



Adult & Teen Challenge
December 2023



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

MINISTRY INTELLIGENCE

BIBLE

ENGAGEMENT

December 2023 Results



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INTRODUCTION

About Our Project

In November 2022, a unique survey link was sent to participating ATC corporations as a pilot study to understand the level of scripture engagement, human flourishing, stress, and persevering hope amongst students, graduates, and staff. This process was repeated in April/May 2023.

In May 2023, we received 916 new responses, which is up 394 from the first round. The 916 responses represent 21 different corporations with 10 corporations having enough responses to provide customized reports to each corporation detailing their results. This project will continue into future years as we hope to tell the testimonies of the Holy Spirit's transformative work in a new way.

QUICK STATS

Participants: 916 people

Gender: 59% Male, 41% Female

Age: 40 Avg age; Range 16-76 years

Generation: 46% Millennials; 32% Generation X; 14% Generation Z, 8% Boomers

Status: 41% Current Students; 42% Graduates; 11% Staff; 6% Former Students

Race: 68% White; 11% Hispanic or Latino/a; 8% Black; and 13% Other

Education: >60% with HS diploma or less; 8% with BS degree or higher

Primary Drugs: Amphetamines, Alcohol, & Cocaine

GRADUATES REPORTED:

Top 5 challenges:

Tobacco or Nicotine, Sexual addiction, Alcohol, Marijuana, Street drugs

Aftercare needs:

34% Community Group (AA, NA)

59% Church support group (CR, RNR, LF)

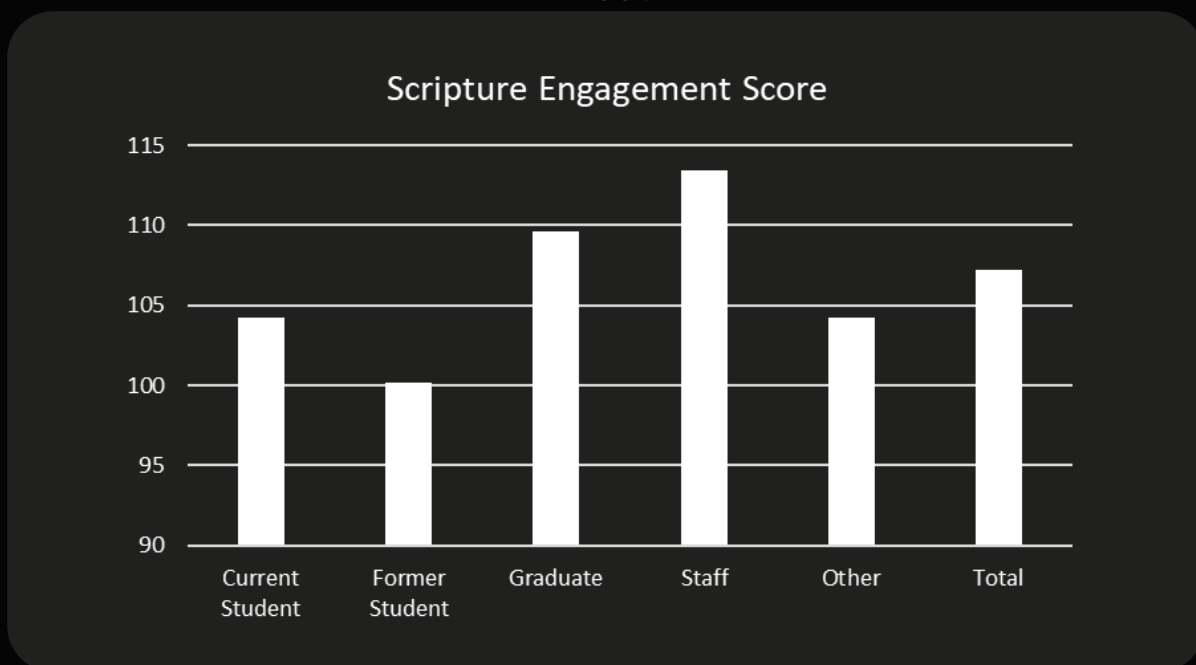
20% Outpatient Treatment





SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Scripture Engagement by Status N= 980



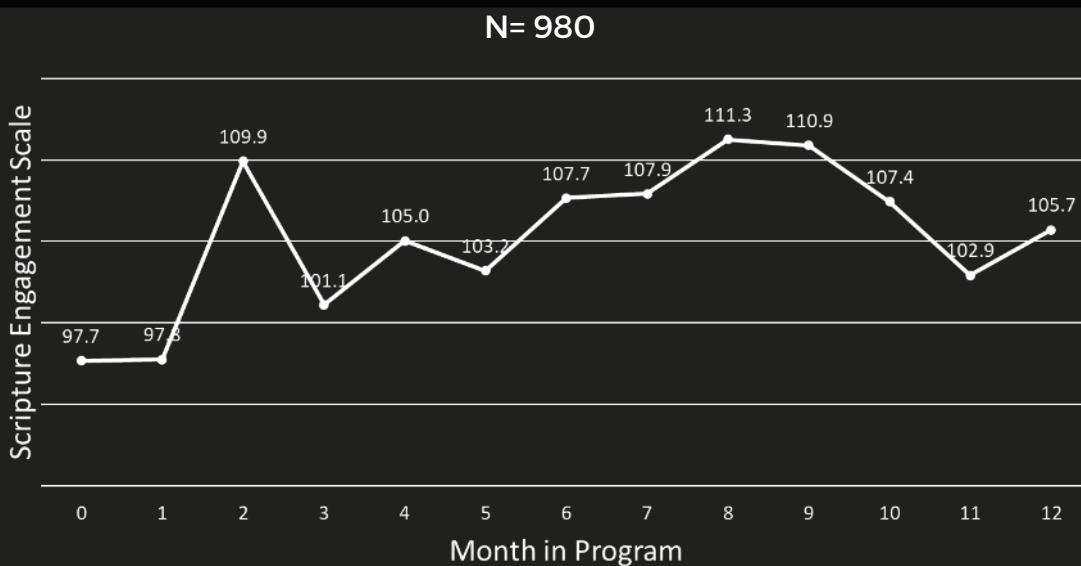
Scripture Engagement refers to *consistent interaction with the Bible that quantifiably shapes people's choices and transforms their relationships with God and with others.*¹ People with scores above 100 are classified as Scripture Engaged. People in the Movable Middle have scores ranging from the mid-40's to 100 and typically interact with the Bible sporadically and are generally considered open to the Bible as a source of spiritual insight and wisdom. As students matriculate through the program, their scripture engagement score improves. While this is to be expected, the most interesting number is found upon graduation. The higher the score, the more central the influence of Scripture on their life choices and godly relationships with others.

¹ See <https://sotb.research.bible/>



SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Scripture Engagement by Month in Program

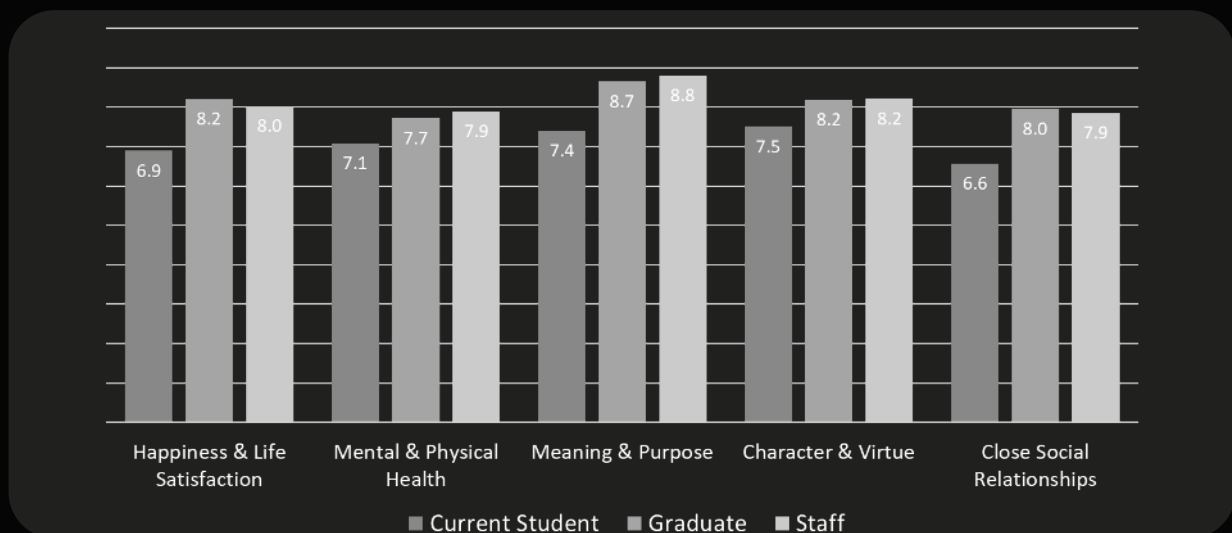


The graph on this page shows scripture engagement by month in a program. While this graph is a snapshot of individuals at the various months of a program, the number of respondents provides us with enough confidence that as students continue in a program, their scripture engagement score continues to climb. It's also worth noting, some of the students seeking services from ATC may come in with a higher scripture engagement score because they come from a church background or it could perhaps be them answering the questions the way they think we want them to, rather than actual scripture engagement.



HUMAN FLOURISHING

N= 916



For many decades, we used a variety of ways to describe our needs as humans. Maslow suggests a pyramid approach to human growth and development. While we may or may not agree on the most basic level with Maslow's hierarchy, Human Flourishing is a way to complement Maslow's work and incorporates more categories rather than build a pyramid. Human Flourishing says each category works concurrently to more broadly capture all areas of a person's life that are related to the values of ATC.

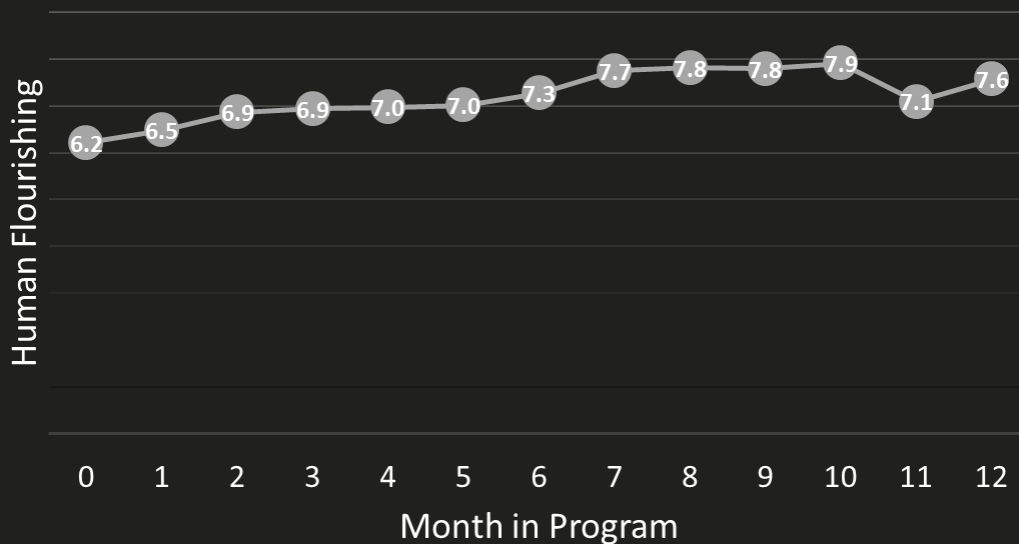
The American Bible Society has determined Americans score an average of 7.2 in any of the Human Flourishing categories. As you can see in the chart above, in every category, ATC graduates scored above the average American. As expected, current students score lower than the national average in some domains initially, but we can be encouraged that the graduate scores reflect higher than the average American. We expect as students continue through ATC programming, their Human Flourishing domain scores continue to trend upwards.



HUMAN FLOURISHING

Human Flourishing by Month in Program

N= 916



As expected, students rate themselves as lower on the Human Flourishing scale when they first start a program. However, as you can see, the longer they continue in the program, the higher their human flourishing scores climb. We see a dip in their score at month 11, but it is unclear why. We think there may be a relationship between stress and human flourishing where they are indirectly related- as one goes down, the other goes up. On the next page, you'll see stress goes up in month 10 which may be why human flourishing dips slightly in month 11. More research is needed to truly understand if this is a pattern or just representative of this student group.



FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

As a part of this research American Bible Society measured other factors known to be influenced by Scripture Engagement according to the ABS known national data. These factors include stress. Each participant responded to 10 items asking how often they experience symptoms of stress. These items address anxiety, depression, and somatoform experiences. Scores on the scale could range from 0 – 40.

Below you can see the average scores of stress dependent on what month a student is in the program. As you can see, students' stress levels decrease as they continue through a program. It is likely the spike in stress at months 10-12 is due to the approaching change and completion of residential programming. It is worth considering students experience stress similar to that of when they first entered a program right before they leave. This is worth considering and accounting for as students approach completion of their time in a program.

N= 916

