

DISCIPLESHIP IS

RELATIONSHIP



EVERY NATION
CHURCH • PENANG

“ We are **born** into **relationships**, we **live** our lives in **relationships** with others, and when we **die**, the effects of our **relationships** survive in the lives of the living. ”

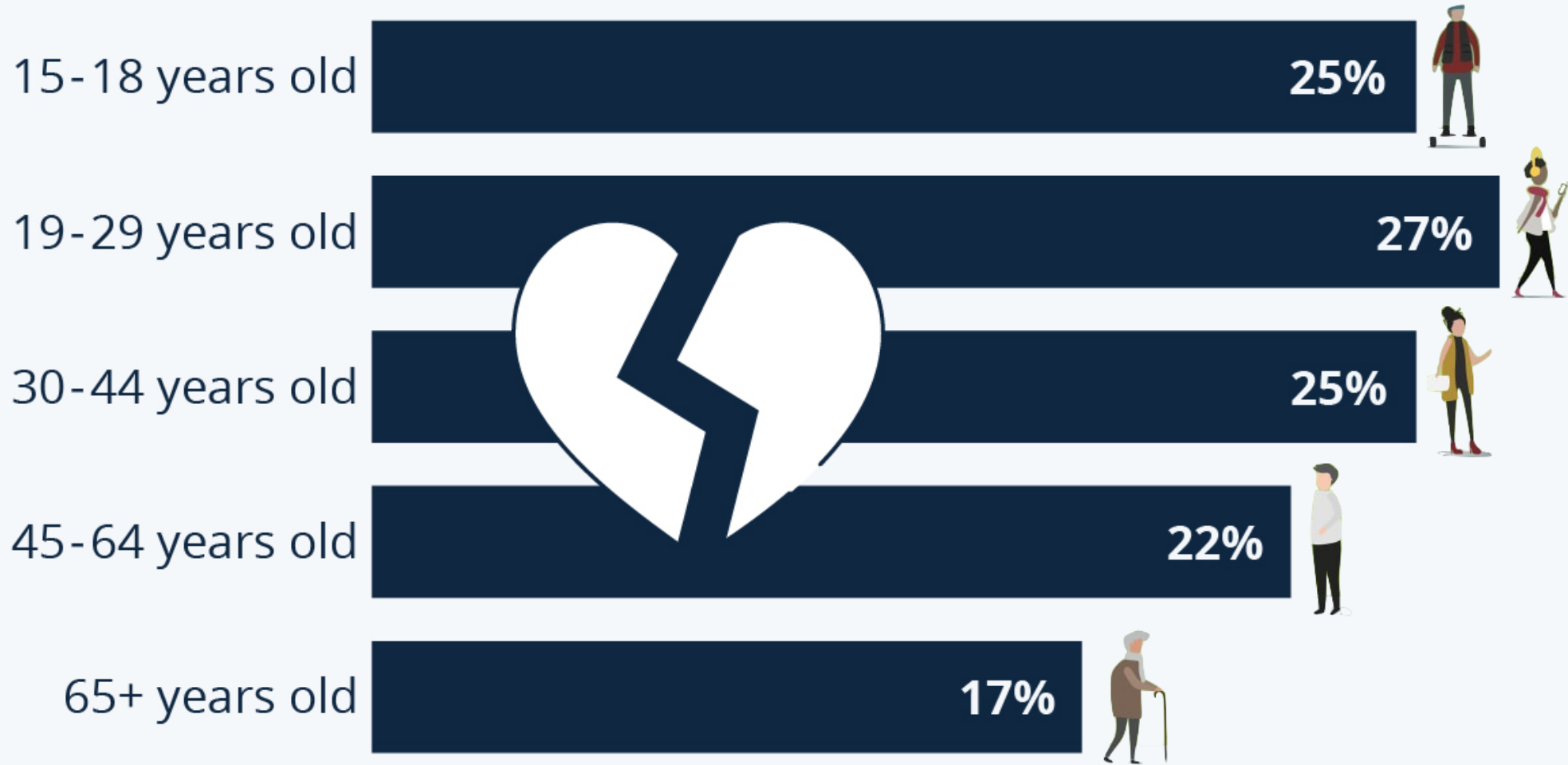


Dr. Ellen Berscheid
University of Minnesota



One in Four Young People in the World Feels Lonely

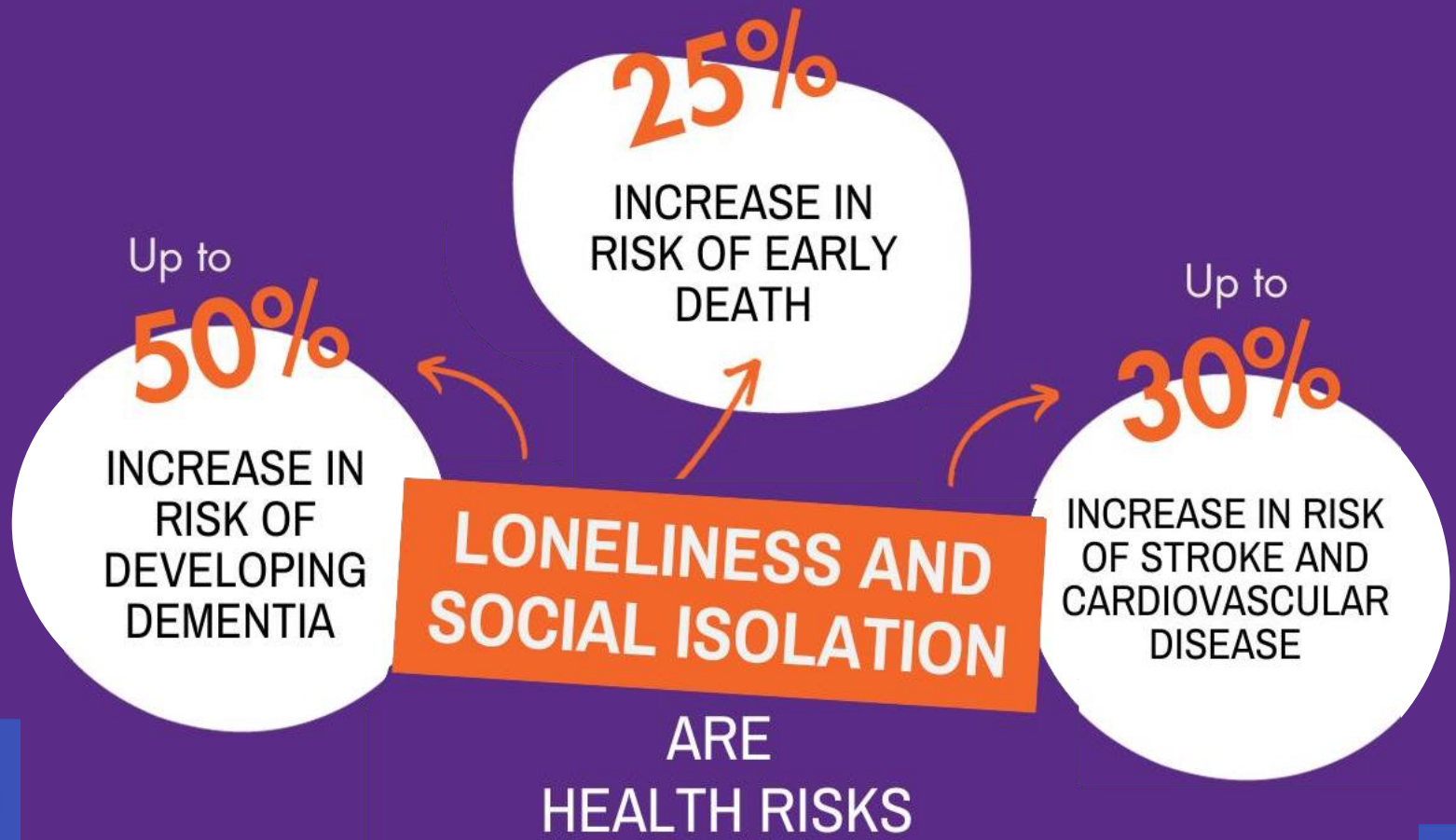
Share of respondents who feel fairly or very lonely, by age range



Around 145,000 respondents (15+ y/o) in 142 countries/territories surveyed Jun. 2022-Feb. 2023

Sources: Gallup, Meta





Loneliness has the same impact on the human body as smoking 15 cigarettes a day

Holt-Lunstad et al, Perspectives on Psychological Science, 2015



World Health Organization



WHO Commission on Social Connection



Loneliness-induced stress directly impacts cortisol release, which increases carbohydrate cravings and leads to weight gain.

Hewagolamulage et al, NIH, 2016

DISCIPLESHIP IS

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Week 1: FOLLOW JESUS

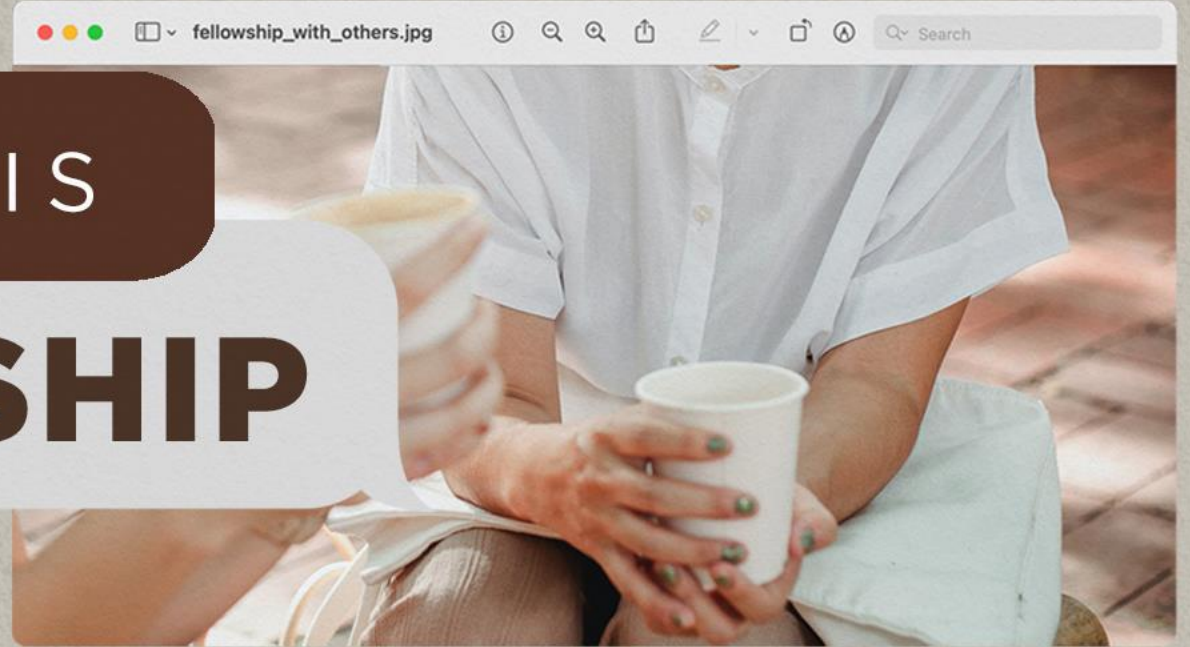


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DISCIPLESHIP IS

RELATIONSHIP

Week 2: **FELLOWSHIP
WITH OTHERS**



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DISCIPLESHIP IS

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Week 3: FISH FOR MEN



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DISCIPLESHIP IS

RELATIONSHIP


Week 1: FOLLOW JESUS



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John 6:60-63 (ESV)

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a **hard saying**; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were **grumbling** about this, said to them, “Do you **take offense** at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The **words** that I have spoken to you are **spirit and life**.”



**Have you ever
been offended
by something
Jesus said or did?**

Matthew 15:12 (ESV)

¹² Then the disciples came and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees **were offended** when they heard this saying?”

John 6:53-56 (ESV)

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless you eat** the **flesh** of the Son of Man and **drink** his **blood**, you have **no life** in you.”⁵⁴

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has **eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**.⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in** me, and **I in him**.

John 6:66-67 (ESV)

⁶⁶ After this **many of his disciples** turned back and **no longer walked** with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “**Do you want to go away as well?**”

DISCIPLESHIP IS

RELATIONSHIP

Week 1: **FOLLOW JESUS**



What does it mean
to **truly** follow Jesus







Mediterranean Sea

LEBANON

SYRIA

GOLAN HEIGHTS

ISRAEL

• **Caesarea Philippi**,
where Peter told Jesus,
"You're the Messiah" (Mark 8:29).

Jesus Triangle,
where he seemed to spend
most of his time.

Chorazim

Mt. Beatitudes

Bethsaida

CAPERNAUM
HQ of Jesus

Gennesaret
(Ginosar)



Feeding of 5,000

• **Gergesa**

Magdala

Tiberias

Sea of Galilee

surface elevation about 700 ft (213 m) below sea level
6 miles (10 km)



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John 6:26-27 (ESV)

²⁶ Jesus answered them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, you are **seeking me, not because** you **saw signs**, but **because** you **ate your fill** of the **loaves**.²⁷ **Do not work** for the **food that perishes**, but for the **food that endures to eternal life**, which the **Son of Man** will **give to you**. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

John 6:28-31 (ESV)

²⁸ “What **must we do**, to be doing the **works of God?**” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “**This is the work of God**, that you **believe in him** whom he has sent.” ³⁰ So they said to him, “**Then what sign do you do**, that we **may see** and **believe you?** What **work do you perform?**” ³¹ Our fathers **ate the manna** in the **wilderness**; as it is **written**, ‘**He gave them bread** from **heaven to eat.**’”

John 6:32-34 (ESV)

³² Jesus then said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, it was **not Moses** who **gave you the bread** from heaven, but **my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.** ³³ For the **bread of God** is he who **comes down from heaven** and **gives life to the world.**” ³⁴ They said to him, “**Sir, give us this bread always.**”

John 6:35-36 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**”³⁶
But I said to you that **you have seen me** and yet **do not believe.**

John 6:41-42 (ESV)

⁴¹ So the Jews **grumbled** about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “**Is not this Jesus**, the **son of Joseph**, whose **father** and **mother** we **know**? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

John 6:47-51 (ESV)

⁴⁷ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ **I am the bread of life.** ⁴⁹ Your **fathers ate the manna** in the wilderness, and **they died.** ⁵⁰ This is the **bread that comes down from heaven**, so that **one may eat** of it and **not die.** ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone **eats** of this bread, he will **live forever.** And the **bread** that I will give for the **life of the world** is my **flesh.**”

John 6:52-53 (ESV)

52 The Jews then **disputed among themselves**, saying, “**How can this man** give us his **flesh** to **eat?**”

53 So Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless you eat the flesh** of the Son of Man and **drink his blood**, you have no **life in you**.”

John 16:33 (NIV)

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world **you will have trouble**. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**”

Significance of Bread & Wine

a) Provision and Survival

²⁸ May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and **plenty of grain** and **wine**.

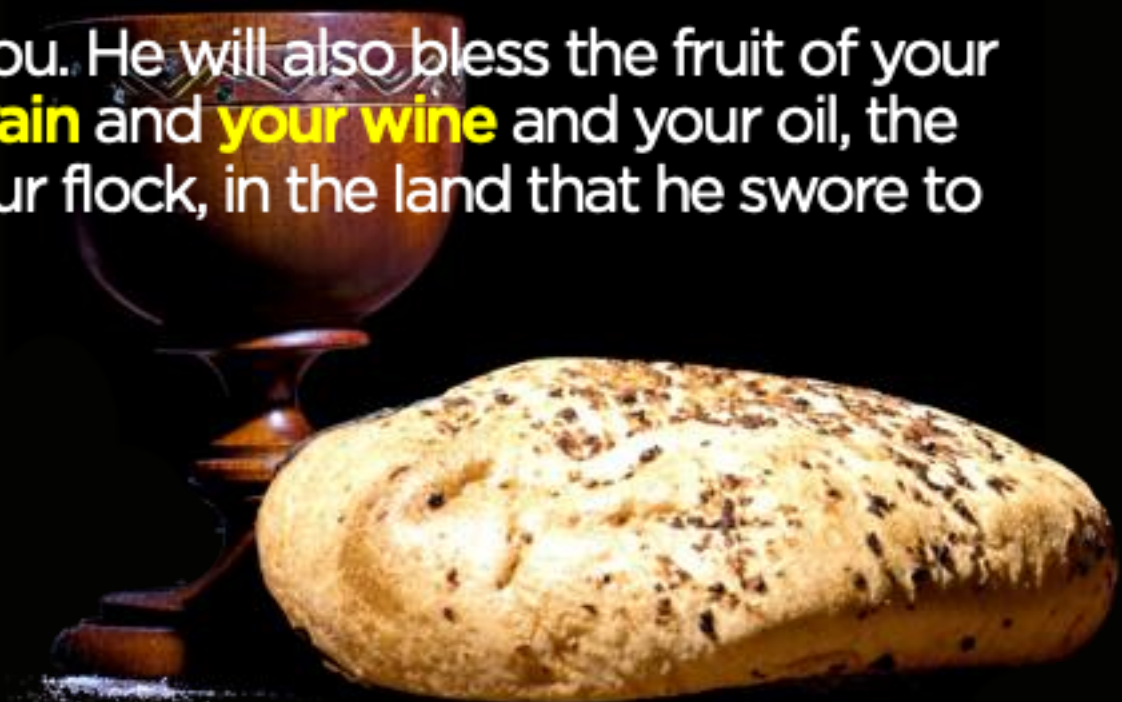
Genesis 27:28 (ESV)

¹³ He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, **your grain** and **your wine** and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you.

Deuteronomy 7:13 (ESV)

¹¹ Give us this day our daily **bread**

Matthew 6:11 (ESV)



Significance of Bread & Wine

b) Life and Salvation

⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened **bread** and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

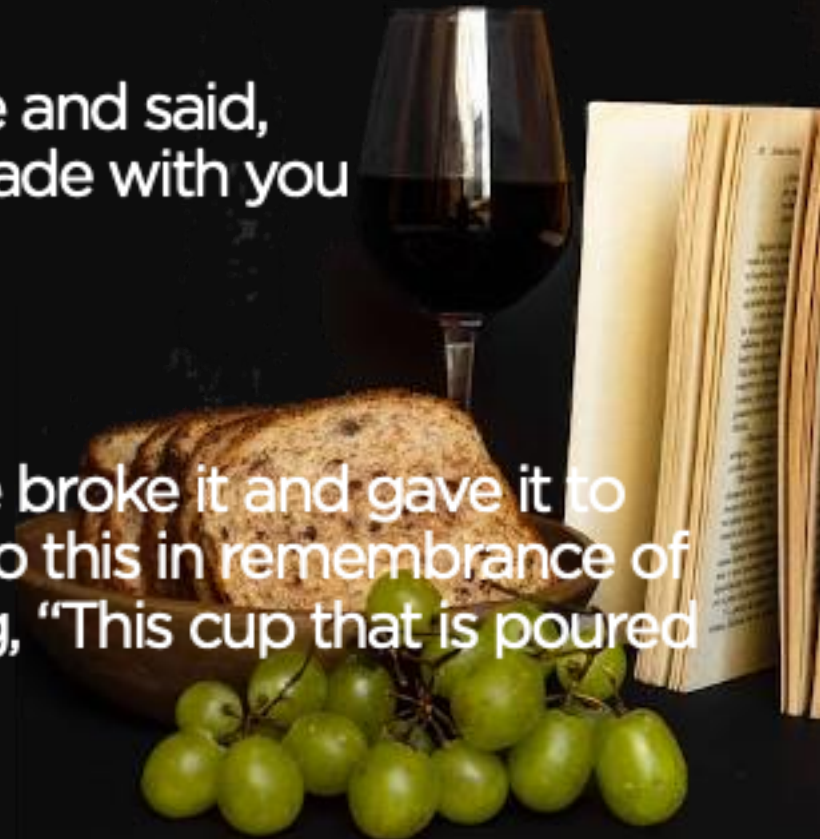
Exodus 12:7-13 (ESV)

⁸ And Moses took the **blood** and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the **blood of the covenant** that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Exodus 24:8 (ESV)

¹⁹ And he took **bread**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my **body**, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in my **blood**."

Luke 22:19-20 (ESV)



Significance of Bread & Wine

c) God's Holy Word

³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the **bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

John 6:35 (ESV)

⁴ But he answered, "It is written," "Man shall not live by **bread alone**, but by every **word** that comes from the **mouth of God.**"

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

¹ In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.** ¹⁴ And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us,

John 1:1, 14a (ESV)



Food has no value unless we eat it. Spiritual truth has no benefit unless we internalize or believe it. Knowing something without believing it will do nothing for our soul.



DISCIPLESHIP IS

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Week 1: **FOLLOW JESUS**



4 types of
followers of Jesus

Followers of Jesus

1

Curious Spectators

John 6:1-2 (ESV)

¹ After this Jesus went away to the **other side of the Sea of Galilee**, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² And a **large crowd** was **following** him, because they **saw** the **signs** that he was **doing on the sick**.

MILLENNIALS AT CHURCH



THOSE WHO SAY CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS NOT IMPORTANT POINT TO THE FOLLOWING REASONS ..



THOSE WHO SAY CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT POINT TO THE FOLLOWING REASONS ..



▶ SELECT THE IMAGE THAT FEELS MOST LIKE **WHAT CHURCH SHOULD BE IN THE WORLD** ◀



All Millennials 48%
 Churched 58%
 Marginally Churched 46%
 Unchurched 42%

All Millennials 7%
 Churched 5%
 Marginally Churched 3%
 Unchurched 9%

All Millennials 12%
 Churched 12%
 Marginally Churched 25%
 Unchurched 10%

All Millennials 33%
 Churched 26%
 Marginally Churched 26%
 Unchurched 39%

Barna/CKN, October 2013, N=843 U.S. adults ages 18 to 29 years old. The segmentation percentages above are among Millennials who participated in the study.

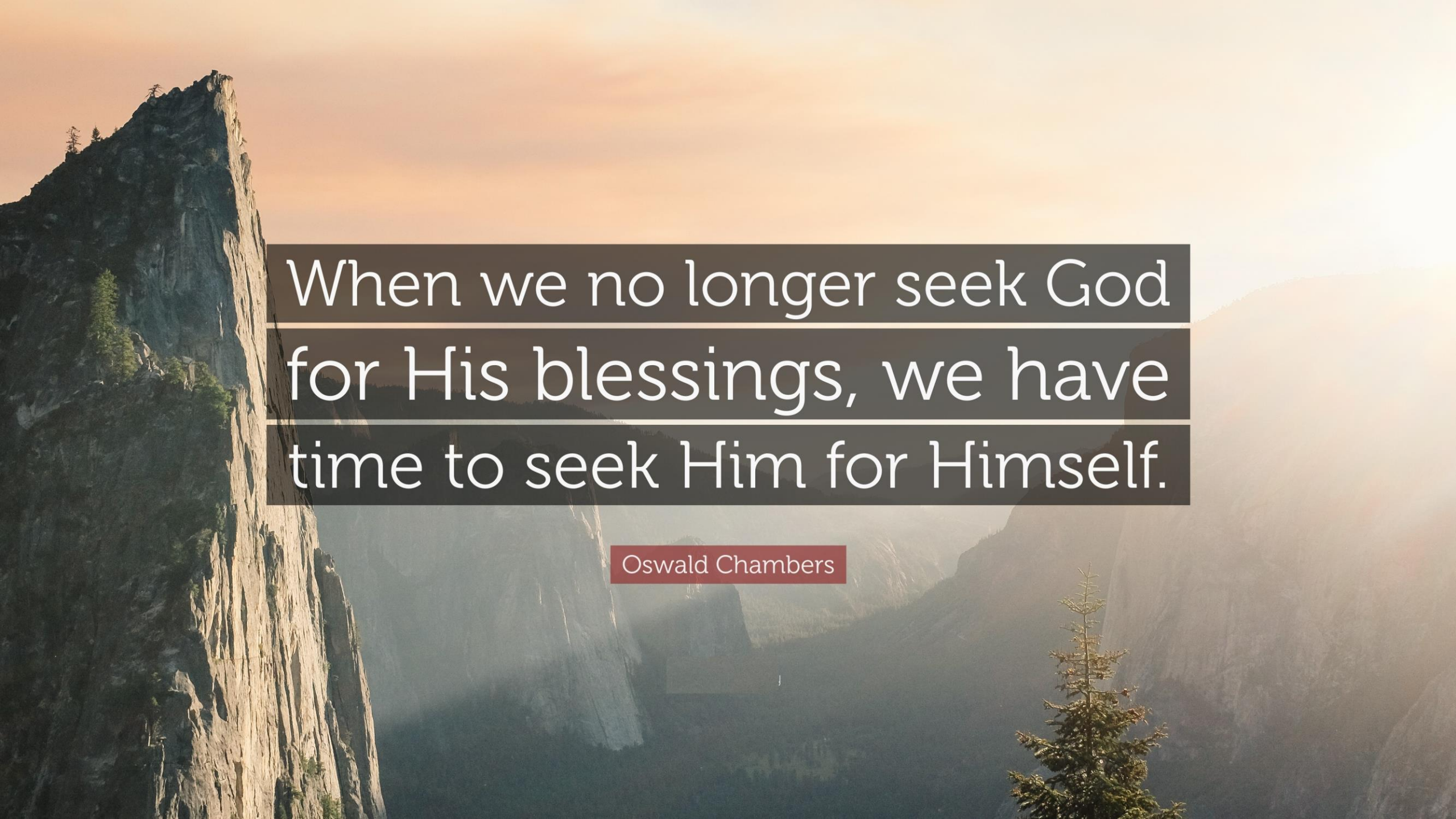
Followers of Jesus

2

Consumer Followers

John 6:26 (ESV)

²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because **you ate your fill of the loaves.**”



When we no longer seek God
for His blessings, we have
time to seek Him for Himself.

Oswald Chambers

Followers of Jesus

3

Conditional Followers

John 6:60 (ESV)

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a **hard saying**; who **can listen** to it?”

John 6:53-56 (ESV)

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “**Truly, truly**, I say to you, **unless you eat** the **flesh** of the Son of Man and **drink** his **blood**, you have **no life** in you.”⁵⁴

Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has **eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is **true food**, and my blood is **true drink**.⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood **abides in** me, and **I in him**.

John 6:63 (ESV)

⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a **hard saying**; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were **grumbling** about this, said to them, “Do you **take offense** at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the **Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The **words** that I have spoken to you are **spirit and life**.”

John 6:63 (NLT)

⁶³ The **Spirit** alone **gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing.** And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

John 6:64-65 (ESV)

⁶⁴ **But** there are some of you **who do not believe.**”
(For Jesus knew from the beginning who those
were who **did not believe**, and who it was who
would **betray** him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I
told you that **no one can come to me** unless it is
granted him **by the Father.**”

John 6:57-59 (ESV)

⁵⁷ As the living **Father** sent **me**, and I **live** because of the Father, so **whoever** feeds on **me**, he **also will live** because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the **bread** that came down **from heaven**, not like the bread the **fathers ate**, and **died**. Whoever feeds on this bread will **live forever**.” ⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.



Mediterranean Sea

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ISRAEL

• **Caesarea Philippi**,
where Peter told Jesus,
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**Jesus came not to give bread
but to be Bread**

JOHN PIPER



There is a God shaped
vacuum in the **heart of every**
man which **cannot be filled**
by any **created thing**,
but **only by God**, the Creator,
made known **through Jesus**.

Blaise Pascal
(1623-1662)
Mathematician, Inventor,
Philosopher



Followers of Jesus

4

Committed Followers

John 6:68 (ESV)

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to **whom shall we go? You** have the **words of eternal life,**

John 6:66-69 (ESV)

⁶⁶ After this **many of his disciples** turned back and **no longer walked** with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “**Do you want to go away as well?**”

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to **whom shall we go?** You have the **words of eternal life,**
⁶⁹ and we **have believed,** and have **come to know,** that **you are the Holy One of God.**”

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Week 1: **FOLLOW JESUS**



**How to be a COMMITTED
FOLLOWER of Jesus**

The food people **eat** becomes
part of them through the
operation of the **body's**
digestive system.
So it is spiritually.



Eating is prompted by hunger;
those who are **full** are **not interested** in
food. In the same way, **sinners** who are
satiated with their **sin** have **no hunger**
for **spiritual things**



Eating is personal.

No one can eat a meal for another; there is
no such thing as eating by proxy.

Nor is there **salvation** by **proxy**,



Eating involves **trust**.

No one knowingly eats **tainted** or **spoiled food**;
the very act of eating **implies faith** that
the **food is edible**.

The **metaphor** of eating the **Bread of Life**
implies **believing in Jesus**



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