



4And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you. 5“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. 6“You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for *those things* must take place, but *that* is not yet the end. 7“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8“But all these things are *merely* the beginning of birth pangs.



9“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10“At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11“Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12“Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. 13“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14“This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- *Matthew 24:4-14*

Faith that Perseveres



INCREASE IN CHURCH DROPOUTS

Barna



Church
Dropouts



n = 1,816 US adults 18-29 current/former Christians, January 2011;
n = 1,514 US adults 18-29 current/former Christians, February 16-28, 2018

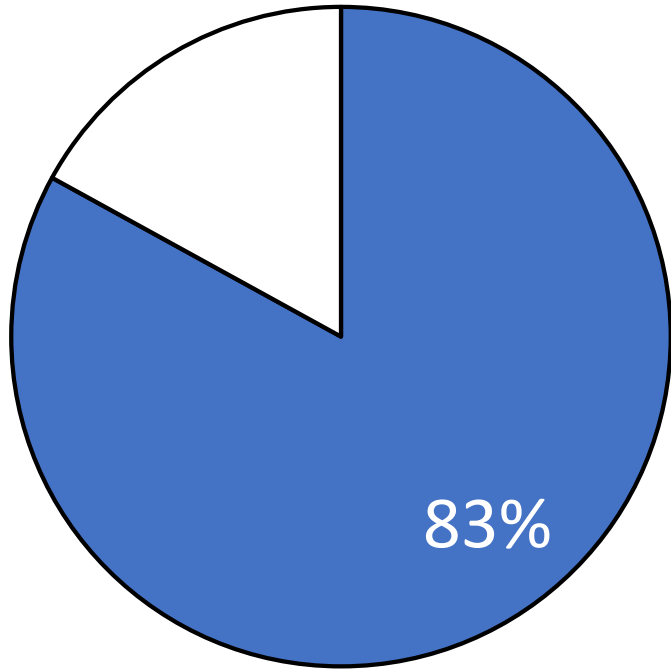
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5 themes important to “continuers”

1. Experiencing Jesus
2. Cultural discernment
3. Countercultural mission
4. Vocational discipleship
5. Meaningful relationships

Experiencing Jesus

Jesus speaks to me in a way that is relevant to my life



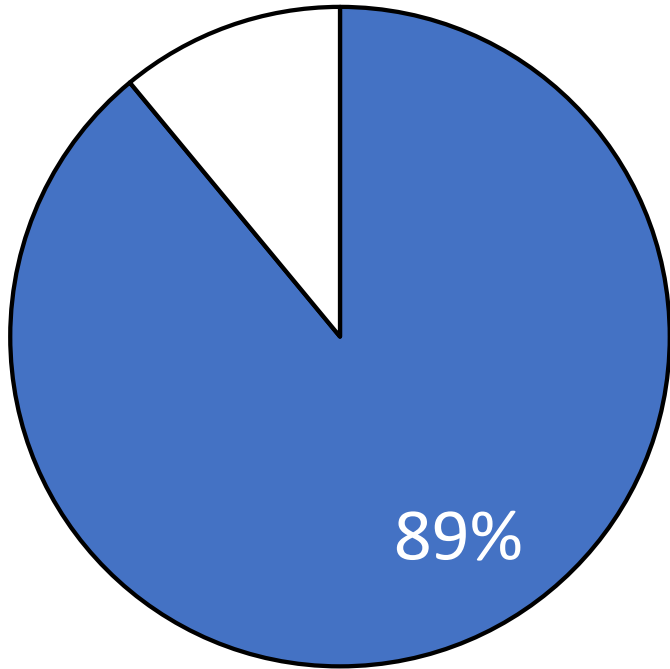
- Does God Exist? (God)
- How Did Everything Begin? (Origins)
- What's Wrong with the World? (Problem)
- What's the Ultimate Solution? (Solution)
- Who Am I? (Identity)
- Why Am I Here? (Purpose)
- Am I Living a Good Life? (Morality)
- What Happens After I Die? (Destiny)

...He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything...

- Col. 1:15-20

Experiencing Jesus

My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction



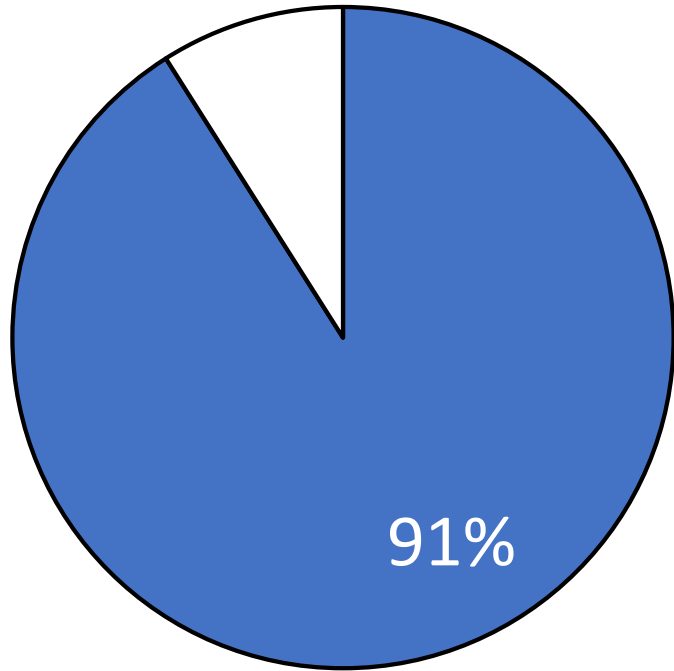
Jesus was not a recluse. There was in Him a genuine joy. True joy can only be found in Jesus, not pleasure, not fame and certainly not unbelief. Voltaire, an atheist, said before he died, "I wish I had never been born."

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

- John 15:11

Experiencing Jesus

Worship is an everyday lifestyle,
not just an event

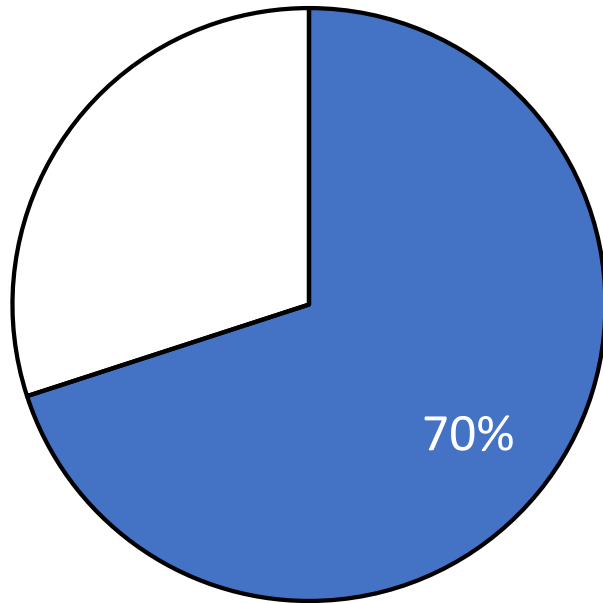


*They were **continually** devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...**Day by day** continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart...*

-- Acts 2:42, 46

Cultural Discernment

In my church I regularly receive wisdom for how to live faithfully in a secular world

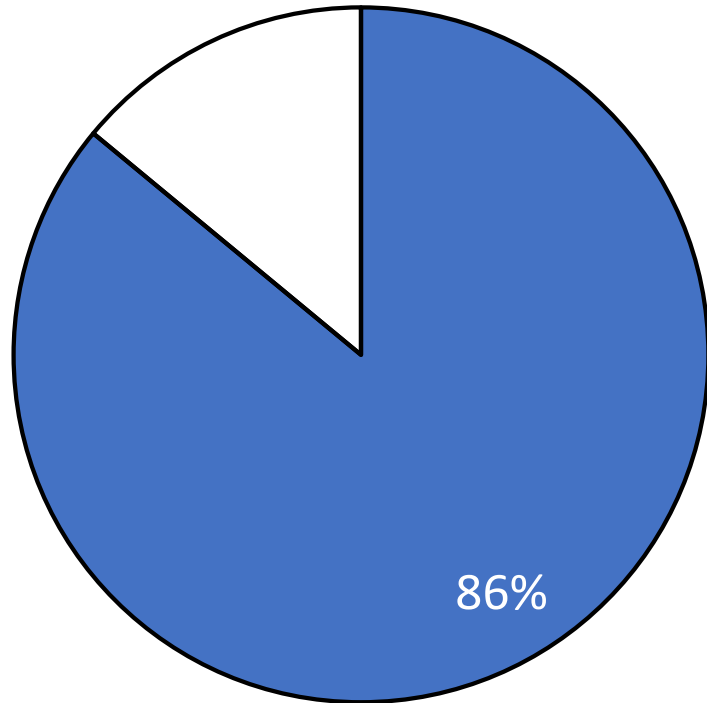


“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

- John 15:18-19

Cultural Discernment

The Bible teaching I receive in my church is relevant to my life

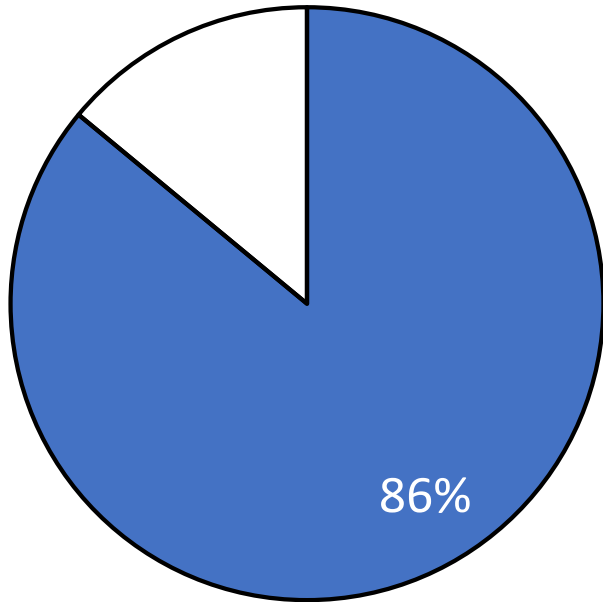


For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age...

- Titus 2:11-12

Cultural Discernment

In my church I regularly receive wisdom for how the Bible applies to my life

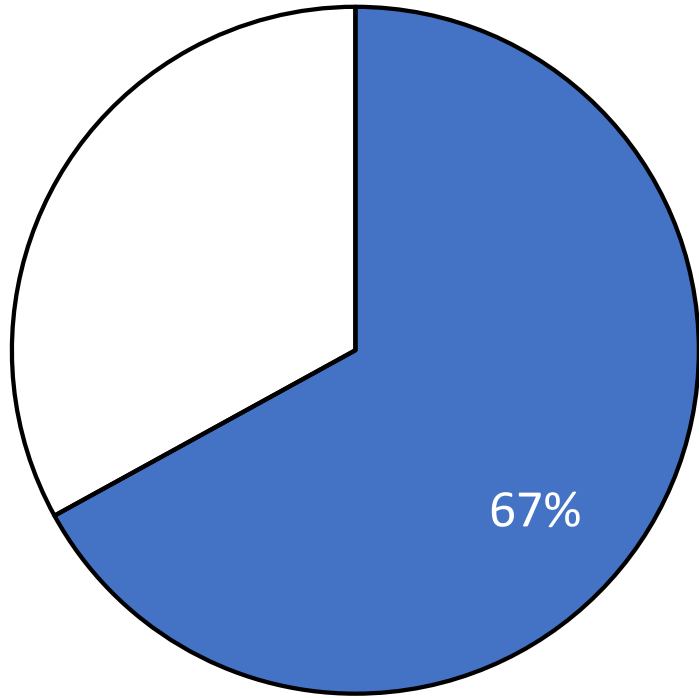


*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; **Avoid such men as these...**All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be **adequate, equipped for every good work.***

II Tim. 3:1-5, 16-17

Countercultural Mission

I am excited about the mission of the church in today's world

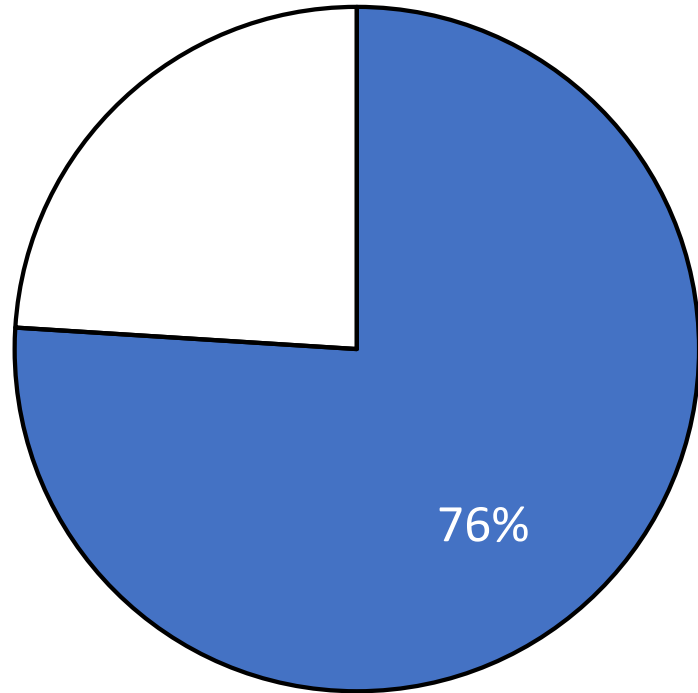


I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

I Tim. 3:14,15

Countercultural Mission

I have a responsibility to tell others
about my religious beliefs

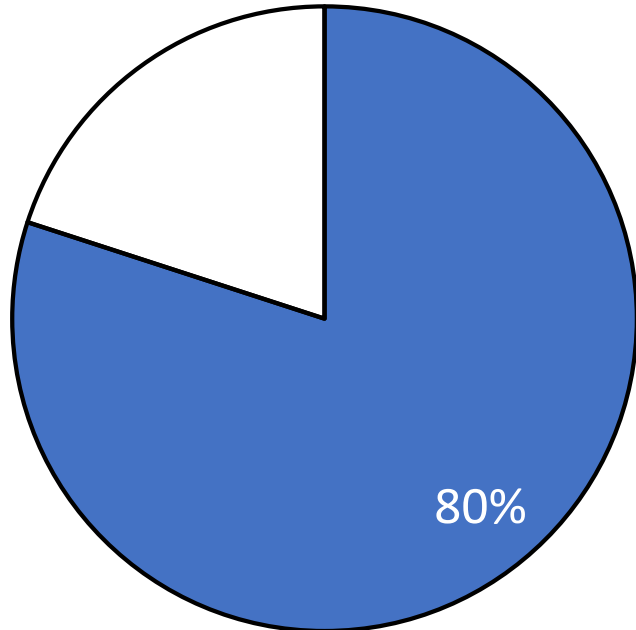


The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

II Tim. 2:2

Countercultural Mission

I want others to see Jesus reflected in me through my words and actions



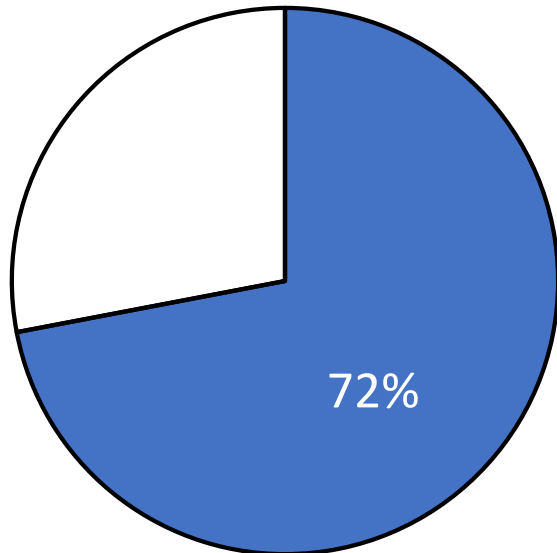
You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Mt. 5:13-16

Vocational Discipleship

My church does a good job of helping me understand how to live out my faith in the workplace

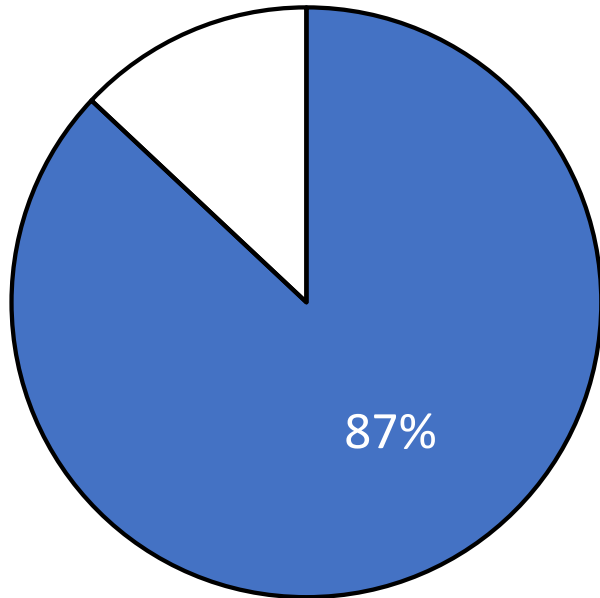


Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Col. 3:22-24

Vocational Discipleship

God designs each person with a unique calling for their life

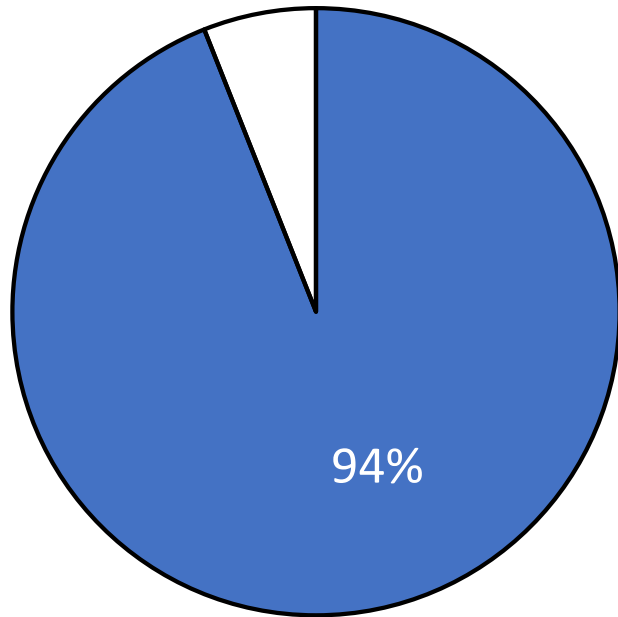


Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

I Cor. 7:7

Vocational Discipleship

I want to use my unique talents and gifts to honor God

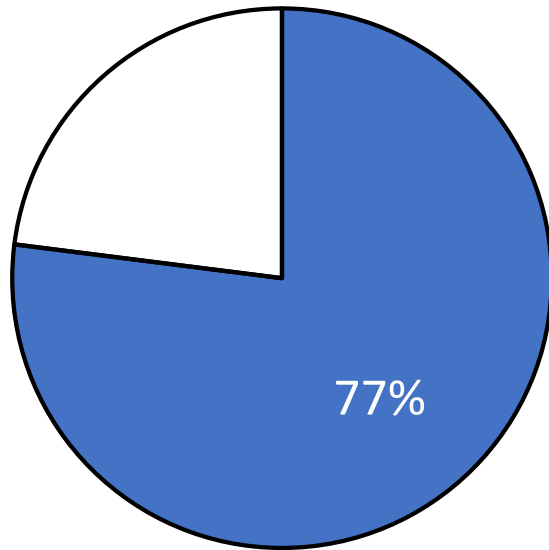


For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness

Rom. 12:4-8

Meaningful Relationships

When growing up, I had close personal friends who were adults in my church

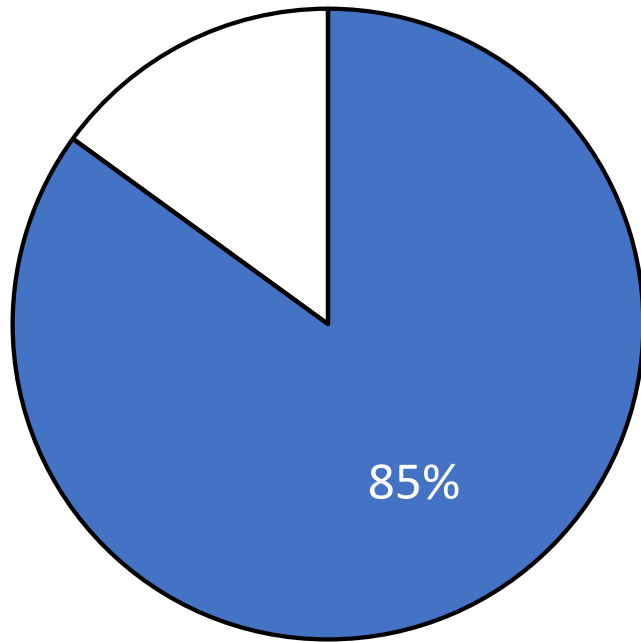


Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

I Tim. 5:1-2

Meaningful Relationships

There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually

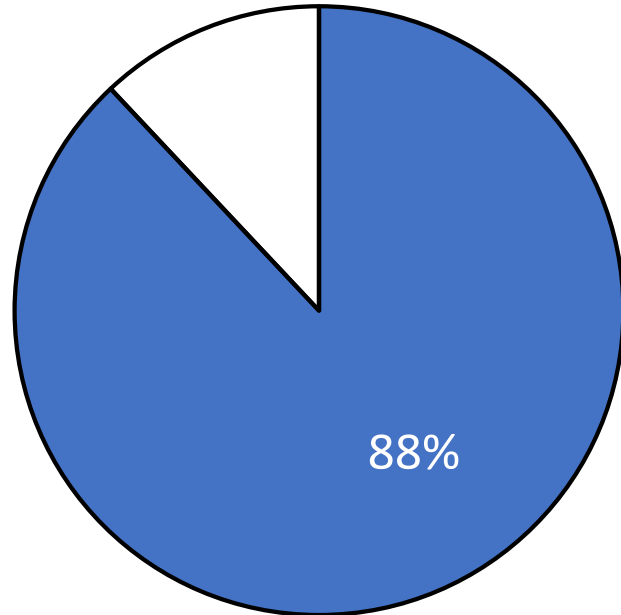


Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds...

Heb. 10:23-24


Meaningful Relationships

The church is a place where I
belong



...we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Eph. 4:14-16

A large, dark metal anvil is the central focus, resting on a wooden block. A hammer with a wooden handle lies on its top surface. The background shows a workshop setting with various tools and equipment. The text "God's anvil does not fear the hammer" is overlaid in white with a black outline.

God's anvil
does not fear the hammer