



The 2008 National Survey on Spirituality
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1. Have there ...

- a. Have there been any times in the past year when you felt especially uplifted by seeing or hearing something beautiful while you were out in nature?
- b. Have there been any times in the past year when you felt especially uplifted while you were listening to music?
- c. Have there been any times in the past year when you felt especially uplifted while you were at a religious service?
- d. Have there been any times in the past year when you felt especially uplifted while you were at a wedding, funeral, or other life cycle event?

Non-Jewish Whites (Yes)	Jews (Yes)
79%	73%
81%	74%
48%	43%
49%	54%

2. And how much time have you spent time trying to imagine how the universe came into existence?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
A Lot of Time Trying to Imagine	18%	16%
A Little Time Trying to Imagine	53%	53%
Not Tried to Imagine	29%	31%

3. How much time have you spent time trying to imagine what God is like?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
A Lot of Time Trying to Imagine	33%	17%
A Little Time Trying to Imagine	44%	46%
Not Tried to Imagine	23%	37%

4. Do you believe in God?

- Yes
- No, but I believe in something like a universal spirit for example
- No

Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
80%	71%
14%	19%
6%	9%

5. How certain are you about your beliefs about God? Are you

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Absolutely certain	57%	35%
Fairly certain	31%	42%
Not too certain	6%	14%
Not at all certain	4%	6%
Not sure	2%	4%

6. How interested are you in each of the following?

- a. Learning more about how spiritual exploration can relate to your life
- b. Learning more about how meditation can

		Very Interested (Non-Jew/Jew)		Fairly Interested (Non-Jew/Jew)		Not Very Interested (Non-Jew/Jew)		Not At All Interested (Non-Jew/Jew)	
a.		26%	17%	33%	34%	27%	33%	14%	16%
b.		22%	16%	33%	34%	27%	33%	14%	16%



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- relate to your life
- c. Learning more about how the sacred text(s)
 - d. of your faith tradition can relate to your life

26%	18%	28%	34%	26%	30%	20%	19%

7. In the last 5 years, have you had to deal with ...
- a. Moving past something painful in your childhood
 - b. Learning to forgive yourself
 - c. Learning to forgive someone else

Non-Jewish Whites (Yes)	Jews (Yes)
30%	26%
56%	45%
65%	59%

8. Within the past 12 months, have you ...
- a. Had a significant spiritual experience
 - b. Read religious or inspirational literature on your own

Non-Jewish Whites (Yes)	Jews (Yes)
31%	22%
56%	38%

9. How important has it been to you as an adult to grow in your spiritual life?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Very important	44%	25%
Somewhat important	31%	36%
Not too important	18%	28%
Not at all important	7%	11%

10. How much effort have you devoted to your spiritual life during the past year?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
A great deal	18%	10%
A fair amount	38%	31%
Hardly any	34%	43%
None	10%	15%

11. Which statement comes closest to describing your relationship with spirituality?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
I'm not really a spiritual person.	21%	32%
I sometimes explore my spirituality	26%	34%
I am growing the spiritual aspects of my life	25%	17%
I am committed to my spirituality	18%	13%
Spirituality is at the center of my existence	11%	4%

12. Some people have someone with whom they talk about spiritual concerns or issues.

a. Does a clergy person fulfill such a role in your life?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes	21%	15%
No	76%	81%

b. Does anyone else, aside from a clergy person, fulfill this role in your life?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes	41%	32%
No	53%	59%

c. **IF NO in Q13b:** Would you like someone to fulfill this role in your life?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes	10%	11%
No	65%	61%

13. How important is each of the following to your religious or spiritual life?

	Very Important (Non-Jew/Jew)		Somewhat Important (Non-Jew/Jew)		Not Too Important (Non-Jew/Jew)		Not At All Important (Non-Jew/Jew)		Not Sure (Non-Jew/Jew)	
a. Regular group worship or prayer	27%	13%	19%	19%	16%	23%	35%	43%	3%	2%
b. Small group study	12%	6%	16%	14%	26%	28%	44%	50%	2%	2%
c. Group celebration of holidays and other special events	29%	38%	33%	35%	15%	12%	21%	14%	1%	1%
d. Conversations with friends	37%	33%	37%	38%	12%	16%	13%	12%	1%	1%
e. Solitary meditation or prayer	40%	20%	28%	28%	12%	22%	18%	28%	2%	2%
f. Music	36%	31%	34%	32%	18%	20%	11%	16%	2%	1%
g. Reading literature or poetry	20%	18%	33%	30%	24%	25%	22%	25%	1%	2%
h. Talking with a rabbi	10%	10%	21%	22%	26%	30%	41%	36%	2%	2%
i. Volunteering time or services to help others	27%	24%	40%	38%	16%	19%	15%	16%	2%	2%
j. Spending time in nature	32%	25%	40%	37%	16%	21%	11%	15%	1%	1%



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k. Relating to God	48%	27%	24%	30%	12%	18%	13%	22%	3%	4%
l. Relating to Israel	7%	23%	19%	34%	18%	20%	44%	19%	12%	4%

14. When you were growing up, what were your parents' religious preferences?	Father (Non-Jew/Jew)		Mother (Non-Jew/Jew)	
Protestant	39%	4%	44%	4%
Catholic	31%	3%	33%	3%
Jewish	0.5%	86%	0.4%	88%
Another religion	14%	2%	15%	2%
None	10%	4%	6%	2%
Not sure	6%	1%	3%	1%

15. Do you follow the same religion now that you did at age 16?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes	70%	90%

16. If you are married or partnered, does your spouse/partner follow the same religion as you?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes, he/she follows same religion	45%	50%
No, he/she doesn't follow same religion	24%	21%
No spouse/partner	32%	29%

17. How important is religion in your life?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
Very important	38%	27%	31%	32%
Somewhat important	31%	35%	-	-
Not too important	16%	24%	-	-
Not at all important	15%	13%	-	-

18. How would you describe your commitment to your religious faith?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Very strong	33%	28%
Somewhat strong	31%	33%
Not too strong	20%	25%
Not strong at all	16%	14%

19. Aside from weddings, funerals or family events, how often do you attend religious services?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
More than once a week	8%	5%	16%	17%
Once a week	21%	8%		
2-3 times a month	8%	8%	-	-
Once a month	4%	5%	-	-
A few times a year	15%	25%	-	-
Once or twice a year	15%	21%	-	-

Never	29%	28%	-	-
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20. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Several times a day	29%	10%
Once a day	22%	15%
2-3 times a month	8%	11%
Once a month	3%	4%
A few times a week	8%	7%
Once a week or less	12%	20%
Never	18%	34%

21. Do you belong to a church/synagogue?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
Yes	44%	37%	55%	46%

22. **IF YES to Question 25:** Aside from attending religious services, how involved are you in activities at your synagogue?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Very involved	22%	17%
Somewhat involved	34%	23%
Not too involved	28%	26%
Not at all involved	16%	17%
Don't belong to a synagogue	0%	17%

23. Have you ever shopped around for a synagogue, that is, gone to different places in order to compare and decide which one you wanted to join or attend?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Yes	39%	38%

24. If you were to shop for a synagogue, do you think you'd feel welcome in most places you'd visit?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Definitely yes	10%	21%
Probably yes	49%	43%
Not sure	29%	26%
Probably no	8%	10%
Definitely	4%	1%

25. Suppose you could find your ideal synagogue. Would you find it essential, desirable, unimportant or not desirable for the rabbi to talk about each of the following topics?

	Essential (Non-Jew/Jew)		Desirable (Non-Jew/Jew)		Unimportant (Non-Jew/Jew)		Undesirable (Non-Jew/Jew)	
God	54%	35%	29%	41%	11%	21%	6%	4%

Afterlife	31%	14%	42%	38%	21%	40%	6%	8%
Ultimate meaning	32%	24%	44%	49%	20%	23%	5%	4%
Spiritual issues	42%	30%	41%	48%	13%	19%	5%	3%

26. As a child, what type of religious schooling did you receive, if any (if more than one, choose the main type of schooling)?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
None	17%	22%
Sunday school or other once-a-week school	62%	31%
Part-time school that met twice a week, afternoons or weekends	3%	18%
Part-time school that met three or more times a week, afternoons or weekends	1%	18%
A non-Orthodox day school	0%	4%
An Orthodox day school or yeshiva	0%	7%
Other	18%	0%

27. Have you ever been to Israel?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	NJPS
Never	97%	63%	-
Yes, once	2%	20%	41%
Yes, 2 or more times	<1%	17%	

Jewish Background

28. How important is being Jewish in your life?

	NJPS	
Very important	49%	52%
Somewhat important	33%	-
Not too important	14%	-
Not at all important	4%	-

29. Referring to Jewish religious denominations, in which of the following were you raised, and what do you consider yourself now?

	Raised	Now	NJPS (now)
Orthodox	13%	8%	10%
Conservative	33%	23%	26%
Reform	26%	27%	35%
Reconstructionist	1%	2%	2%
Non-denominational	1%	2%	27% (other Jewish)
Secular Jewish	3%	4%	
Culturally Jewish	6%	11%	



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Just Jewish	12%	23%	
Not Jewish	5%	-	-

30. Among the people you consider your closest friends, would you say that

	NJPS	
None are Jewish	12%	-
About half are Jewish	12%	-
Some are Jewish	45%	-
Most are Jewish	28%	40%
All or almost all are Jewish	8%	

31. During the last Yom Kippur, did you fast all or part of the day?

Yes	NJPS
59%	60%

32. Does your household usually light Shabbat candles?

25%	28%
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33. In the last year, have you had a significant Jewish spiritual experience?

27%	-
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34. Do you feel a special connection to Jews you meet because they are Jewish?

62%	-
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35. In the past 2 years, have you served on the board, or in any other leadership capacity, in...

a. A synagogue	10%	-
b. A JCC	2%	-
c. Any other Jewish organization	8%	-

36. How emotionally attached are you to Israel?

Very Attached	Somewhat Attached	Not Very Attached	Not At All Attached
27%	39%	23%	12%

37. Do you see yourself primarily as religiously Jewish or culturally Jewish?

Primarily religiously Jewish	8%
Primarily culturally Jewish	36%
Both religiously and culturally Jewish	33%
Neither religiously nor culturally Jewish	5%
Jewish, but not sure how to answer	18%
Not Jewish	1%

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

38. Are you:

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
Male	49%	48%	52%	47%
Female	51%	52%	48%	53%

39. Are you: **(MARK ONE)**:

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
Married			57%	60%
Never Married			19%	21%
Divorced or separated			9%	10%
Widowed			8%	8%
Living with someone			6%	1%

40. How many children have you had?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
None	33%	35%
One	16%	16%



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Two	28%	32%
Three or more	23%	18%

41. What is your age as of your last birthday?

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
Under 25	4%	6%	28% (18-34)	24% (18-34)
25 -- 34	25%	20%		
35 – 44	15%	14%	14%	16%
45 – 54	23%	22%	17%	22%
55 – 64	20%	16%	19%	13%
65 and over	13%	22%	22%	26%

42. US Census Division

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
New England	6%	7%
Middle Atlantic	12%	35%
East North Central	15%	9%
West North Central	8%	3%
South Atlantic	19%	19%
East South Central	5%	1%
West South Central	11%	2%
Mountain	10%	6%
Pacific	13%	17%

43. Education Levels

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
High school or less	14%	8%	22%	44%
Some college	19%	18%	19%	13%
College graduate	55%	42%	24%	26%
Post-graduate	12%	32%	35%	17%

44. Household income

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews
Under \$24,999	18%	11%
\$25,000 - \$44,999	20%	18%
\$45,000 - \$74,999	24%	25%
\$75,000 - \$124,999	26%	28%
\$125,000 - \$199,999	9%	12%
\$200,000 +	3%	7%

45. Household size

	Non-Jewish Whites	Jews	Pew	NJPS
One	26%	25%	-	22%
Two	35%	39%	-	41%
Three	16%	16%	-	14%
Four	14%	14%	-	13%
Five	6%	5%	-	6%
Six	2%	1%	-	3%
Seven	1%	1%	-	2% (seven or more)
Eight or more	0%	0%	-	-