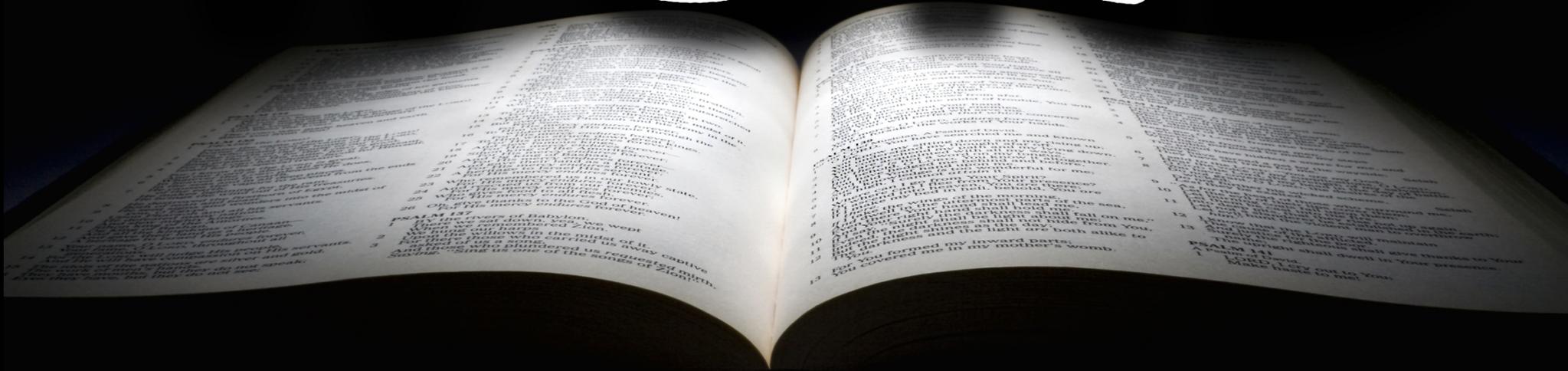


*The FIRST & the last*

# WORD



**EXAMINING THE PURPOSE & POWER OF GOD'S WORD**

## Psalm 119:9-16

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I delight in your decrees; I will  
not neglect your word.



Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research said, “This research asked churchgoers about many biblical characteristics to see which actions, beliefs and desires are present in the lives of followers of Christ... Among them, ***Bible reading was one of the most predictive of spiritual maturity.***”



“Jesus’ prayer for His followers was that they would be sanctified (set apart) by the truth of God’s Word, (John 17:17)” said McConnell.

*“It’s not surprising that the lives of those who spend time reading the Bible look more like Christ.”*



McConnell went on to say,

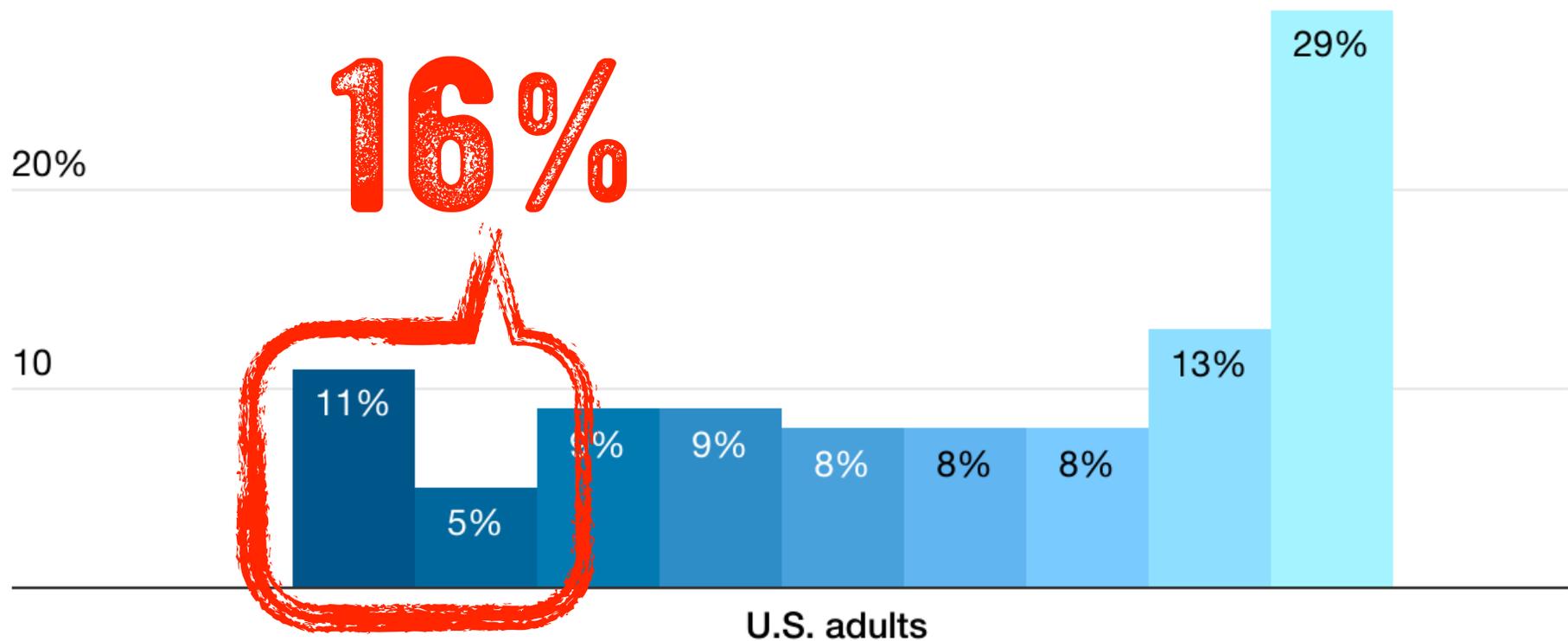
*“Americans treat reading the Bible a little bit like exercise. They know it’s important and helpful but they don’t do it.”*

# BIBLE USE FREQUENCY AMONG U.S. ADULTS—2021

Barna

*How often do you use the Bible on your own?*

- Daily (7 days a week)
- Four+ (4-6) times a week
- Several (2-3) times a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Three or four times a year
- Once or twice a year
- Less than once a year
- Never



# 30 MINUTES PER DAY

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What percentage of people spend 30 minutes or more each day engaging with the following activities?



*Email* 70%



*TV* 59%



*Books* 55%



*Hobbies* 42%



*Podcasts* 32%



*Housework* 55%



*Social* 62%

# 30 MINUTES PER DAY

---

How much could you read spending 30 minutes with your Bible every day?

<i>the Gospel of</i> <b>MARK</b>	<b>3</b> <i>days</i>
<i>the</i> <b>EPISTLES &amp; REVELATION</b>	<b>15</b> <i>days</i>

# 30 MINUTES PER DAY

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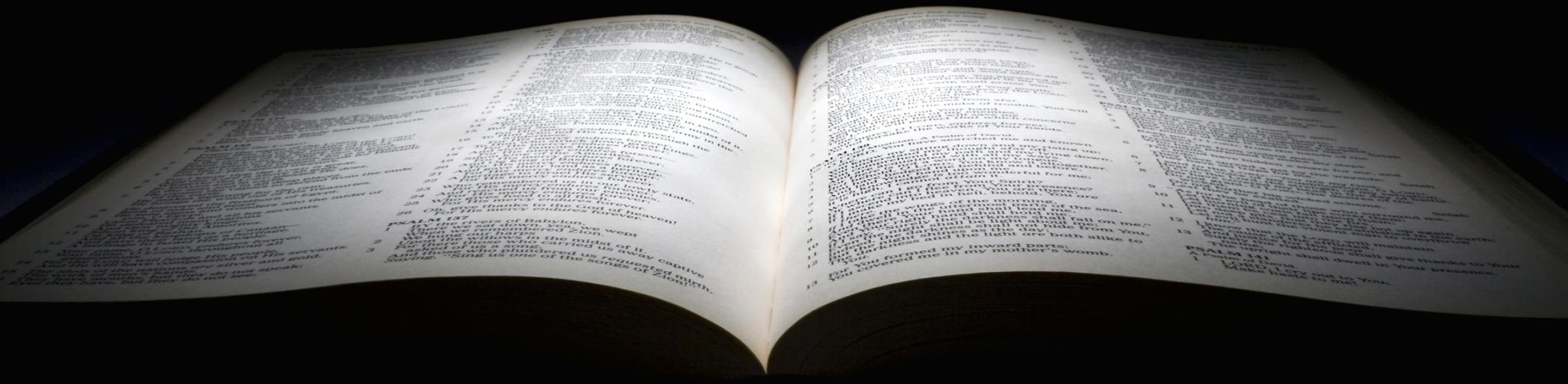
How much could you read spending 30 minutes with your Bible every day?

<i>the</i> NEW TESTAMENT	40 <i>days</i>
<i>the</i> OLD TESTAMENT	120 <i>days</i>
<i>the</i> WHOLE BIBLE	160 <i>days</i>

Any of the 4 books about Jesus' life (the gospels) can be read through in about 2 hours.

That's 24 minutes a day for 5.

John 8:37 “In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth”

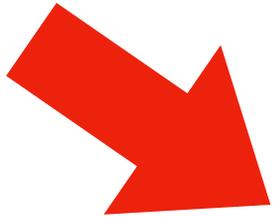


There are about 260 direct quotes or allusions to the Old Testament. *Just in the 4 stories about Jesus life.*

# **Jesus believed the people and places in the Bible were real:**

- **He believed in the PROPHETS  
(Matt. 22:40; 24:15)**
- **He believed in NOAH (Luke 17:26)**
- **He believed in ADAM and EVE (Matt. 19:4)**
- **He believed in SODOM and GOMORRAH  
(Matt. 10:15)**
- **He believed in JONAH (Matt. 12-40)**

**Bible**



*the*

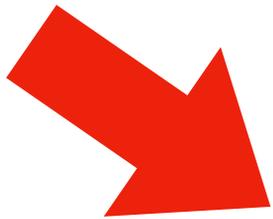
**BIBLE**

**PROJECT**

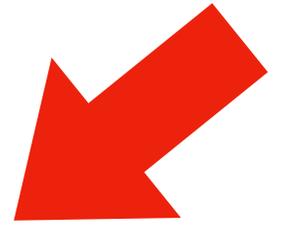
**WATCH THE BIBLE IN A  
YEAR ON OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.SIERRA.CHURCH](http://WWW.SIERRA.CHURCH)**



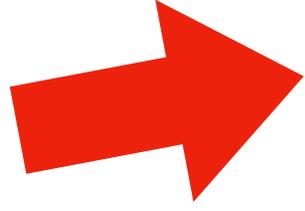
**Bible**



**Share**

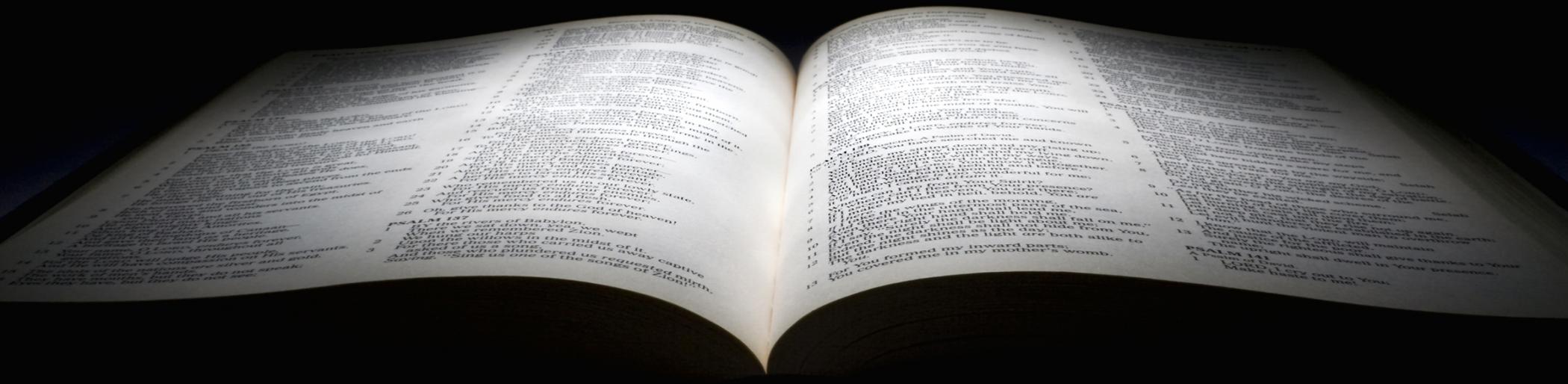


**Prayer**



**Community**

Luke 11:28 “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it!”



# Getting Good Directions

*A good map is an essential part of any successful trip. God has provided excellent directions for the journey of life. It answers the basic questions of life. It tells us who God is, what He has done for us, and how we can follow Him. We ignore the directions (truth) in the Bible at our own peril.*

# 2 What are you filling up on?

*Nobody eats one meal a week believing it's sufficient to get them through the week.*

*Yet some people believe that reading or listening to the what Bible says once a week is enough to get them through the week!*

*Jesus says (quoting Deut. 8:3), "people do not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"*

*(Matthew 4:4). Are you feasting and filling up on the Bible daily?*