SAMPLE

SURVEY INTERVIEW

Author: Former 3320 student. All credit for this report belongs to former student.
PURPOSE

The purpose of this interview was to see how much religion plays in our everyday lives, how regularly did people of different religions attend church, pray, read the Bible, and how important was religion in their lives and upbringing. I also had a hidden agenda as to whether people attended church as a child even if their parents did not attend. My reason for this question is my own upbringing where I attended church regularly even though my parents did not. I wanted to see if this was the norm or not.

DEMOGRAPHICS

I conducted my survey on the UTA campus, thus my survey was random among college students. Had I conducted the survey off campus, I’m sure I would have had a wider age group. 95% of those I surveyed were between the ages of 19 & 34 years old, with only 5% being over the age of 35. This definitely could bring about bias in the survey because of the cultural change in the U.S. in the last fifty years. Almost two-thirds of the respondents were males. I’m not sure how this would affect the survey. This survey, then, focused on young college age adults.
1. What is your age?  
______________

2. Are you male or female?  
M______  F______

3. Was religion an important part of your upbringing?  
YES ________  NO__________

4. When growing up, did your parents attend church regularly (at least twice a month)?  
YES ________  NO__________

5. Would your parents take you to church regularly (at least twice a month)?  
YES__________  NO__________

6. When growing up did you attend church, without your parents, on a regular basis (at least twice a month)?  
YES ________  NO ____________

7. How important is religion in your life today?  
Very important _____  Fairly important _______  Not very _______

8. Do you consider yourself a member of a church or synagogue?  
YES ________  NO__________

9. What is your religious affiliation?  
____________________________________________________

10. How often do you attend church?  
Once a week ____________  
Two or more times a week ____________  
Other ___________________________
11. How often do you read your Bible outside of church?
   Daily ______   Twice a week________
   Once a week ______   Once a month ______
   Other __________

12. Do you pray?   Yes ______   No ______
   If so, how often do you pray?
   Daily ______   Once a week ______
   Once a month ______   Other ______________

13. Do you feel prayer makes a difference in the situations you prayed about?
   YES ______   NO________

14. Do you feel that religion is relevant to life?
   YES ______   NO________

15. Can you list three of the Ten Commandments?
   1. _________________________________
   2. _________________________________
   3. _________________________________
Summary of Findings

This survey was conducted on the UTA campus. The data was collected from 38 surveys. After conducting the survey, I found that religion was an important part in growing up for 87% of the people surveyed. It was interesting to note that 50% of all that were surveyed said that they attended church regularly with their parents while growing up. 52% said that religion is very important in their lives today. 66% said that they consider themselves a member of a church or synagogue. However, only 32% attend church once a week while the others attend less. Even though many do not attend church regularly, 95% of all surveyed said that they pray and 55% of them said they pray daily.

Considering the fact that we live in the Bible belt, I expected the highest percentage of those surveyed to be of the Baptist religion. However, 34% of those surveyed were Catholic and 21% were Baptist. It was interesting to note that those that pertain to Christian and non-denominational religions attended church more often, read their Bibles more often and prayed more often than the others. I was pleasantly surprised to see that 74% of all surveyed were able to write three of the ten Commandments in the Bible. I was also glad to see that 50% said they attended church twice a month without their parents. One variable in the survey that is difficult to account for is the term Christian. I found that some believe if they are Catholic or Baptist, they consider themselves a Christian, while those that stated they were Christian, were neither Catholic or Baptist. I should have had a question in the survey dealing with that.
Observations & Analysis

I really learned much by conducting this survey. First of all, it took quite an amount of time to write the purpose. I knew what I wanted to determine but it was challenging to put it in writing. Formulating the questions was also a challenge. It’s not as easy as it sounds!

Affects of the Sample Survey:
After I formulated the questions, typed and printed them, I tested the interview by conducting a sample survey. I found that question #6 should have been worded differently. I noticed that it was not very clear to some people. So, I added bold font to some of the wording in order to distinguish it from questions #4 and #5.

I also found that I needed to specify what I meant by "regularly" on questions #4 - #6 and so I added to the question.

5) Example: Would your parents take you to church regularly (at least twice a month)?
   Yes   No

Through conducting the sample survey, I also learned that I needed to let the people know that there were questions on the back portion of the survey. I was surprised to see how many people only filled out the front part before being told that there were more questions on the back.

What needed to be revised:
Although I added bold font to question #6, I believe that people were overlooking the difference in it. I think that by the time that people would get to #6 they thought it was a repeat question from #4 and #5. Even though it was a different question. If I had to do it over again, I would rephrase the question. The reason I wanted to ask this question is because, when I was growing up my parents rarely attended church and I would attend without them.

Another part that I should have worded differently (or added to it) was the option called "other" in the question scales. I thought it was self explanatory and it worked fine in my sample survey. However, There were a couple of people that placed a check mark on the blank for "other" instead of writing down how many times. I should have written: Other (please specify) Example of how it appeared:

11) How often do you read the Bible outside of church?
   Daily______ twice a week______
   Once a week_____ Once a month_____
   Other______

What was effective:
It was very beneficial to stand in front of the UTA library and ask students to participate in the survey. It was also very beneficial to let the students know that I too am a student at UTA, gave them my major and explained the purpose of the survey. Once I established a rapport with the students they were very eager to help me by filling out the survey. The fact that I was well prepared for the survey interviews also helped. I had copies of all the surveys along with pens on hand, so that the students would not have to reach in their back-packs to look for one.

Using question scales was very effective. People were able to answer questions more specific yet much quicker than if it were an open-ended question. Also, people seemed to like these.
Using specific wording to clarify the questions also helped. I realized that it would be more effective to be more specific on certain questions. For example the wording in parenthesis explained what is meant by "regularly".

4) When you were growing up, did your parents attend church regularly (at least twice a month)?
   Yes_____ No_______

My Best questions:
I feel that the following were my best questions because the answers reflect the importance of religion in peoples' lives while growing up and in their lives today. I believe that these were good questions to ask in order to determine my purpose.

3) Was religion an important part of your up-bringing?
   Yes_____ No_____

7) How important is religion in your life today?
   Very_____ Fairly____ Not very____

10) How often do you attend church?
    Once a week ____
    Two or more times a week ____
    Other____

11) How often do you read the Bible outside of church?
    Daily____ twice a week____
    Once a week ____ Once a month ____
    Other______

12) Do you pray?    Yes_____     No________

14) Do you feel that religion is relevant to life?    Yes______     No_______

What went wrong:
My first initial thoughts were that I would also get to compare the differences in beliefs among age groups. I thought that I could add this as extra information. However, most of the people that filled out the survey fell in one particular age group. I realize that I would have to ask the same amount of people for each group which would prove to be very challenging.

It was very time consuming to tabulate question scales that contained "other" as an option since the answers varied.
Tabulation of Results

The preceding percentages are the tabulated results of the survey interview conducted on the UTA campus. The survey interview was given to 38 persons.

1. Ages:
   - 79% between the ages of 19 - 22 years
   - 16% between the ages of 23 - 34 years
   - 5% between the ages of 35 - 53 years

2. Gender:
   - 61% female
   - 39% male

3. Was religion an important part of your upbringing?
   - 87% yes
   - 13% no

4. When growing up, did your parents attend church regularly (at least twice a month)?
   - 87% yes
   - 13% no

5. Would your parents take you to church regularly (at least twice a month)?
   - 84% yes, their parents took them to church at least twice a month
   - 16% no, their parents did not take them to church at least twice a month

6. When growing up did you attend church, without your parents, on a regular basis (at least twice a month)?
   - 50% yes, did attend church without their parents at least twice a month
   - 50% no, did not attend church without their parents at least twice a month

7. How important is religion in your life today?
   - 52% very important
   - 32% fairly important
   - 16% not very

8. Do you consider yourself a member of a church or synagogue?
   - 66% yes, they consider themselves a member of a church or synagogue
   - 34% no, they do not consider themselves a member of a church or synagogue
9. What is your religious affiliation?
   - 21% Baptist
   - 34% Catholic
   - 8% Non-denominational
   - 37% Other - (the following is a break down of the 37%)
     - 13% Methodist
     - 8% Christian
     - 5% Seventh Day Adventist
     - 2% Church of Christ
     - 5% Did not specify
     - 2% Have no religious affiliation

10. How often do you attend church?
   - 32% attended church once a week
   - 21% attended church 2 or more times a week
   - 47% Other - (the following is a breakdown of the 47%)
     - 2.5% one time a year
     - 5% two times a year
     - 5% four times a year
     - 3% five times a year
     - 2.5% not often
     - 3% most of the time
     - 13% did not specify
     - 5% never
     - 8% monthly

11. How often do you read your Bible?
   - 0% daily
   - 8% twice a week
   - 13% once a week
   - 24% once a month
   - 55% Other - (the following is a breakdown of the 55%)
     - 2.5% occasionally
     - 2.5% three times a week
     - 2.5% two times a week
     - 7% hardly
     - 2.5% one or two times a year
     - 7% not often
     - 18% did not specify
     - 13% never
12. Do you pray?
   95% Yes
   5% No

If so, how often do you pray?
   55% daily
   21% once a week
   12% once a month
   12% Other -(the following is a breakdown of the 12%)
       3% several times a day
       3% "whenever I feel in the mood"
       3% did not specify
       3% never

13. Do you feel that prayer makes a difference in the situations that are prayed about?
   97% yes
   3% no

14. Do you feel that religion is relevant to life?
   97% yes
   3% no

15. Can you list three of the Ten Commandments?
   74% were able to
   26% were not able to