



2024  
Spiritual Assessment Survey Report



# Faith & Fruit

## **SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT SURVEY**

Inside you'll find a Spiritual Assessment Survey everyone within Grace Gathering was asked to complete. While attendance, finances, and programs are the typical measurements of success for the western church, Jesus modeled and taught a different way.

We want to measure success in terms of Faithfulness and Fruitfulness as we become more like Jesus in character and spiritual influence of others. Jesus taught us to do this more and more in community with others.



# analysis & observations.



## Introductory Comments

Ours is a cultural moment in which everything is available to us on-demand—from our Starbucks order to our favorite television show, almost everything we want is quickly, if not instantaneously, available.

Because of this, we run the risk of forgetting the power of the slow, steady, and incremental—what Eugene Peterson calls 'a long obedience in the same direction.'

Since 2018, we have used an annual spiritual self-assessment as a way to measure our long obedience, because we know that statistics like numerical growth and financial giving are not the primary metrics for church health and success.

They are, however, secondary indicators that are helpful to know—and this is what we've seen this year.

Overall, attendance grew by 7% across all sites. Across all sites, financial giving dropped by 3%. While we don't have exact numbers, our Grace Gathering Haiti church plant grew around 20%.

If you take a bird's eye view of these spiritual assessments, we see the power of the slow, steady, and incremental.

In this year's survey, there wasn't a dramatic increase in any specific area—but in every area, there was growth: more prayer, more heartfelt response to the Lord's voice, more discipleship, more life shared in community.

At Grace Gathering, we've been on this very journey for a long time, with an eye to giving everyone in greater Fort Wayne multiple opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the Good News of Jesus.

## Areas of Strength & Breakthrough

### PRAYING FOR HEALING

Our spiritual family reports more prayer for healing—in-person and out loud—than in the previous two years. This is an important way that we demonstrate that the Kingdom of God truly is among us and that Jesus is our healer. As our society becomes more secular, it becomes increasingly open to the miraculous and the inexplicable. Signs and wonders were given to the early church, and to us, to break through spiritual confusion to point to the reality of Jesus' power and lordship.

This increase speaks to our spiritual family consistently taking bold steps of faith. It can feel tricky to ask a family member, much less a stranger or acquaintance, if you can pray for them on the spot. This kind of risk is vital to following Jesus, who calls us to step out of the boat and out of our comfort zone. Our spiritual family reports more prayer for healing—in-person and out loud—than in the previous two years. This is an important way that we demonstrate that the Kingdom of God truly is among us and that Jesus is our healer. As our society becomes more secular, it becomes increasingly open to the miraculous and the inexplicable. Signs and wonders were given to the early church, and to us, to break through spiritual confusion to point to the reality of Jesus' power and lordship.

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### SENSITIVITY TOWARD SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Sometimes we find ourselves in a conversation with a non-believing friend, family member, or co-worker and realize after the fact that there was some spiritual openness in that individual that we just didn't see in the moment.

As a spiritual family, we saw growth in our sensitivity to respond in the moment, which was encouraging. We see Jesus making the most of every opportunity, grabbing onto even the slightest spiritual openness in a person so He could proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom to them. It's encouraging to see us growing in this area as we seek to proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

Even in this area we see an opportunity for breakthrough; Grace Gathering is blessed to have multiple generations living and leading together and younger generations desperately need the input of more seasoned believers along the way.

## Opportunities for Growth

### **ENGAGING YOUNGER GENERATIONS**

At the start of this calendar year, we called all of Grace Gathering into an intentional focus on younger generations, with a specific focus on Gen Z. We measured our congregation's interaction with younger generations. The Great Commission is new with every generation—put a different way, every church is one generation away from extinction. Therefore, one of the most important things any of us can do is invest in the younger generations. The Scriptures call us a spiritual family, so every generation can put their hand to the plow of seeing the next generation flourish just as they do in biological families.

While there are encouraging signs of engagement with younger generations, there is still plenty of room for us to grow—whether in generosity toward younger generations, or in extending hospitality toward them.

### **CARING FOR SEASONED CHRISTIANS**

While we have called our church to a focus on younger generations, we want to see every generation thrive in their discipleship to Jesus. It can be easy to forget some generations while we intentionally focus on another. Slowly but surely, our annual assessments point that our church is growing young and growing not-so-young at the same time.

Paul tells Timothy to entreat older men and older women in the faith as fathers and mothers; an area of growth for us to is be mindful of the ways we are growing older and how that necessitates intentionality in how we care for and include every generation in our life together at Grace Gathering.

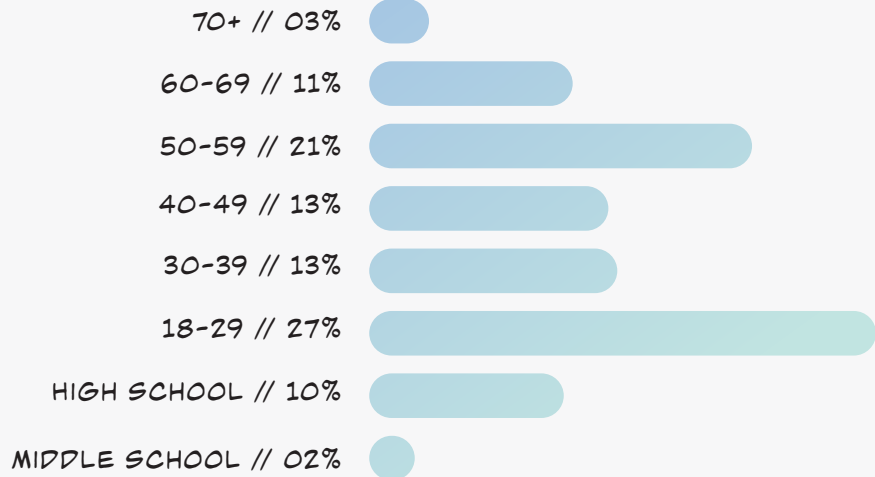
# Who We Are

## Which site are you a part of?

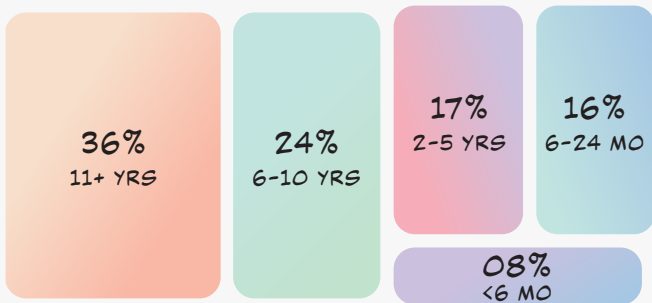


- EAST // 56%
- NEW GRACE // 27%
- NORTH // 17%

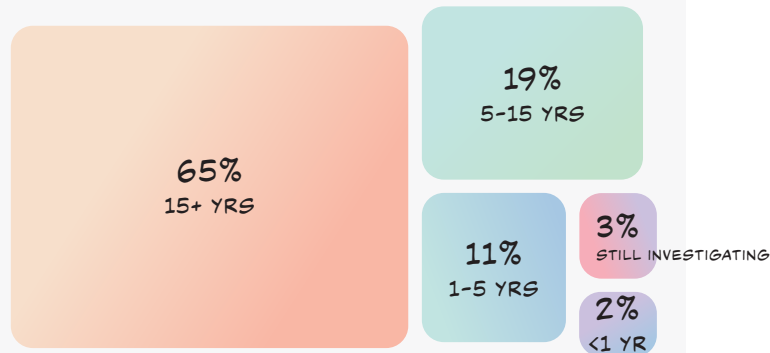
## What is your age?



## How long have you been part of Grace Gathering?



## How long have you been a follower of Jesus?



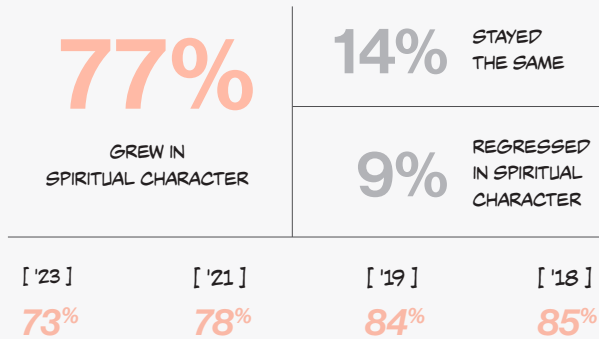
# Are We Growing?



One of the primary ways we want to measure growth in Grace Gathering is by tracking how people grow in specific areas of discipleship. We asked everyone to share if they felt like they had grown, regressed, or stayed the same in the past year.

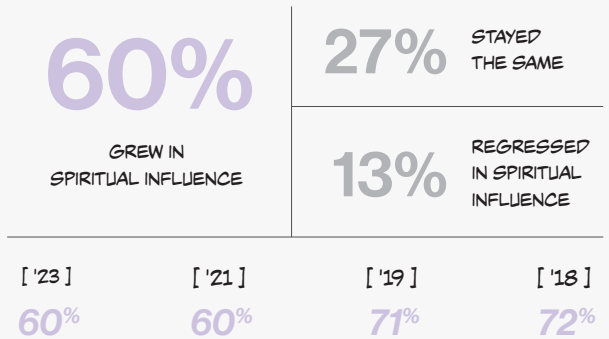
## Spiritual Character

Over the last 12 months, do you feel you have grown in your spiritual character (e.g. fruit of the Spirit, loving enemies, devotional life, giving, purity, prayer, humility, compassion etc.)?



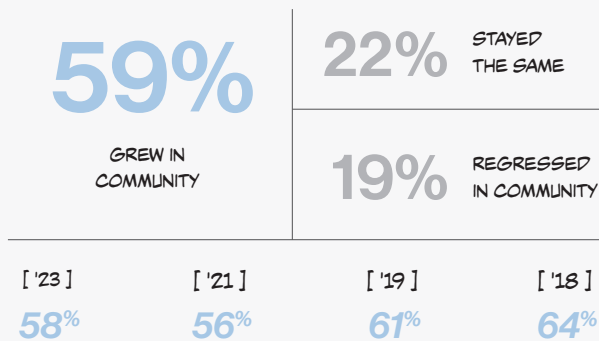
## Spiritual Influence / Leadership

Over the last 12 months, do you feel you have grown in your spiritual influence of others (spiritual gifts, sharing the gospel, discipling, praying for others, healing the sick, blessing the least, lost, and last, etc.)?



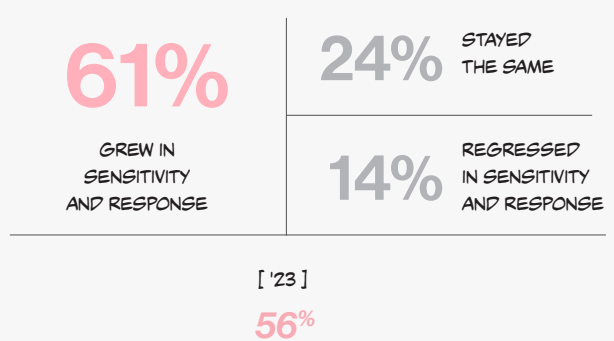
## Sharing Life

Over the last 12 months, do you feel your walk with God and fulfillment of mission are being pursued more in community with others? In other words, do you feel you are sharing life with other believers consistently, where it feels like family?

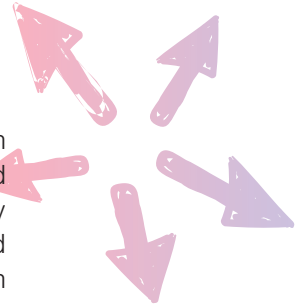


## Spiritual Conversation

As I interact with my neighbors / coworkers / classmates, I am sensitive and responsive to opportunities to move towards a spiritual conversation that could lead to the gospel.



# discipleship culture.



Most statistics tell us that 20% of church attenders do 80% of the ministry. While serving in the church within various programs is helpful, the reality is that less than half of church ministry is directly engaged in intentionally discipling people in both the character and skill of Jesus. This means that statistically in the U.S. less than 10% of church goers are either intentionally discipling others or being disciplined themselves. Churches that have a plan for discipleship and are seeing more than 10% of their people in these relationships are leading the way out of this discipleship crisis in the western church.

## Discipling You

Do you have someone who is intentionally discipling you on a regular basis and helping you grow in your spiritual character and leadership?



['23]	['21]	['19]	['18]
47%	53%	49%	54%

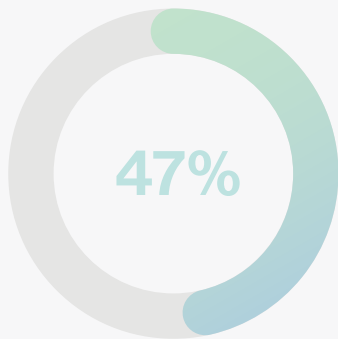
## Discipling Others

Do you have someone who you are intentionally discipling on a regular basis to help them grow in their spiritual character and leadership?



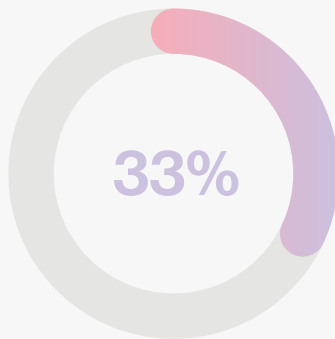
['23]	['21]	['19]	['18]
50%	52%	47%	55%

## Are you engaged in the Scattered Church?



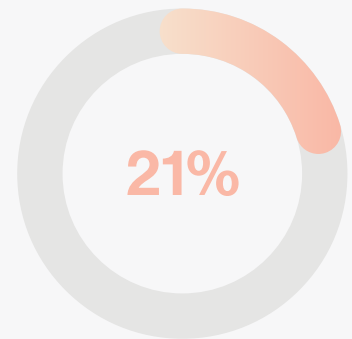
I'M IN A GROUP, CLASS, OR MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

['23]	50%
['21]	49%
['19]	21%
['18]	34%



I'M CLOSE WITH OTHERS IN OUR CHURCH, BUT NOTHING FORMAL

['23]	27%
['21]	30%
['19]	18%
['18]	14%



I'M NOT INVOLVED OUTSIDE OF SUNDAY GATHERINGS

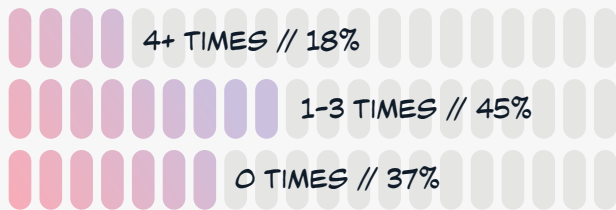
['23]	33%
['21]	21%
['19]	60%
['18]	52%

# Churchwide Journeys of Faith

Every 18 months or so, we sense God calling us to grow in a specific area of walking with Jesus. It could be sharing our faith, becoming more expressive as worshippers, praying for healing, growing in hunger for God, or other areas. Whatever the call, we want to respond in obedience and faith as we all become more mature followers of Jesus.

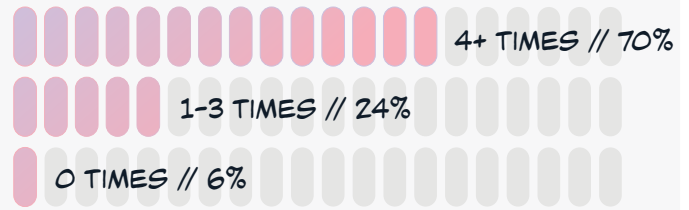
## Sharing the Gospel

How many times in the last year have you shared the gospel with someone and encouraged them to surrender their life to Jesus in faith?



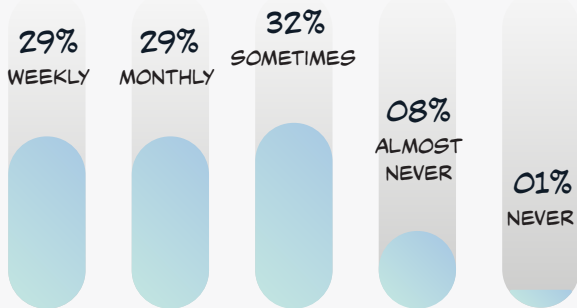
## Praying for Healing

How many times in the last year have you prayed for someone (in-person and out loud) for God to bring physical, emotional, or relational healing?



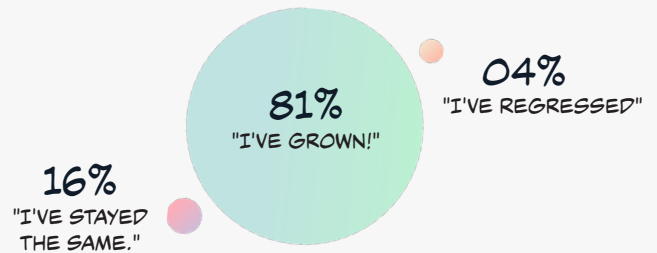
## Asking for Prayer

In the last year, how often have you demonstrated your trust in God through prayer by asking others for prayer?



## Pursuing Unity

I believe that pursuing unity with other Churches and Christians is key to who we should be as a church, and I'm prepared to participate as opportunities arise.



## Younger Generation

Over the last year, I have engaged with the younger generation in the following ways:

- 38% I HAVE INTENTIONALLY PRAYED FOR YOUNGER GENERATIONS TO COME TO FAITH
- 18% I HAVE ACTIVELY PURSUED RELATIONSHIP (EX: HAD COFFEE, HAD A MEAL) WITH SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME.
- 17% I HAVE INTENTIONALLY INVESTED IN OR MENTORED SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN ME.
- 16% I HAVE SERVED IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OR YOUTH MINISTRY AT THE SITE I ATTEND.
- 12% I HAVE GIVEN FINANCIALLY (YOUTH RETREATS, SUMMER CAMPS, ETC), HOSTED TEENS IN MY HOME, OR PROVIDED SNACKS FOR YOUTH EVENTS.



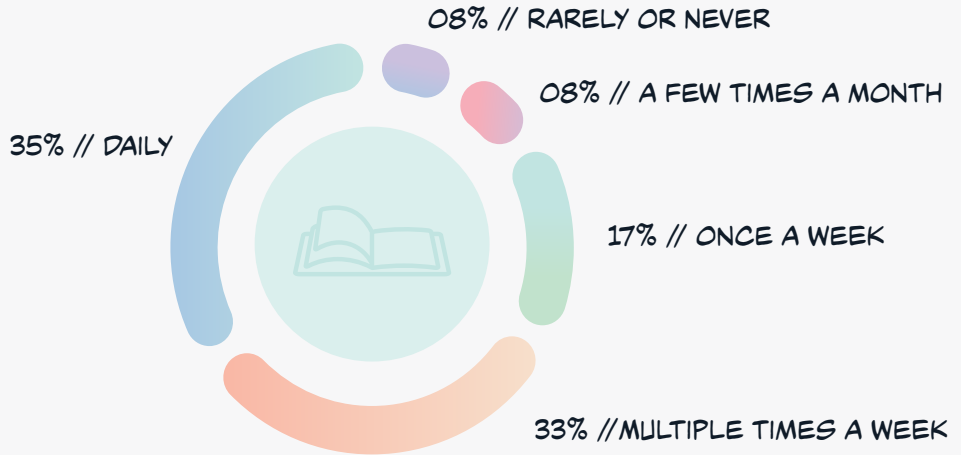
# Word & Spirit



Part of our call as children of God is recognizing, hearing, and responding to His voice. Scripture serves as a base to knowing the character of God, who, by His spirit, invites us to participate in the greater story. When we spend time with Jesus in his word, we grow in our sensitivity to His voice and learn to live like Him.

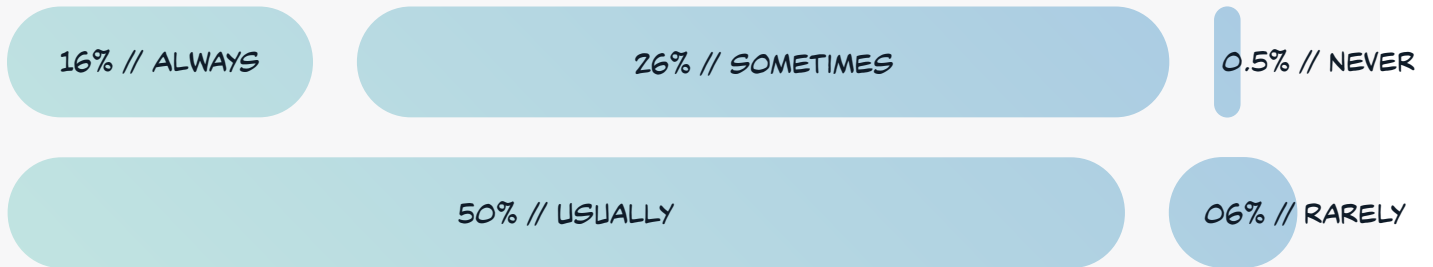
## Bible Reading

How often do you read or listen to the Bible personally?



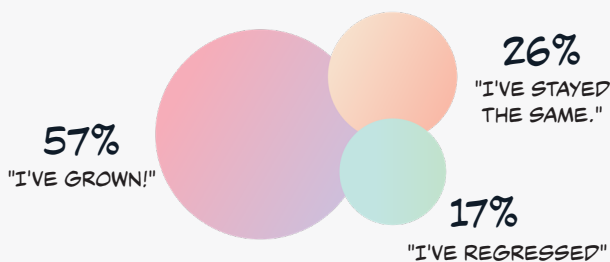
## Hearing & Responding

In the various ways I interact with God, my default response is to ask "What is God saying?" & "What am I going to do about it?"



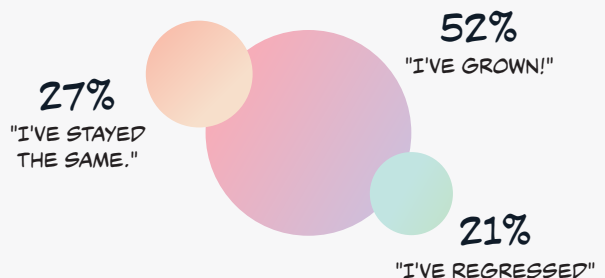
## Tithing

In the past 12 months, I've grown in my obedience and trust in giving God the first portion of my income as a tangible way of expressing that I believe he will meet all of my needs with the income I have left over (biblically called a "tithe").



## Generosity

In the past 12 months, I've grown in following the promptings of God to give financially to projects or people in need, above my regular giving, as an expression of generosity (biblically called "free will giving").



# Faith & Fruit

**In partnership with other churches, we want to see everyone in Greater Fort Wayne have many opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel.**

**We want to grow a vibrant relationship with God, experience a loving community, and help change the lives of others.**

