

Built on the Bible:

A Barna Study on Bible Engagement

In Partnership with the
General Council of the Assemblies of God



Project Details

Vision: to assess the current state of biblical engagement within the Assemblies of God and compare that to practicing Christians.

Objective: to turn this research into action by helping to catalyze clear, essential strategies to increase Bible engagement.

1,502 practicing Christians in the US

982 attenders of an Assemblies of God church

275 Protestant senior pastors

396 Assemblies of God pastors



What is the power of Bible engagement?

Lives reflecting the fruit of the Spirit

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level

[Love] It is easy for me to see the good in others.

[Joy] I can experience joy in my life, even through tough times.

[Peace] I don't often feel anxious because I know that God is in control.

[Patience] I am often impatient with where I'm at in life.*

[Kindness] I regularly seek opportunities to do something nice for others.

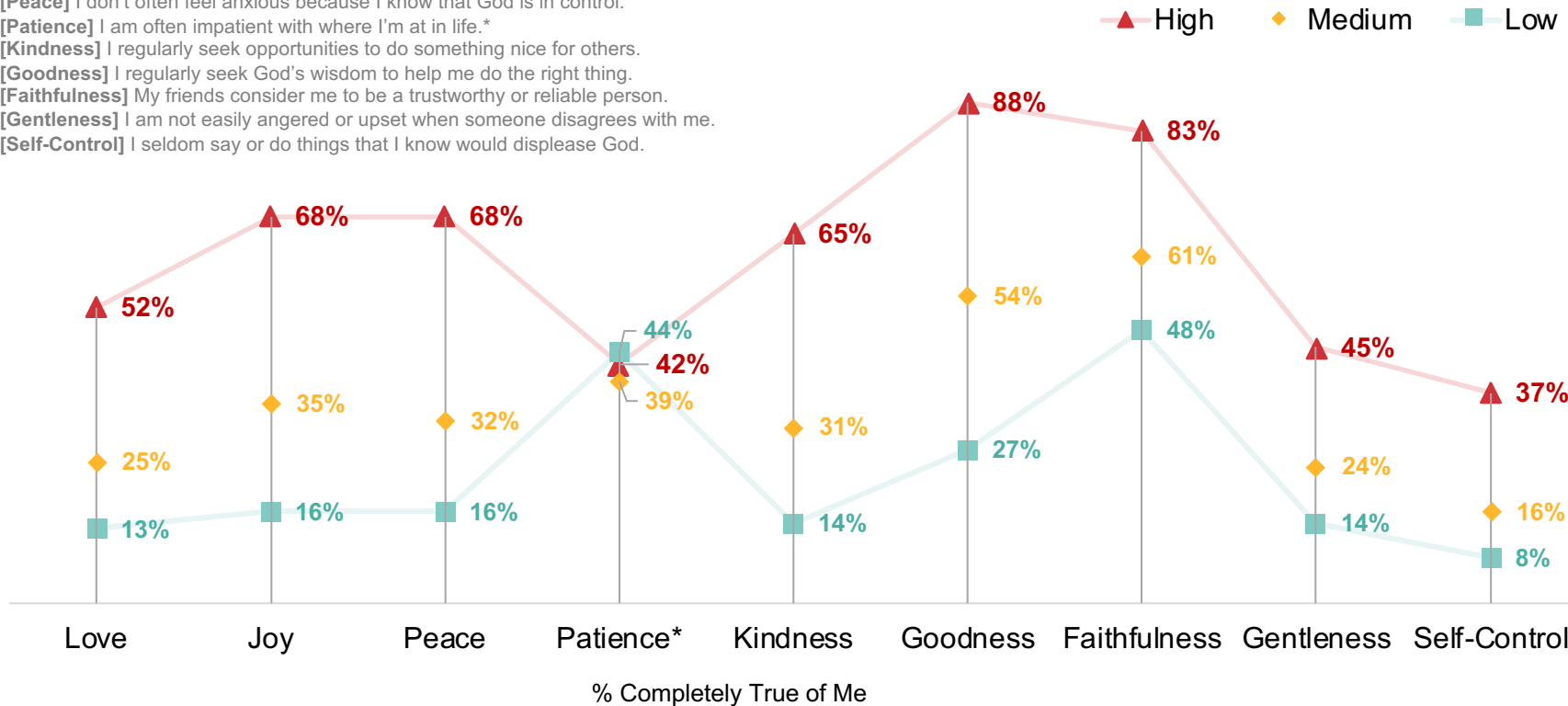
[Goodness] I regularly seek God's wisdom to help me do the right thing.

[Faithfulness] My friends consider me to be a trustworthy or reliable person.

[Gentleness] I am not easily angered or upset when someone disagrees with me.

[Self-Control] I seldom say or do things that I know would displease God.

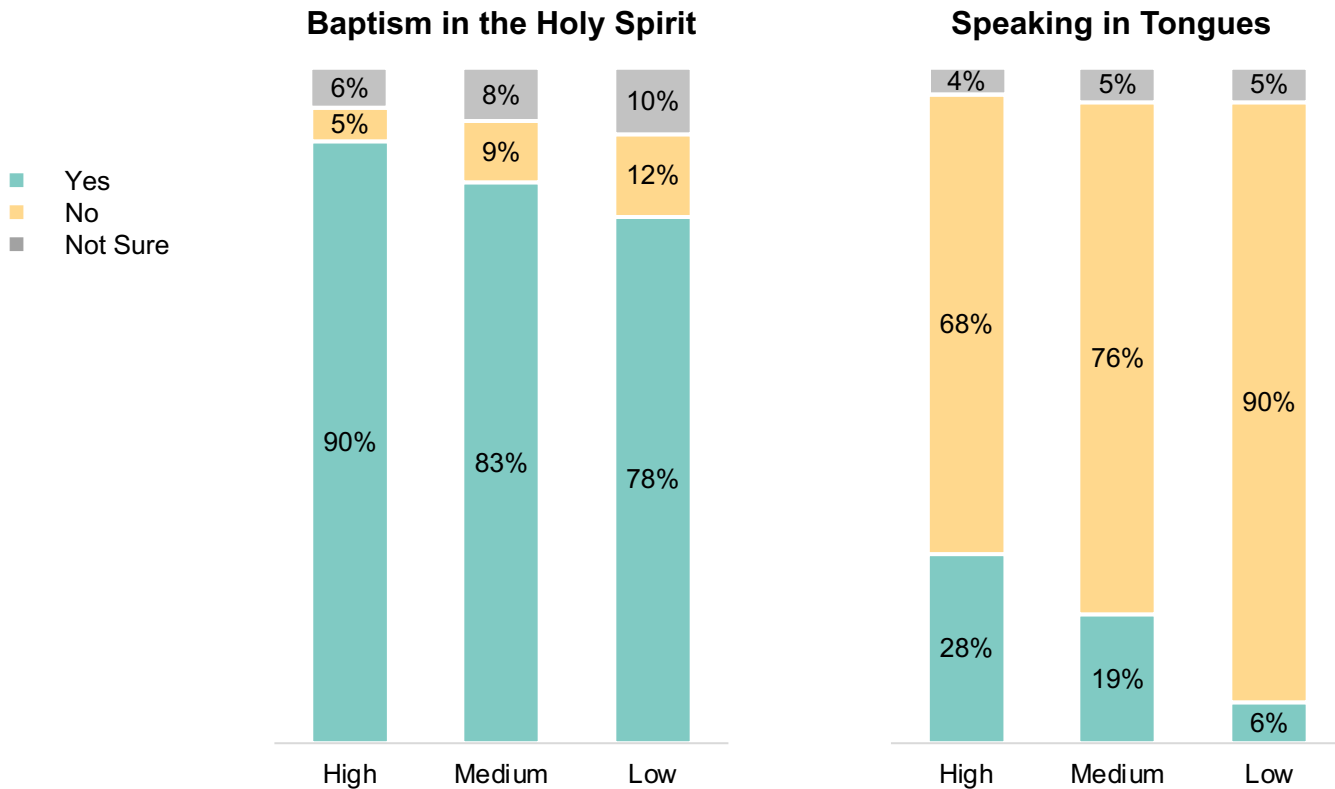
▲ High ◆ Medium ■ Low



* % Not at all + not very true of me. Statement presented in the reverse.

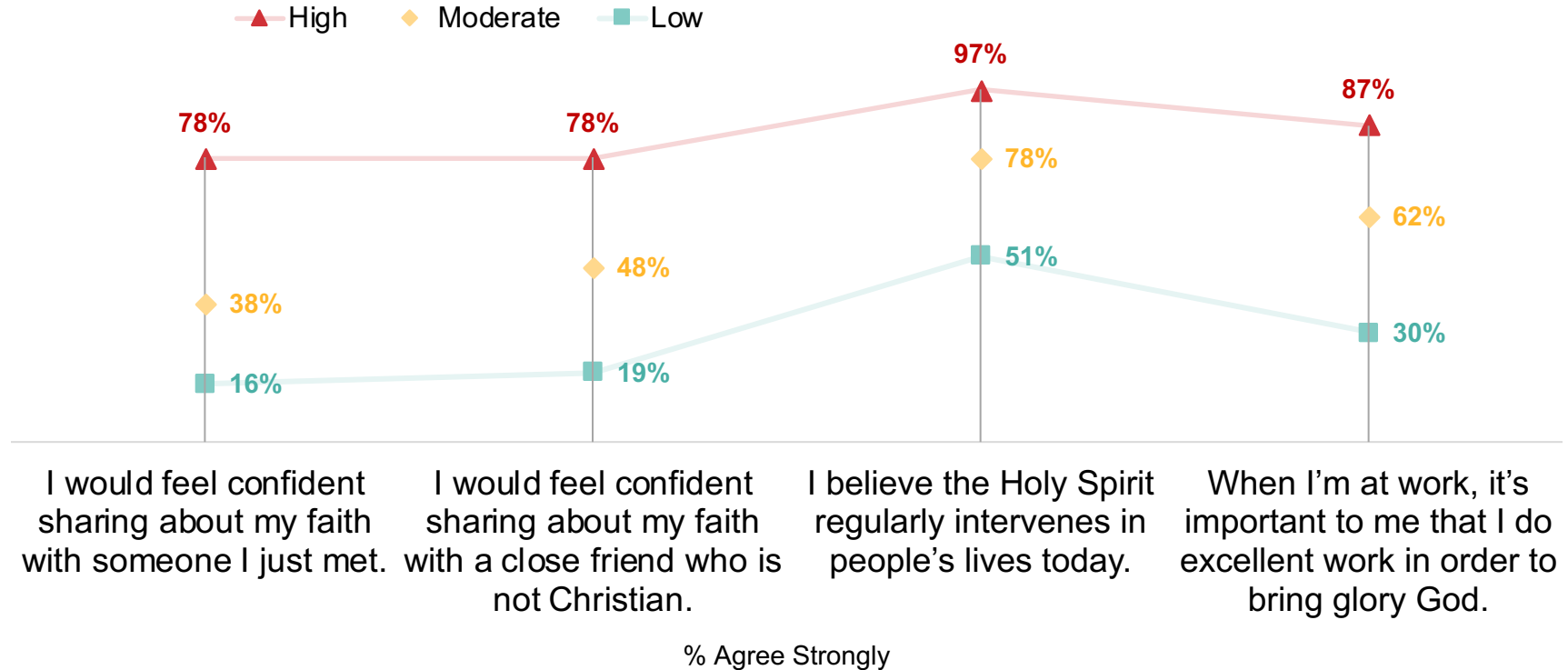
Greater intimacy with the Holy Spirit

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



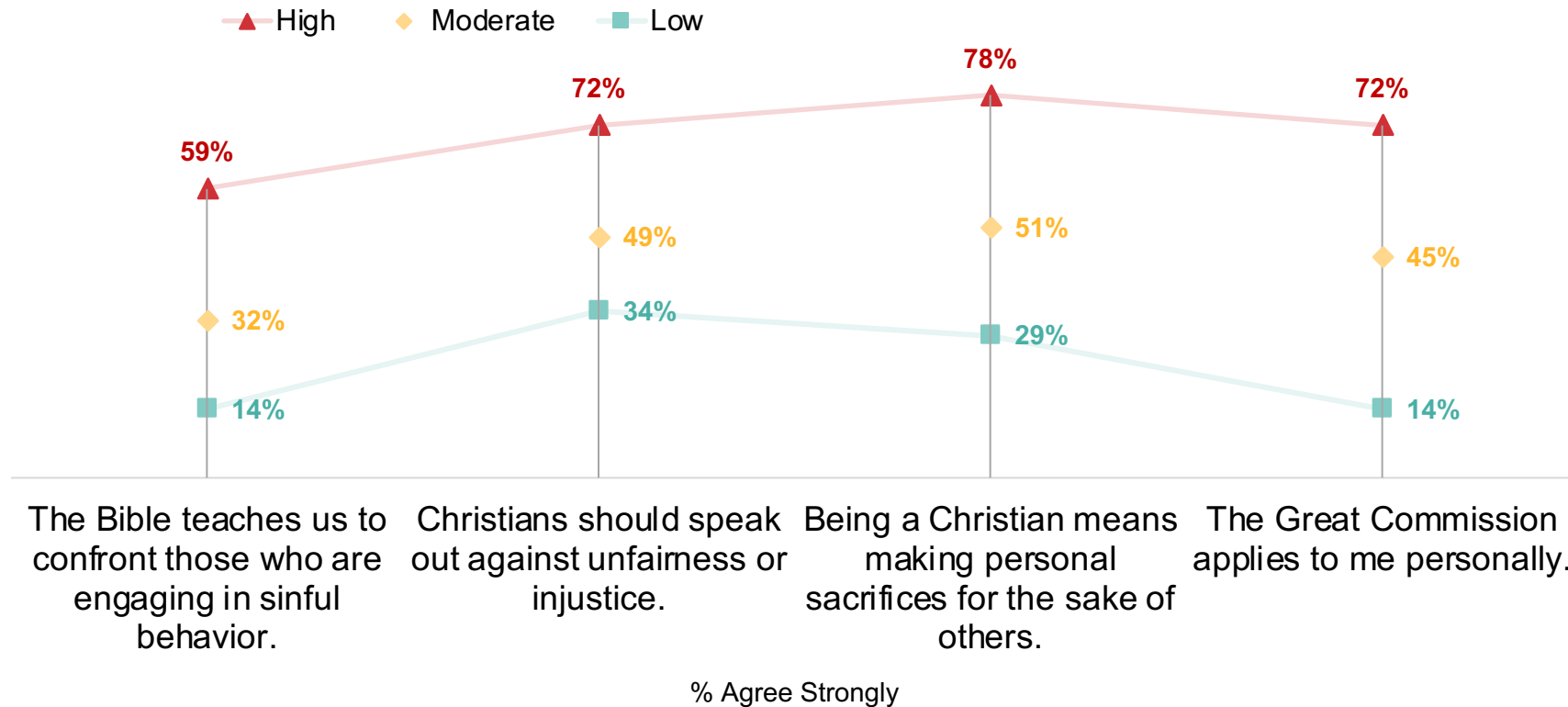
Higher priority on “living their faith” in public

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



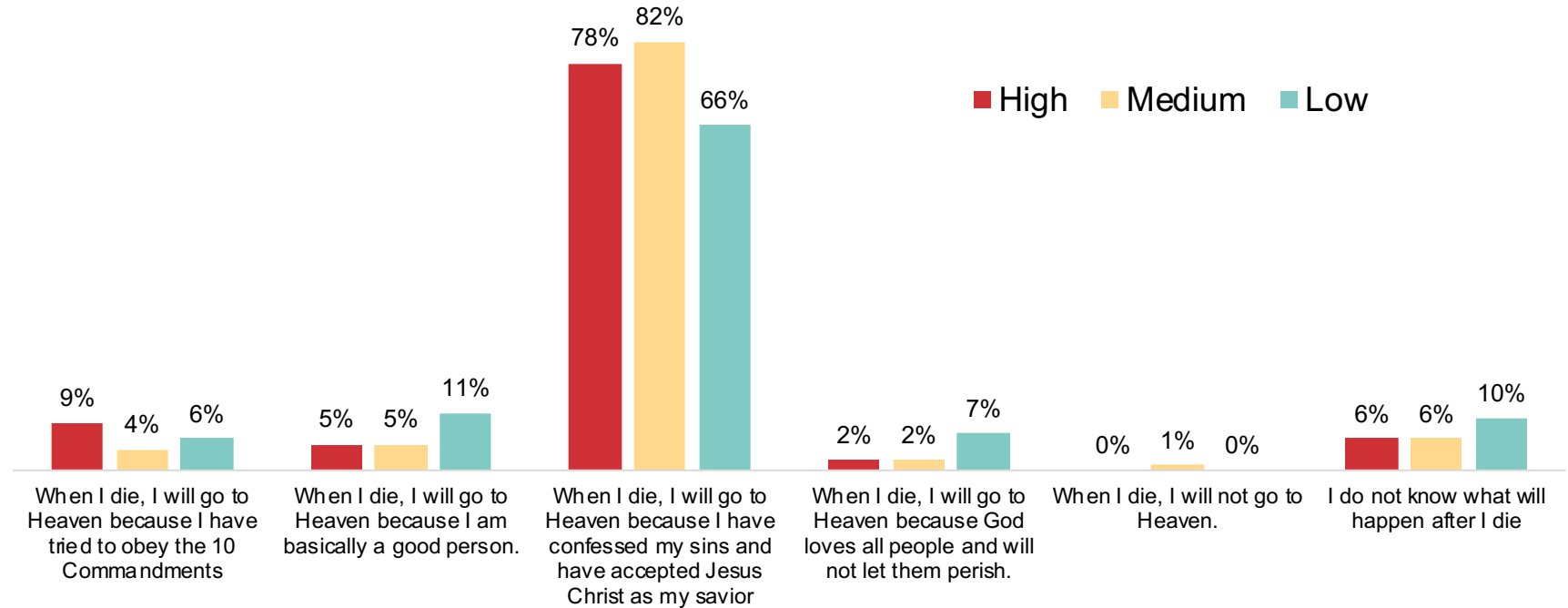
Higher priority on “living their faith” in public, continued

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



Mostly orthodox views of the Gospel

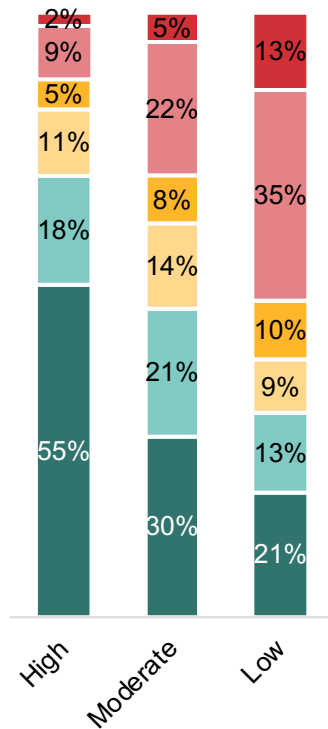
Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



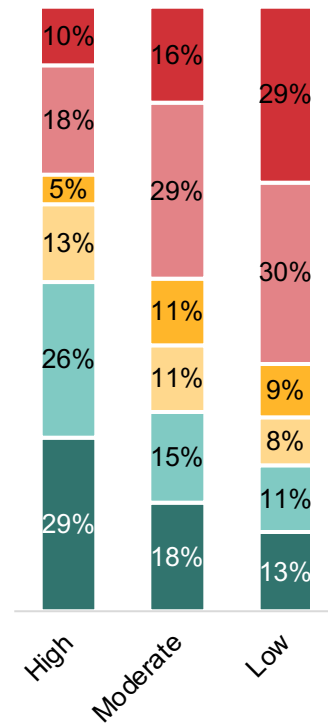
Stronger volunteering rates

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level

Volunteered at Church

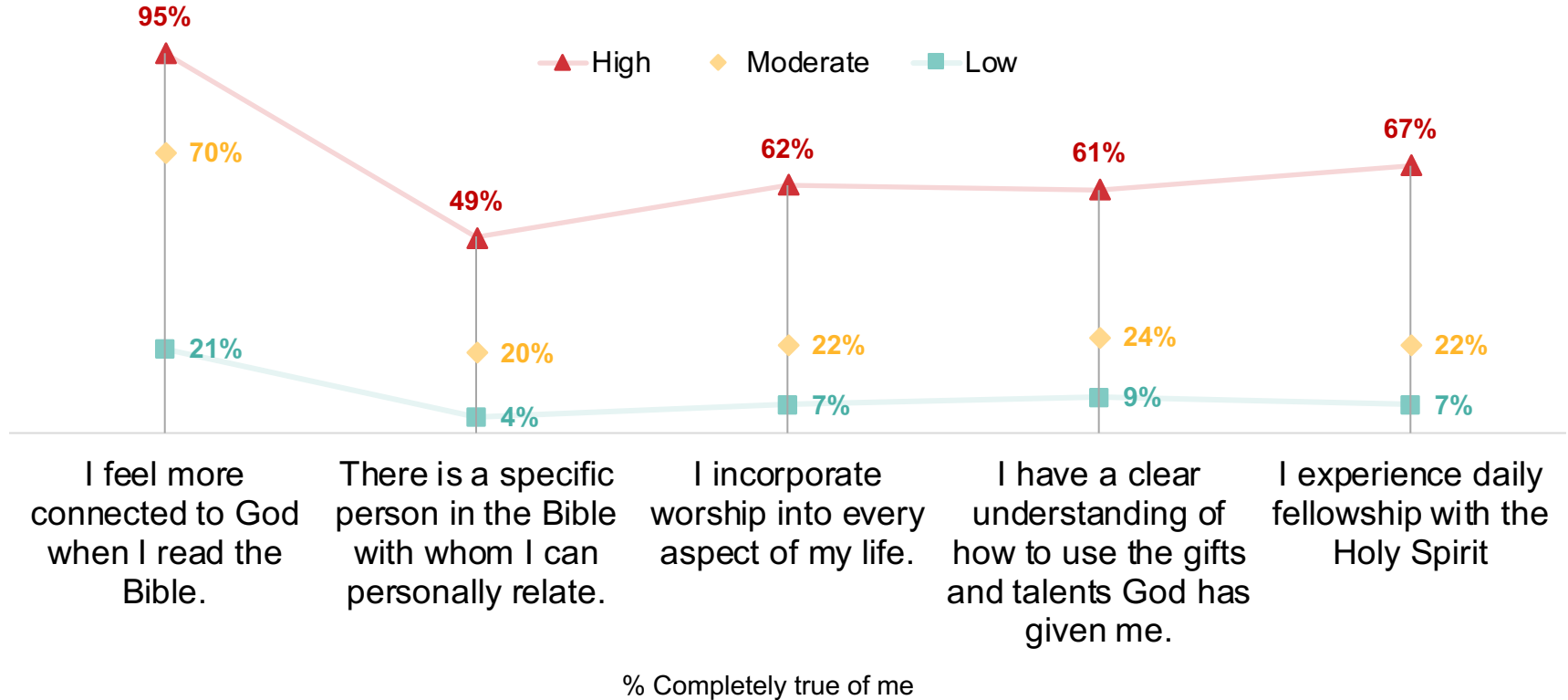


Volunteered at a Non-Profit



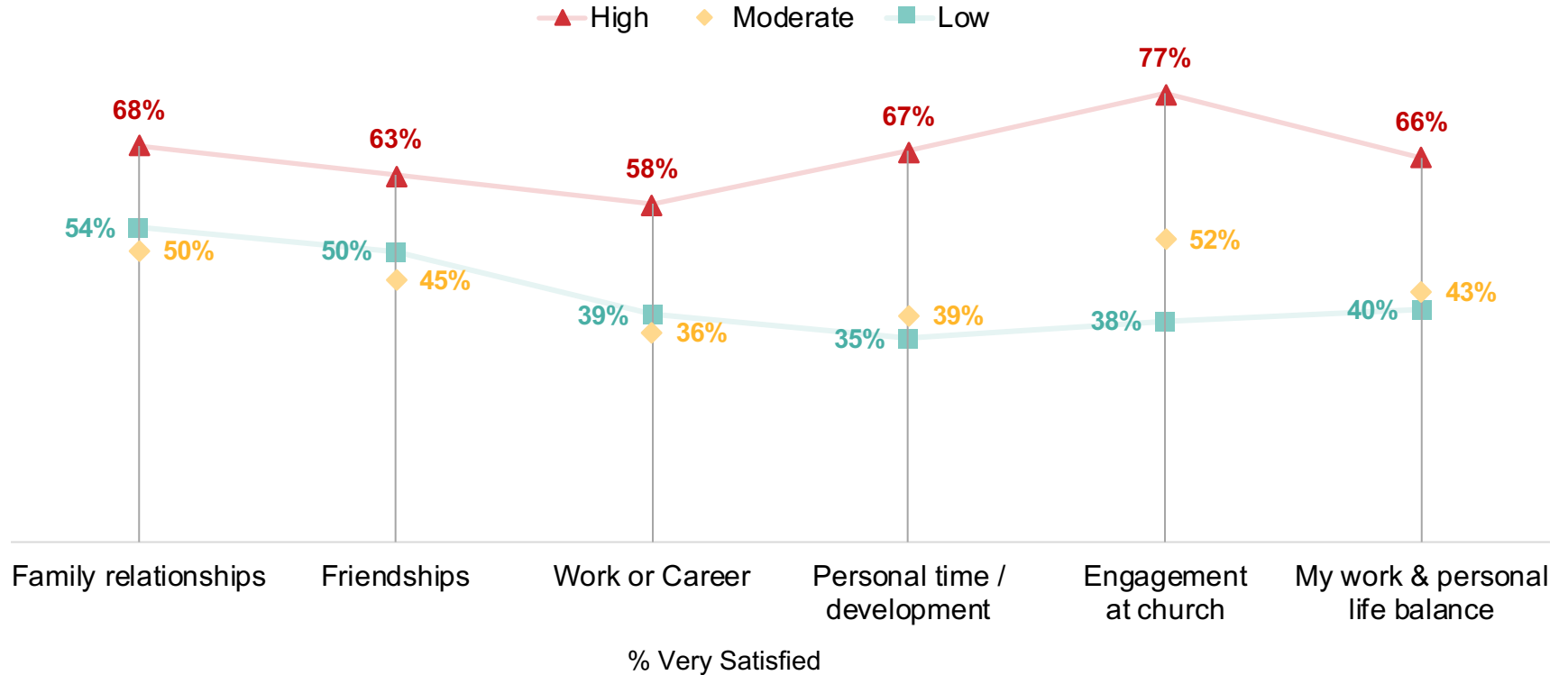
More devotion to Scripture and life in the Spirit

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



Higher life satisfaction, across the board

Practicing Christians, by Bible engagement level



**What does effective Bible engagement—
being built on the Bible—look like?**

Practical Bible Engagement

Factors of Practical Engagement

- Attending a small group / Bible study or Sunday school
- Having an accountability partner for Bible reading
- Having time schedule into the day for reading the Bible
- Reading the Bible regularly
- Memorizing Scripture regularly
- Praying Scripture

✦ AG: Assemblies of God churchgoers

▲ NB: National baseline of churchgoers *

PRactical Bible Engagement

Being disciplined to regularly read and engage with the Bible

✦ 21% ▲ 24%

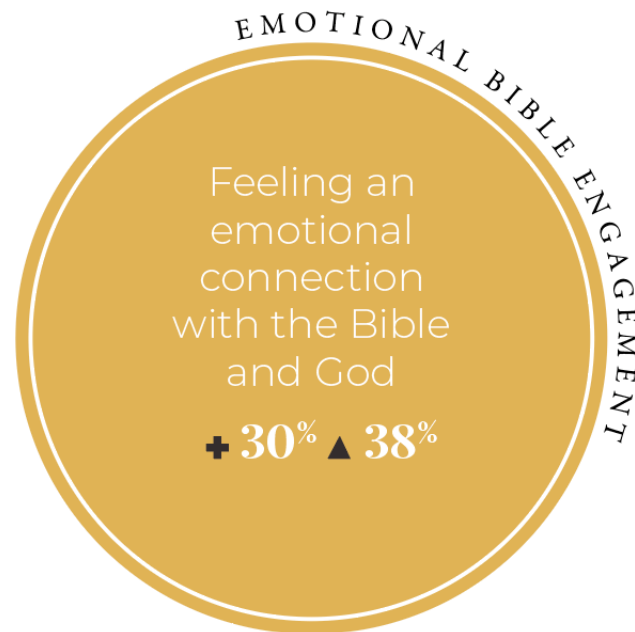
Emotional Bible Engagement

Factors of Emotional Engagement

- I get excited about reading the Bible.
- Reading the Bible has helped me to fall more in love with Jesus.
- Something new is revealed to me every time I read the Bible.
- During times of struggle in my life, I read the Bible to find answers.

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Missional Bible Engagement

Factors of Missional Engagement

- Reading the Bible has changed how I view the world.
- I'm not sure how to apply what I read in the Bible.
- The best thing that can happen to a person is to know Jesus.
- What I read in the Bible has a significant impact on my priorities in life.
- The Bible is the ultimate authority for how a Christian should live their life.

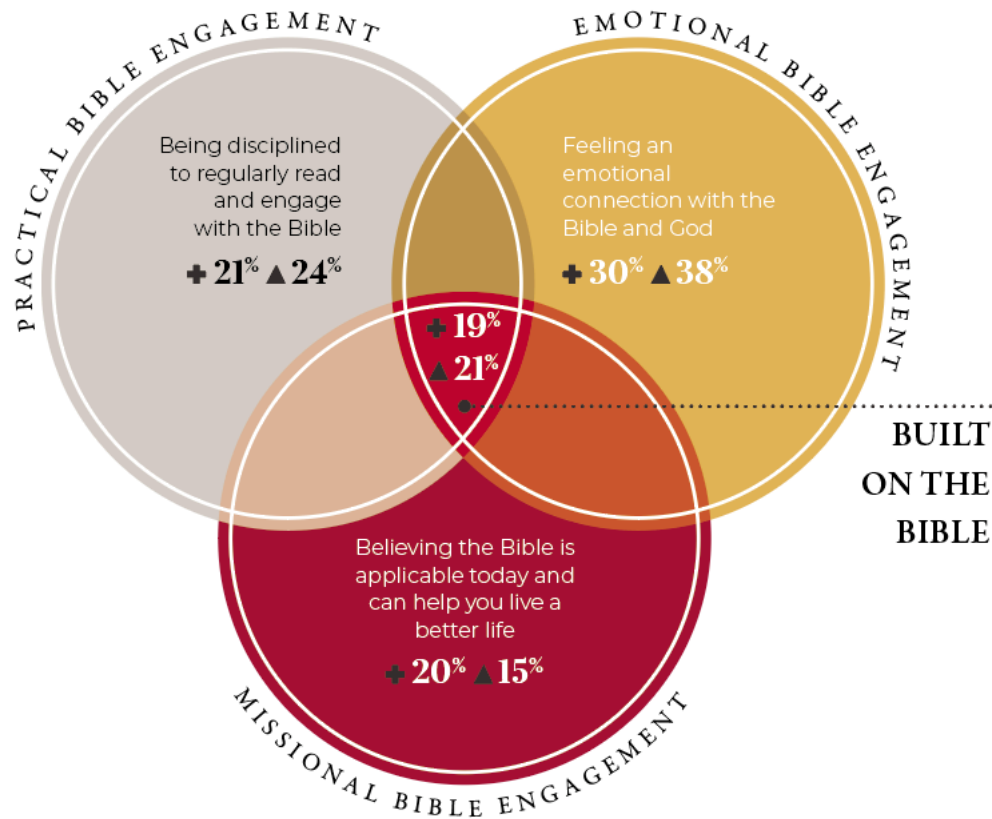
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Built on the Bible: Three Domains of Influence

- ✚ AG: Assemblies of God churchgoers
- ▲ NB: National baseline of churchgoers *

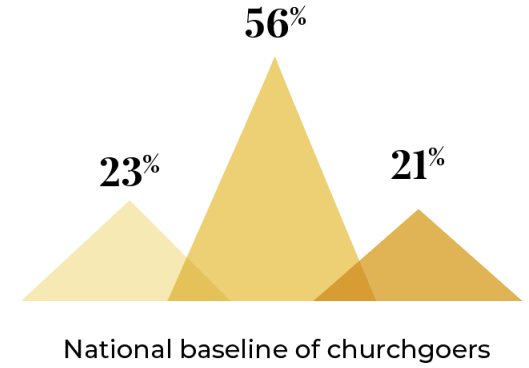
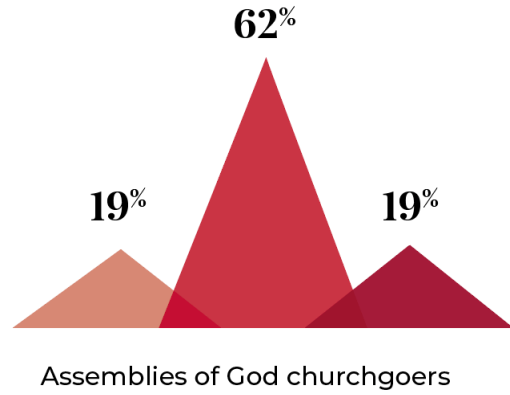




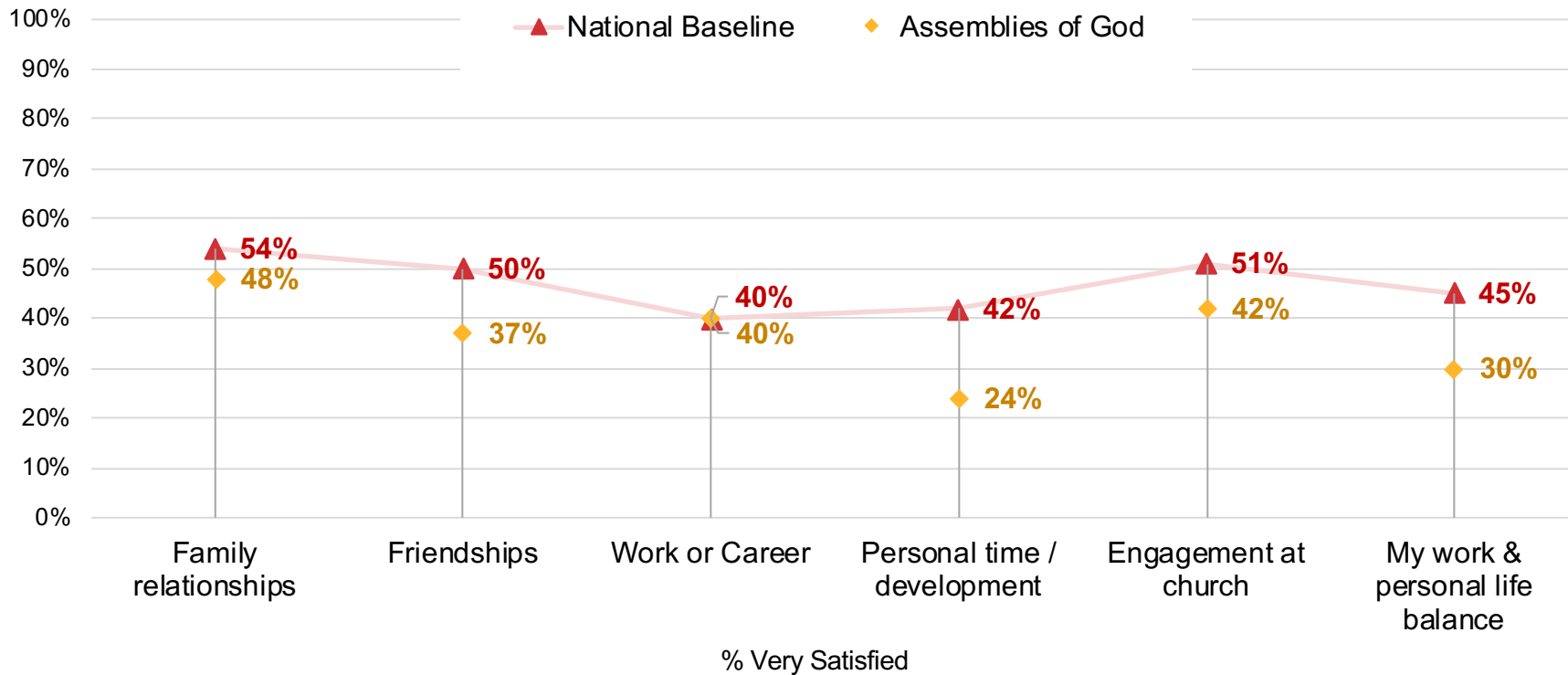
How does the Assemblies of God compare?

The AG churchgoer is not significantly better than the average believer from other streams of Christianity.

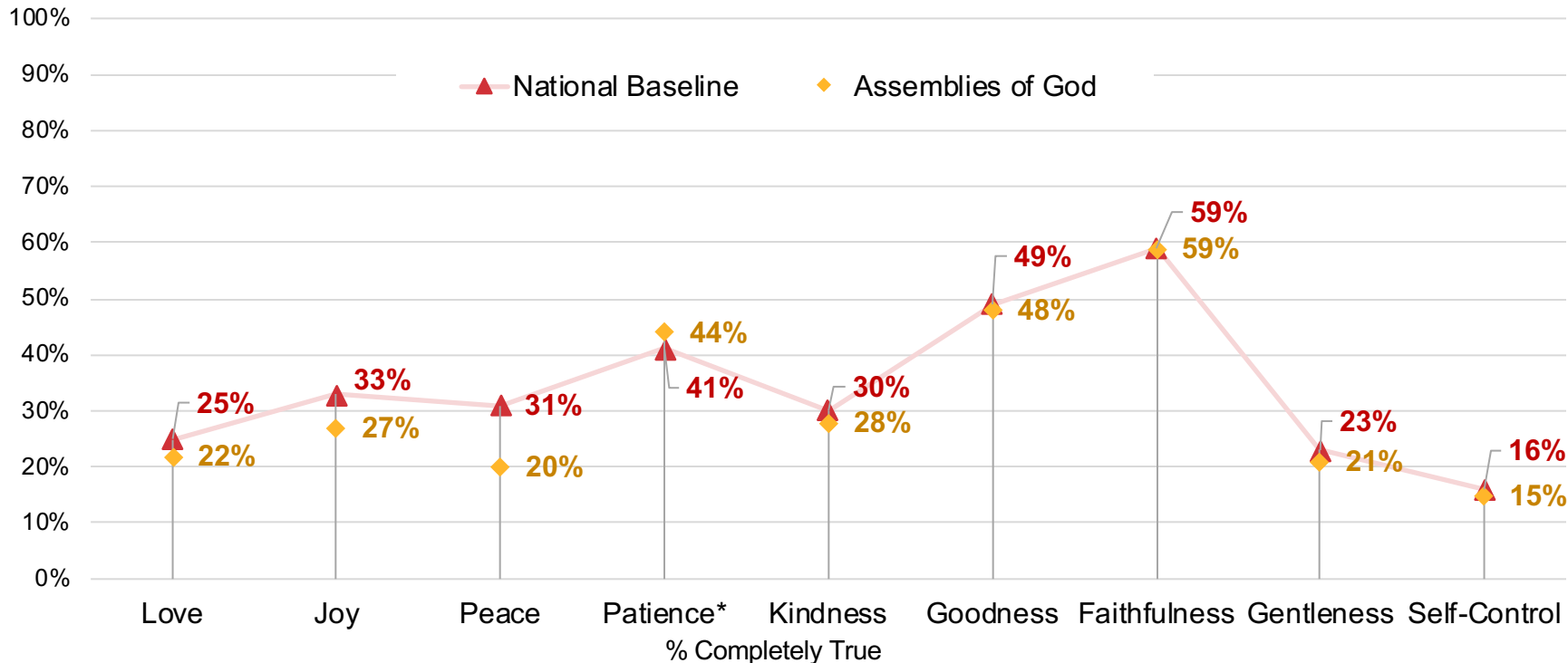
- Low:** Marginally to not at all committed to engage with the Bible practically, emotionally and missionally
- Medium:** Moderately committed to engaging with the Bible practically, emotionally and missionally
- High:** Deeply committed to engaging with the Bible practically, emotionally and missionally



How satisfied are you in your life right now?

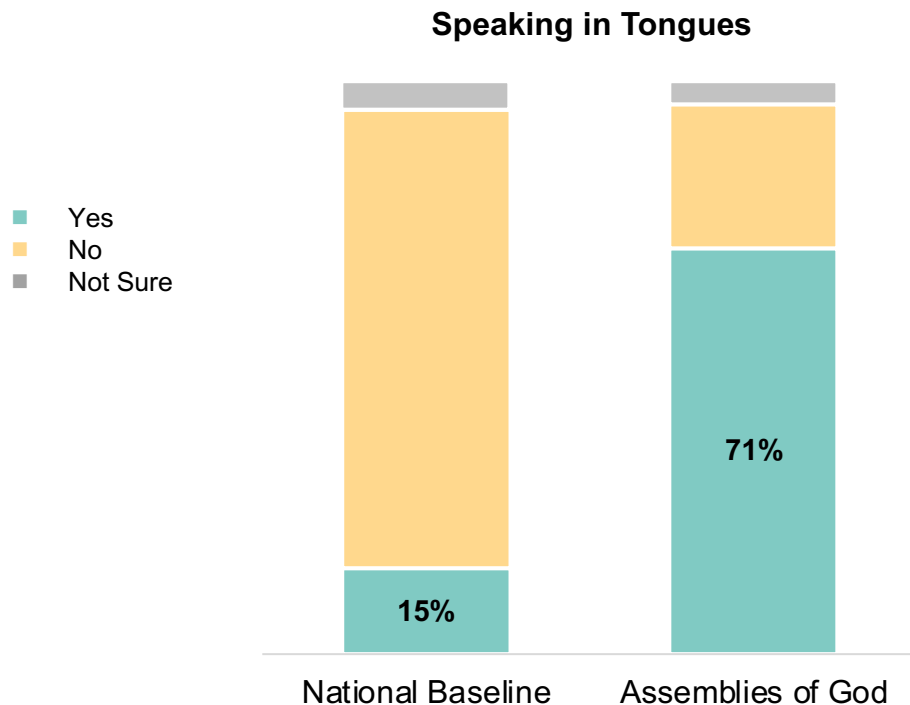


Spirit-filled believers do not experience an increase in life satisfaction or fruit of the Spirit beyond other Christians.

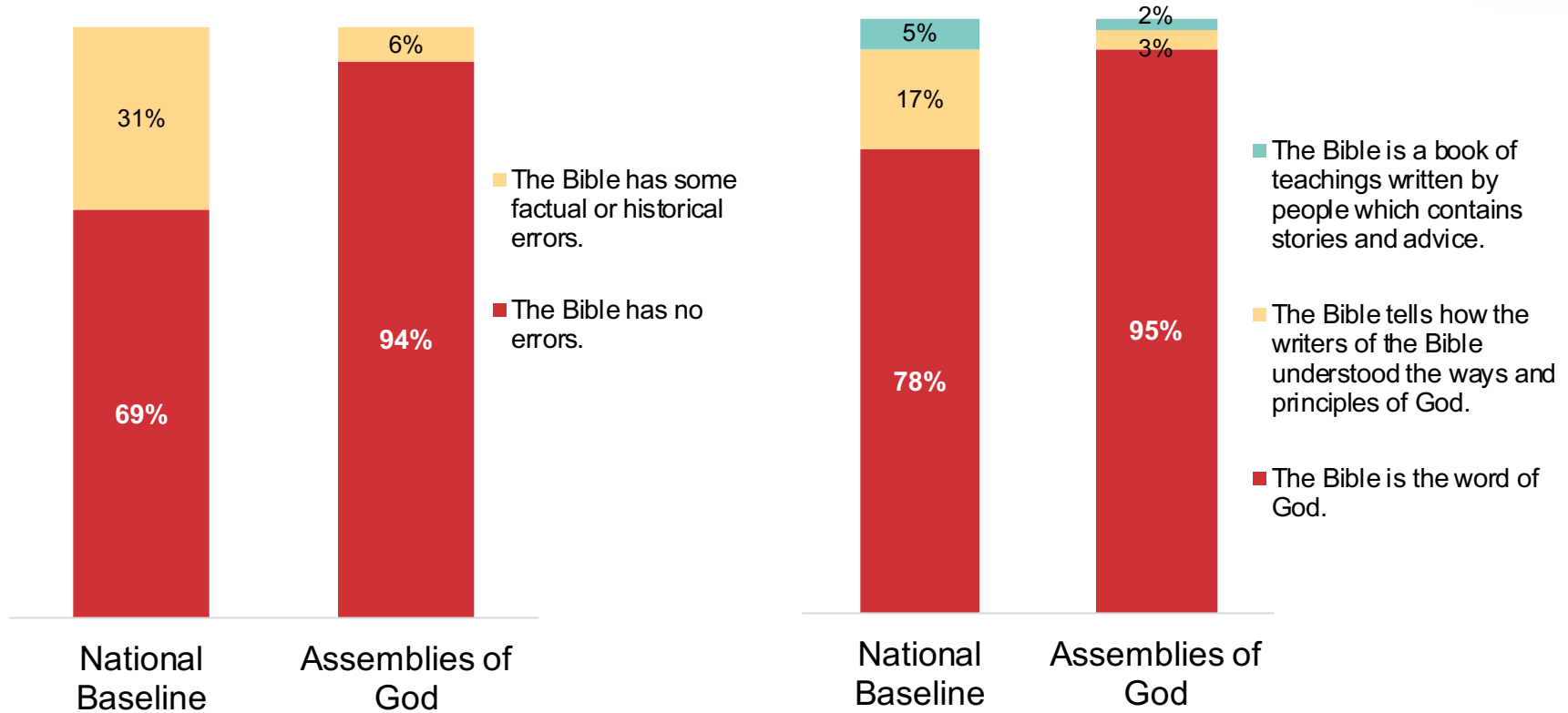


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Speaking in tongues is a differentiator, but does not appear to be a primary driver of Bible engagement.

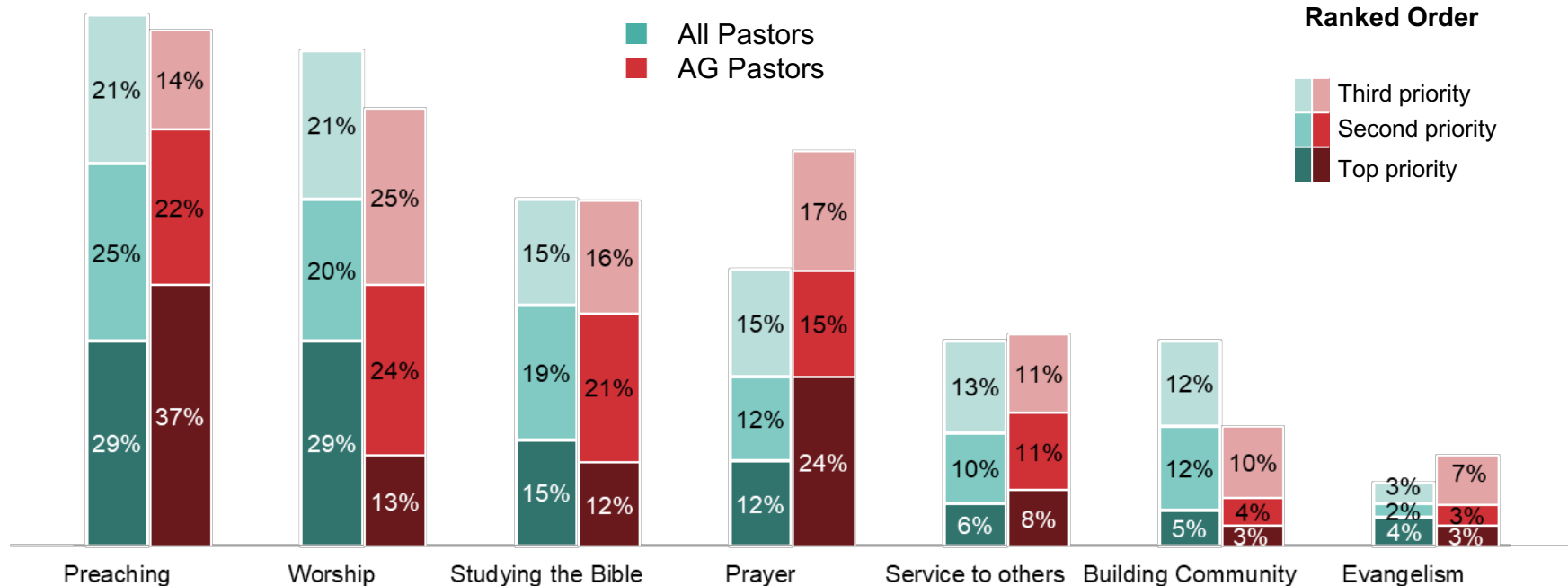


It's not enough to just have a high view of Scripture.

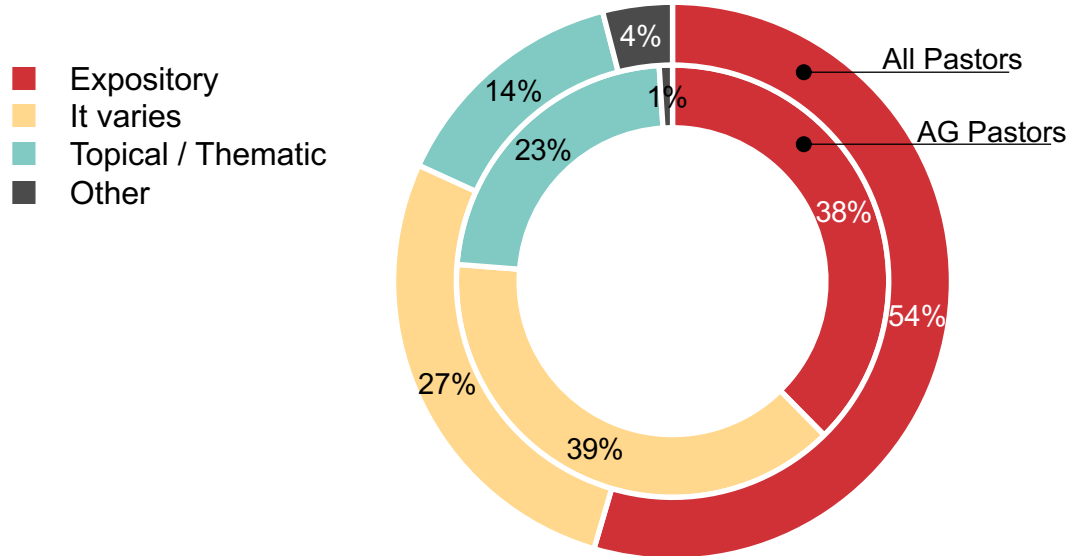


What do pastors think about Bible engagement?

How Pastors Describe Ministry Priorities



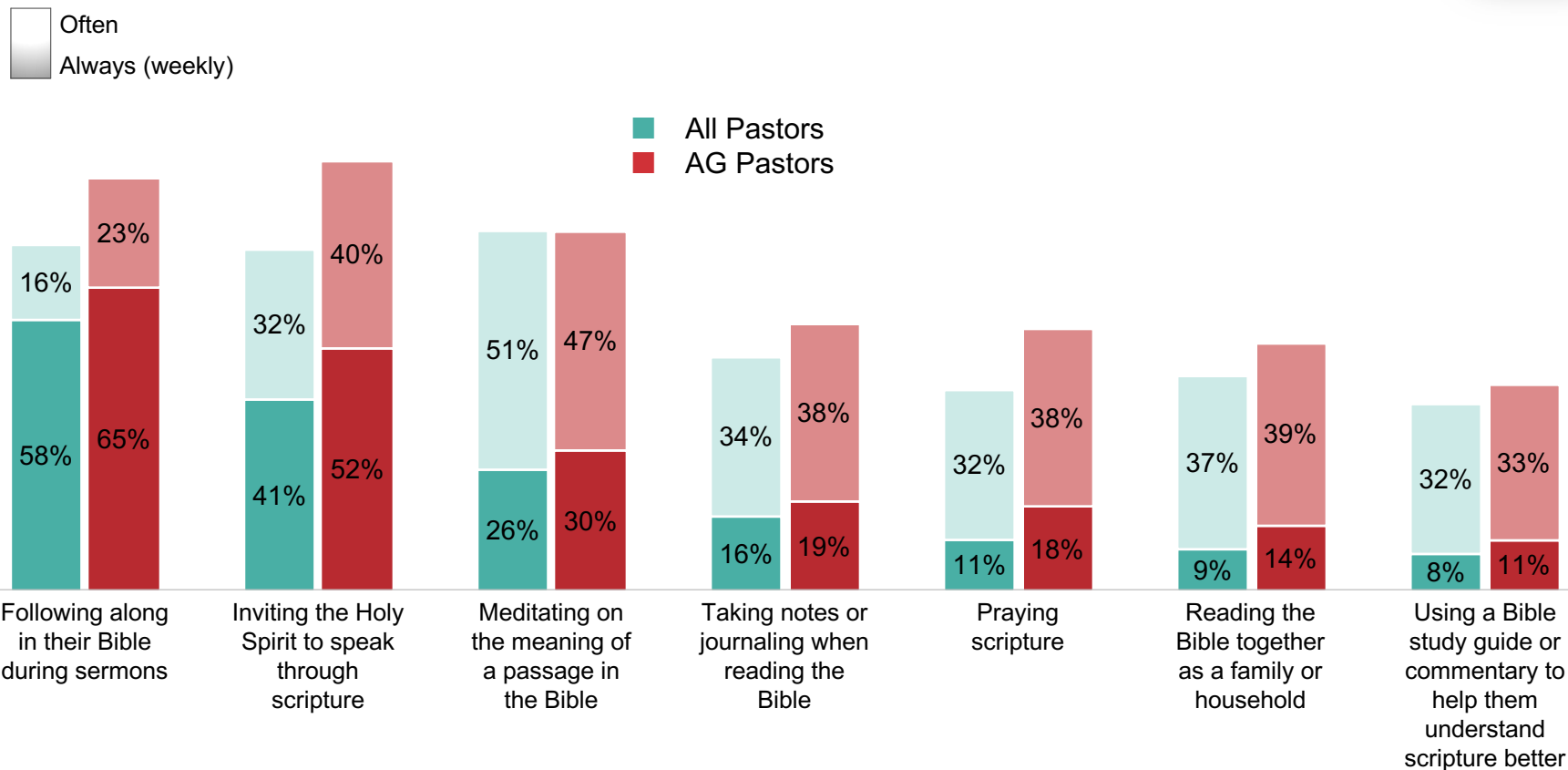
How Pastors Describe their Preaching Approach



Pastors use an average of 4.5 passages of scripture in a sermon.

The number is 7.3 among AG pastors.

AG leaders have a culture of Bible engagement.



It is strategic and urgent to focus on Bible engagement as one of the top priorities in making resilient disciples.



Barna

Knowledge to Navigate a Changing World