



21st Century Evangelicals

**A snapshot of the beliefs and habits
of evangelical Christians in the UK**

Time for discipleship?

Summary

We hope you have been able to read our recent report [Time for discipleship?](#) Here you can read a summary of our main findings (also available on pages 4-5 of the report).

Visit www.eauk.org/discipleship to view, download and order paper copies of the report. Here you can also view short video clips of key leaders in the UK Church discussing the findings.

[Discussion questions are also available.](#)

Faith through hard times

- Almost all evangelicals (98%) can see God at work in their lives over the long term and many quotes speak of God's faithfulness (pages 10-11).
- While 83% have experienced a major period of difficulty in their life, God has carried people through, with only 3% saying the crisis has damaged their faith in the long term (page 20).

Quality time with God

- This research shows evidence of 'mobile discipleship', with 60% praying on the move and a third using Bible apps (pages 12 & 17).
- A whopping 90% of evangelicals read the Bible at least several times a week (pages 12-13).
- While only 3% say they struggle to pray at all, less than a third set aside a substantial period each day to pray (page 16).
- A third say they pray in private for between 30 minutes and one hour per week, 32 per cent for one to three hours and 11 per cent for more than three hours (page 16).
- Busyness is making a disciplined spiritual life more difficult. Many admit to being easily distracted when spending time with God (63%) and the biblical character that the most people identify with is busy Martha (see Luke 10: 38-42).

Time with others

- Our findings emphasise that the Christian life cannot be lived alone.
- The vast majority (90%) have found regularly attending church or home groups helpful, and 70% find large Christian gatherings a help in their walk with God (page 21).
- Hearing others' testimonies really inspires people. Younger people in particular find mentoring helpful, and many say their church leaders have been a significant influence (pages 15 & 21).

Times are changing

- There are differences in how each generation approaches their spiritual lives.
- Older Christians report more disciplined and structured prayer lives and longer periods spent in private prayer and Bible study. They also pray more for their families, church and overseas missions (pages 16-18).
- Younger people are more likely to have come to faith before the age of 12 and grown up in a Christian family (page 7). They are also more likely to report regular feelings of despair and anxiety, and to find having a spiritual mentor helpful (pages 20- 21).

Time to share our faith

- Disciples make disciples – or that should be the case. But, as our previous *21st Century Evangelicals* report *Confidently sharing the gospel?* also found, people don't feel confident or equipped to share their faith with others (pages 9 & 11).
- While it's great that so many become Christians before adulthood (page 7), why are so few coming to faith as adults, and what does the Church need to do to address this?

How can the Church respond?

- There are things to celebrate from these findings, including high rates of Bible-reading and the value of spending time with other Christians (pages 12 & 21). But challenges remain:
 - Only 40% feel their church does well at discipling new Christians and most say they do not feel equipped to share their faith and make disciples (page 22).
 - Prayer levels are quite low, and people struggle to concentrate when spending time with God (pages 16-17).
 - There is awareness of the need to personally develop in a number of areas, with 26% saying they often ignore global injustices and 26% admitting they are often self-centred. One in five are aware they are frequently judgemental, and another one in five often feel despair and anxiety (page 20).
- We explore points of encouragement and challenge for churches on page 22 of the report.