

# *Worship*

## *What's Special About the First Day of the Week?*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

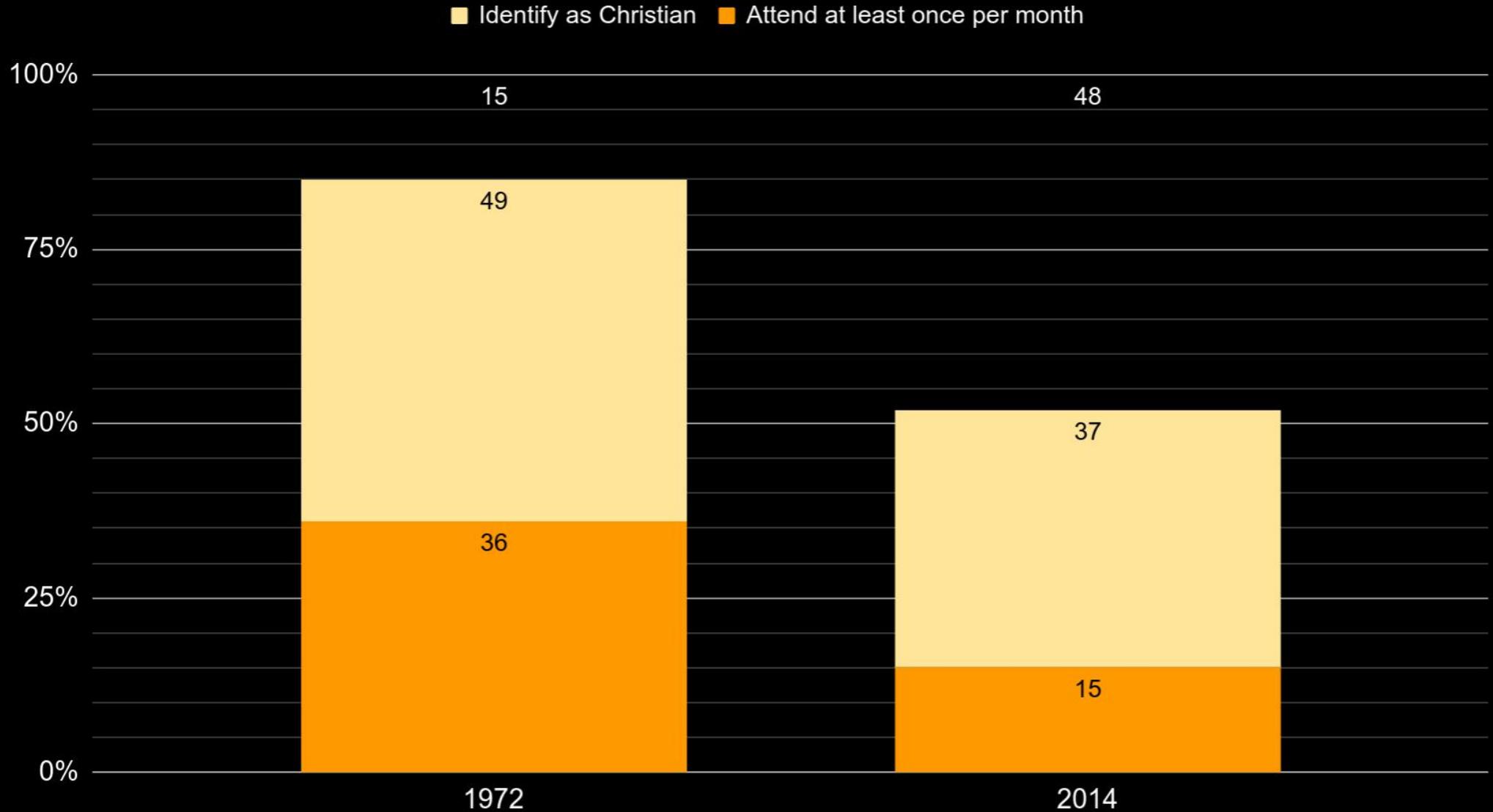
*Luke 24:1-6*



# Worship

## First Day of the Week

### Church Attendance

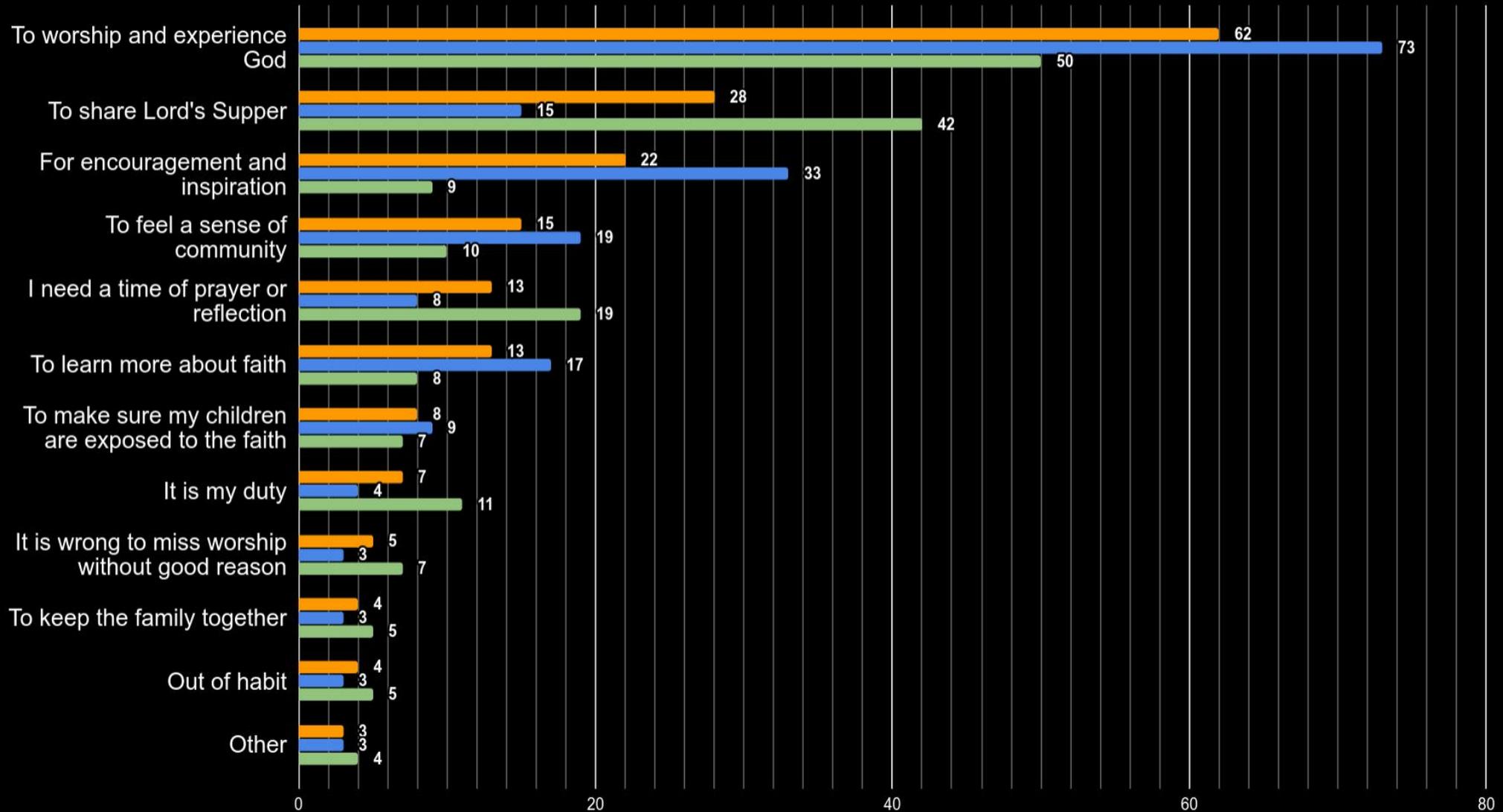


# Worship

## First Day of the Week

### Reasons For Attending Services

■ Total ■ Protestant ■ Catholic



# *Worship*

## *First Day of the Week*

### Origin of the week

- Creation
  - pattern of 7 days
  - last day holy
- Babylon
  - cycle of 7 days
  - celestial bodies
  - influence on Greeks
- Rome
  - 8 day cycle
  - 7 day cycle from Greeks
  - Julian calendar, 45BC

### **Genesis 2:2–3**

“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

# *Worship*

## *First Day of the Week*

### Sabbath

- Blessing from God
- Jesus' faithfulness
  - Jews' wrong understanding

### **Exodus 20:8–11**

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sabbath

- Blessing from God
- Jesus' faithfulness
  - Jews' wrong understanding

### **Mark 2:23–3:5**

“ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some ears of corn. The Pharisees said to him, ‘Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?’

He answered, ‘Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.’

Then he said to them, ‘The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.’ ...

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sabbath

- Blessing from God
- Jesus' faithfulness
  - Jews' wrong understanding
    - losing sight of God
  - Sabbath pointing to Jesus

### **Mark 2:23–3:5**

“Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the shrivelled hand, ‘Stand up in front of everyone.’

Then Jesus asked them, ‘Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?’ But they remained silent.

He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

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## *First Day of the Week*

Sunday

- Resurrection
  - new era
- Pentecost

### **Luke 24:1–6**

“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!’

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sunday

- Resurrection
  - new era
- Pentecost
- Meeting together
  - breaking bread
  - Lord's Day

### **Acts 2:1**

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

### **Acts 20:7**

“On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

### **Revelation 1:10**

“On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sunday

- Resurrection
  - new era
- Pentecost
- Meeting together
  - breaking bread
  - Lord's Day
- Early Church
  - Sabbath & Lord's Day
  - new creation

### **Justin Martyr, *First Apology***

“ But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration.

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sunday & Sabbath

- No command
  - evangelists in synagogues
  - Gentiles not required to follow law
  - custom

### **Colossians 2:16–23**

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. ...

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sunday & Sabbath

- No command
  - evangelists in synagogues
  - Gentiles not required to follow law
  - custom
- Fulfilled in Christ
  - He is Sabbath rest

### **Colossians 2:16–23**

“Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

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## *First Day of the Week*

### Sunday & Sabbath

- No command
  - evangelists in synagogues
  - Gentiles not required to follow law
  - custom
- Fulfilled in Christ
  - He is Sabbath rest
- Spiritual understanding
  - active rest, not passive

### **Ignatius, *Letter to Magnesians***

“Let us therefore no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner, and rejoice in days of idleness; for “he that does not work, let him not eat.” For say the holy oracles, “By the sweat of your brow shall you eat.” But let every one of you keep the Sabbath after a spiritual manner, rejoicing in meditation on the law, not in relaxation of the body, admiring the workmanship of God, and not eating things prepared the day before, nor using lukewarm drinks, and walking within a prescribed space, nor finding delight in dancing and plaudits which have no sense in them. And after the observance of the Sabbath, let every friend of Christ keep the Lord’s Day as a festival, the resurrection-day, the queen and chief of all the days.

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### Worship

- All our lives
  - changes our attitude to Sundays:
    - not out of duty
    - not dry or legalistic
- Resurrection
  - applies to us

### **Romans 6:1–5**

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.