

# JESUS - HIS NAMES, & HIS CHRISTOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS!

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3/29/2021

COC Tuesdays

## **I. IT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT CHARLES, PRINCE OF WALES HAS MANY TITLES!**

**A. *Prince Charles* is the Heir Apparent to the British Throne,**

- 1. His Royal Highness,**
- 2. The Prince of Wales,**
- 3. Knight of the Garter,**
- 4. Duke of Cornwall,**
- 5. Colonel in Chief of the Royal Regiment of Wales,**
- 6. Duke of Rothesay,**
- 7. Knight of the Thistle,**
- 8. Rear Admiral,**
- 9. Grand Master of the Order of Bath,**
- 10. Earl of Chester,**
- 11. Earl of Carrick,**
- 12. Baron of Renfrew,**
- 13. Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.**

B. Titles have been attached to people by virtue of rank, office, or attainment since the dawn of time —

C. In the Bible, **Jesus** is given far more titles than a royal prince.

1. In fact, there are well over a hundred titles that are ascribed to Jesus.

D. The whole **Bible** revolves around **Jesus** —

1. **Jesus** said in **John 5:39**, "*Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*"

E. There are a few titles that emerge from Scripture that are given to **Jesus** that are profitable to us, for each of them reveal something distinct about **Him** —

1. They help us see what it means to put **Jesus** in the center of our life —

F. In **Proverbs 8:1-11**, we read in the **Passion Translation**: "1-3 *Can't you hear the voice of Wisdom? From the top of the mountains of influence she speaks into the gateways of the*

*glorious city. At the place where pathways merge, at the entrance of every portal, there she stands, ready to impart understanding, shouting aloud to all who enter, preaching her sermon to those who will listen. 4 I'm calling to you, sons of Adam, yes, & to you daughters as well. 5 Listen to me & you will be prudent & wise. For even the foolish & feeble can receive an understanding heart that will change their inner being. 6 The meaning of my words will release within you revelation for you to reign in life. My lyrics will empower you to live by what is right. 7 For everything I say is unquestionably true, & I refuse to endure the lies of lawlessness—my words will never lead you astray. 8 All the declarations of my mouth can be trusted; they contain no twisted logic or perversion of the truth. 9 All my words are clear & straightforward to everyone who possesses spiritual understanding. If you have an open mind, you will receive revelation-knowledge. 10 My wise correction is more valuable than silver or gold. The finest gold is nothing compared to*

*the revelation-knowledge I can impart.* 11

*Wisdom is so priceless that it exceeds the value of any jewel.*

## II. WHEN WE PUT *JESUS* AS THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES, WE DISCOVER HE BEARS THE TITLE: *THE WISDOM OF GOD* —

- A. In today's tumultuous world, many people do not have a clue as to "*how*" to live —
- B. People are shipwrecking their relationships, sabotaging their purpose, & paralyzing their growth because they do not know how to live.
- C. You see, we all need *wisdom* if we intend to live well & live right —
- D. If we ask, "*Where is wisdom to be found?*"
  - 1. The New Testament gives us the answer — *Jesus, the Christ!*
  - 2. *Paul* writes, "*But unto them which are called, both Jews & Greeks, Christ is the power of God, & the wisdom of God.*"

1 Cor. 1:24

- E. The **"wisdom of God"** is one of **Jesus'** titles.
- F. As I discussed last week, **Wisdom** in the Book of Proverbs is personified as female **"'Lady Wisdom' & 'Madam Insight'"** Prov. 8:1MSG
- G. **She** is contrasted with an *adulterous woman* who lurks at street corners when darkness falls & who speaks in secretive, seductive whispers (see Prov. 7:6 MSG).
1. **Wisdom** openly competes against her **'right in the city square where the traffic is thickest'** (Prov. 8:2, MSG) & offers herself as a counter attraction – **a pure bride** rather than *a fatal seductress*.
- H. The **Book of Proverbs** teaches us that *Wisdom* is not just about gaining knowledge, but it's about showing us that to be **wise** is to **live well!**
- I. The **first step in living well** is to **set** the **right goals & ambitions**.
- J. **Seek wisdom**, rather than the *sensual pleasures* represented by the *adulteress*.

K. **Wisdom** is highly desirable.

1. Wisdom is better than **silver**, **gold** or **jewels**:
  - a. *"Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, & nothing you desire can compare with her."*

Prov. 8:10–11

### III. **WISDOM, A TERM WE DISCOVER THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURE, IS USED FOR *MANY* THINGS...**

- A. **Wisdom** for things that range from the technical skill of the artisan (see **Exod. 36:8**), to the art of government (see **1 Kings 3:12, 28**).
- B. **Wisdom** also designates simple cleverness (see **2 Sam. 14:2**), especially the practical skill of coping with life (see **Prov. 1; 5; 11; 14**) & the pursuit of a lifestyle of proper ethical conduct (see **Prov. 2:9–11**).
- C. **Wisdom** is also seen as belonging properly to **God** (see **Job 28**), & **Wisdom** is associated with creation (see **Prov. 8:22–31**).

- K. **Wisdom** is identified with the **Word of God** (*Ben Sira's Ideology of Wisdom* [Sirach 24:23]).
- L. In the New Testament, **Wisdom** is a leading concern in **Paul's** letters to the **Corinthians** as well as a concern of **James** in his Letter.
1. In the **Corinthian Letter**, **Paul** is concerned that faith rest, not on human wisdom, but on the *power of God & the Holy Spirit* ( see 1 Cor. 2:5, 13), for **"the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God"** (see also 3:19; cf. 1:17–25; 2:6–16; 2 Cor. 1:12).
  2. The **Letter of James** also contrasts the *wisdom of this world* with **"wisdom from above"** (see James 3:17; cf. 13–18), i.e., **wisdom that must be given by God** (see also James 1:5).
    - a. In the Kingdom NT Version, **James 1:5-8** reads as follows: **"If any one of you falls short in wisdom, they should ask God for it, & it will be given them. God, after all, gives generously & ungrudgingly to all people. 6 But they should ask in faith, with no doubts. A person who doubts is like a wave**

*of the sea which the wind blows and tosses about. 7 Someone like that should not suppose they will receive anything from the Lord. 8 since they are double-minded and unstable in everything they do (all their ways)."*

**James 1:5-8 TKNT**

#### **IV. IN LUKE 12, JESUS MAKES A SPECIFIC CALL FOR WATCHFULNESS** ———

- A. And, within **His** call for **watchfulness**, **He** anchors it in **wisdom**, specifically **wisdom in stewardship** ———
- B. Script. "35 **'Make sure you're dressed & ready with your lamps alight,'** said Jesus. 36 **You need to be like people waiting for their master when he comes back from the wedding feast, so that when he comes & knocks they will be able to open the door for him at once.** 37 **A blessing on the servants whom the master finds awake when he comes! I'm telling you the truth: he will put on an apron & sit them down & come & wait on them.** 38 **A blessing on them if he comes in the second**

*watch of the night, or even the third, & finds them like that! 39 But you should know this: if the householder had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn't have let his house be broken into. 40 You too should be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at a time you don't expect." 41 "Master, said Peter, "are you telling this parable for us, or for everyone?" 42 "Who then is the faithful & wise servant," said Jesus, "whom the master will set over all of his household, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? 43 A blessing on the servant of his master, when he comes, finds doing just that! 44 I'm telling you truly, he will install him a manager over all his possessions. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is taking his time over coming back,' & begins to beat the slaves & slave-girls, to eat & drink & get drunk - 46 then the master of that servant will come on a day he doesn't expect him to, & at a moment he didn't imagine, & he will cut him in two. He will give him the same place as unbelievers. 47 If*

*a servant knew what the master wanted, & didn't get ready or do what he wanted, the punishment will be of the severest kind."*

Luke 12:35-47 TKNT

- C. **Jesus** emphatically makes the case for true **wisdom** — & it starts with our relationship with **Jesus Christ** & our **stewardship** (the management of our lives in relation to **His** will) —
1. True **Wisdom** is far more valuable than anything the world can offer.
  2. True **Wisdom**, & our relationship to it, effects the way we live our lives.
    - a. Ex: this **Jesus-centered Wisdom** (true wisdom) is excellence in our speech (vs.6–9) – honest, truthful communication with **words** that are righteous & true (compare & contrast this communication with the words spoken in Numbers 20:3–5, which reveal a lack of trust in **God**).
- D. So, each day, we must pray for **true wisdom** to be found in our relationship with **Jesus Christ** — to *know **Him***, to *follow **Him***, to *act wisely for **Him***, & *speak boldly on behalf of **Him***

**words of wisdom** that bring salvation blessings to others & glory to His Name!

## V. IN COLOSSIANS, PAUL OUTLINES THE WAY IN WHICH THE BELIEVER SHOULD EXPERIENCE TRUE SPIRITUAL GROWTH ———

- A. *Paul* wrote his letter to the *Colossians* to combat a heresy ———
- B. The **heresy** that the *Apostle Paul* was opposing clearly contained both **pagan & Jewish** elements &, though **masquerading as a form of Christianity**, it **denied Jesus Christ His central place** & distorted the Christian lifestyle that is reflected in the New Testament.
- C. When we reconstruct the **heresy** from the truths *Paul* puts forward, many scholars have concluded that it was an early form of Gnosticism —
  - 1. We can see the comparative analysis between the **Colossian Heresy & Paul's Response...**

## THE COLOSSIAN HERESY AND PAUL'S RESPONSE

The material world is evil; God is spiritual. God can have nothing to do with the material universe.

*"For by Him [Jesus] all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible" (1:16).*

If Jesus created the world, He could not be God.

*"God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (1:19).*

Well, nothing that happens in the material world can really make a difference spiritually.

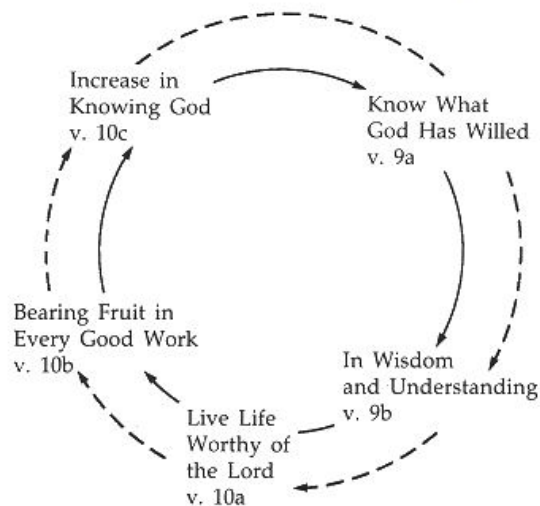
*"You ... were [God's] enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death" (1:21-22).*

But we don't need to be reconciled. Our bodies are evil because they are material. Our minds aren't material and so we are good.

*"You were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature. [Then] God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins" (2:13).*

Well, real spirituality is still a matter of one's inner life. We approach God mentally and what we do here is irrelevant to Him.

*"As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility ... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (2:12, 17).*



**D.** Notice what *Paul* does to combat heresy; he declares that *spiritual growth* begins with a knowledge of objective truth revealed in Scripture: **"what God has willed."**

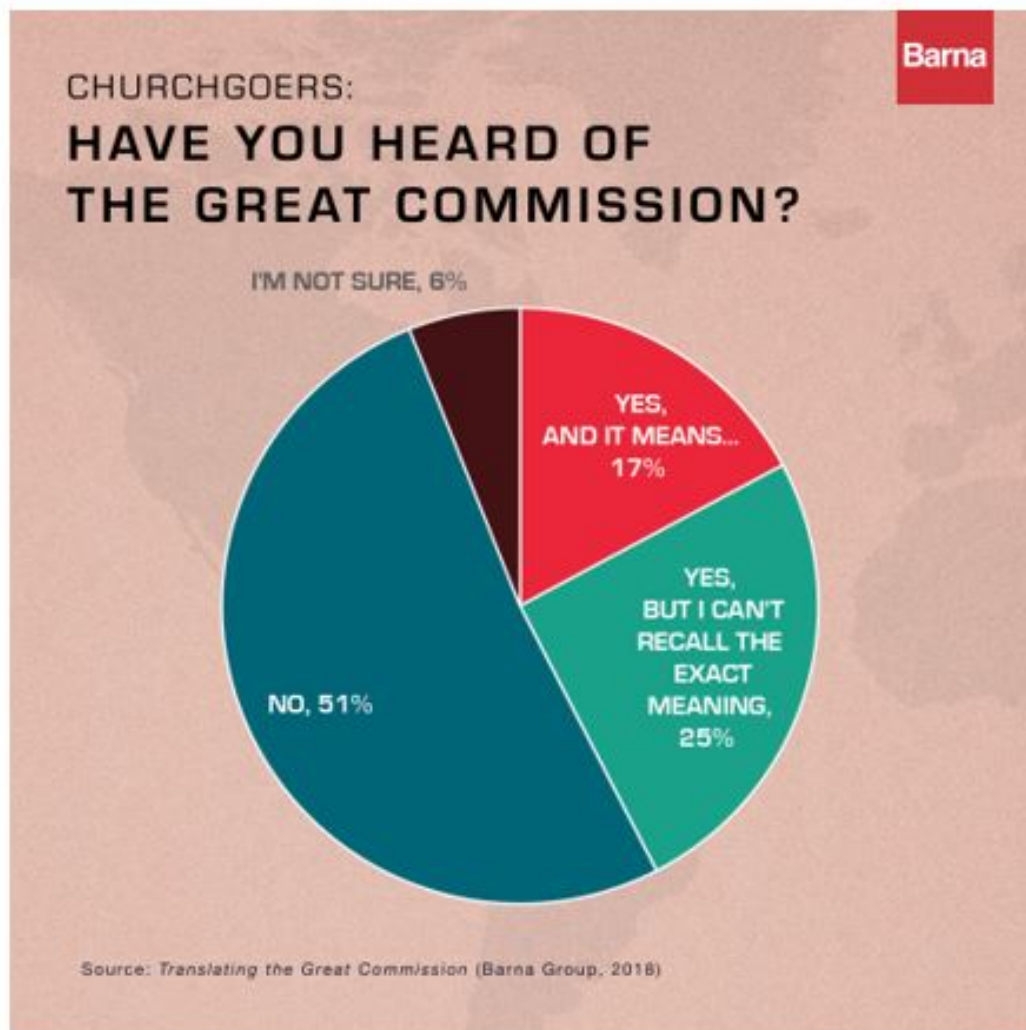
**1.** But we are to treat that truth with **"wisdom & insight,"** seeking to understand its practical implications for our daily life.

2. We then **apply God's** truth, making choices which please **Him** in every way & are **“worthy of the Lord.”**
3. As we do **live** a **worthy life**, we **“bear fruit in every good work”** & we come to know **God** in a personal intimate way, not just intellectually but experientially as well.
4. So, this is a continuum; there is no end to this glorious process that offers us so much —
  - a. We keep on studying **His Word**, we keep on allowing **God's Word** to shape our choices & form our character.
  - b. As we do, we discover that our lives are fruitful, & that we've grown closer to the **Lord** ———

## VI. **TODAY'S CHURCHGOER REALITY** —

A. Half of all U. S. Churchgoers (51%) say that they are unfamiliar with the term ***“the Great Commission.”***

1. See Graph...



**B.** In the last fourteen days, our Church was asked to participate in a **ChurchNext Survey**, and the following information was garnered from our survey.

1. Your responses provide us with the information we need to make **wise** decisions for our families, our futures, for our **God!**
2. See **ChurchNext Report** attached...

**CHURCHNEXT**  
survey

**CHURCH OF  
CHAMPIONS**

*Your  
Report*

# Church of Champions



Started

**119**



Completed

**70**



Avg. Time to Complete

**8** mins

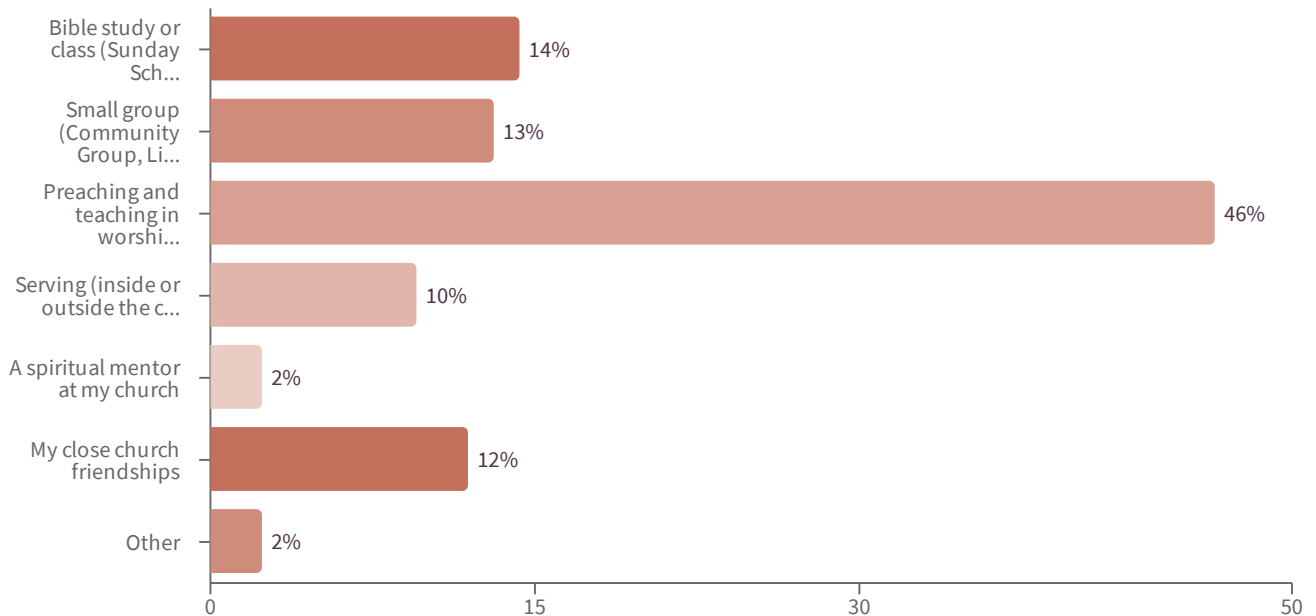


Completion Rate

**58.82%**

# In terms of your spiritual growth, which aspect of church life was the most helpful prior to the pandemic? (select one)

Answered: 84 Skipped: 5



## ANSWER CHOICES

## RESPONSES

## RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

Bible study or class (Sunday School, ABF, etc.)	12	14.29%
Small group (Community Group, Life Group, etc.)	11	13.10%
Preaching and teaching in worship services	39	46.43%
Serving (inside or outside the church)	8	9.52%
A spiritual mentor at my church	2	2.38%
My close church friendships	10	11.90%
Other	2	2.38%

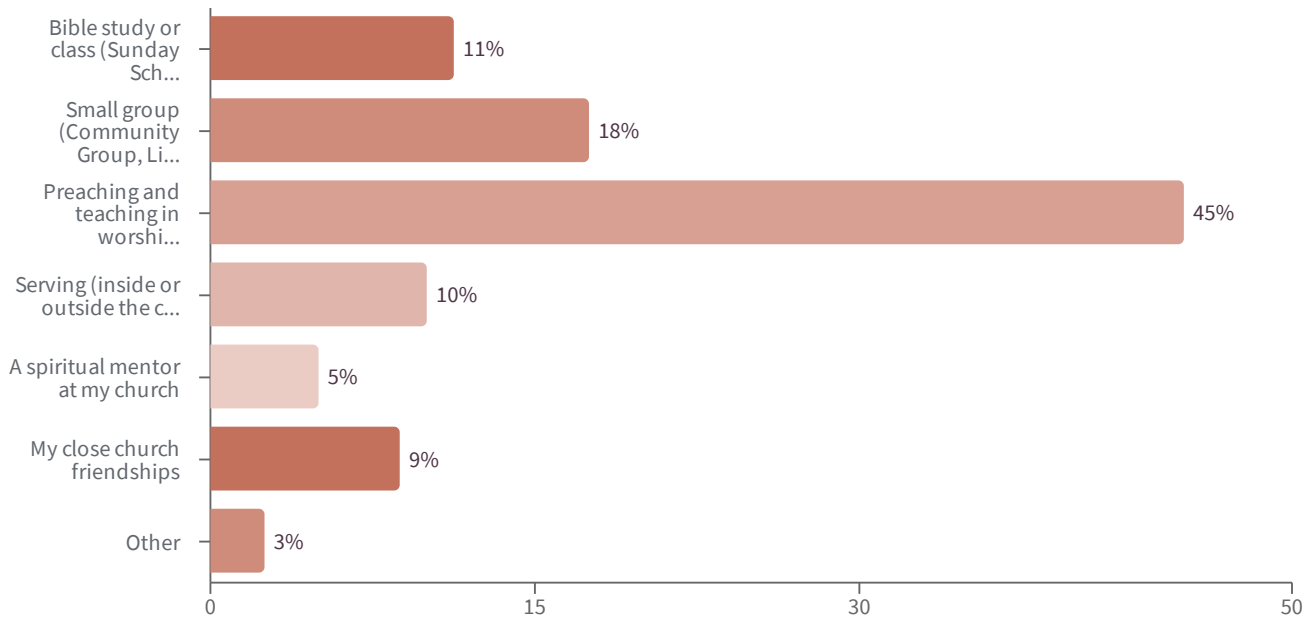
## **Other Responses**

Serving (inside or outside the church)

Having access to worship service, Bible study and Sunday school and the availability ministers in the church to reach out to.

# In terms of your spiritual growth, which aspect of church life do you anticipate will be most helpful going forward? (select one)

Answered: **80** Skipped: **6**



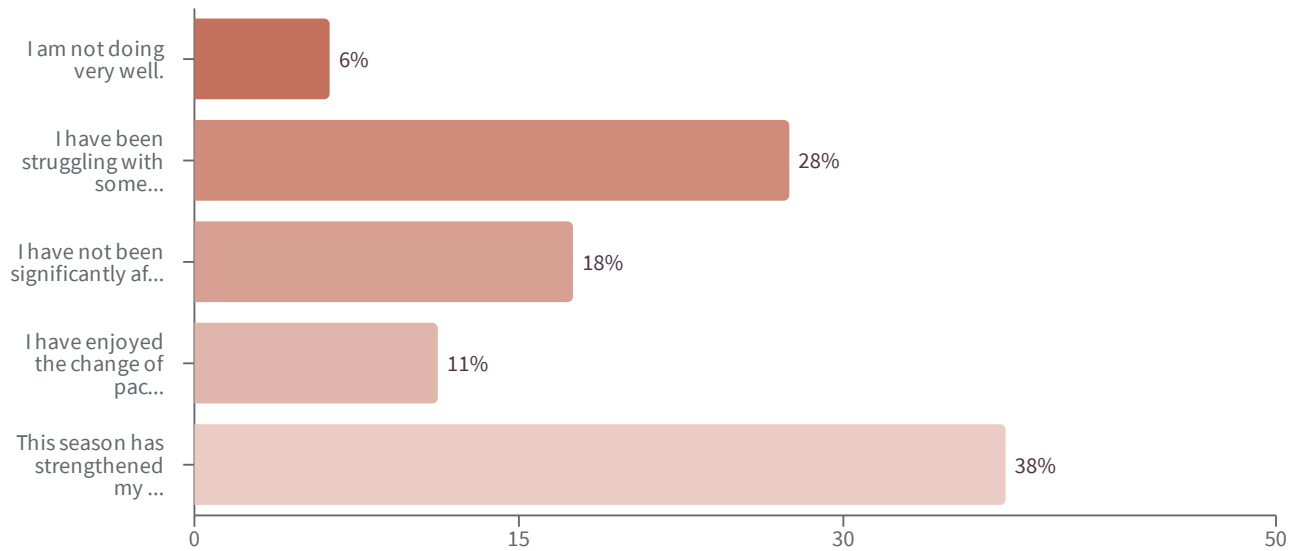
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Bible study or class (Sunday School, ABF, etc.)	9	11.25%
Small group (Community Group, Life Group, etc.)	14	17.50%
Preaching and teaching in worship services	36	45.00%
Serving (inside or outside the church)	8	10.00%
A spiritual mentor at my church	4	5.00%
My close church friendships	7	8.75%
Other	2	2.50%

**Other Responses**

Online Bible study from multiple sources on you tube  
Same as answer to question 1

# How has the difficulty of the pandemic affected your well-being? (select one)

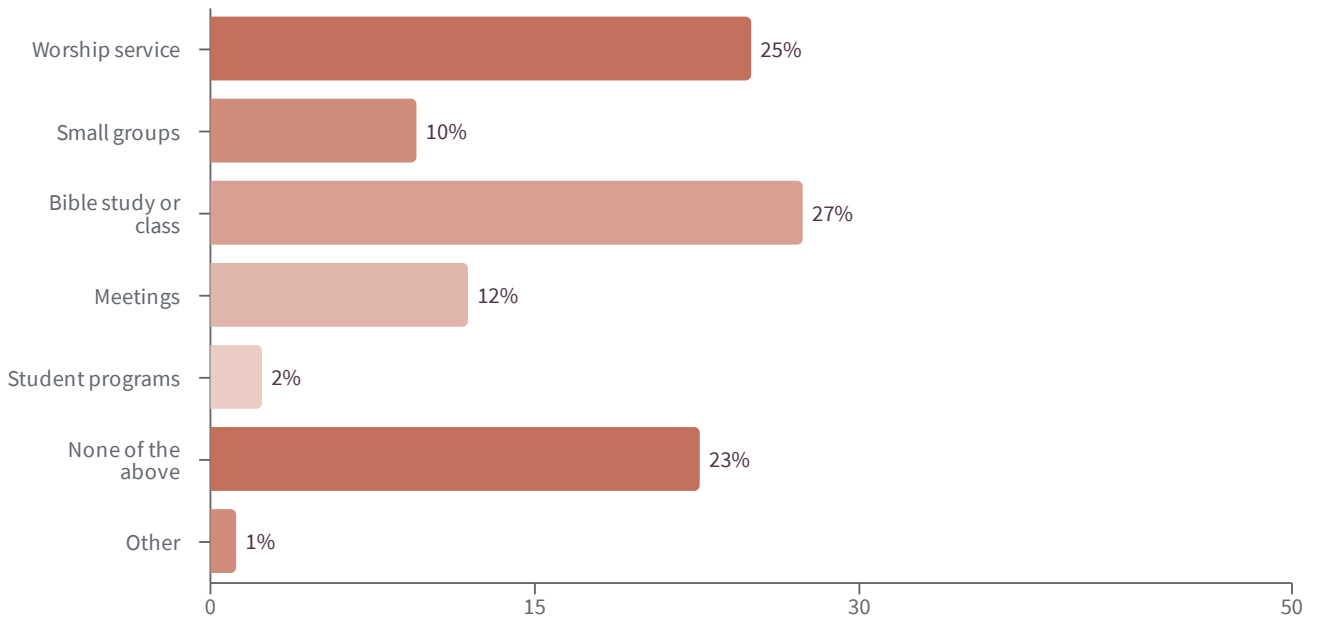
Answered: 80 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
I am not doing very well.	5	6.25%
I have been struggling with some discouragement.	22	27.50%
I have not been significantly affected.	14	17.50%
I have enjoyed the change of pace.	9	11.25%
This season has strengthened my spiritual health.	30	37.50%

# Which aspects of church life would you prefer to participate in online going forward? (check all that apply)

Answered: 56 Skipped: 4



## ANSWER CHOICES ▾

## RESPONSES ▾

## RESPONSE PERCENTAGE ▾

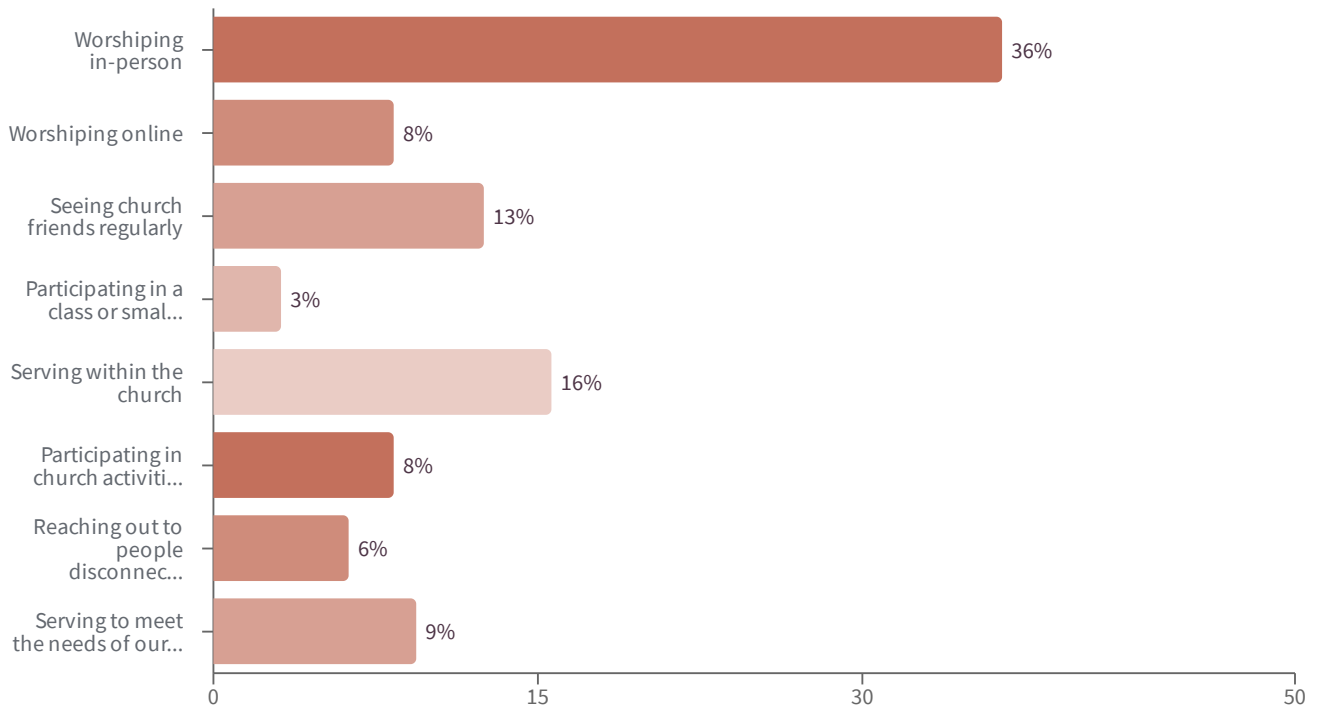
Worship service	21	25.00%
Small groups	8	9.52%
Bible study or class	23	27.38%
Meetings	10	11.90%
Student programs	2	2.38%
None of the above	19	22.62%
Other	1	1.19%

**Other Responses**

I prefer to attend church services in-person, but will not do so until it is safe to do so. Until then, I have been blessed attending virtual services.

# The last 12 months have helped me realize the personal importance of these aspects of church life: (select two)

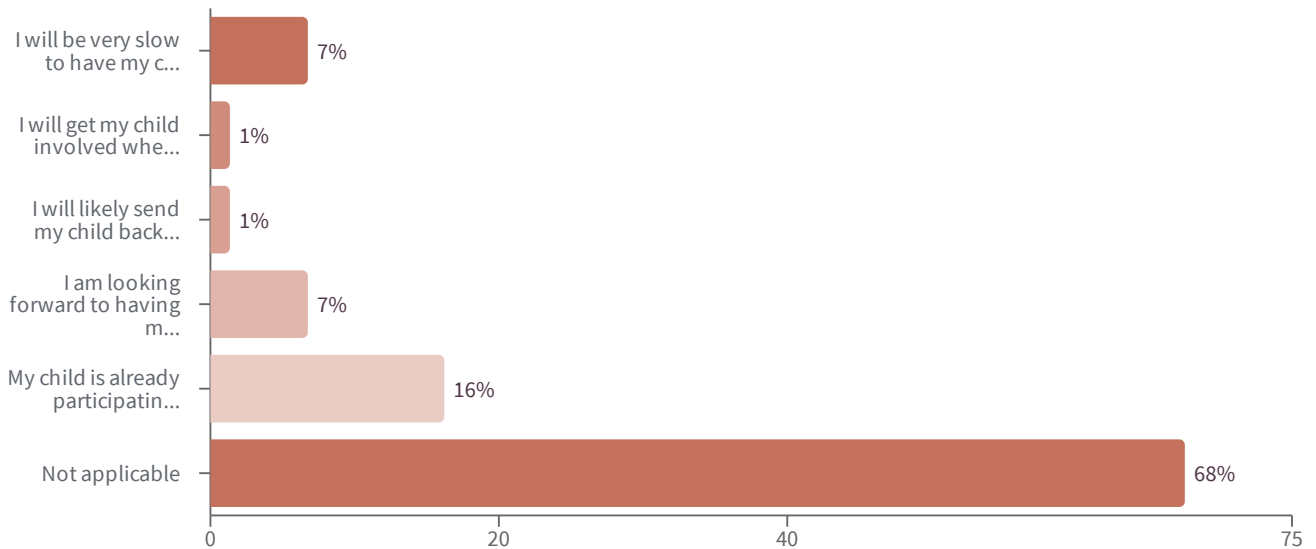
Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Worshiping in-person	35	36.46%
Worshiping online	8	8.33%
Seeing church friends regularly	12	12.50%
Participating in a class or small group	3	3.13%
Serving within the church	15	15.63%
Participating in church activities and events	8	8.33%
Reaching out to people disconnected from God	6	6.25%
Serving to meet the needs of our community	9	9.38%

# What are your plans for engaging in kids and student ministry in-person? (select one)

Answered: 74 Skipped: 2



## ANSWER CHOICES

## RESPONSES

## RESPONSE PERCENTAGE

I will be very slow to have my child re-enter in-person programs/activities.

5

6.76%

I will get my child involved when restrictions are lifted (vaccine or not).

1

1.35%

I will likely send my child back after more people are vaccinated.

1

1.35%

I am looking forward to having my child involved again as soon as possible.

5

6.76%

My child is already participating.

12

16.22%

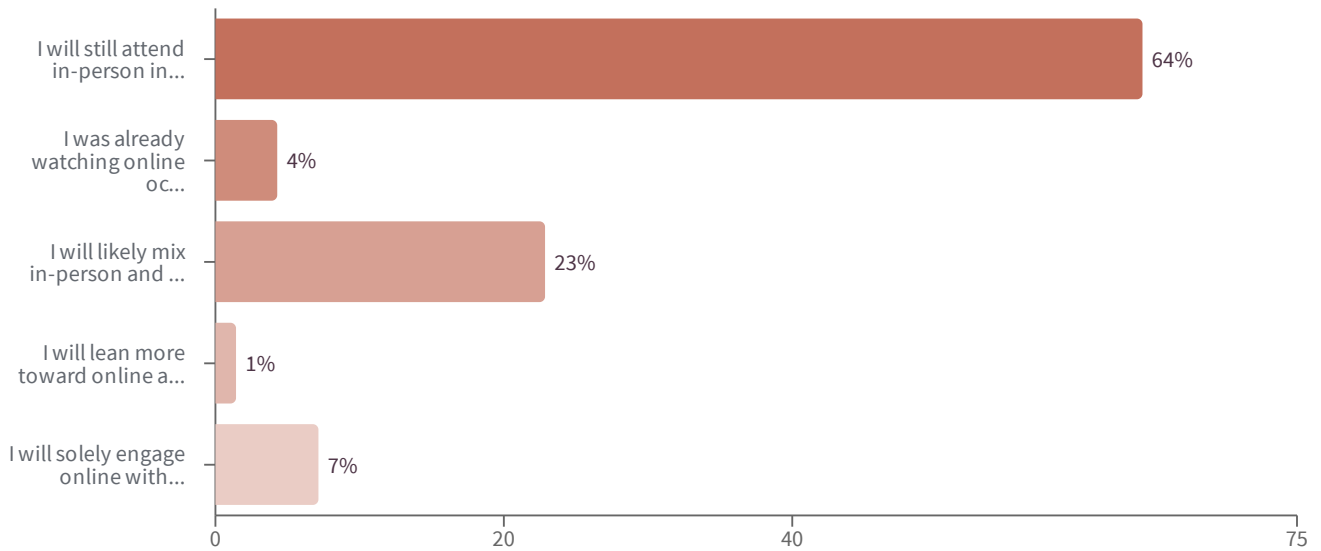
Not applicable

50

67.57%

# What is your plan for worship attendance going forward? (select one)

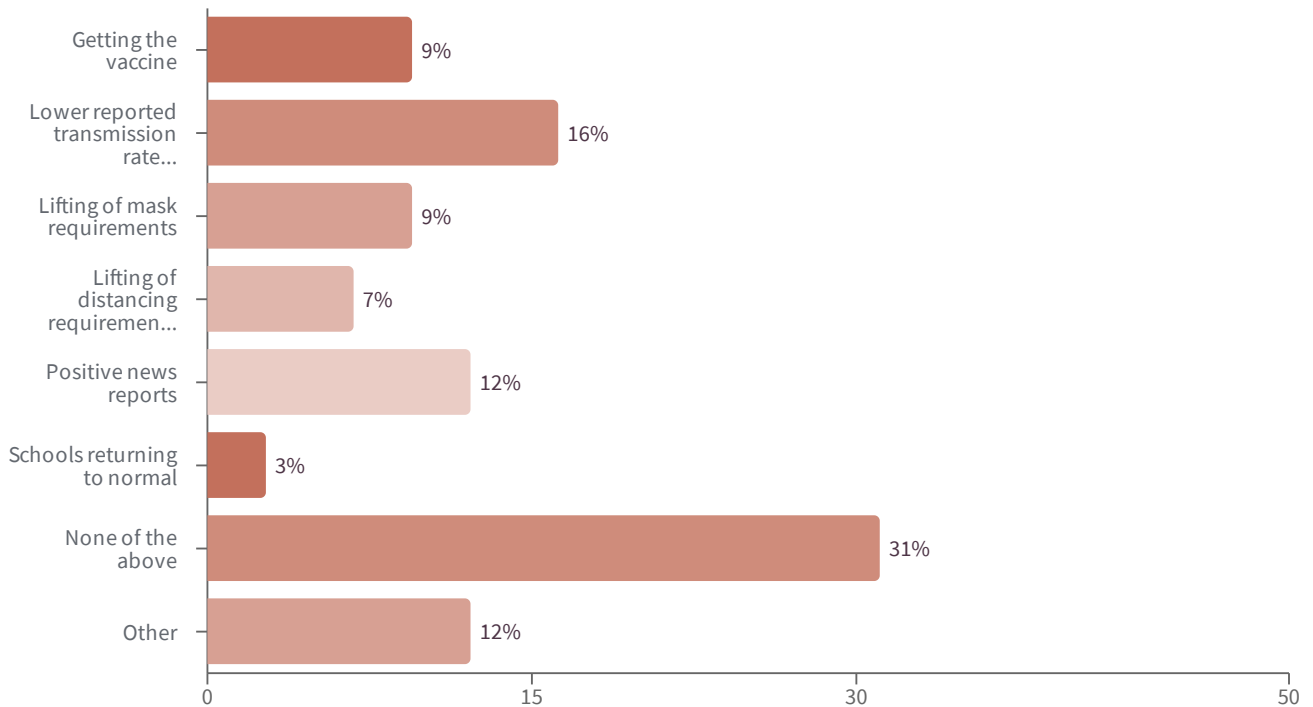
Answered: 70 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
I will still attend in-person in the manner I did before the restrictions.	45	64.29%
I was already watching online occasionally pre-COVID and will continue to do so.	3	4.29%
I will likely mix in-person and online attendance more than I did pre-COVID.	16	22.86%
I will lean more toward online attendance now that I am in that habit.	1	1.43%
I will solely engage online with the church going forward.	5	7.14%

# What factors do you anticipate most influencing your return to in-person ministry? (select two)

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Getting the vaccine	7	9.46%
Lower reported transmission rates	12	16.22%
Lifting of mask requirements	7	9.46%
Lifting of distancing requirements	5	6.76%
Positive news reports	9	12.16%
Schools returning to normal	2	2.70%
None of the above	23	31.08%
Other	9	12.16%

## **Other Responses**

Relocation to be closer

The renovation of the church seating...not feasible for the elderly

When the church requires face masks and distancing.

Mask wearing for entire congregation

I live out of state

My mother's health (not covid related)

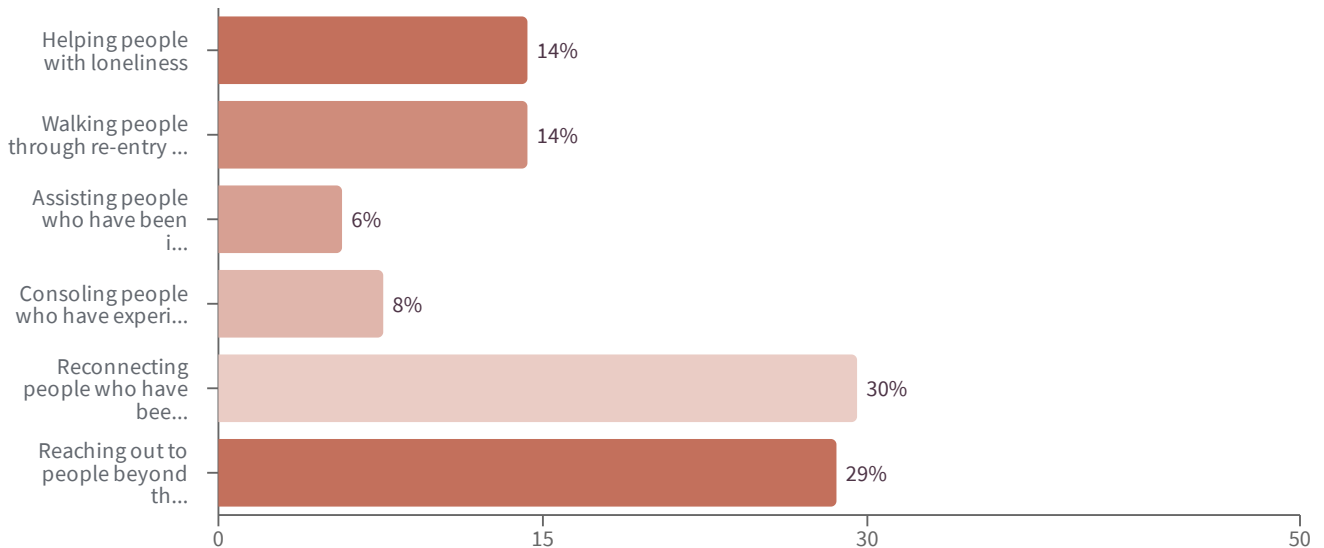
Decrease in deaths

I will not attend in-person services until most are masked or most are vaccinated

transplant team allowing our son to be in groups

# What are the opportunities we have to serve each other, our surrounding community, and the world in the coming months? (select two)

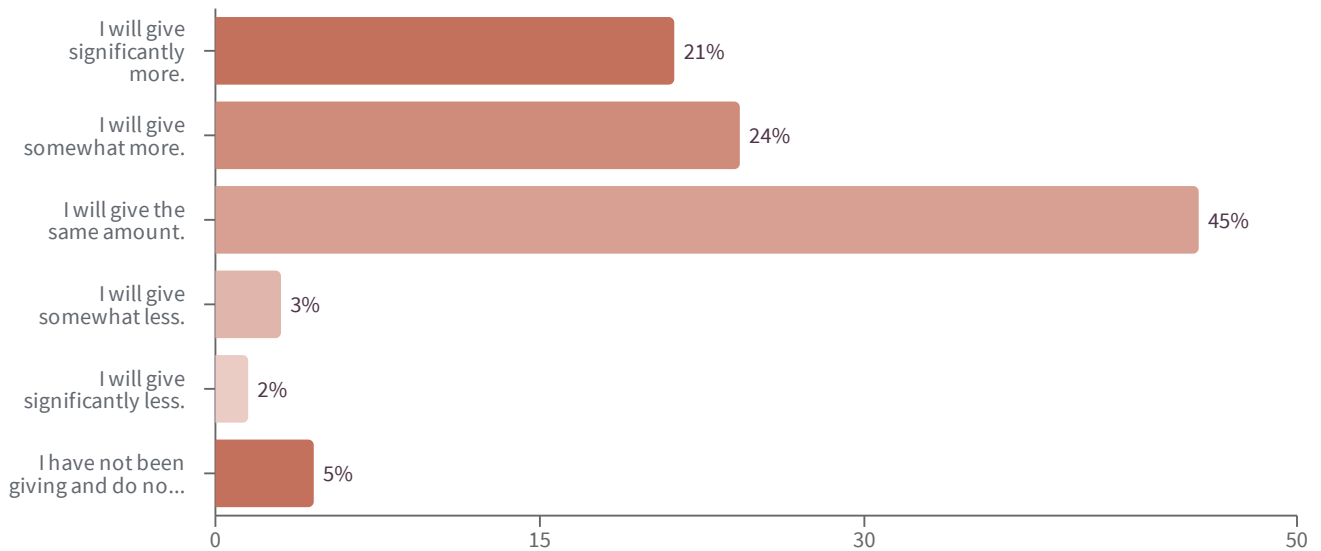
Answered: 60 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Helping people with loneliness	15	14.29%
Walking people through re-entry emotionally and spiritually	15	14.29%
Assisting people who have been impacted economically	6	5.71%
Consoling people who have experienced the loss of loved ones	8	7.62%
Reconnecting people who have been isolated from the church	31	29.52%
Reaching out to people beyond the church who are looking for answers	30	28.57%

# How will your future financial giving to the church compare to the past 12 months? (select one)

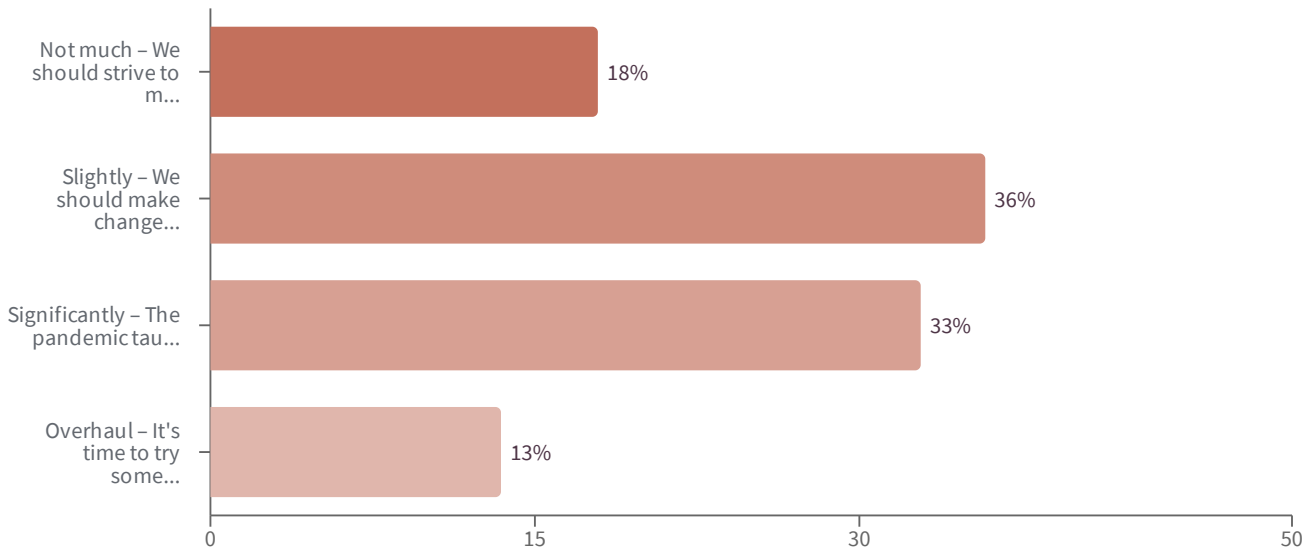
Answered: 66 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES ▾	RESPONSES ▾	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE ▾
I will give significantly more.	14	21.21%
I will give somewhat more.	16	24.24%
I will give the same amount.	30	45.45%
I will give somewhat less.	2	3.03%
I will give significantly less.	1	1.52%
I have not been giving and do not plan to.	3	4.55%

# How much do you anticipate our church will need to adapt its methods to be effective in the future? (select one)

Answered: **67** Skipped: **3**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Not much - We should strive to move close to what we had before the pandemic.	12	17.91%
Slightly - We should make changes to some ministries as a result of what we have experienced.	24	35.82%
Significantly - The pandemic taught us a lot and our methodology should change.	22	32.84%
Overhaul - It's time to try something completely new.	9	13.43%