Academic Bible Engagement Report
2023
FINDINGS

Bible engagement outside the classroom
Question: Apart from using the Bible in the classroom, I read my Bible … ?

Reasons for Bible engagement
Question: Which of the following have you done in the last 12 months? Please check all that apply.

Methods of Bible engagement
Question: What is the most helpful tool you currently have to study the Bible?
Question: What type of Bible software do you use? If you use multiple, please select the one you use most often.
Question: Do you prefer print or digital Bible study resources (commentaries, Bibles, textbooks, books, etc.)?

Challenges and misconceptions of academia
Question: What types of challenges are you experiencing now that you wish a technology tool could solve for you? Select all that apply.
Question: What types of challenges are you facing as a student? Select all that apply.
Question: What is a common misconception about students? Select all that apply.
About Logos & ABHE

ABOUT LOGOS

Founded in 1992, Logos has grown from a couple of programmers in a basement into the largest developer of Bible study software and a worldwide leader in multilingual electronic publishing. We partner with hundreds of publishers in more than nine languages to make Bible study resources available to customers around the world.

As the world’s premier Bible study platform, the Logos app—our flagship product—is designed to support academic and ministry endeavors through features designed for biblical studies, theology, Greek and Hebrew studies, Bible translation, and more. Logos has worked with over 100 academic institutions around the world to provide students and faculty with reliable, respected digital resources and tools for in-depth study of the Bible.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR BIBLICAL HIGHER EDUCATION

The Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE):

• Comprises a network of more than 150 institutions of biblical higher education
• Enrolls more than 63,000+ students
• Offers undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities via traditional residential, extension, and distance education modalities
• Encompasses campus locations in eight time zones stretching from the Canadian Maritimes to Hawaii, from Alaska to Puerto Rico

Scattered across North America, our member colleges feature diverse histories, ethnicities, and doctrinal/denominational affiliations, indicative of the rich and extraordinary breadth and diversity of higher educational institutions for which Canada and the United States are envied around the world.

Our common commitments, however, mark us more deeply and distinctively than our diversity. We are committed to education that is legitimately postsecondary and academically rigorous, challenging students to develop critical thinking skills and leading them in the formation of a biblically grounded Christian worldview. By many significant measures of postsecondary institutional effectiveness—retention and graduation rates; student loan default rates; learning outcomes; success in post-baccalaureate education; and others—our colleges excel the accomplishments of many, if not most, of their higher educational peers.
Summary

The Bible is the Word of God, but for those in academic studies or professions, it is also a textbook—the textbook, if you will. We at Logos and ABHE wanted to learn how those who study the Bible for academic purposes engage with Scripture outside the classroom and what challenges they face.

In this report, we will share survey responses from over 800 individuals from ABHE institutions. Of 810 respondents,

- **75% (607) are students**
  - 70% of students are in undergraduate programs (43% of which plan to attend seminary/graduate school)
  - 20% of students are in graduate or doctoral programs
- **25% (203) are faculty**
  - A nearly equal number of respondents fall into each of the age brackets:
    - 35–44
    - 45–54
    - 55–64

What follows in this report is a short list of questions broken down between faculty and student responses. In some instances, faculty were presented with slightly different questions than students to better reflect their roles, and we note that where it’s relevant to the results.
Findings

ACADEMIC
BIBLE
ENGAGEMENT
REPORT
Bible engagement outside the classroom

A common assumption is that those who use the Bible in scholarly work engage less frequently with Scripture beyond the classroom. What these responses indicate, however, is an overwhelming majority of professors and students read the Bible at least four times a week (83% of faculty, 67% of students).

**Question:** Apart from using the Bible in the classroom, I read my Bible …?

**FACULTY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7 times a week</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 times a week</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 times a week</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or fewer times</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7 times a week</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 times a week</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 times a week</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or fewer times</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a month</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twice a month</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t read my Bible outside of classroom use</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The biggest difference between student and faculty Bible engagement is in the near-daily category: 20% more faculty members than students read the Bible 6–7 times a week. Fewer than 4% of students and 1% of faculty report reading the Bible less than once a week.
Reasons for Bible engagement

How often faculty and students pick up the Bible outside of class is only one part of the equation. Another essential thing to understand about Bible engagement is why people study Scripture to begin with.

**Question:** Which of the following have you done in the last 12 months? Please check all that apply.

**FACULTY**

- Read the Bible to grow closer to God: 196
- Studied the Bible for personal enrichment: 188
- Led a small group Bible study: 103
- Preached a sermon in a church or online setting: 113
- Written a Bible study for use by others: 54
- Written an academic paper using the Bible: 58
- Taught a seminary or Bible class: 111

**STUDENT**

- Read the Bible to grow closer to God: 568
- Studied the Bible for personal enrichment: 516
- Led a small group Bible study: 234
- Preached a sermon in a church or online setting: 212
- Written a Bible study for use by others: 110
- Completed a Bible college course: 486
- Written an academic paper using the Bible: 463
- Taught a seminary or Bible class: 356
- Read a digital edition of a textbook for a seminary or Bible college class:

For both faculty and students, the top Bible-centric activities were reading to grow closer to God (97% faculty, 94% students) and for personal enrichment (93% faculty, 85% students); 80% of students reported also completing a Bible college course and 59% read a digital edition of a textbook.
Methods of Bible engagement

We saw the greatest divergence between students’ and faculty responses when it comes to the tools students and faculty find most helpful for studying the Bible.

**IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. — JOHN 1:1**

**FACULTY**

Faculty members reported that print books (52%), the Logos Bible study platform (35%), and Google (35%) are their top three tools.

**STUDENT**

Students’ top three tools are Google (52%), YouVersion (50%), and print books (46%).
**Question:** What is the most helpful tool you currently have to study the Bible?

**FACULTY**

I don’t use any tools 1%
YouVersion 13.2%
Wordsearch 2.2%
Print books 26%

**STUDENT**

I don’t use any tools 1.4%
YouVersion 19.7%
Wordsearch 3.3%
Print books 17.9%

Tools:
- Accordance
- BibleWorks
- Blue Letter Bible
- e-Sword
- Google
- Logos Bible Study Platform
To drill down further into Bible apps and software, we asked which software faculty and students use.

**Question:** What type of Bible software do you use? If you use multiple, please select the one you use most often.

**FACULTY**

*Pie charts showing the distribution of Bible software used by faculty.*

**STUDENT**

*Pie charts showing the distribution of Bible software used by students.*

While faculty are more likely to use paid platforms (such as Logos Bible Study Platform), faculty and students alike rely on free Bible reading apps (including YouVersion and Blue Letter Bible).
Both students and faculty rely heavily on a blend of print and digital books, but surprisingly, students—who trend much younger than faculty—expressed a stronger preference for print resources.

**Question:** Do you prefer print or digital Bible study resources (commentaries, Bibles, textbooks, books, etc.)?

- Print (Faculty): 27.6%
- Print (Student): 36.8%
- Digital (Faculty): 18.2%
- Digital (Student): 9.7%
- Both (Faculty): 54.2%
- Both (Student): 52.7%
Challenges and misconceptions of academia

Academia is hard but rewarding work. We asked a few questions to better understand the unique difficulties of faculty and students.

**FACULTY**

**Question:** What types of challenges are you experiencing now that you wish a technology tool could solve for you? Select all that apply.

- Saving time in class preparation
- Saving money with digital books
- Help with original languages

- Saving time in class preparation: 99%
- Saving money with digital books: 61%
- Help with original languages: 58%
Many students reported that time is one of their most significant hurdles. On our question about common misconceptions, “students have a lot of time” (57%) was the second highest response, while “balancing school with family and ministry” (65%) and “finding time to study” (56%) were the top two responses on students’ challenges.

**STUDENTS**

**Question:** What types of challenges are you facing as a student? Select all that apply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finding time to study</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balancing school with family and ministry</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having money for school and books</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with citation and bibliographies</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenges with original languages</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENTS

Question: What is a common misconception about students? Select all that apply.

- If you are in school studying the Bible, you have it all figured out. 376
- Studying the Bible for class is the same as having devotional time. 344
- School will provide you with everything you need for doing ministry. 329
- Students have a lot of time. 346
- Students know Greek and Hebrew. 227
- Students must have access to a large print library in order to do in depth Bible studies. 148
Conclusion

Perhaps the most important conclusion to draw from these data sets is that academics—on both sides of the lectern—are deeply committed to the Bible, not limiting its use to the classroom. God's Word is, first and foremost, faculty and students' way to know God better and experience his work in their lives.

The Logos and ABHE partnership reflects our mutual commitment to equipping current and future generations of Christian academics for study of the Word and the good of God's people.

Logos Academic Solutions provides biblical studies and theology resources through textbook delivery, custom libraries curated specifically for your school, and research libraries. Books and study resources are delivered through the powerful Logos Bible Study Platform, providing powerful search capabilities, automatic citations, digital note taking, and much more.

See how Logos can increase biblical engagement at your institution: www.logos.com/academic-solutions

The Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) supports Bible colleges and seminaries by offering accreditation for academically rigorous, Bible-focused programs.

Learn more about the ABHE and its programs: https://www.abhe.org/