

Heaven, We Have a Problem

January 1, 2023

According to Pew Research, America has a literacy problem. “When was the last time you read a book? According to Pew Research, for almost 1 in 4 of us, it was more than a year ago. That’s three times the number who didn’t read a book in 1978.” The problem is even worse than that because, although Christians claim to believe the Bible is the Word of God, we aren’t reading it.

“A recent LifeWay Research study found only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. Over 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost 1 in 5 churchgoers say they never read the Bible—essentially the same number who read it every day.”

What about Great Britain? The United Kingdom Bible Society surveyed British children and found many couldn’t identify common Bible stories. When given a list of Bible stories, a staggering 59% didn’t know the story of Jonah came from the Bible, and almost 1 in 3 didn’t know the story of the birth of Jesus was in the Bible! Parents didn’t fare much better. Around 30 percent didn’t know the stories of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, or the Good Samaritan are in the Bible! Worse, 27% think the story of Superman is in the Bible. 1 in 3 believes Harry Potter is a Bible story, and more than half (54%) believe The Hunger Games is or might be a story from the Bible!

It shouldn’t be this way! Nine out of ten American homes (Christian or



not) have at least one Bible in them. The average American (Christian or not) owns at least three Bibles.

What can we do?

We need to confess our lack of study and ask God for forgiveness.

Set aside a regular time - even five minutes a day - to read the Bible.

Use a Daily Bible Reading plan to guide you. The elders have recommended we use Robert Murray M’Cheyne’s reading plan as the entire congregation reads the Bible together in 2023. We will be passing the guides out Sunday morning,

January 1st during worship and explaining how to use this very simple “four pages per day” reading guide. If you follow the plan, by this time next year, you will have read the entire Bible through once and the New Testament and Psalms through twice! It’s easy.

Then on Sunday nights, I will chose a passage we have all read during the week as the topic for my sermon.

It’s going to be a great year!