
Section one

The state of faith in the UK

How to engage

48% of the UK population describe themselves as Christians of which 6% of these count as our definition of practising Christians.

Q - Why do you think so many people in the UK would describe themselves as Christians but do not fall into the definition of practising?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Q - Considering your answers, how can your church position themselves better to engage with this group?

To help you think this through, here are five categories to work through:

Local community engagement

One off or regular events

Key services throughout the year

Congregation/Teaching

Communication

Visitor experience

Ethnic engagement

Q - Looking at the results of practising Christians in the UK and the ethnic breakdown, does this reflect your church, congregation and leadership?

Who is Jesus

Q - Looking at the results based around the understanding of who Jesus is, what can your church do to better communicate who Jesus is, both to those within your church and wider community?

To help you we have used the same categories as before:

Local community engagement

One off or regular events

Key services throughout the year

Congregation/Teaching

Communication

Visitor experience






Section two

Those outside the church

Where to engage

48% of the UK population describe themselves as Christians of which 6% of these count as our definition of practising Christians.

Q - Looking at the top five answers to where would people go to find out about the Christian faith (excluding the answer 'none of the above')

-  1. Search on google
-  2. Read the Bible
-  3. Go to a local church
-  4. Talk to a friend or family who I know is a Christian
-  5. Visit a open church building or cathedral

What can your church do across each area in response to this?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Peer to peer

When we asked non-Christians if they knew a practicing Christian it was clear of those who answered YES thought immediately of those within their own age group. For example, 57% of those aged between 18-24 know a practicing Christian of the same age.

Q - How is your church equipping peer to peer evangelism?

Q - How could you help support this further across all the age groups reflected in your church?

Perception and questions

It is clear from the report that personal perception of a practising Christian is higher than personal perception of the church. The Individual is more favoured than the institution. This results in two questions for your church to work through:

Q - How can you continue to encourage your congregation to live out their faith publicly?

Q - What can you do to rise the profile of The Church through your church?

Q - Looking at the questions people are asking... where are you answering them?

To help you think through areas where this could happen, we have included six categories to work through:

Local community engagement

One off or regular events

Key services throughout the year

Congregation/Teaching

Communication

Visitor experience

Section three

Conversations about Jesus

How to encourage conversations

Confidence among practicing Christians is high regarding invitation. 81% agree that their church offers courses, events, and services suitable for a non-Christian to attend, of which 72% feel confident to invite a non-Christian to, however personal engagement is low. 43% of practicing Christians do not feel they know any non-Christians well enough.

Q - Looking at your church, do you feel you offer regular courses and events that can be used for invitational purposes?

Q - How can you encourage more interaction among your Congregation and local community?

How to equip conversations

There are two key findings in this section under *"How are the conversations going?"* to focus on as a church.

- 33% of non-Christians wanted to know more about Jesus as a result of a conversation
- 73% of non-Christians felt like they weren't missing out by not sharing the same faith as a practicing Christian.

Q - How can you equip your congregation with 'next steps' knowledge or pathways to assist with somebody wanting to know more about Jesus?

Q - What can be done to address the 73%? Is lifestyle being spoken about within church?

How to inspire conversations

When asked, practising Christians who attributed a conversation as a top three factor that influenced them to become a Christian shared how speaking and listening to someone made them feel closer to the person, wanted to know more and be open to an experience or encounter with Jesus. They remember most that the person in question shared their faith and asked them what they believed.

Q - How can these findings be presented to the church creativity to inspire them that their conversations have impact and influence?

Q - How can the church encourage conversations to be more relational than factual?

Section four

How people come to faith

Q - Looking at every category of how people come to follow Jesus. Mark the areas you are already active in and the areas you would like to explore investing into.

Note: For example - growing up in a Christian family, you may already be investing in family life courses or actives. Not all categories will be relevant for whole church activities.

	Already active	Would like to explore
Growing up in a Christian family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading the Bible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending a physical church service other than a wedding or funeral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday School	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A spiritual experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conversations with a Christian you know well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A particular life event with a positive or negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responding to the gospel at a Christian event or service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending a church school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visiting/praying in open church buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian printed media books pamphlets magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conversations with Christians you do not know well	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attending an online church service other than a wedding or funeral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Going to an introduction to Christianity course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian content shared on social media by people you do not know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A church wedding or funeral online or off-line	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian union at secondary school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian media TV radio websites online content other than regular church services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Christian content shared on social media by people you know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An individual churches outreach program for example parent and toddler group food bank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Christian union or the University program	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New forms of church such as messy church or café church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now compare your answers with someone and discuss what activities you have identified, opportunities you see and how you would like to invest into a new category.

Section five

Next steps

Game plan

Having completed the LEARN worksheets and reviewing the Talking Jesus report, use the space below to write your ideas of how you are going to implement these findings into your church planning.

To help we have used the same five categories from throughout the worksheets for any thoughts or activities you have identified that fit and a timeline you can work towards:

	Within the next month	Next six months	Next twelve months
Local community engagement			
One off or regular events			
Key services throughout the year			
Congregation/ Teaching			
Communication			
Visitor experience			

Q - What other opportunities have you identified throughout this Talking Jesus LEARN experience?