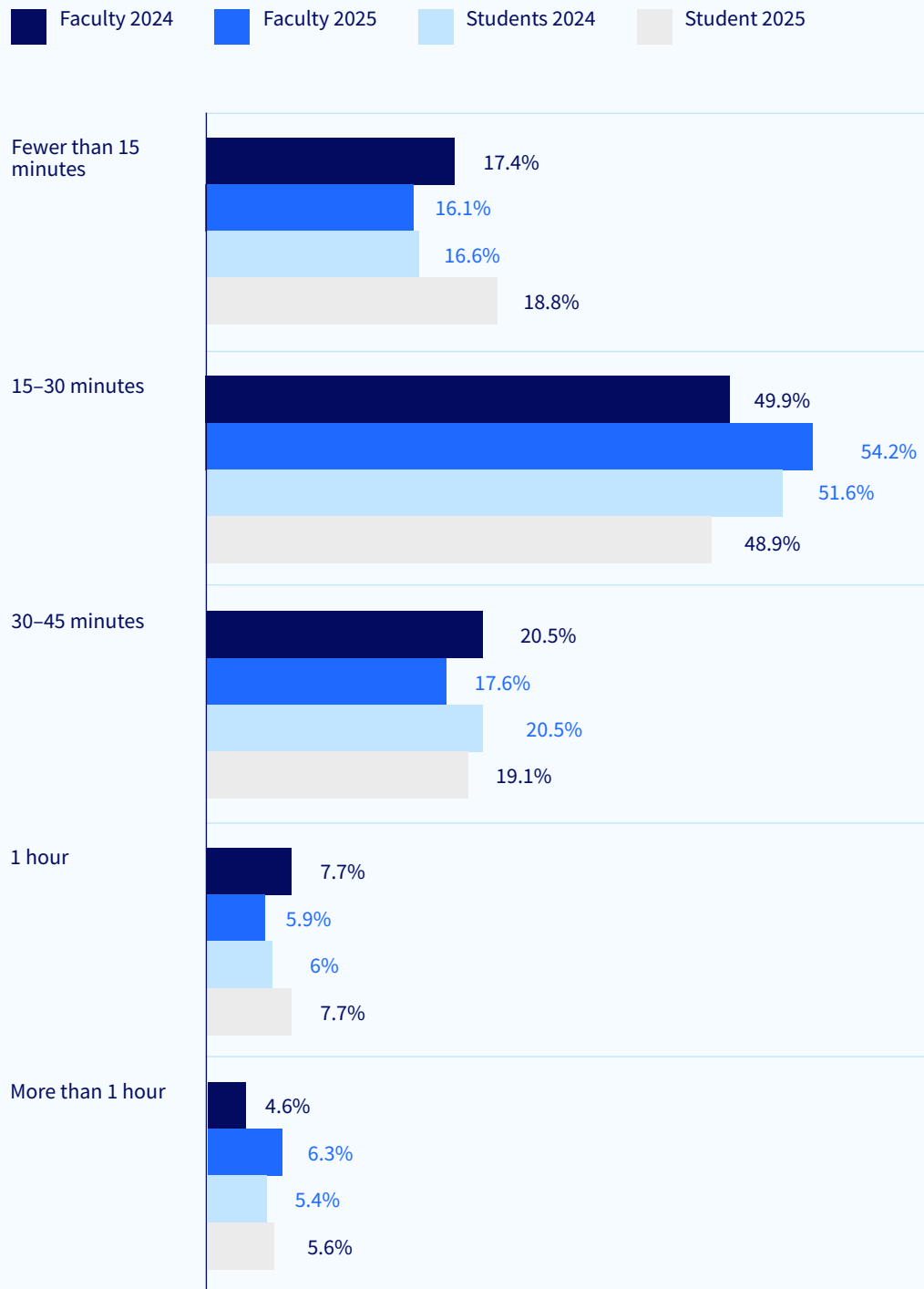
Faculty



Students



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



Reasons for Bible engagement

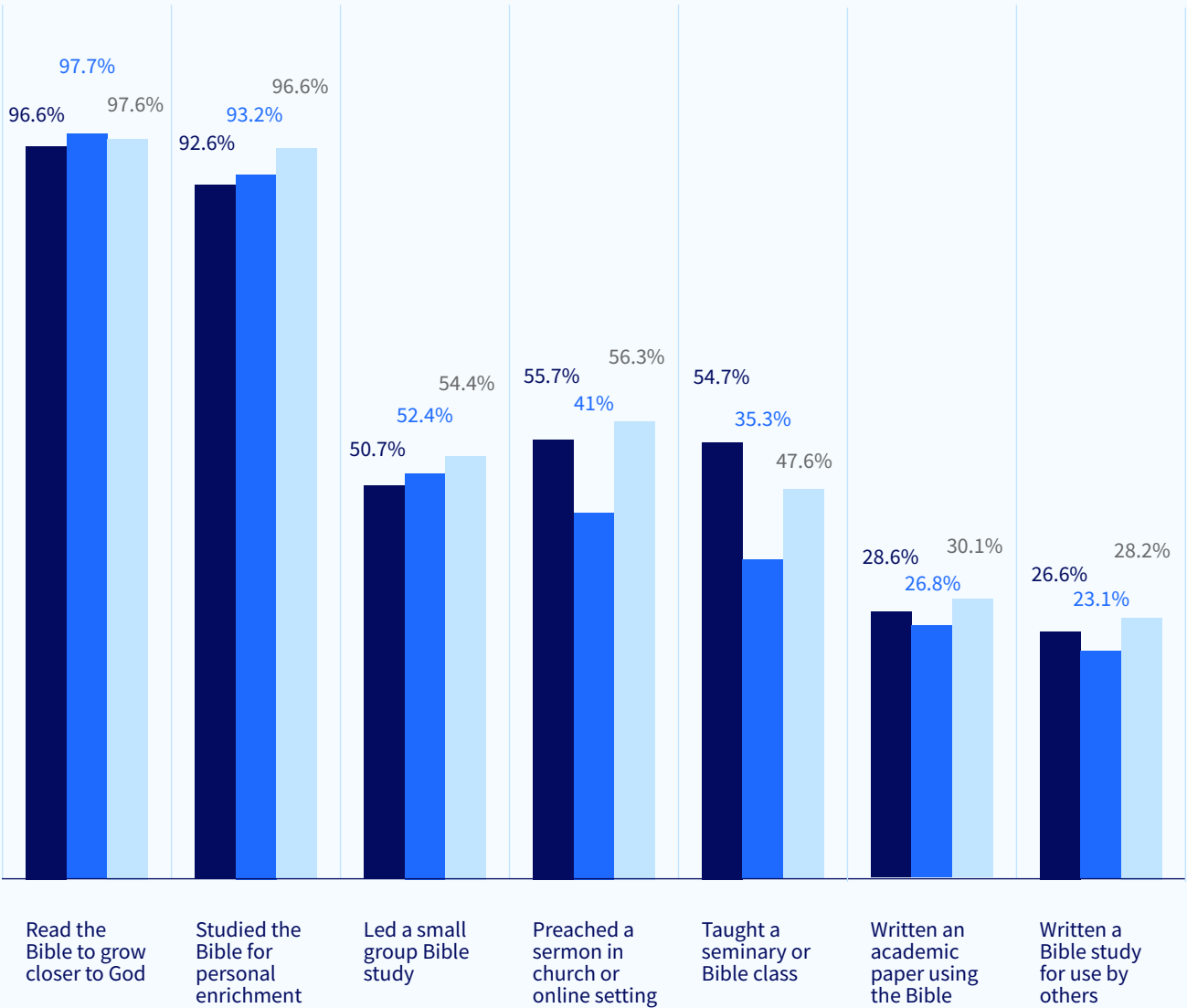
Why do faculty/staff and students read the Bible outside of class?

All responses on this question emphasize that, despite their academic and ministry work, the primary goal of Bible reading for both groups is related to personal spiritual growth. Bible engagement is almost always for the purpose of growing closer to God, even surpassing academic and ministry objectives, suggesting that tools and methods recommended for classroom use should also be valuable for personal study.

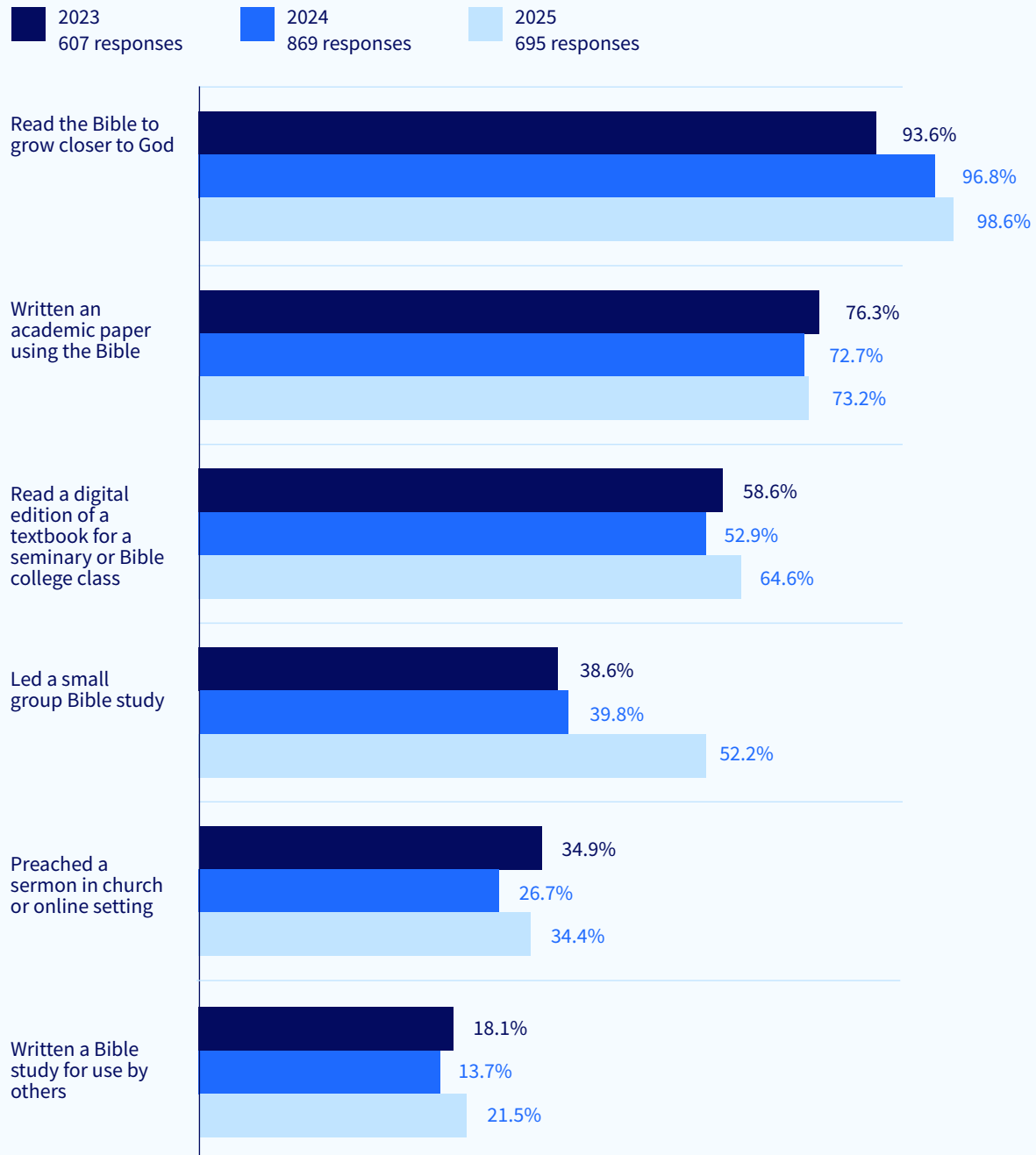
Additionally, both groups show increased participation in various ministry-related activities, such as preaching, teaching, and leading small groups. For students, we saw increases in leading small groups, writing a Bible study, and reading a digital edition of a textbook.

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

Faculty/Staff



Students



Methods of Bible engagement

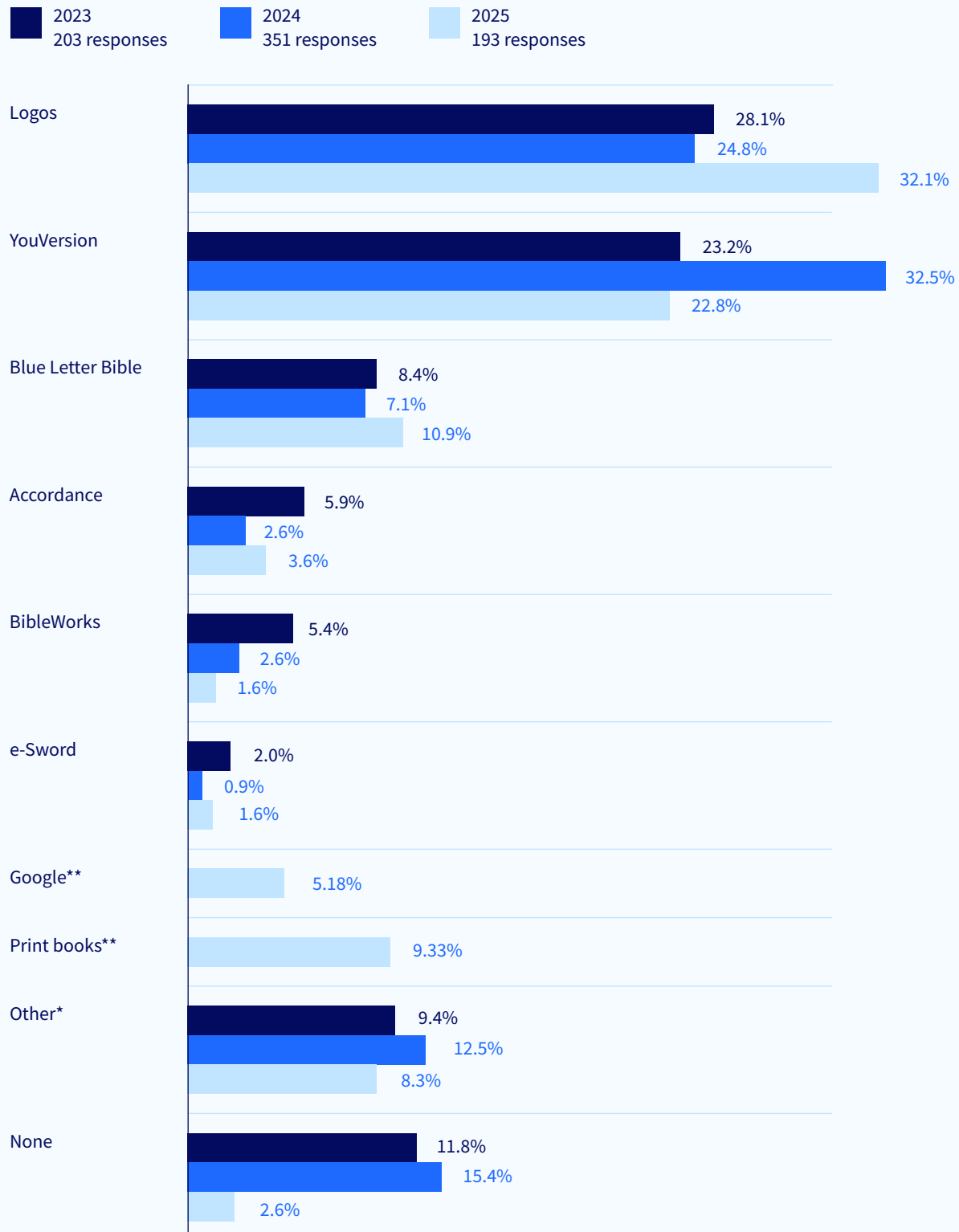
Among faculty and staff, use of Bible software reflects both familiarity with traditional tools and a growing openness to digital innovation. In 2025, Logos emerged as the most-used platform, cited by 32.1% of respondents. This marks a steady increase from 24.8% in 2024 and 28.1% in 2023, reaffirming Logos's position as the preferred platform for serious academic study.

YouVersion, often associated with mobile and devotional use, saw a notable decline from 32.5% in 2024 to 22.8% in 2025, suggesting a possible shift toward platforms with more scholarly capabilities. Blue Letter Bible showed modest growth, while legacy tools like BibleWorks and e-Sword continued to taper off.

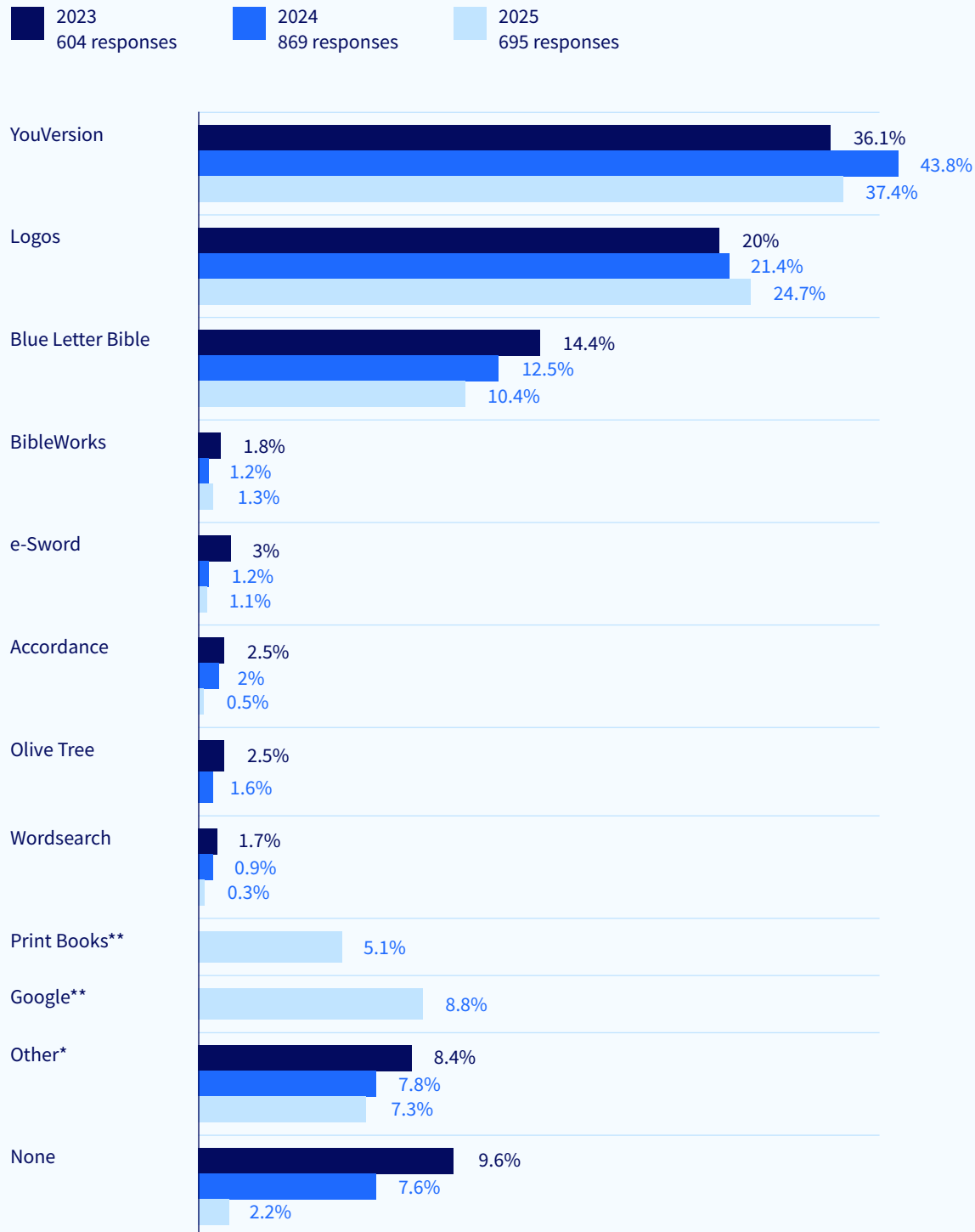
Perhaps most significant is the sharp drop in those reporting “None”—down from 15.4% in 2024 to just 2.6% in 2025. This suggests broader adoption of digital tools for Bible engagement, with fewer faculty and staff relying solely on informal or analog methods.

What type of Bible software do you use? If you use multiple, please select the one you use most often.

Faculty/Staff



Students



*"Other" often includes Bible Gateway, Bible Hub, and STEP Bible.

** Added for 2025.

Print and digital Bible study resources compared

In this section, we clearly see a growing shift in how faculty/staff and students use Bible study resources, showing a preference for hybrid and digital formats. Our past reports have emphasized that using digital Bible study resources correlates with more regular study. A dramatic and sustained increase in the preference for a hybrid library (combining print and digital resources) is the most striking trend across all reported years. Preference for print-only resources declined sharply each year for both faculty/staff and students.

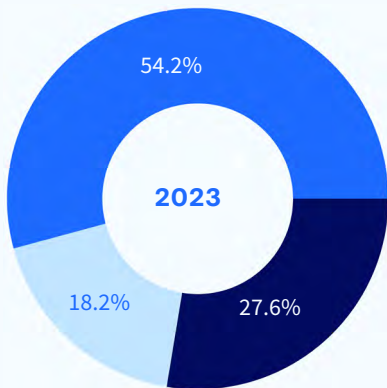
For faculty in 2025, the data may suggest a reversal of the trend observed in 2024. With a much smaller sample size (43 in 2024 vs. 12 in 2025), faculty who prefer print resources report using them with higher weekly frequency (58.3% at 4+ times/week) compared to faculty with a hybrid preference using digital resources (48.2% at 4+ times/week) for the “four or more times per week” category. And for students, the overall trend of hybrid users engaging with digital resources more frequently than print-only users engaging with print resources continues to hold true in 2025.

In summary, the trend across 2023, 2024, and 2025 clearly shows a strong and growing preference for a hybrid approach to Bible study resources, combining both print and digital formats. Furthermore, those who incorporate digital resources into their study tend to engage with their materials more frequently, highlighting the practical benefits of digital tools for consistent Bible engagement.

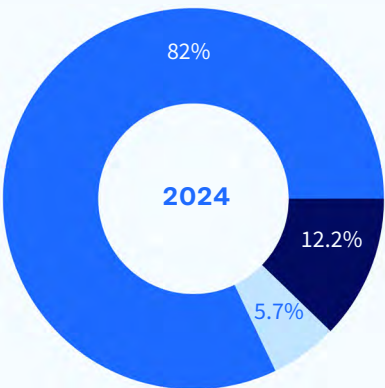
How do you use Bible study resources (commentaries, textbooks, books, etc.)?

FACULTY/STAFF

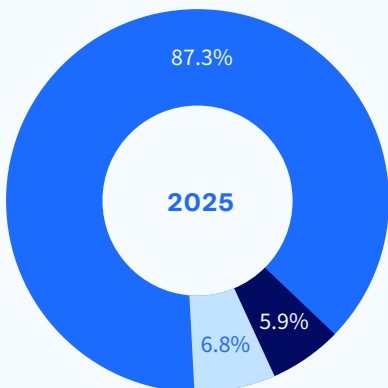
Print Digital Both



203 responses



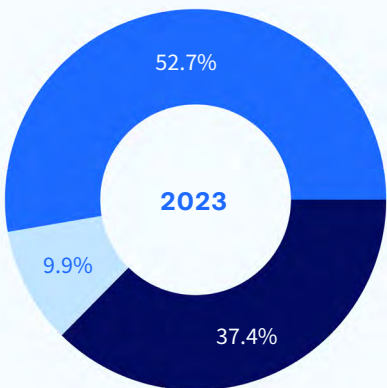
351 responses



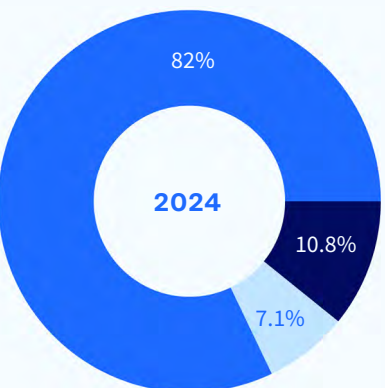
205 responses

STUDENTS

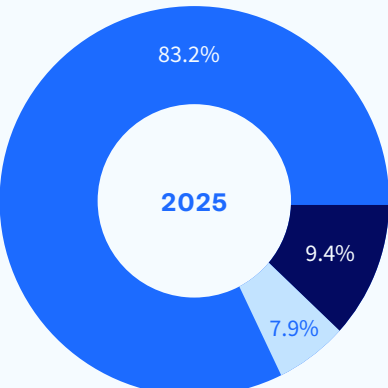
Print Digital Both



607 responses



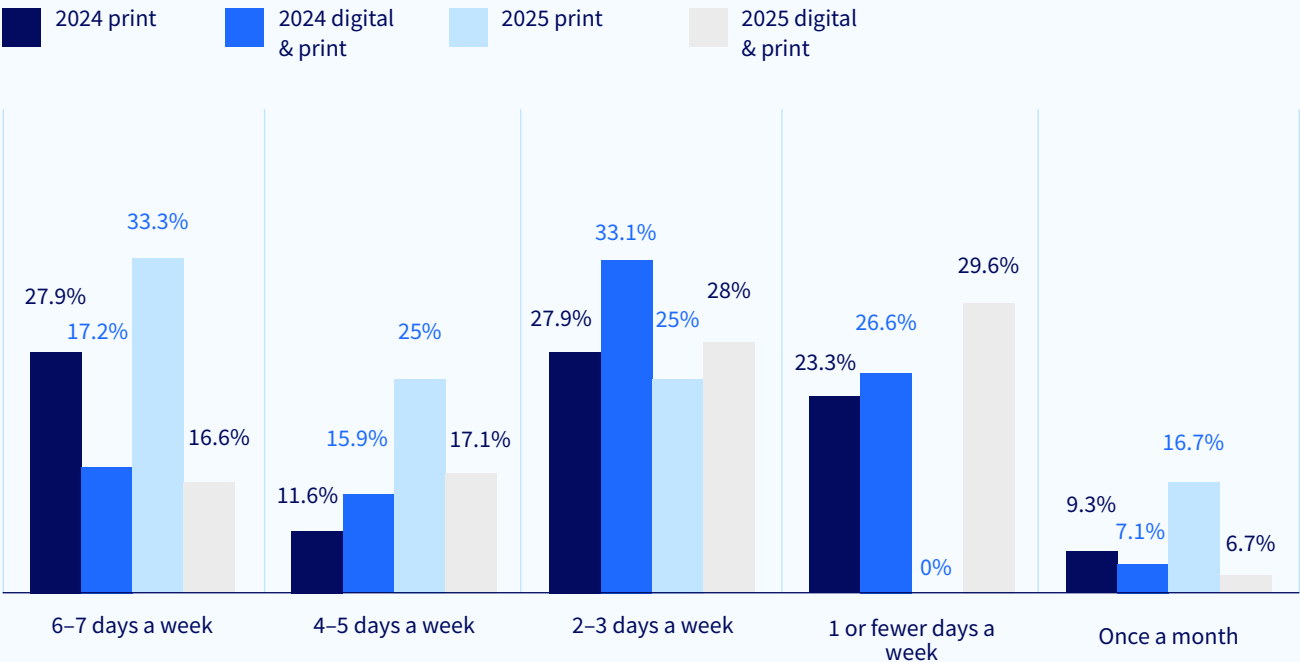
869 responses



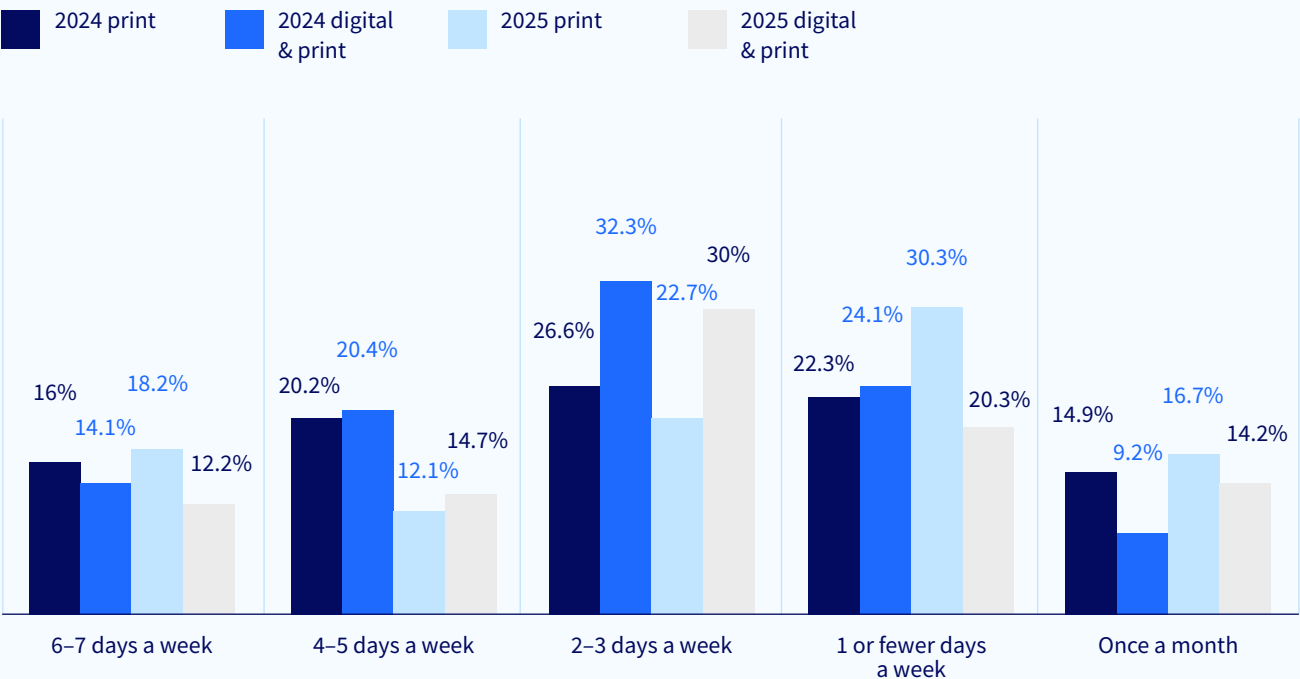
695 responses

How often do you use Bible study resources each week?

Faculty



Students



Using AI in academic and Bible research

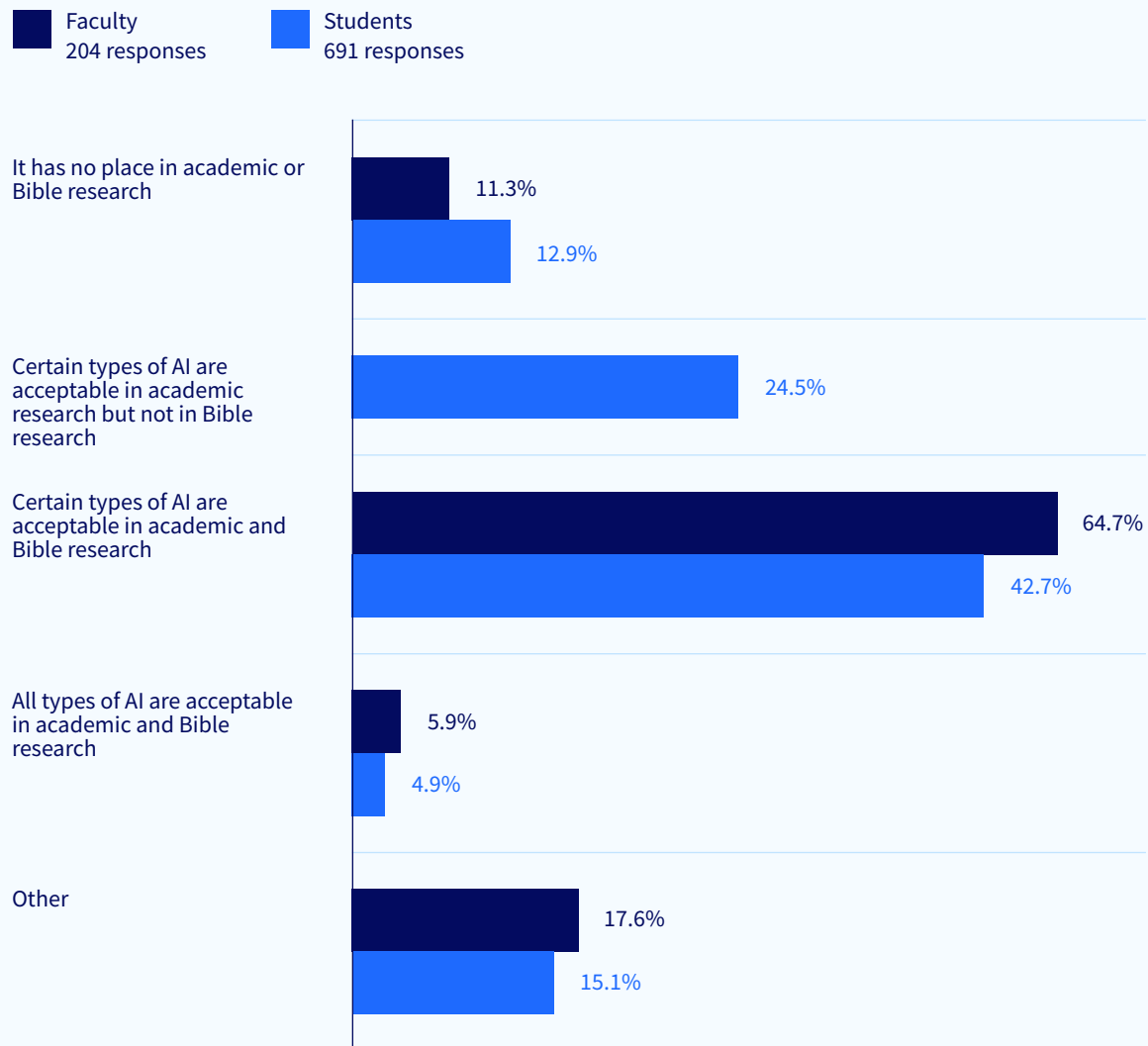
The use and misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models (LLM) have been a constant topic of interest in higher education. We added questions to this year's survey to learn more about how Christian faculty/staff and students are thinking about responsible use of AI in their studies.

What we discovered was a notable difference in comfort levels with AI for Bible research between faculty/staff and students. Faculty/staff are largely hesitant to embrace AI for Bible study, while students are considerably more open to it. Still, both groups use AI for practical tasks like writing assistance and general research, rather than exclusively for deep biblical exegesis.

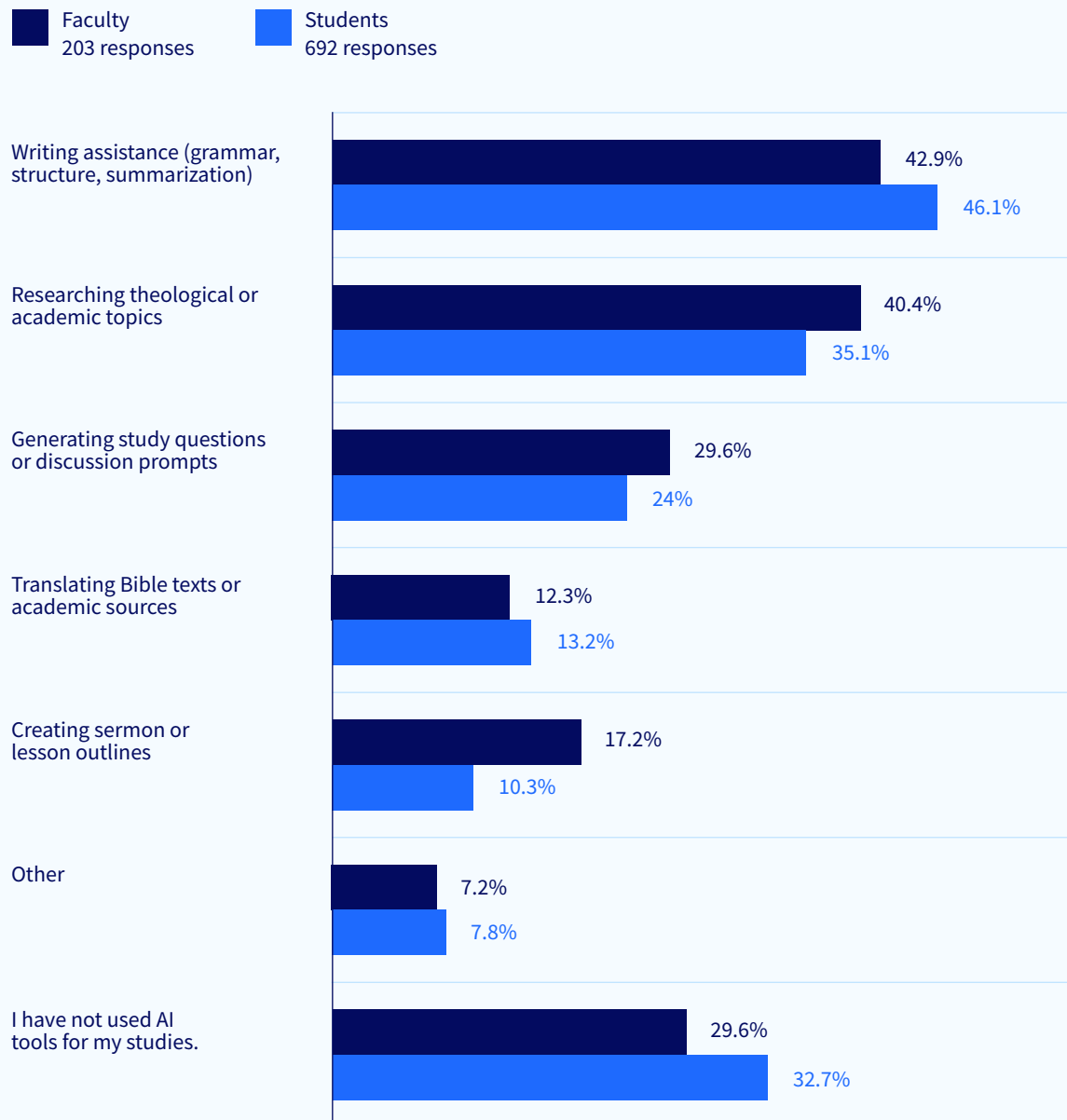
Despite the growing buzz around AI, nearly a third of both faculty/staff and students surveyed have not yet integrated AI tools into their studies—reflecting a large segment of the academic population that has not explored or adopted these technologies.

ChatGPT is the leading AI tool used, overshadowing other general AI tools and even Bible-specific AI tools.

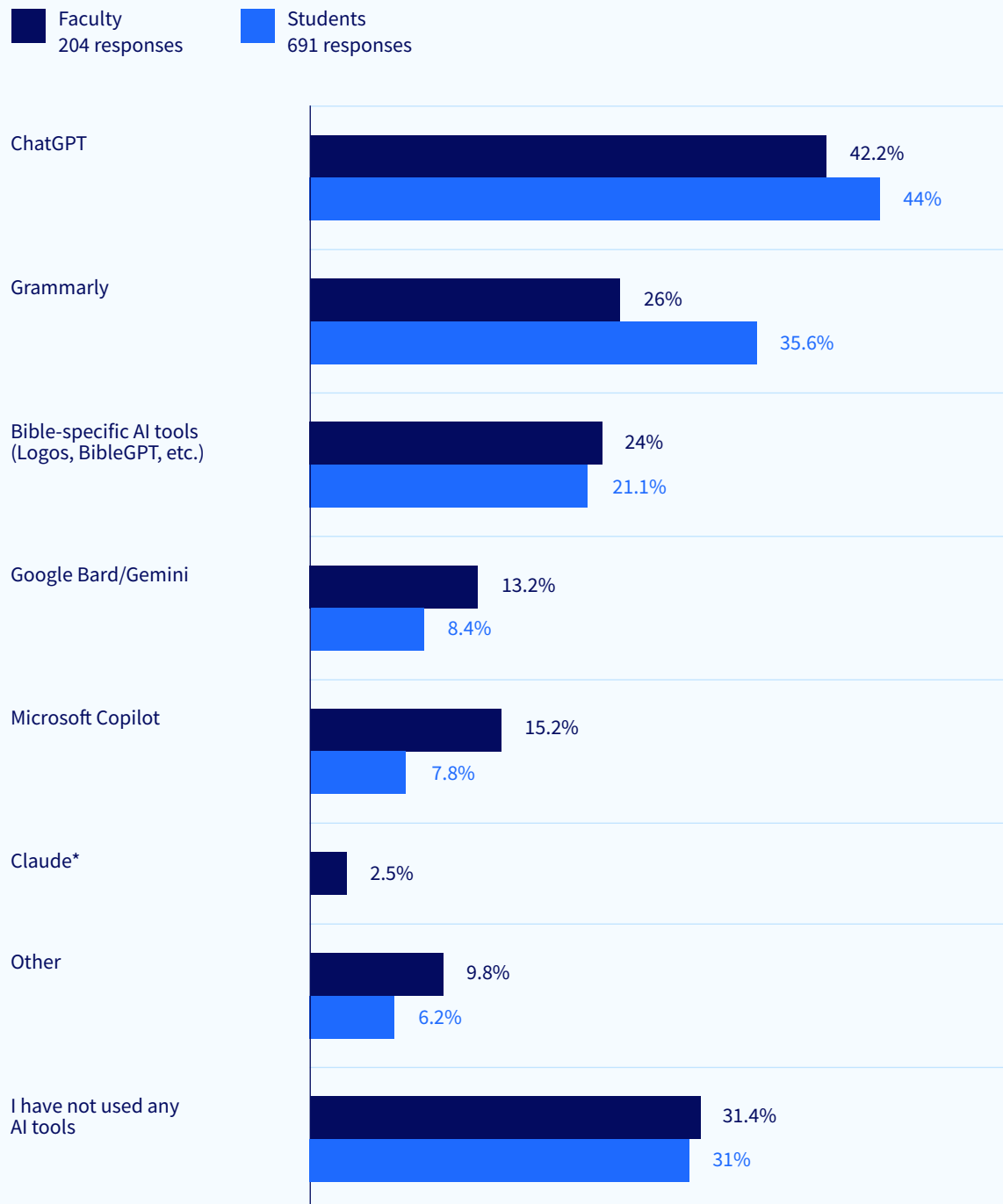
What are your current thoughts on using AI for academic and Bible research?



How have you used AI in your studies? Select all that apply.



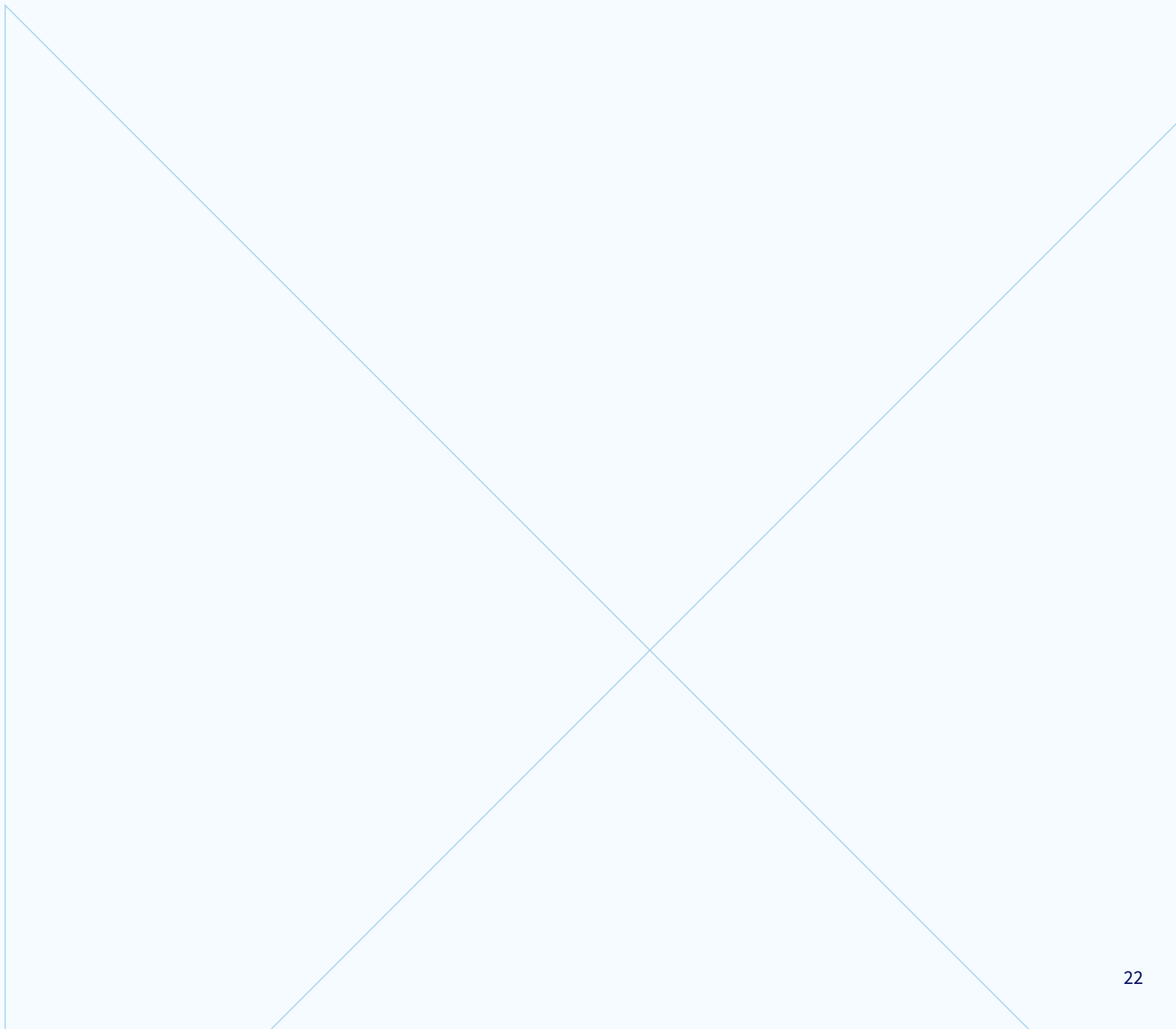
What AI tools have you used for biblical studies? Select all that apply.



*Claude was listed as an option for faculty but not students. Some students, however, listed Claude in the “other” section. Grok was also a common write-in.

Trends and challenges in academia

In analyzing our survey results, we discovered four key trends.



Trend 1: Institutional needs for support and training on using AI with the Bible

A clear divide exists in comfort levels with AI use for Bible research. Students are noticeably more open to using AI tools while faculty and staff tend to be more cautious. Around 70% of faculty, staff, and students have integrated AI into their academic work, with ChatGPT as the most commonly used platform. Both groups primarily use AI for practical, supportive tasks such as writing assistance, research summarization, and grammar help, rather than for complex biblical interpretation or theological analysis. This pattern shows that AI is currently regarded as a supplementary tool rather than a primary resource for deep exegetical work.

Institutions that provide access to Bible-specific AI tools have a vital opportunity to guide students in the responsible and thoughtful use of technology within ministry and scholarship. Beyond offering these tools, schools carry a spiritual responsibility to teach students how to steward AI wisely. This includes establishing clear ethical guidelines, promoting critical thinking, and offering comprehensive training to prepare students to navigate the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence with discernment and integrity. Without careful instruction, students may lack the grounding necessary to lead faithfully in a world where technology shapes so much of academic and ministry life.

Trend 2: Persistent preference for hybrid print and digital libraries

There’s a clear and growing trend towards using a combination of print and digital Bible study resources. The preference for print-only resources has sharply declined for both faculty/staff and students, with 87.3% of faculty and 83.2% of students preferring both print and digital resources. Generally, those who use digital resources tend to engage with all their resources more frequently, highlighting the practical benefits of digital tools for consistent study.

Trend 3: Enduring Bible engagement outside the classroom

Both faculty/staff and students demonstrate a deep commitment to personal Bible engagement outside the classroom, primarily for spiritual growth. The majority of faculty (87%) and students (70%) read the Bible at least four times a week, typically spending 15–45 minutes per session. This suggests that while the Bible is used for academic research, it continues to hold significant personal devotional value for students and faculty/staff alike.

Trend 4: Students face challenges with Bible reading

We asked an open-ended question to learn what are students' greatest challenges when it comes to Bible engagement. Students report consistent challenges in finding time to read the Bible and understanding what they read. Common themes include busy schedules, self-discipline, time management, and the perception of the Bible as solely an academic textbook, rather than a personal devotional source. Faculty/staff also acknowledge these challenges, pointing to students' lack of discipline, short attention spans, and difficulty in seeing the Bible's relevancy.

Students: In one to two sentences, please describe the main challenges you face in finding time to study or engage with the Bible. What prevents you from dedicating more time to Bible reading?

Most common themes:

- Busy schedule (everything from being a student athlete to being a parent and trying to do school)
- Self-discipline
- Time management
- Motivation
- Studying the Bible in class leads to decrease in personal devotion time

What students said:

"Since most classes I take are Bible classes, it becomes a challenge to read the Bible for personal devotions."

"Besides just general life business, it can be difficult at times to slow down and properly dedicate a certain amount of time, especially when it feels like you have so many things that you 'need' to do."

"The main challenges I face when finding time to study or engage with the Bible is finding enough time in my day to be able to focus. What prevents me from dedicating more time is burnout from reading too much for schoolwork."

Students: In one to two sentences, please describe the main challenges you face while reading the Bible. Do you struggle with understanding, comprehension, finding relevance, or any other issues?

Most common themes:

- Staying focused
- Putting everything together and understanding themes
- Understanding the Bible's context

What students said:

"I have been reading the Bible for 40 years and have a Bible college education, which, along with the illumination from the Holy Spirit, deepens my understanding."

"I would say I do have a bit of trouble fully understanding the meanings and what importance it holds not only in my life."

"My biggest challenge when reading the Bible is staying focused on what I am reading and not thinking about things I need to get done."

"Main challenge is the comprehensive study but these courses have helped my understanding."

"I struggle with knowing where to read and then understanding the context behind it."

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

Most common themes:

- Lack of discipline and short attention span
- Demonstrating Scripture's relevancy to today
- Lack of Bible literacy and poor reading skills
- Viewing the Bible as a textbook

What faculty/staff said:

"Many students consider Scripture to be people's writings about God rather than God's Word to people. This leads to the impression that Scripture is not necessarily relevant, and not authoritative."

"Demonstrating the relevancy of Scripture to today's world."

Conclusion

The report concludes that both faculty/staff and students at ABHE institutions are deeply committed to personal Bible engagement beyond the classroom, primarily for spiritual growth. Despite this commitment, students consistently face challenges related to time management, self-discipline, and viewing the Bible as an academic text rather than a devotional one, issues also acknowledged by faculty. Overall, the data highlights a persistent desire within the academic community to engage with God's Word for spiritual and personal growth.

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 affordable subscriptions. 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/>