



LIFESIGNS[®]

HOW ARE YOU? REALLY.

LifeSigns Insights: Impact of Relational Intimacy on Giving

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LIFESIGNS INSIGHTS®

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Research and insights from LifeSigns Partners, Inc.

Question: Is there a relationship between relational health and giving in local churches?

Leading Indicators: Relational Health

- Do you have a Best Friend?
- How often do you attend a Small Group?
- If you're in a group, how Healthy is it?
- How healthy are your Relationships?
- How healthy is your Marriage?
- As a Bonus: How's your Walk with Jesus?

Lagging Indicator: Giving

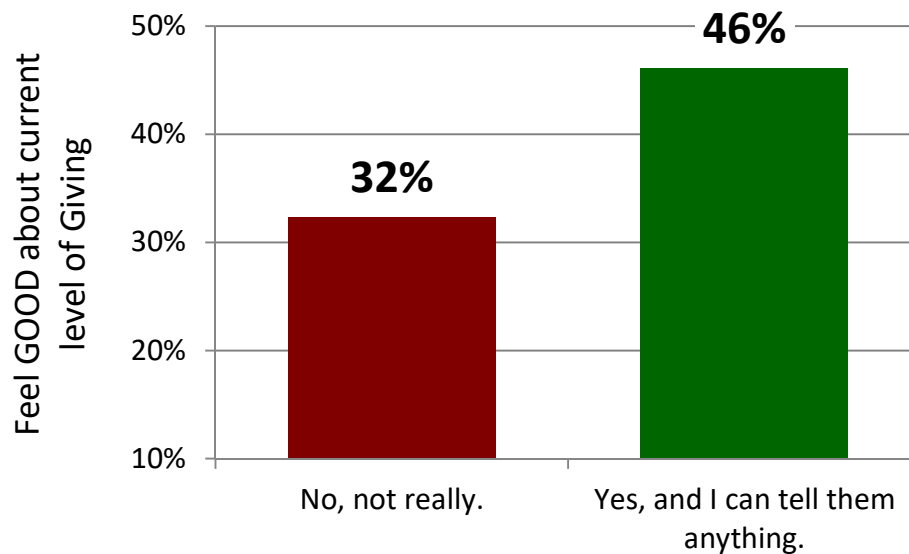
- How do you feel about your financial giving these days? (this is a "gap question")
- Comparing the two most frequent responses (70% of all responses):
 - "I feel GOOD about my current level of giving"
 - "I wish I could give a LOT more"

Short Answer: Yes.

Source: Meta-analysis of LifeSigns data, all correlations are statistically significant at $p < .01$ for T-tests, Beta coefficients.

People with a “best friend” they can trust
give **43% more often** than those who don’t.

Do you have a best friend?



The percent shown is the portion of each group that GIVES consistently.

Leading Indicator – people with a best friend:

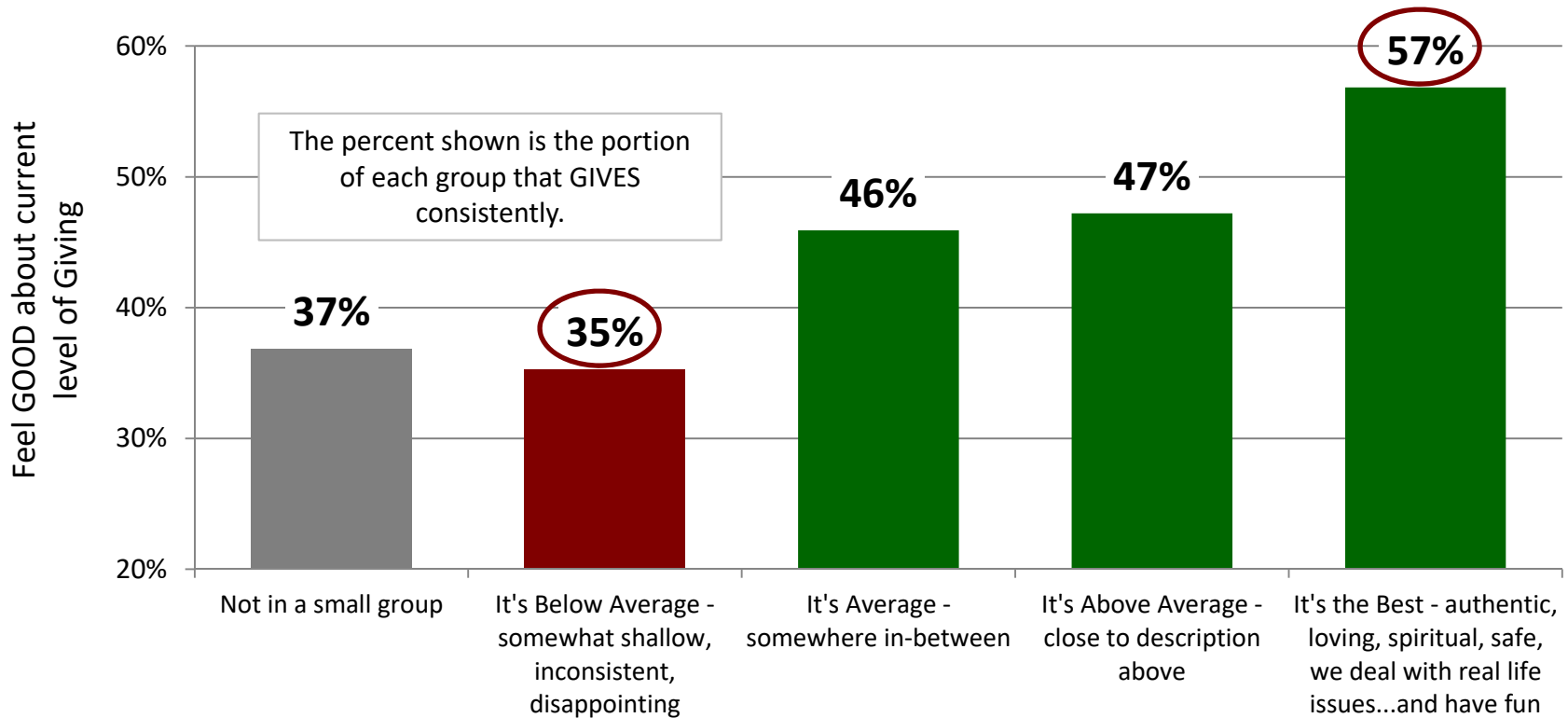
- Do you have a “best friend?” Not just a buddy, but someone you've TRUSTED with your struggles and secrets? (you can call them at midnight, honestly share, and get encouragement)

Lagging Indicator – a comparison of people who said:

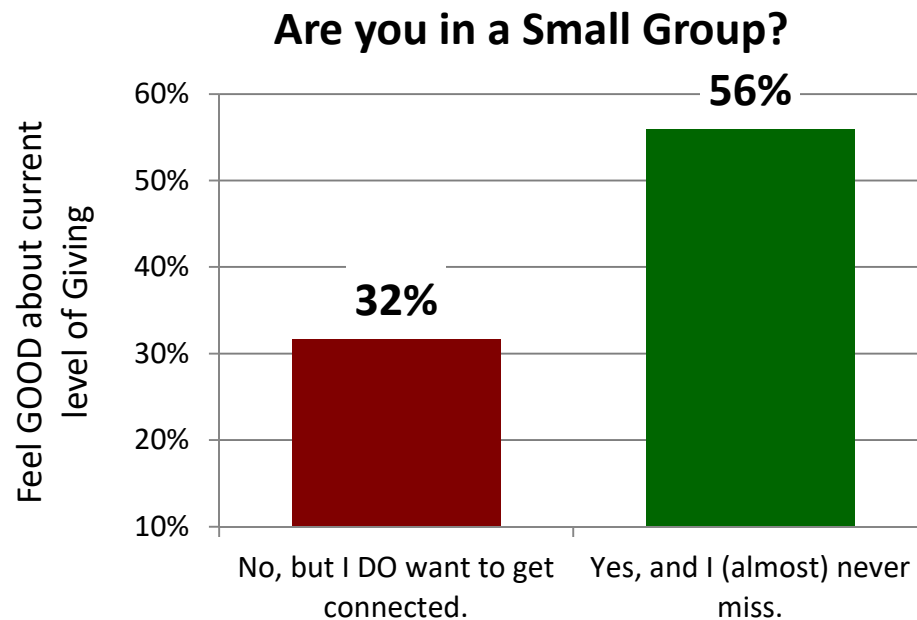
- “I feel GOOD about my current level of giving” compared to “I wish I could give a LOT more”

People in a loving, authentic, spiritual, safe, and fun small group
give **61% more often** than those who aren't.

If you are in a small group, how healthy is it?



**People who consistently attend a small group
give **77% more often** than those who don't.**



The percent shown is the portion of each group that GIVES consistently.

Leading Indicator – small group participation:

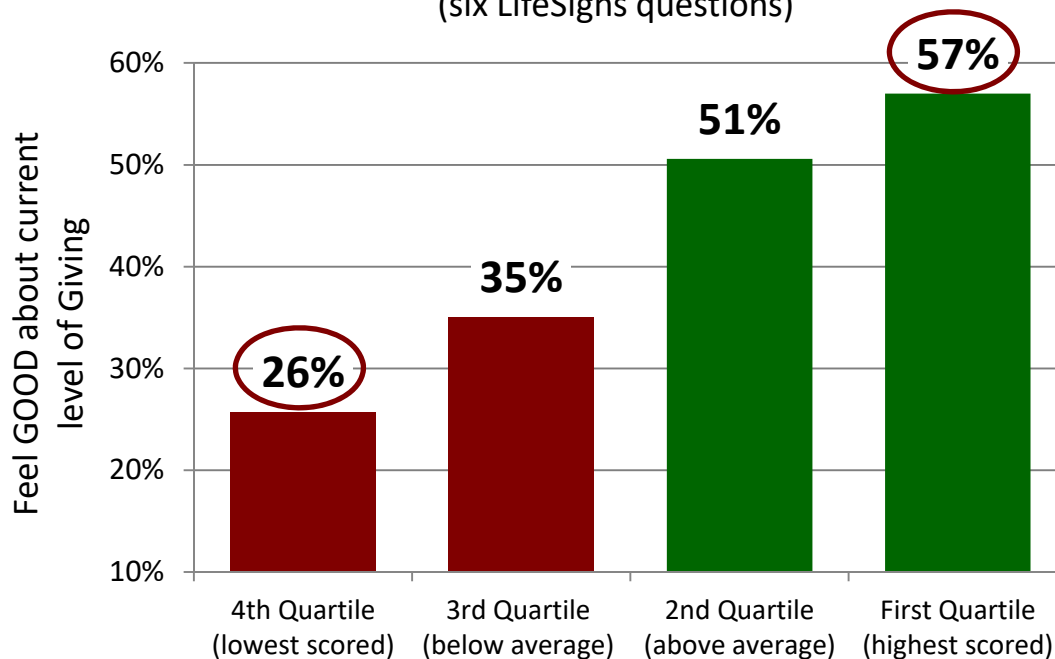
- Are you actively participating in a SMALL GROUP of some kind through Bent Tree?

Lagging Indicator – a comparison of people who said:

- “I feel GOOD about my current level of giving” compared to “I wish I could give a LOT more”

People with the strongest “horizontal relationships”
give **122% more often** than those with the weakest.

How healthy are your relationships?
(six LifeSigns questions)

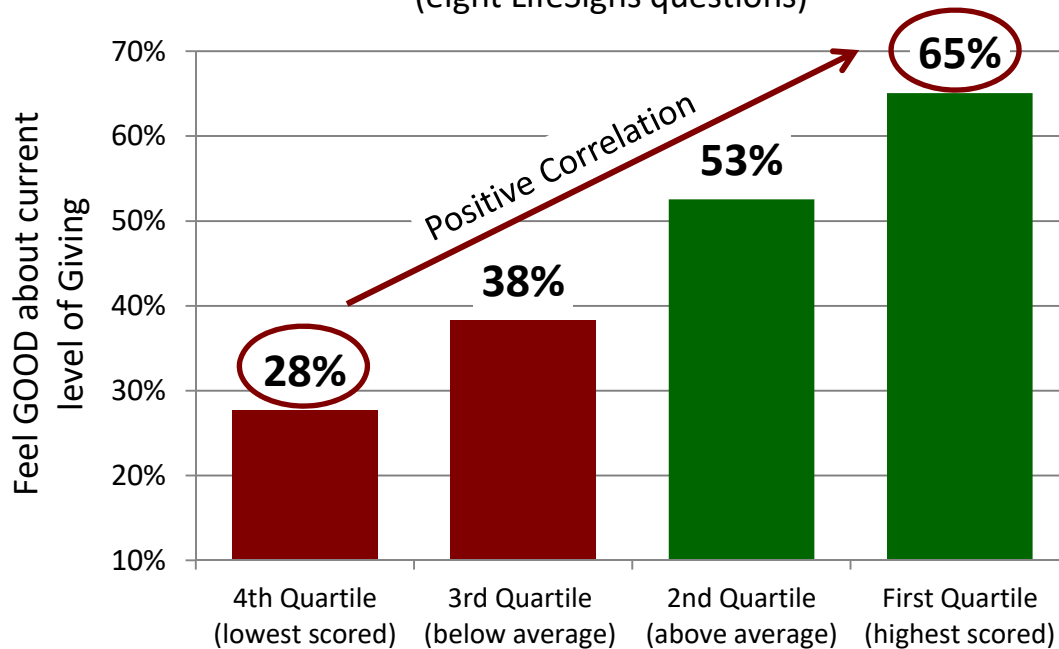


Leading Indicators – six LifeSigns questions:

- Authenticity: How often are you able to go deep in relationships and talk about REAL LIFE?
- Acceptance: When you’ve taken a risk to engage in a relationship, how often do you feel LOVED and accepted?
- Growth: How often are you talking with friends about what you’re LEARNING from Scripture?
- Forgiving Others: When someone hurts you, how often do you quickly let it go?
- New Friendships: How frequently do you feel comfortable INITIATING relationships with people who don't know Me?
- Accountability: How often do you maintain a healthy level of ACCOUNTABILITY with a friend?

**People with the strongest Marriages
give 135% more often than those with the weakest.**

How healthy is your Marriage?
(eight LifeSigns questions)

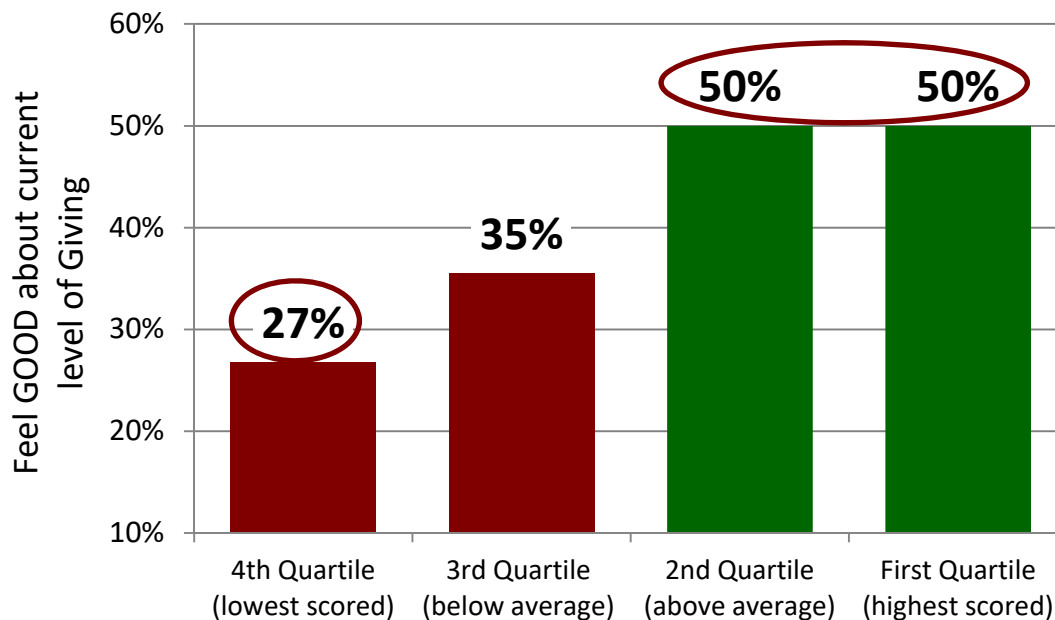


Leading Indicators – eight LifeSigns questions:

- **Priorities:** How often do you truly CONNECT with your spouse on a DAILY basis?
- **Decision-making:** How consistently do you HONOR one-another when making decisions?
- **Communication:** How often do you truly UNDERSTAND your spouse's heart?
- **Selfless Sex:** Do you put the needs of your spouse AHEAD of your own?
- **Intimacy:** How often do you feel sex strengthens your UNITY as a couple?
- **Resolving Conflict:** When there's an issue, how often do you resolve it the SAME DAY?
- **Staying at it:** When you struggle, do you DISCARD any thoughts of getting out of the marriage?
- **Connecting with Other Couples:** TALKING with another couple about what I'm teaching you through marriage?

**Bonus: People with an above average Walk with Jesus
give **87% more often** than those with the weakest.**

How's your walk with Jesus? (six LifeSigns questions)



Leading Indicators – six LifeSigns questions:

- Intimacy with Christ: On any given day, how often do you have an INTIMATE encounter with Me?
- Group Worship: How often do you fully ENGAGE and FOCUS on Me during Sunday services?
- Truth: How often do I speak to you THROUGH the Bible?
- Application: How consistently are you APPLYING the Bible to your life?
- Surrender: How often do you respond when I prompt you to CHANGE direction in your life?
- Faith: When facing difficulties, how often do you depend on Me and My strength – rather than your own strength?

**Bottom Line: Strong correlation between relational health and
GIVING in the local church.**

- 43% more frequent giving by people with a “best friend” they can trust
- 61% more frequent giving by people in a loving, authentic, spiritual, safe, and fun small group
- 77% more frequent giving by people who consistently attend a small group
- 122% more frequent giving by people with the strongest “horizontal relationships”
- 135% more frequent giving by people with the strongest Marriages
- Bonus: 87% more frequent giving by people with an above average Walk with Jesus

Next Question: What about SERVING?