WHERE’S YOUR CHAIR?
Rethinking Scripture Engagement
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.
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
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
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.


*Uncover.AmericanBible.org/Reset
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