

# Protestant Churchgoer Views On Spending Time With God

A SURVEY OF 1,002 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway research

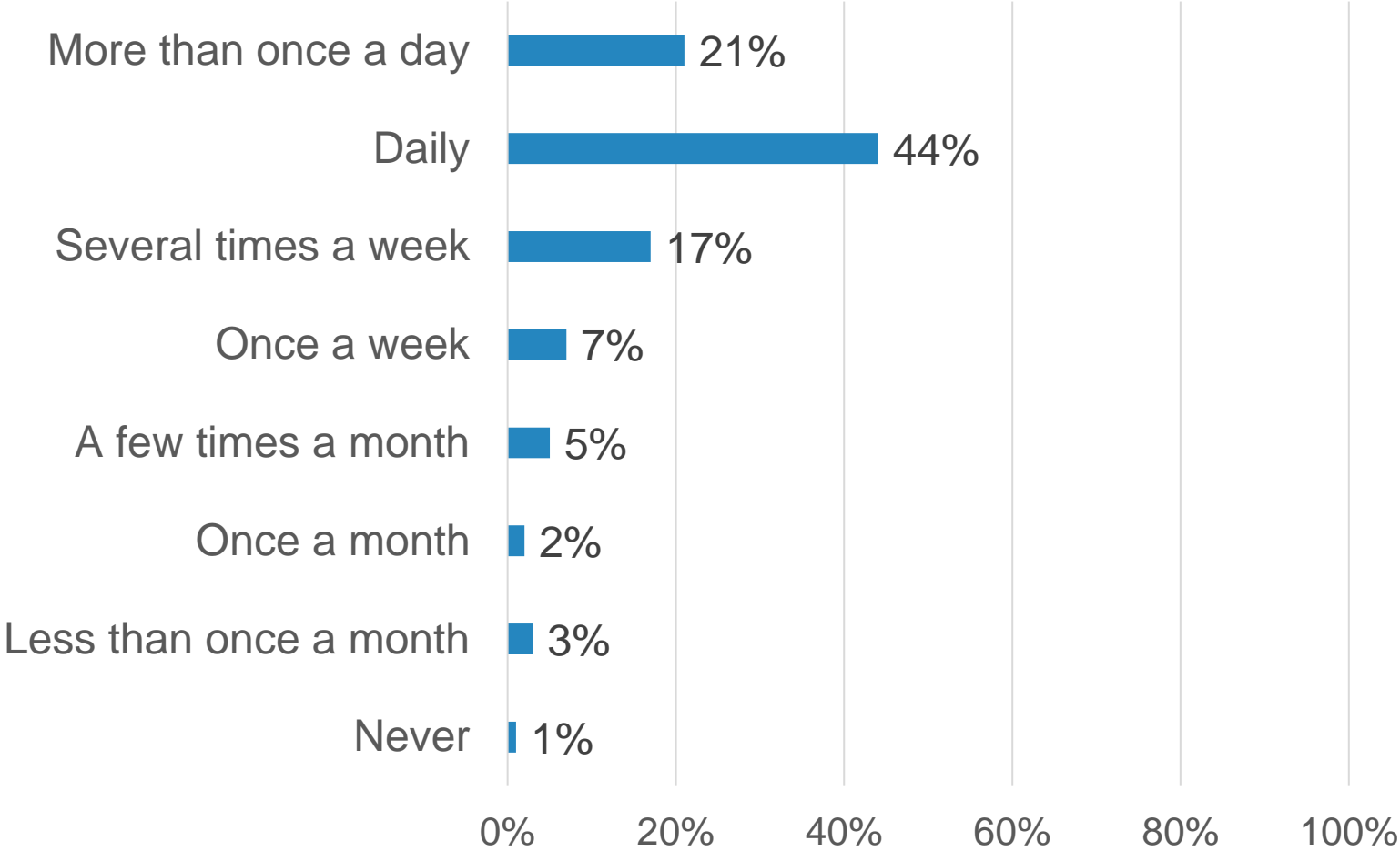
# Methodology

- The online survey of 1,002 Americans was conducted September 19-29, 2022, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protestant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and religion to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,002 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed  $\pm 3.3\%$  This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

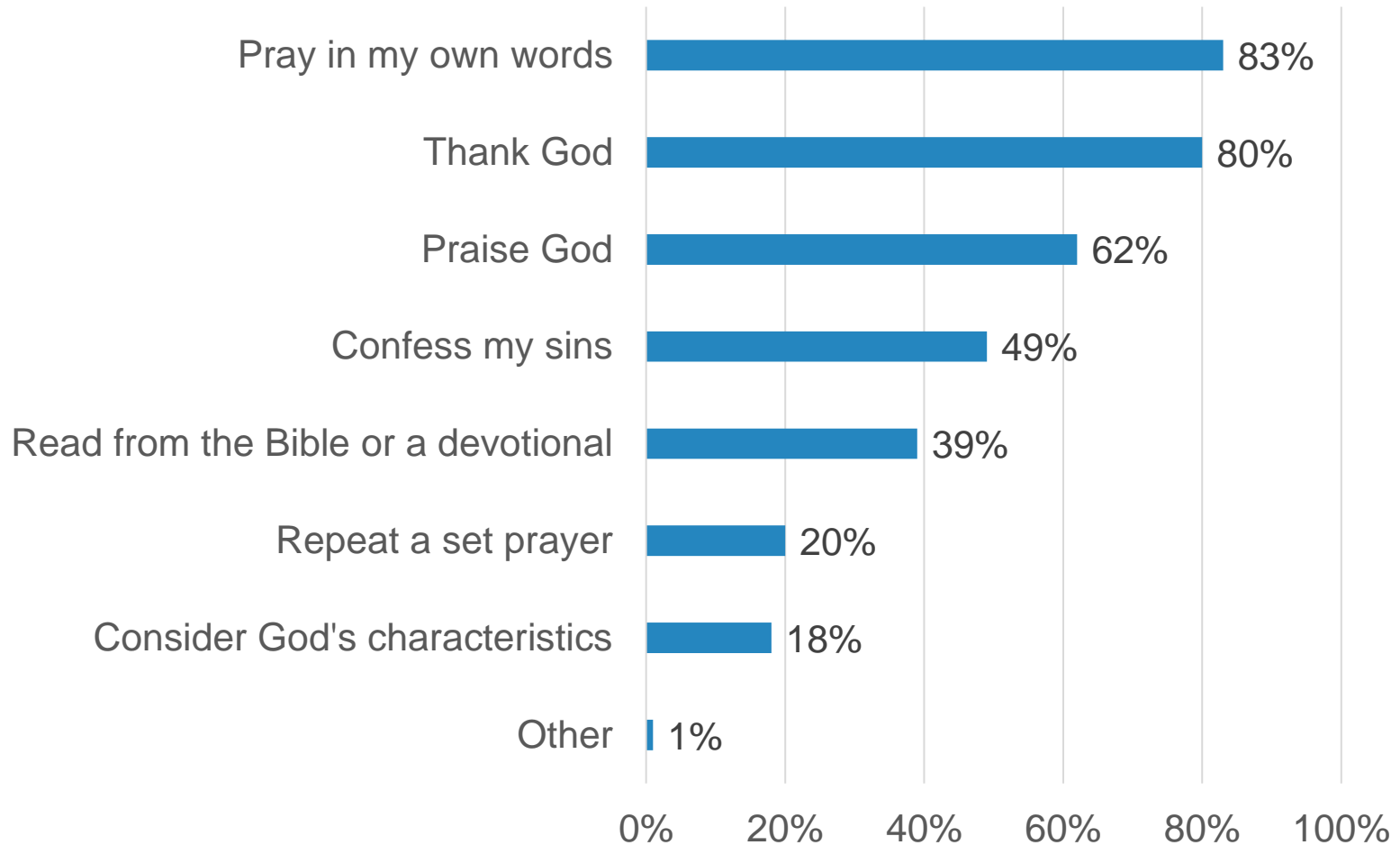
# 65% intentionally spend time alone with God at least daily



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Q: "How often do you intentionally spend time alone with God?" n=1,002

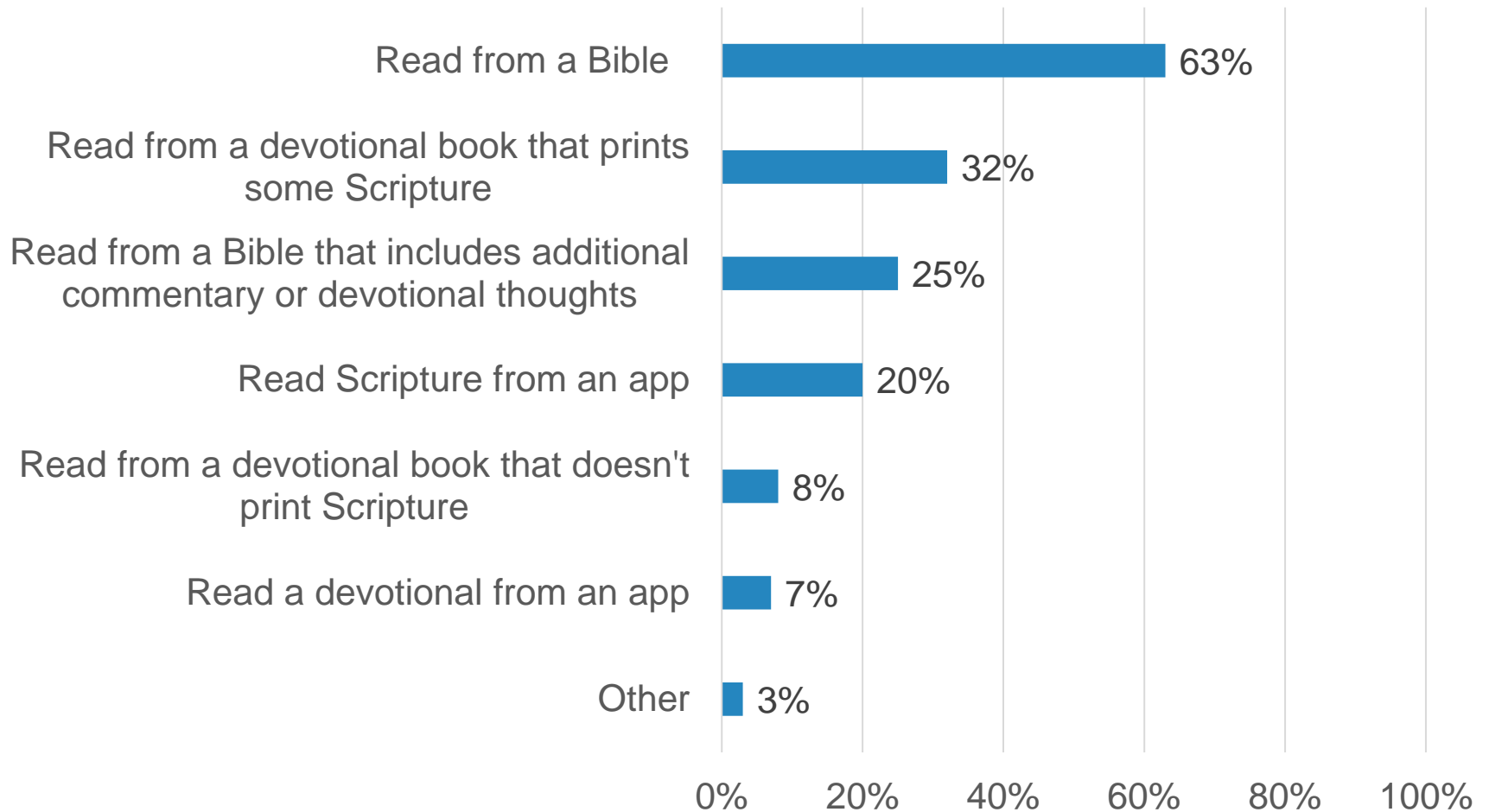
# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”



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Q: “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God? (Select all that apply)” n=992

# “If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”



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# Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

# Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-34	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	35-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+	Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations



# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among denomination, worship service attendance, and evangelical beliefs.

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No
Lutheran	Not sure	
Presbyterian/Reformed		
Christian/Church of Christ		
Non-denominational		

## “How often do you intentionally spend time alone with God?”

- Females are more likely to select “Daily” than males (48% v. 38%)
- Those age 18-34 (21%) are more likely “Several times a week” to select than those 50-64 (13%)
- Whites (18%) and Other Ethnicities (25%) are more likely to select “Several times a week” than Hispanics (10%)
- Those in the South (49%) are more likely to select “Daily” than those in the Northeast (37%) and West (33%)
- Baptists (25%) are more likely to select “More than once a day” than Methodists (14%)
- Lutherans are the most likely to select “Less than once a month” (11%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (26%) are more likely to select “More than once a day” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (13%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “More than once a day” than those without evangelical beliefs (30% v. 15%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Repeat a set prayer

- Those age 18-34 (31%) and 35-49 (26%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (16%) and 65+ (11%)
- African Americans (30%) are more likely to select than Whites (16%) and Other Ethnicities (16%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (24%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (15%) or a Graduate Degree (15%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (27%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (12%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (24%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (16%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (22% v. 16%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Pray in my own words

- Females are more likely to select than males (86% v. 79%)
- Those age 50-64 (85%) and 65+ (89%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (77%) and 35-49 (77%)
- Those in the South (86%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (77%)
- Those with some college (86%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (86%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (75%)
- Baptists (86%), Presbyterian/Reformed (88%), and Non-Denominational (89%) are more likely to select than Methodists (59%) and Christian/Church of Christ (71%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (85%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (79%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (92% v. 76%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Consider God’s characteristics

- Males are more likely to select than females (21% v. 16%)
- Those age 65+ are the least likely to select (10%)
- Methodists (42%) and Christian/Church of Christ (32%) are more likely to select than Baptists (14%), Lutherans (8%), Presbyterian/Reformed (12%), and Non-Denominational (15%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (20% v. 15%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Thank God

- Those in the South (82%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (74%)
- Baptists (84%) are more likely to select than Methodists (74%), Lutherans (71%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (72%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (87% v. 74%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Praise God

- Females are more likely to select than males (66% v. 57%)
- African Americans (70%) are more likely to select than Whites (60%)
- Those with some college (66%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (56%)
- Baptists (69%), Methodists (62%), and Non-Denominational (66%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (42%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (67%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (53%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (76% v. 51%)

# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Confess my sins

- Those age 50-64 (53%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (43%)
- Those in the South (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (40%) and Midwest (43%)
- Baptists (53%) and Non-Denominational (55%) are more likely to select than Methodists (28%) and Christian/Church of Christ (39%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (55%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (38%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (64% v. 38%)



# “What do you typically do when you spend time alone with God?”

## Read from the Bible or a devotional

- Females are more likely to select than males (42% v. 36%)
- Those age 50-64 (45%) and 65+ (42%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (32%) and 35-49 (34%)
- Baptists (44%), Presbyterian/Reformed (42%), and Non-Denominational (46%) are more likely to select than Methodists (17%), Lutherans (24%), and Christian/Church of Christ (20%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (46%) are more likely to select than those who 1 to 3 times a month (28%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (52% v. 29%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

## **Read from a Bible**

- Those age 35-49 are the least likely to select (53%)
- Other Ethnicities (78%) are more likely to select than Whites (62%) and Hispanics (55%)
- Those in the South (66%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (57%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (68%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (57%)
- Baptists (72%), Presbyterian/Reformed (63%), and Non-denominational (66%) are more likely to select than Methodists (36%) and Lutherans (46%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (70%) are more likely to select than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (52%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those without evangelical beliefs (78% v. 52%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

**Read from a Bible that includes additional commentary or devotional thoughts**

- Those age 35-49 (28%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (21%)
- Those with some college (28%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (20%)
- Methodists (37%) are more likely to select than Baptists (25%), Lutherans (20%), and Non-Denominational (18%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

### **Read from a devotional book that prints some Scripture**

- Those age 18-34 are the least likely to select (21%)
- Whites (36%) are more likely to select than African Americans (23%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (40%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (30%) or with some college (31%)
- Methodists (43%), Lutherans (48%), and Christian/Church of Christ (45%) are more likely to select than Baptists (29%) and Non-Denominational (29%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

### **Read from a devotional book that doesn't print Scripture**

- Those age 35-49 are the most likely to select (13%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (13%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (6%)
- Methodists (23%) are more likely to select than Baptists (6%), Lutherans (11%), Presbyterian/Reformed (2%), and Non-Denominational (5%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (11% v. 3%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

## **Read Scripture from an app**

- Those age 18-34 (40%) are the most likely to select followed by 35-49 (28%) and 50-64 (11%) and 65+ (9%)
- African Americans (30%) are more likely to select than Whites (16%)
- Those in the Northeast (29%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (17%) and South (17%)
- Those with some college (23%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (14%) or a Graduate Degree (14%)
- Methodists (36%) are more likely to select than Baptists (16%), Lutherans (10%), Presbyterian/Reformed (6%), and Non-Denominational (24%)
- Those without evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (22% v. 17%)

**“If you were to read something during this time alone with God, what do you want that reading to typically be?”**

### **Read a devotional from an app**

- Females are more likely to select than males (9% v. 4%)
- Those age 35-49 (10%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (5%) and 65+ (4%)
- Hispanics (11%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (2%)
- Those in the West (9%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (4%)
- Methodists (11%) are more likely to select than Baptists (5%)
- Those who attend a worship service 1 to 3 times a month (9%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (5%)

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