

WHERE'S YOUR CHAIR?

Rethinking Scripture Engagement



AMERICAN
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To begin, take a moment or two
and soak in these words:

**“So we are even more confident
of the message proclaimed by the
prophets. You will do well to pay
attention to it, because it is like a
lamp shining in a dark place until
the Day dawns and the light of the
morning star shines in your hearts.”**

— 2 Peter 1.19 (*GNT*)



**As a leader,
you want the
Word of God
to seep into
every word,
every act and
every decision
you and your
people make
today.**

**And the
ultimate goal
for individuals,
communities,
and the whole
world is to be
changed by
the power of
God's Word.**

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, there is a brown leather chair. To the right, a Bible with a red cover lies on a surface. In the background, a decorative hanging with fringed ends is visible against a wall. The lighting is warm and soft.

Yet, this past week:

19% of churchgoers found their chair and engaged Scripture four or more times.

40% found one and got there just once or twice.

41% didn't get there *at all*.

If our churches are full, but the chairs are empty, we're losing ground.

The question we need to ask our attendees is:

“Where’s your chair?...”

When you meet with God, you think about him more throughout the day. His presence lingers after the meeting. Where’s your chair? ”

— *Bill Hybels**

*For a downloadable video clip of Bill Hybels posing this question, go to:
abs.us/billhybels



It's the big question.

And not easy to get a handle on. The Bible seems to be everywhere in our churches — but not where it needs to be.

**We know scripture engaged is
Scripture lived.**

So something has to change.

More of the same won't bring change.



**We believe
Everything in you
wants to see your
people take the
next step of
spiritual growth.**

**Yet the one action that helps
people most on their spiritual
journey is easy to miss.**

It's this simple:

NOTHING helps people
take the next step of faith like
engaging Scripture.*

*For a quick read, go to:
Uncover.AmericanBible.org/Proof



3 Moves You Can Make

1

Rethink





Rethink your assumptions about your attendees.

Sometimes the answers we need as church leaders are found in the hearts of our people — not a book, conference or peer. American Bible Society highly recommends the **REVEAL*** survey to help you get to know where your people are in their spiritual journey and their Bible engagement.

**EngageChurches.com/Reveal*

2

Reset



So, where is **your** chair?

PACE OF THE LEADER, PACE OF THE TEAM.

- >> **Lead where you are.** To help personally reset your Scripture reading and reflection, we have developed *Lead Where You Are** a Bible engagement journey designed especially for leaders. It will help you examine your own Bible engagement practices. It includes a link to sermon outlines for sharing and extending this commitment to others.
- >> **Acts and the Leader's Life.** A personal leadership retreat and reflection written by Rev. Mac Pier. *Acts and the Leader's Life** challenges us to look at our lives through the lens of the Book of Acts in the themes of conversion, calling, reconciliation, courage and celebration.

*[Uncover.AmericanBible.org/Reset](https://uncover.americanbible.org/reset)

3

Re-engage



Strategic Shifts to Consider

Personally:

- Reset the way you handle Scripture in your messages.
- Take away the excuses.
- Model something different.

Strategically—on church-wide level:

- Think pathway not program.
- Intentionally rebuild the value of Scripture engagement.
- Write a Scripture engagement strategy for your church.
- Embed the Bible in everything.
- Create on-ramps for every spiritual stage.
- Get to know your people.

Ask yourself:

“What is the courageous conversation I need to have with my church about Bible engagement?”

Start your plan

>> **RETHINK**

How can you get an accurate reading of your community's level of Bible engagement?

>> **RESET**

What is one thing you can do differently that will deepen your personal engagement with Scripture?

What impact do you think this will have on those you lead?



>> **RE-ENGAGE**

How will you equip your people with the tools and techniques they need to become daily engagers?

How can American Bible Society support you in this effort?

Who we are



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

PROVIDE, RESTORE, ENGAGE

Where people lack access, we **PROVIDE** first Bibles and translations.

Where people are broken by trauma, we **RESTORE** lives through the hope found in Scripture.

Where people are adrift from God's Word, we help them **ENGAGE** it in new ways.



We take seriously what research with more than 1,500 churches and 350,000 people shows us:

“If churches could do only one thing to help people at all levels of spiritual maturity grow in their relationship with Christ, their choice is clear. They would inspire, encourage and equip their people to read the Bible — specifically, to reflect on Scripture for meaning in their lives. The numbers say most churches are missing the mark — because only one out of five congregants reflects on Scripture every day.”

(Excerpted from “Move” by Cally Parkinson and Greg Hawkins)

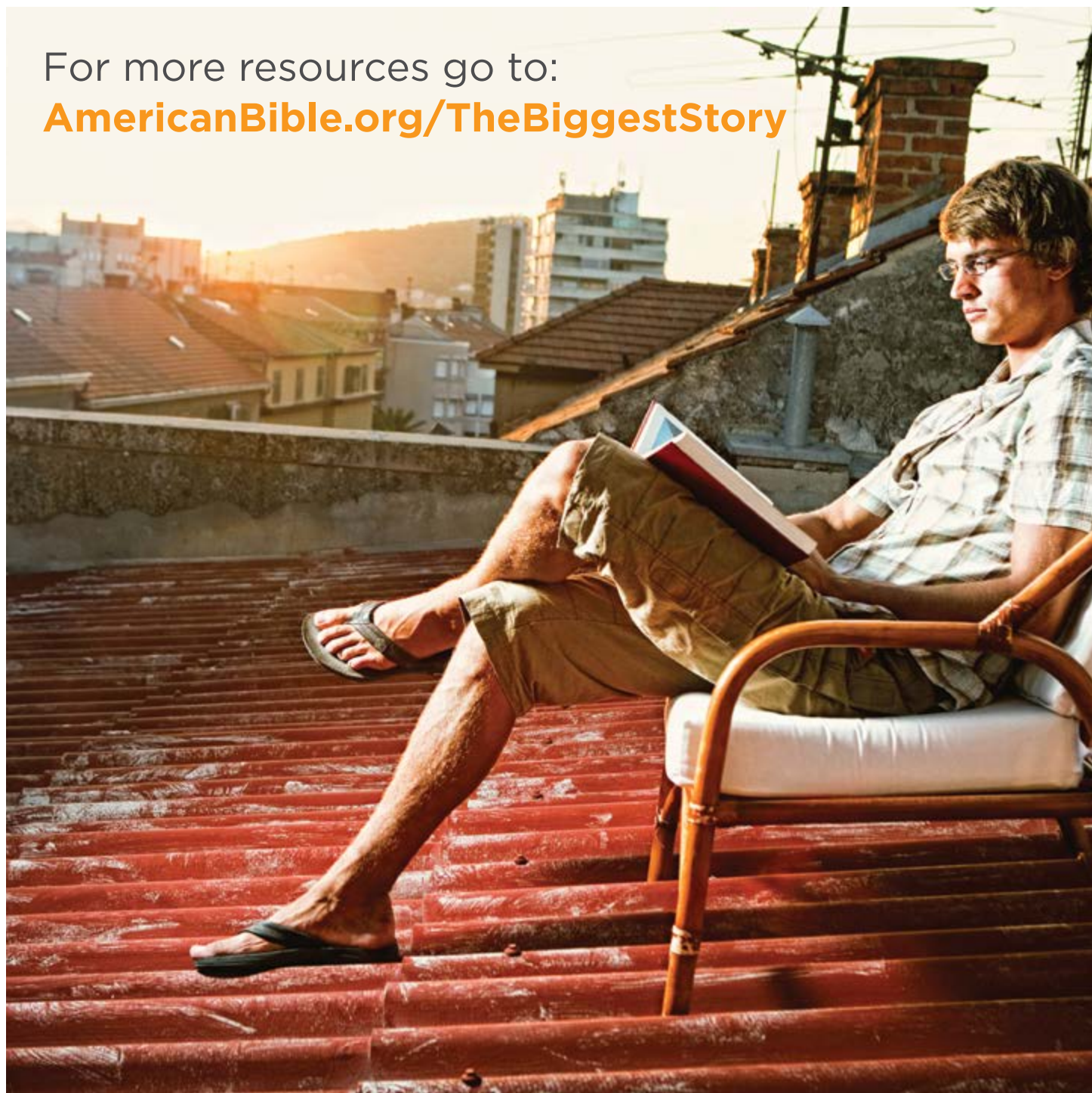
Thought leadership. Fresh pathways.

New provision, models and tools.

This is our partnership’s commitment to you.

For more resources go to:

AmericanBible.org/TheBiggestStory



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**For more resources go to:
UncoverLeaders.com**