

Protestant Churchgoer Views On Small Groups and Accountability

A SURVEY OF 1,200 AMERICAN PROTESTANT CHURCHGOERS

Lifeway **research**

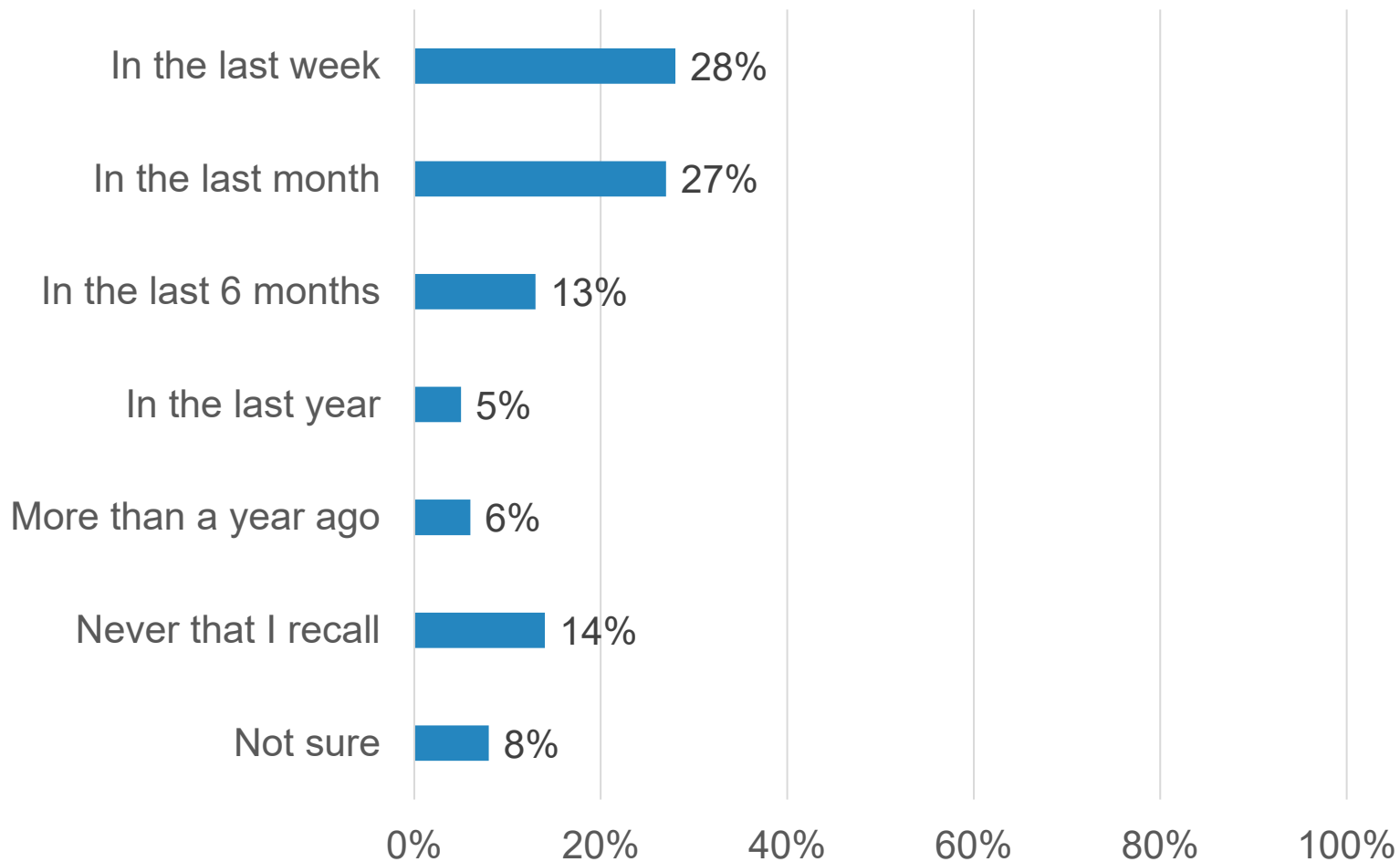
Methodology

- The online survey of 1,200 American Protestant churchgoers was conducted September 2-7, 2025, 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 1,200 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to an online survey of 1,002 American Protestant churchgoers conducted by Lifeway Research September 20-27, 2019

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

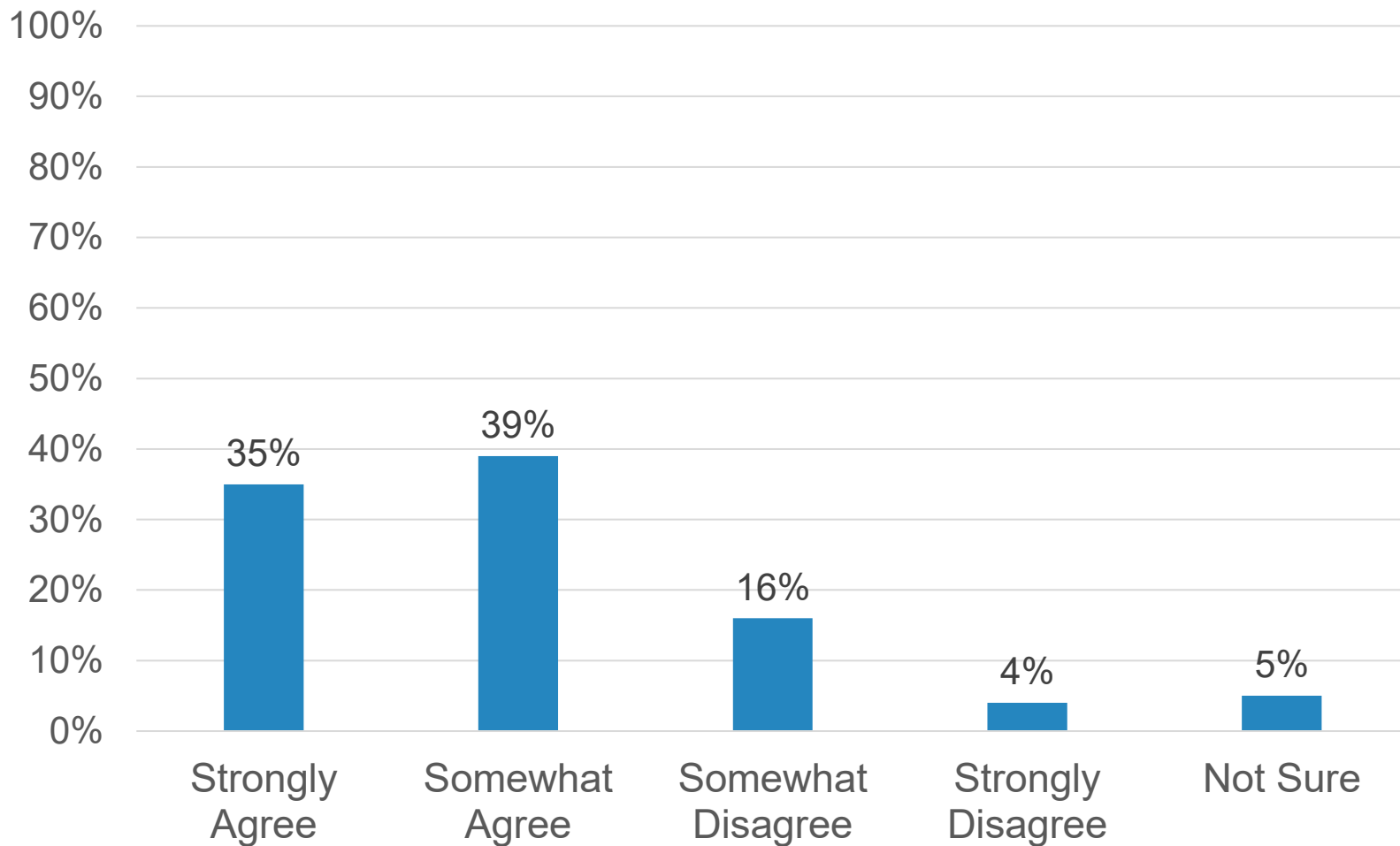
55% say that someone asked them about their relationship with God within the last month or sooner



Lifeway research

Q: "When was the last time someone from church asked you individually how your relationship with God is going?" n=1,200

74% believe it is important for every adult to be involved in a Bible study group or Sunday School class at church



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Q: "I believe it is important for every adult to be involved in a Bible study group or Sunday School class at church." n=1,200

Responses are very close to a question with similar wording in 2019 (74% agree compared to 71% in 2019)

		Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not sure
2025	I believe it is important for every adult to be involved in a Bible study group or Sunday School class at church	35%	39%	16%	4%	5%
2019	I believe it is important for every adult to be involved in a small class or group at church	34%	36%	16%	5%	8%

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Denomination

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

Church Size

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	18-29	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less
Female	30-49	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, evangelical beliefs, and church size.

DENOMINATION	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS	CHURCH SIZE
Baptist	1 to 3 times a month	Yes	Less than 50
Methodist	4 or more times a month	No	50-99
Lutheran	Not sure		100-249
Presbyterian/Reformed			250-499
Christian/Church of Christ			500 or more
Non-denominational			

“When was the last time someone from church asked you individually how your relationship with God is going?”

- Males are more likely to select “In the last week” than females (32% v. 25%)
- Those age 18-29 (38%) and 30-49 (43%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than those 50-64 (22%) and 65+ (16%)
- Those age 50-64 (18%) and 65+ (23%) are more likely to select “Never that I recall” than those 18-29 (5%) and 30-49 (5%)
- African Americans (42%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than Whites (24%) and Other Ethnicities (26%)
- Those in the West (33%) are more likely to select “In the last month” than those in the Midwest (23%) and South (26%)
- Those with some college (14%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (17%) are more likely to select “In the last 6 months” than those with a Graduate Degree (7%)
- Baptists (35%) and Christian/Church of Christ (45%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than Methodists (21%), Lutherans (6%), Presbyterian/Reformed (18%), and Non-denominational (25%)

“When was the last time someone from church asked you individually how your relationship with God is going?” *Continued*

- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (35%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (19%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select “In the last week” than those without evangelical beliefs (33% v. 22%)
- Those at a church with attendance of less than 50 (9%) and 250-499 (9%) are more likely to select “More than a year ago” than churches of 50-99 (4%)

“I believe it is important for every adult to be involved in a Bible study group or Sunday School class at church.”

- Those age 30-49 (80%) are more likely to Agree than those 50-64 (71%) and 65+ (72%)
- Hispanics are the most likely to Agree (90%)
- Those in the South (79%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Northeast (70%) and Midwest (65%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (28%) are more likely to Disagree than those who are High School Graduates or less (20%) or with some college (18%)
- Baptists (82%) and Christian/Church of Christ (91%) are more likely to Agree than Methodists (60%), Lutherans (49%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (64%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (80%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend 1 to 3 times a month (68%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without evangelical beliefs (87% v. 60%)
- Those at a church with attendance of 500 or more are the most likely to Agree (91%)

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