

FEBRUARY 2026

HORIZON

DO AMERICANS TRUST THE BIBLE? (AND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE CHURCH)

Although many don't wholeheartedly trust the Bible, the average American may be more open to Scripture than you would assume.

By Marissa Postell Sullivan

Trust is in low supply in America today. This trust deficit is evident across the nation from institutions to interpersonal relationships.

The [2025 State of the Bible](#) research found the average interpersonal trust score (on a scale of 1 to 5) was near the middle, at 3.2. Institutional trust among Americans was even lower, with families holding the highest average score (2.6) and media receiving the lowest average score (1.1).

How is the widespread erosion of trust affecting the spiritual landscape in America? In the State of the Bible study, the average American gave their trust in religion a score of 1.8, with 3 in 10 (29%) saying their trust in religion was high or very high but 17% saying they had no trust in religion.

In 2025, [fewer Americans than ever before said they trusted pastors](#), according to Gallup. The 2025 Honesty and Ethics survey found only 27% of U.S. adults said clergy members have high or very high levels of honesty and ethics—a three percentage point drop from the previous year.

Additionally, although the percentage of U.S. adults who trust the church grew slightly in 2025, Gallup's annual tracking poll found [only 36% of Americans say they trust the church](#).

But trust in institutions and individuals are not the only areas of interest for pastors and church leaders. While institutions and individuals exist on a spectrum of trustworthiness, the Lord is always trustworthy.

This confidence in God is rooted in Scripture. So it's fitting for pastors and church leaders to consider what Americans say about their trust in the Bible.

Do Americans trust the Bible?

According to the State of the Bible, more than 1 in 3 (36%) Americans agree the Bible is totally accurate in all the principles it presents, while 39% disagree.

Although a plurality of Americans do not trust the Bible to be totally accurate, a sizable percentage of Americans believe it is accurate. Contemporary narratives lead many to believe Americans are far more distrusting of the Bible than these numbers indicate.

Only 1 in 4 Americans (24%) say the Bible is just another book of teachings written by people that contains stories and advice. While this statement isn't explicitly negative, it indicates a percentage of Americans who deny the divine authorship and authority of Scripture.



(Do Americans Trust the Bible? continued)

Of Americans who agree the Bible is “just another book,” 3 in 4 (18% of the public) demonstrate an active mistrust of the Bible, saying the Bible was written to control or manipulate other people.

The 2025 State of Theology research from Lifeway Research depicts an even more favorable picture of Americans’ trust in the Bible, with around half (49%) of Americans agreeing the Bible is 100% accurate in all that it teaches. Similarly, however, 48% say the Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true.

Regardless of the narratives of the day, these studies indicate an openness to Scripture among Americans today. And understanding this landscape ought to inform the way churches view their neighbors and engage them with the gospel message. Here are four insights churches should consider regarding Americans’ trust in the Bible.

1. Take the time to discern a person’s level of trust in the Bible

Americans approach the Bible from a variety of perspectives. Don’t believe the narrative that everyone in your community actively distrusts the Bible.

Fewer than 1 in 5 Americans demonstrate a hostility toward Scripture, assuming it was created as a tool for control and manipulation. Even among those who aren’t convinced of the Bible’s total accuracy, few are adamantly opposed to Scripture. As believers interact with their neighbors, conversation allows the believer to gauge the person’s level of trust in the Bible and discern how to best engage them with the gospel message.

In today’s culture, it’s easy to assume every non-believer is opposed to the Bible. This can cause believers to be fearful of sharing Scripture and the hope of the gospel.

What might be different if the believers in your church understood the reality that many of their neighbors are more open to Scripture than they likely assume?

2. Help people understand why the Bible is trustworthy

Believers and non-believers alike need help understanding why they can trust the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. This task begins with discipleship within your church but should have evangelistic effects.

Believers are not called to blindly trust the Bible. Rather, Scripture’s trustworthiness and authority are rooted in its inspiration. And because Scripture is God’s words to us and there is no error in God, the Bible itself is inerrant, making it an authoritative and trustworthy guide.

Furthermore, the historical reliability of Scripture points to its status as authoritative and trustworthy.

Are the people in your church able to articulate not only that they trust the Bible, but also why they believe the Bible is trustworthy?

What would it look like for believers from your church to be confident in their beliefs about the Bible’s trustworthiness and able to point others to its trustworthy nature?

3. Demonstrate your trust in the Bible

One-way believers demonstrate their trust in the Bible is in their willingness to share it with others. Do you trust that the Bible is God’s words? Do you trust that when God speaks, transformation happens? If so, how are you using Scripture to engage your neighbors with the gospel message?

Although your approach to using Scripture in evangelism may differ as you discern a person’s openness to the Bible, it’s ultimately God’s words—not ours—that transform people’s lives.

Thus, we demonstrate our trust in Scripture as the authoritative Word of God when we faithfully point others to Scripture, despite our fears that it may not be well received.

4. Trust the Bible to transform lives

According to the State of the Bible research, nearly 3 in 5 Americans (58%) agree the message of the Bible has transformed their lives. This represents 148 million Americans who are willing to say they’ve been changed by the Bible’s message. Where transformation is evident, trust grows.

The Bible’s transformative power is evident throughout history, and this power confirms Scripture as both authoritative and trustworthy.

As God speaks, we ought to trust His words to transform lives. And as lives are transformed through the words of Scripture, even more people may be convinced that the Bible is trustworthy.

Although many Americans still do not wholeheartedly trust the Bible, the average American is likely more open to Scripture than many in the church today would assume.

This realization should serve as an invitation for the church to boldly share the transformative message of the gospel.



Oasis

May 7-8, 2026

Hotel is the Best Western
Plus Casper Inn & Suites

\$100 couple/ \$50 single
childcare available upon request for preschool
age children

Ministers and Wives-

Mark your calendar for the Oasis retreat
held at Hilltop Baptist Church.

A “**BY INVITATION ONLY**” Getaway in
Casper to refresh your spirit and to
connect with others in ministry. Watch
your mail for more information.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 6, 2026
CONTACT SASHA AT 307-472-4087 OR
SNIDOW@WYOMINGSBC.ORG
FOR RESERVATION AND PAYMENT QUESTIONS



Week of Prayer March 1-8, 2026

WSBMN GIVING		
	CP	SMO
NOV	\$25,689.47	\$8,703.45
DEC	\$30,445.35	\$5,652.24
JAN	\$42,330.19	\$7,985.61

Thank you to all the churches that turned in their ACPs. This information is a great help when looking at the big picture of Wyoming Southern Baptists. As a Network we had 88% of our churches complete these forms.



March

- 2-9 Week of Prayer for NAMB Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 12-14 Church Planter Retreat, Bar Nunn Baptist Church, Bar Nunn

April

- 5 Easter
- 6 Easter Holiday, WSBMN Closed
- 10-11 Children's Ministry Clinic, Mountain View Baptist, Mills
- 17-18 Youth Evangelism Conference, College Heights, Casper
- 23 Administrative Team Meeting, WSBMN, 3:00 pm
- 24 Executive Board Meeting, WSBMN, 10:00 am
- 25 New Pastor Orientation, WSBMN, 9:00 am

May

- 7-9 OASIS, Casper, Hilltop Baptist Church, Casper
- 9 Gateway Seminary CLD Graduation Denver, CO
- 10 Mother's Day
- 25 Memorial Day, WSBMN Closed





IT'S SPRING!

By Rondie Taylor

Greetings Wyoming Southern Baptists,

As we transition from our spring like winter into spring on the calendar, I want to take some time and invite you to join us for some really exciting upcoming trainings and events.

April 10th and 11th we are hosting our first ever Children's Ministry Conference. This is going to be an incredible opportunity for pastors, lay leaders, Sunday School teachers, VBS workers and more to learn about the importance of children's ministry and to sharpen their skills in the area of children's ministry. We are bringing in experts from across Wyoming and the west to provide training in all areas of children's ministry. Breakouts will include: engaging children in the worship service, classroom management, volunteer recruitment, teaching strategies for reaching kids, ministry to children with special needs, how to set up your children's ministry spaces, how to lead a child to Christ, how to reach your public schools with the Gospel, Vacation Bible School, starting or restarting a children's ministry, policies and procedures and more. So please make plans to join us for this event and bring as many volunteers from you church as you can. This event will be held at Mountain View Baptist Church in Mills. If you would like more information, please check out the flyer on the website or reach out to Sasha in the state office (307-472-4087).

The next weekend April 17th and 18th we are hosting our annual Youth Evangelism Conference. This is always an incredible weekend of teaching and worship for our youth, but it is also an incredible weekend for our youth workers and volunteers from across the state to worship, rest in the Word and receive training in the area of Youth Ministry. The primary speaker for this year's event is Shane Pruitt. Shane is an incredibly gifted speaker who connects with the next generation in a unique and special way. I know that if you and your youth make it to this event, they will leave blessed and challenged by the Word of God. Shane serves as the Next-Gen Director for NAMB evangelism, and he travels the country supporting youth ministry workers and sharing the Gospel with the next generation. This event will be held at College Heights Baptist Church in Casper. If you have questions, you can find more information on the website or you can reach out to Sasha in the state office.

Lastly, May 7th-9th we are hosting our annual Oasis, Pastors and Wives retreat. This year we are so excited to have Dr. Jeff Iorg as our guest speaker. Dr. Iorg is a great friend to Wyoming. He was a church planter in Portland, Oregon, the president of Gateway Seminary for 20 years and he now serves as the President of the SBC Executive Committee. Oasis is always a great time of encouragement from the Word, worship through song, fellowship with friends and fellow co-laborers and space for rest and renewal with your spouse. So please make plans to join us. The cost is \$100.00 for couples and \$50.00 for individuals. That cost includes two catered meals, your hotel lodging and the event itself. There are scholarships available if that would be of benefit to you. Oasis will utilize the Best Wester Plus in Casper, and the event will take place at Hilltop Baptist Church in Casper. If you have any questions, be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail, visit the website or you can always reach out to Sasha at the state office. Please make it a priority to join us for this event and get registered ASAP.

I do hope that you and your church will be able to join us this spring as we seek to come alongside your local church in encouraging and equipping you for the Gospel mission that God has assigned to your church, in your community. We are so thankful for the incredible work that God is doing through the local church in Wyoming and it is our joy to serve you!

Blessings!

NAMB's 'Share the Gospel' chat app utilizes AI for virtual evangelism practice

By Brandon Elrod

ALPHARETTA, Ga. – Sharing your faith with others can be one of the most daunting aspects of Christian practice. Believers regularly express concerns that they might say something wrong.

Aiming to equip pastors and ministry leaders with another evangelistic tool, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) has introduced a new web app that utilizes artificial intelligence (AI) to help users practice engaging in Gospel conversations in a low-stakes virtual environment.

The tool, called Share the Gospel, creates a virtual chat forum where participants can interact with a chatbot that imitates various conversation partners, whether those of differing faiths or those who have no faith at all.

“We’re excited about the ways this tool could be utilized to help believers gain a better understanding of questions and concerns nonbelievers might raise during a witnessing encounter” said Tim Dowdy, NAMB’s vice president of evangelism. “Since the team at NAMB began developing this resource, I’ve been looking forward to seeing the ways local churches might implement it within their congregations.”

Settings within the app allow for different modes, as well: beginner, medium and hard. The most difficult setting is designed to afford users with practice in apologetics, and along the way, the system provides optional feedback that offers both encouragement and instruction to the user.

The models used by the AI for Share the Gospel incorporate guardrails that keep the user within the evangelistic scenario and directs users to connect with a pastor if they have questions about theology or the Christian life.

“As our team established the criteria for this tool, we put guidelines in place that focused the conversations on evangelism and apologetics,” said Trevin Wax, vice president for resources and marketing at NAMB. “Our goal was to create a tool that aids Christians in thinking through objections or counterpoints that might arise in conversation with people from different backgrounds, with different belief systems.”

While the resource is easy to use, Wax said, it is not a replacement for evangelism training in the context of the local church or having genuine spiritual conversations with their neighbors.



“The Share the Gospel app is meant to prompt good conversations within the context of the local church so you can get input from your pastor and fellow church members,” Wax said. “We pray this app will aid Christians in real-life conversations, especially in the church where discipleship takes place.”

The tool also comes with a disclaimer: AI can make mistakes. While NAMB’s team has sought feedback from pastors and other evangelism leaders to iron out wrinkles, the tool isn’t perfect but hopefully it will be helpful in preparing to tell others about Jesus. “This is a work in progress,” Wax said. “We will continue to improve it and make refinements as we go.”

Share the Gospel is the latest in a number of evangelism resources NAMB has created to serve local churches, and it’s one NAMB hopes equips everyday believers so they can more effectively engage their unbelieving neighbors, friends, and family members. To try Share the Gospel, visit www.namb.net/resource/share-the-gospel/. Other NAMB evangelism resources, digital and print, as well as training events and articles can be found at namb.net/evangelism.

**WSBMN CHURCHES THAT
NEED A PASTOR**

BIG HORN BAPTIST, BUFFALO
CROSSROADS BAPTIST, DOUGLAS
EVANSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, EVANSVILLE
HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, RIVERTON
LIFEWAY CHURCH, TORRINGTON
PRINCIPE DE PAZ, CASPER*
WINDCITY, MEDICINE BOW
WRIGHT BAPTIST, WRIGHT

*SERVED BY INTERIM



YEC
YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
WYOMING

Featuring Shane Pruitt
April 17-18 2026

College Heights Baptist Church
1927 Walnut St Casper, Wy



**WSBMN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
CONFERENCE**

APRIL 10-11, 2026

@ MOUNTAIN VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, MILLS

**FRIDAY
PRE CONFERENCE**

Lifeway VBS Preview Event and Training.

4:30- 6:30 pm Friday

Dinner included

Main Session +
Breakouts Including Crafts, Rec,
Music, Bible Teaching, Directing
and Decorating.

VBS breakouts will also be
offered during main conference
break out sessions.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY
MAIN CONFERENCE**

6:30-9 pm Friday
8:30- 12:15 pm Saturday

Main Session +
Breakouts Including:

- Teaching Strategies for Kids
- Classroom Management at Church
- Volunteer Recruitment
- Engaging Children in the
Worship Service
- Ministering to Children with
Special Needs
- Setting up Kid's Ministry Spaces
- Leading a Child to Christ
- Reaching out to Public Schools
and more!

**SATURDAY BONUS
WORKSHOPS**

12:15- 2:30 pm Saturday

Lunch included with pre
registration

Workshops Include:

Writing or Revising Policies and
Procedures for Children's Ministry

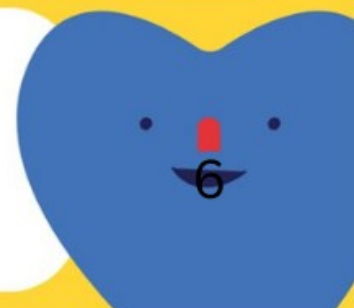
Outreach Event Planning

Starting or Restarting
a Children's Ministry

Cost: \$25 per person if registered by April 1st (\$35 after April 1st) or

\$125 - Church Group Price (Bring all your leaders for \$125, Must pre register with how many are coming from your group by April 1st to receive this rate)

Register on the WSBMN website or by contacting Sasha 307-472-4087



Upward basketball has started. College Heights Baptist, and Boyd Avenue Baptist, partner together to make this ministry happen. I'm thankful I still get to ref. It's a great time to fellowship with the players, coaches, and fellow referees.



Northeast Region Celebrations



South Region Celebrations

First Southern Rawlins recently baptized four people in their regular service on November 2nd. Jason Anderson is the Pastor

The Hill in Green River continues to Baptize several each month, and is planning a large outreach activity for Easter. Dr. Clint Scott is the Pastor

Agape Baptist in Cheyenne continues to serve countless residents in Cheyenne monthly from their clothing closet. Robert Murphy is the Pastor.

West Region Church Celebrations
Living Water Community Church of Kemmerer has started off 2026 with a bang! Pastor Al Bella reports that they have had three baptisms in January.

West Region Celebrations



Cody Cowboy church reported an attendance of 72 on February 8. They also celebrated baptism of new believers. Pat Alphin in pastor.

United Baptist Church of Riverton sent three members to the International Mission Board's Missions College in January. Pastor Clark Grogan along with Dale and Charlotte Bascue attended the college at Richmond, Virginia to learn ways to connect churches in the West Region with IMB missionaries.





Examination, Synthesis, and Obedience

By Matt Maestas

I was having a conversation with a pastor the other day about the state of ministry in his church, what he was excited about, things that were going well, and areas he saw that could use some improvement. He expressed to me that he was hoping to get some inspiration from a future conference he was planning to attend, believing that he was just one or two good ideas short of seeing some things change. Now, before any of you I've met with recently begin to get nervous, thinking that I'm talking about OUR conversation, rest assured this pastor lives well outside the beautiful confines of our state.

While heading off to some warmer locale, being encouraged by worship, and the teaching of the word, and being refined by another does have value; the truth is, what you need isn't more information. Another conference or expert probably isn't going to help you.

While what I am about to share isn't by any means exhaustive, in my experience, what most leaders and churches need, isn't a new magic bullet, or the influence of another leader, but rather can be found in this order:

- *Examination
- *Synthesis
- *Obedience

A brief word about each:

Examination includes two elements, personal reflection, and spirit lead discernment. In reflecting we look inward at how and what the Lord has been leading us to. This is not a quick work, but takes intentional time in prayer and, often with the help of a seasoned coach or a guide. Many leaders reject a step of reflection because it can lead to conviction, and a need for repentance or reconciliation. Spirit led discernment includes asking questions about the ideas we intend on implementing and often requires the input of others. It is often the case that leaders avoid this step out of hubris or a desire to move quickly, without regard given to the intended outcome.

Synthesis is an integrative work, where a leader asks how a particular idea or direction would work best in their context. This may include development or training of key contributors, the implementation of new paradigms of ministry or language, and strategic planning.

Obedience is simultaneously simple, and not easy. Simple because we understand the word, not easy because it takes courage and often times sacrifice. When the earlier two steps of Examination and Synthesis are taken, obedience happens more confidently, as the hard work has mostly been done.

In my experience, many leaders shy away from the above due to lack of clarity concerning the mission, a related but distinct unbelief in what they are doing, an addiction to simply being busy, living under the tyranny of the urgent, or simply out of laziness.

The good news is, regardless of why a leader or organization may struggle with Examination, Synthesis, or Obedience the antidote is always Action. Take a step, ask for help, slow down, reflect and move forward thoughtfully.

In closing, which of these do you struggle with the most? Is it the intentional work of Examination, the slow work of synthesis, or the often costly step of Obedience? What is one step you can take this week to move you closer to where you want to be? Who can help?

I'm rooting for you!