

# Pastors' Views on Kids Sports

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

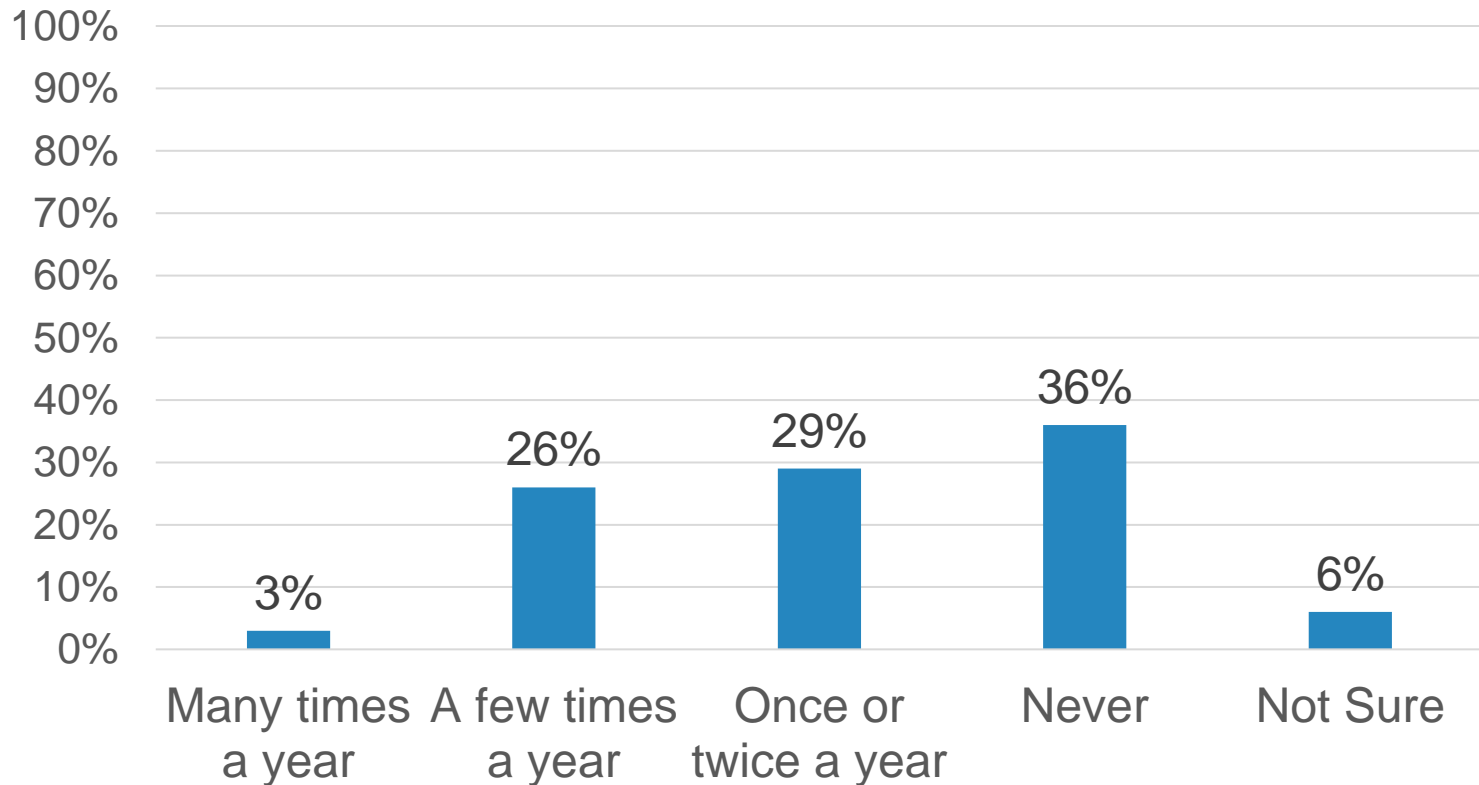
Lifeway **research**

# Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,004 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29, 2023 - September 20, 2023
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,004 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$  This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# 36% say that it is never okay to skip a weekly worship service for kid's games or travel sporting events

Among Protestant Pastors



**Lifeway** research

Q: "It is ok to skip a weekly worship service for kid's games or travel sporting events... (Select one)" n=1.004

# Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

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# Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	Self-Identified
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+		Other Ethnicities	Doctoral Degree	

# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-Denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

## **“It is ok to skip a weekly worship service for kid’s games or travel sporting events... ”**

- Pastors age 65+ (43%) are more likely to select “Never” than pastors age 18-44 (29%) and 45-54 (33%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Never” than females (38% v. 29%)
- Hispanic pastors (46%) are more likely to select “Never” than white pastors (34%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (29%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those with no college degree (18%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree are the least likely to select “Never” (31%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to “Never” than Mainline pastors (40% v. 28%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (32%) are more likely to select “A few times a year” than those in the Northeast (20%) and South (23%)
- Baptists (46%) and Christian/Churches of Christ (53%) are more likely to select “Never” than Lutherans (32%), Methodists (24%), and Pentecostals (32%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (38%) are more likely to select “Never” than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (24%)

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