

# A Question of Faith

WE POLL THE CONGREGATION TO SEE HOW MEN ARE KEEPING THE FAITH

**2 in 5** | Number of men who are members of an organized religious congregation

**1 in 2** | Number who pray every day

**42** | Percentage of Catholics who know that Genesis is the first book of the Bible

**71** | Percentage of atheists and agnostics who know

**79** | Percentage of churchgoing guys who say their congregation feels like family

**12** | Percentage of guys who feel that they're the black sheep of the flock

**1 in 4** | Number of men who feel a need to share their faith with people of other beliefs

**1 in 4** | Number who don't talk about their faith—even with their kids

**1 in 2** | Number of men who say religion influenced their choice of spouse

**1 in 17** | Number who think religion is the worst topic to bring up on a first date

**44** | Percentage of Americans who see natural disasters as signs of biblical "end of times"

**29** | Percentage of Americans who think God punishes nations for the sins of their citizens

**1 in 5** | Number of men who think the Almighty has a soft spot for the United States

**3 in 4** | Number of men who say they would vote for a Mormon for president

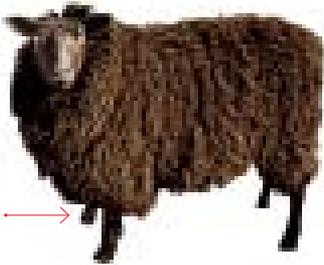
**1 in 3** | Number who pretend they're not home when proselytizers come knocking

**40** | Percentage of men who read the Bible story of Jesus's birth at Christmas

**83** | Percentage who prefer secular fare, like watching Flick stick his tongue to a frozen pole

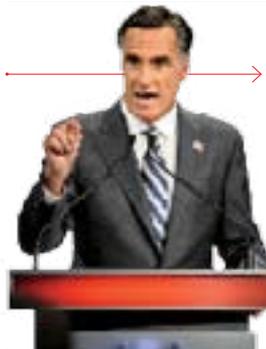
Most predominantly male "belief" in the United States

**ATHEISM**



Religion in the United States that's most resistant to poaching

**HINDUISM**



**READ UP ON THE BIG GUY(S)**



**America's Four Gods: What We Say about God—and What That Says about Us** by Paul Froese and Christopher Bader

It's not just football that divides America. The authors, both sociologists, say Americans assign God one of four faces: authoritarian, benevolent, critical, or distant. These views shape our nation.

**God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World** by Stephen Prothero

What's wrong with the world according to Confucius? Or Jesus? Or Buddha? And how do they plan to save it? Prothero, a Boston University religion professor, has crafted a compelling, readable rundown of world religions.

Most common view of the Supreme Being

**AUTHORITARIAN**

**REACH DATING NIRVANA**

You've shared beers with her dad, but have you communed with her heavenly Father? "Talk about faith fairly early in a relationship," says Tierney Lorenz, Ph.D. (c), a University of Texas at Austin researcher who has studied religion and sexuality. Don't dive into doctrine or start a debate. Simply ask what role her faith plays in her life and what parts she most wants you to accept. She should invite you to make a similar disclosure.

Most liberal

**BUDDHISM**

U.S. faith with the most politically conservative members

**MORMONISM**



**FIND PEACE ON EARTH**

Holiday cheer can make non-Christians feel left out, a 2010 Canadian study found. Not a holly-jolly guy? Establish a December 25 ritual with other non-celebrators. "A ritual that contrasts with mainstream traditions can strengthen your own identity," says study author Stephen Wright, Ph.D. If you do celebrate, tread lightly around folks who don't. Ask about their plans, but don't dig deeper than you normally would, he says.

Alon Thornton/Getty Images (sheep), Doug Armand/Getty Images (rings), AP Images (Mitt Romney), Mira Derman/FP/Getty Images (house), Getty Images (Santa), Everett Collection (A Christmas Story)