

What Helps Disciples Grow?

These tables are aggregated from 1191 responses from people who completed the questionnaire with reasonable thoroughness. 134 questionnaires had been discounted for incompleteness.

Results are presented in the order in which the questions arise in the questionnaire.

57% of respondents identified as female, 37% as male. 1% preferred not to say; and 5% did not give an answer.

1.1 I think that...	All agree %	Male %	Female %
God calls everyone to a particular place, role or task	80	77	81
God's call is largely the same for everyone	26	27	24

1.2 I believe that...	All agree %	Male %	Agree %
I have a particular calling	62	66	60
I don't know what my calling is	30	32	30
I am resisting or ignoring my calling	6	8	4
I am more or less on the journey God wants me to be on	56	58	56

2.1 Looking back at my life, I would say...	All agree %	Male %	Female %
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During my life, I've seen obvious periods of growth	93	93	93
There have been periods of life when I have not grown in faith	83	82	85
at some times I have been stuck spiritually	81	79	83
at times I have turned away from my faith	39	42	38
I have grown in faith through times of loss, difficulty or trial	78	73	82
new experiences in my life led to times of growth in my faith	81	80	82
it has been hard to keep my faith, when circumstances changed	38	34	40

2.2 My Christian Journey has been hampered by...	All agree %	Male %	Female %
The commitments of daily life	59	61	59
The beliefs and attitudes of people close to me	34	28	38
Having no-one to share my journey with	24	19	26
Lack of opportunity to learn or grow	20	18	21
My own bad habits and laziness	74	77	74
Fear of making a greater commitment	45	45	45
Fear that Christianity is not true or makes no sense	17	17	17
Understanding my faith differently from those around me	31	30	32
The quality of my church worship/community	22	21	22
The words of the creed or other articles of faith	12	11	12
Something else: specify	10	10	10

2.3 In the course of my life, I have been helped
in my journey of faith by...

	All agree %	Male %	Female %
Attending church/worship regularly	94	92	95
Listening to sermons	88	86	89
Music in church worship	86	81	90
Liturgy in church worship	62	59	64
Participating in Communion/Eucharist/mass/ Lord's supper	83	81	84
Another aspect of worship (specify)	23	22	24
A familiar pattern of worship	63	63	63
Seasons and shape of the year	65	61	66
Being part of a small group/bible study group/similar	67	66	70
Being part of my church's social life/fellowship	81	84	82
Taking part in my church's outreach	47	49	46
A Christian course offered by a local church	49	50	48
Leading others (in worship, Sunday schools, small group, prayer etc.)	53	53	54
other practical service to my church (specify)	33	35	33
praying by myself	87	84	88
reading/studying the bible by myself	73	72	73
a Spiritual director, mentor, soul friend or prayer guide	54	48	60
listening to Christian music on tape, cd, video, radio, TV, internet etc.	60	54	64
Listening to Christian teaching, discussion or talks on tape, cd, video, radio, TV, internet etc.	51	48	53
Reading Christian/spiritual/theological books	66	64	67
Going on retreat	38	36	40
Taking part in on-line discussion or conversations	14	14	13
Christian conferences, festivals, events or pilgrimages	63	62	64
Taking part in social justice/campaigning activity beyond my church	30	33	30
Taking part in practical Christian service or mission project not connected with my church	39	40	38
Christian education provided by a college, university or denomination	32	32	31
my closest friendships or relationships	83	84	84
a particular person e.g. missionary, teacher	55	58	55

2.3 (continued) In the course of my life, I have
been helped in my journey of faith by...

	All agree %	Male %	Female %
Experiencing different churches/Christian spiritualities	59	57	61
Trying to put my faith into practice in daily life	87	83	91
Conversations with people whose faiths/beliefs are different from mine	64	62	66
Hobbies, leisure or cultural activities not connected with church	54	51	57
A direct call or experience I believe was from God	56	55	56
Other (specify)	5	7	4

2.4 Thinking about my Christian growth, I would say...

	All agree %	Male %	Female %
my current growth as a Christian is independent of the church I attend	38	37	38

2.5 I would say that my Christian growth is...

	All agree %	Male %	Female %
the responsibility of the church I attend	37	41	34
my own responsibility	95	95	95

3.1 The church I attend is good at helping people to...	All agree %	Male %	Female %
pray deeply in a range of different ways	63	63	63
understand how to see the world and our times as God see them	78	76	80
worship in mind, body and spirit	77	75	79
explore and understand the bible	81	79	83
put faith into practice in daily life	86	85	88
nurture and care for each other in the church community	90	89	92
speak about faith or personal journeys	67	66	68

3.2 I feel I am good at...	All agree %	Male %	Female %
praying deeply in a range of different ways	37	34	38
understanding how to see the world and our time as God sees them	50	54	47
worshipping in mind Body and spirit	55	52	56
exploring and understand the bible	51	55	49
putting faith into practice in daily life	68	65	71
nurturing and caring for others in the church community	71	66	75
speaking about my faith or personal journey	44	45	45

4.1 I feel most alive as a Christian when I ...	% all	% male	% female
show someone God's love in a practical way	40	33	46
gain new understanding of the Bible and its teaching	14	19	11
sense God at work in the world beyond my church	23	25	23
experience the power of the Holy Spirit moving within me	19	19	19
feel God helping me to become more Christ like in my thoughts, words and actions	23	24	23
feel close to God in prayer, meditation or silence	26	27	27
experience God through those around me, in fellowship, conversation or activity	36	39	36

4.2 I felt a church community I have belonged to was most 'alive' when we were	% all	% male	% female
helping people celebrate all that is good in creation and human life	26	27	26
sharing the Gospel with people who are not Christians	15	16	14
experiencing the power of the Spirit in worship, signs or Spiritual gifts	20	21	21
seeking God and deepening our experience of prayer together	18	18	19
giving practical help or support to those in need in our community/wider world	47	44	51
growing closer together in our shared life as a fellowship	31	33	30
helping each other live more like Christ in our thought speech and action	26	29	26

* For questions 4.1 and 4.2, respondents were asked to select two out of seven responses that they felt most applied to them. Responses selecting up to three preferences were retained. Where respondents selected more than three preferences, their response to the question was discounted.

5.3 Approximately how far do you live from your church?	% all	% male	% female
under 1 mile	41	41	43
1-2 miles	31	31	33
2-5 miles	17	19	16
Over 5 miles	8	9	7

5.4 How long have you attended the church you currently go to?	% all	% male	% female
less than 1 year	4.1	5	4
1-5 years	19.8	16	18
6-9 years	8.2	13	11
10-19 years	21.4	24	20
20-29 years	16.6	15	19
30-39 years	12.4	11	13
40-49 years	7.6	7	8
50-59 years	3.1	3	3
60 years or more	2.1	3	2
No answer	4.5	2	2

5.5 How long would you say you have been a Christian?	% all	% male	% female
less than 1 year	0.4	1	0
1-5 years	3.0	2	2
6-9 years	2.4	5	2
10-19 years	9.6	11	10
20-29 years	8.8	10	9
30-39 years	13.4	14	14
40-49 years	13.0	14	13
50-59 years	14.2	12	16
60 years or more	27.7	28	29
No answer	6.4	2	4
Unsure	0.8	1	0

5.6 If you have a formal position or authority within the church, what is it?	% all	% male	% female
None or not applicable	37		
No Answer	27		
Written response given (e.g. vicar, elder, children's work, choir, steward)	36	40	35

* Question 5.6 was an open text questions. We accepted every written response, other than 'none', 'n/a', etc, as a sign that the individual felt they took some formal responsibility or commitment within their church.

5.7 Are you?	%
Male	37
Female	57
Prefer not to say	1
No answer	5

5.7 What age group are you?	% all	% male	% female
Up 20	5	7	5
21-30	6	7	6
31-40	9	9	9
41-50	10	11	11
51-60	19	17	22
61-70	22	23	23
71-80	18	18	18
81+	7	8	6
Prefer not to say	1		
No answer	4		

5.9 How would you describe your ethnic origin?	% all	% male	% female
Black African	2	2	2
Black Caribbean	3	4	2
Mixed Heritage	1	1	1
White UK	81	85	84
White Irish	1	1	2
White Other	3	2	3
South Asian	1	1	0
East Asian	2	2	2
Other	1	1	2
Not revealed	5		

5.10 Do you have...	% all	% male	% female
A degree } but not	43	46	44
A Theological Qualification } both	3	3	2
Both a degree and a theological qualification	7	9	6
Neither	47	42	47