

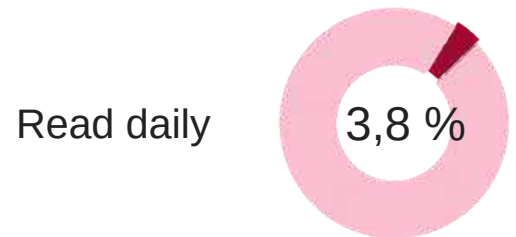
# How do we read the Holy Bible ?



The Catholic Church celebrates Bible Sunday on April 15, 2018. IMAS, together with "Pismo Święte PL" and "Lectio Divina – On Jest", took this occasion to ask Poles whether they read the Bible and how. This report presents some of the most significant findings. Full version is available at [www.imas.pl](http://www.imas.pl)

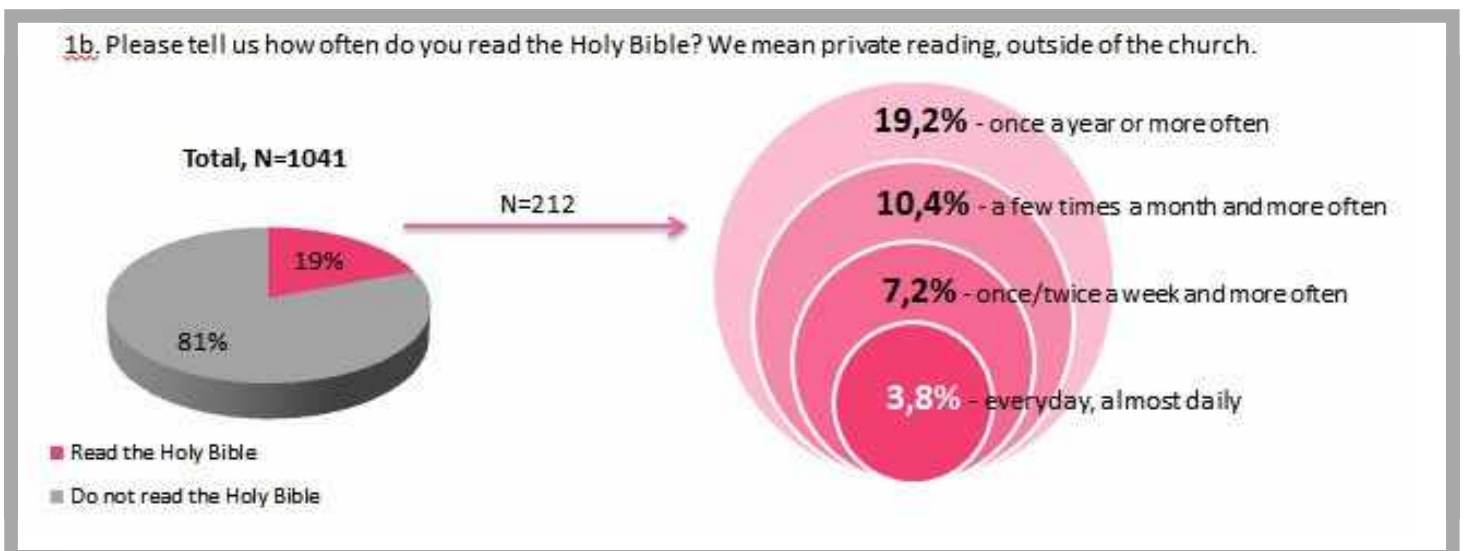


## The Bible is out there on the shelf, but hardly gets attention...



98% of Poles have the Bible at home, as results from a study commissioned by the weekly "Niedziela" to The ISKK (Catholic Church Statistical Institute) in 2008 (no.51/2008). We do have it on our shelves, but we do not reach for it that often. In our current study 19,2% respondents admit reading the Bible at least once a year and 3,8% said they read it daily. A little over 7% of Poles use the Bible at least once a week. Those results are much lower than in the USA, where 35% respondents say they are reading the Bible at least once a week (according to Barna Research). The Polish result is, however, higher than in Germany, where 4% of the population admit "frequent\*\*" reading (Allensbach Institute, 2005.)

### POLES WHO READ THE BIBLE



\*\*The scale used to test the frequency of reading in Germany was different than in Poland and the USA. "Frequently" meant "at least once a week" in Poland and the USA

## What do we read the most often?



**Gospels - 70 %**



**Epistles /  
Revelation - 37 %**



**Psalms - 30 %**



**Historical books  
- 25 %**

1c. Could you please tell us what, which part of the Holy Bible, have you been reading recently  
Population: those who read the Holy Bible at least a few times a month,

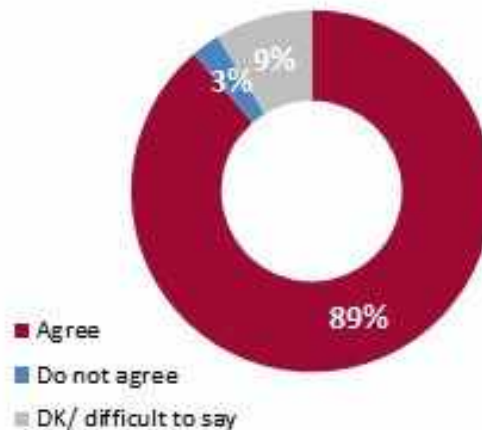
The respondents were asked to recall fragments of the Bible they have recently been reading. 70% indicated the Gospels and 37% - Epistles or the Revelation.

In case of the Old Testament, Psalms are the most common, with almost 30% of the respondents indicating them, as well as the Historical books, indicated by 25% of those who read the Bible at least a few times a month.

## The Holy Bible is perceived through faith

6. Sometimes we hear that the Bible is the living word, through which God is speaking to man. Do you agree with this statement or rather disagree? Population: respondents reading the Bible at least a few times a month,

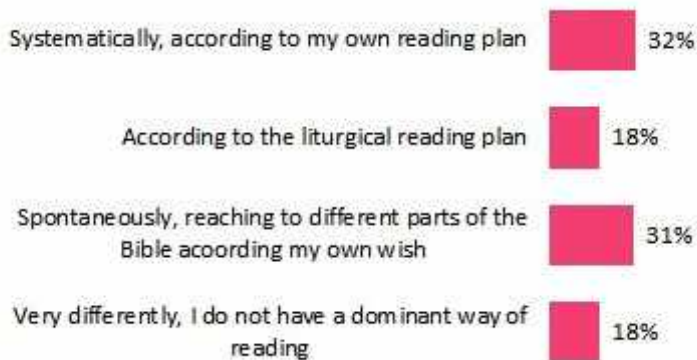
Apart from the terms Genesis and Decalogue, which have been adopted to common language, the respondents hardly recalled the remaining concepts directly related to reading of the Bible. Half of the readers heard the term Apocrypha and fewer than 10% knows the term Lectio Divina – an important part in the tradition of profound reading of the Bible in the Catholic Church.



Despite the worse knowledge of concepts related to reading of the Bible, which might mean lower knowledge of the Bible itself, the respondents unambiguously perceive the Bible through faith, with almost 89% of them agreeing that the Bible is the Living Word of the God, through which the God is speaking to people.

## Planned rather than spontaneous reading

4. How do you read the Bible the most often? Population: respondents reading the Bible at least a few times a month

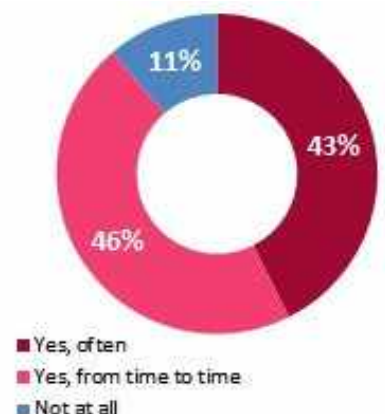


Bible readers were also asked how are they reading it. 32,2% of the respondents read according to their own reading plan. 18,3% read according to the liturgical reading plan – what is read on the given day, and 31,3% read spontaneously, reaching to different parts of the Bible.

## Comments and deliberations are important

3. Do you take advantage of the comments or deliberations meant to facilitate understanding of the Bible?  
Population: respondents reading the Bible at least a few times a month

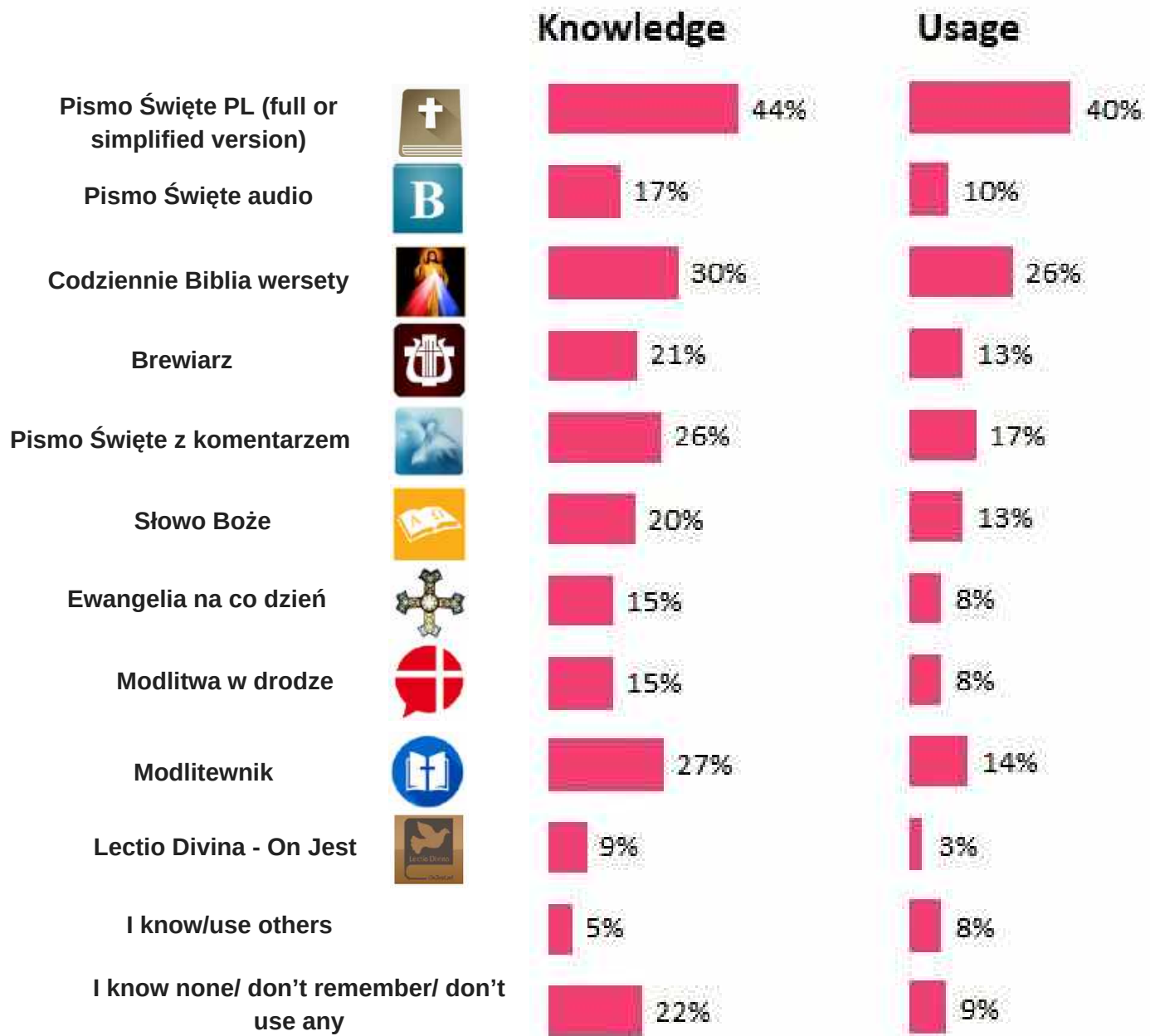
Comments or deliberations that facilitate understanding of the Bible are a relatively important element. In total, 88,7% of respondents do take advantage of them and only 11,3% definitely do not use them.



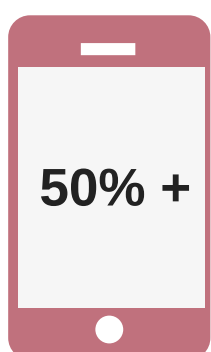
## New technologies attack

7a. Below are logos and names of a few applications for reading and/or thinking about the Bible. Which of them do you know, at least the names? Which have you heard about?

7b. Which apps have you ever used or are currently using? Population: respondents reading the Bible at least a few times a month



### App users



We have asked about knowledge and usage for select Bible reading apps. "Pismo Święte PL" is definitely the most known app and simultaneously the one that gets the most usage. Presentation of app icons enabled more detailed estimation of the total share of online Bible reading apps. Taking into account that some of the apps (for instance Brewiarz) might be also used for other purposes than strictly reading and thinking about the Bible, we may estimate the share of respondents who use online apps for Bible reading to be over 50% in the group of respondents reading the Bible at least a few times a month.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted on March 9-16, 2018, by IMAS International using the online interview (CAWI) method, on a randomized-quota sample of N=1104 reflecting the representative structure of Poles aged 18-64 (according to gender, age, education, city size and NUTS 1 habitation classification).

Sample selected among ImasOnline research panel.

## STUDY CONTRACTOR

IMAS International Sp. z o.o. ([www.imas.pl](http://www.imas.pl)) has been doing professional market research since 1994. Conducts studies in Poland and abroad. IMAS is a member of OFBOR (Opinion and Market Research Company Association) and follows quality assurance according to PKJPA.

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## STUDY PARTNERS

### Pismo Święte PL



"Pismo Święte PL" is the most popular online bible reading app in Poland. Enables continuous reading or reading of selected fragments. The app offers easy linking to current reading in the Catholic Church liturgy. Moreover, includes a list of popular prayers.

[www.pismo.swiete.pl](http://www.pismo.swiete.pl)

### Lectio Divina - On Jest



Lectio Divina - On Jest is an initiative promoting prayerful reading and deliberation about the Holy Bible following the Lectio Divina method. The initiative wants to contribute to knowledge of the Bible as the word of God, following the words of Benedict XVI: „*Lectio divina, if popularized effectively, will bring a new spiritual rebirth to the Church*”.

[www.onjest.pl](http://www.onjest.pl)



Full version of the report (in Polish) may be downloaded at [www.imas.pl](http://www.imas.pl)