

A New Year

A New Creation



NIV

WHAAT

MUST

STAND

TRY 2

According to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letters are at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because we do not read every letter by itself but the word as a whole.

If you know the right beginning

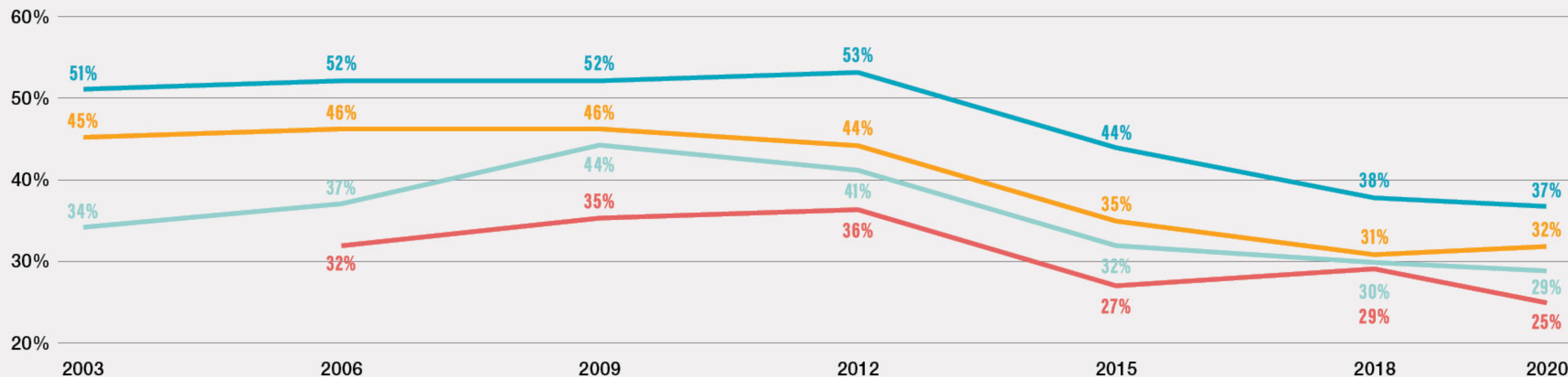
Everything else, no matter how
jumbled, makes sense.

When it comes to the future

Will we always end up in worse
shape than when we began?

WEEKLY CHURCH ATTENDANCE, BY GENERATION: 2003-2020

● Millennials* ● Gen X ● Boomers ● Elders



n = 96,171 U.S. adults | 2000-2020

*Due to low sample size, the 2003 attendance rate for Millennials was not included in this chart.

If progress can't be made

What's the point?

Change happens when the
pain of staying the same is
greater than the pain of
change.

If we don't feel the pain of staying
the same

**We will never have incentive to
move toward a preferred future**

If you know the right beginning

Everything else, no matter how
jumbled, makes sense.

John 20: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week,

John 20: 1 Early on the first day of the week,

John 20: 1 Early on the **first day of the week,**

John 1: 1 **In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God **in the beginning**. 3 Through him all things **were made**; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was **life**, and that life was the **light** of all mankind. 5 **The light shines in the darkness**, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Genesis 1: In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, **darkness** was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, “**Let there be light,**” and there was light.

Genesis 1: 5 And there was evening, and there was morning—the **first** day.

Genesis 1: 8 And there was evening, and there was morning—the **second** day.

Genesis 1: 13 And there was evening, and there was morning—the **third** day.

Genesis 1: —the fourth day (18), the fifth day (23), the **sixth** day (31).

Where is the end of the
seventh day?

John 19: 28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “**It is finished.**” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

When Jesus gave up his spirit, his
life ended

and so did the old creation

2 Corinthians 5: 16 So from now on we regard no one from a **worldly point of view**.

2 Corinthians 5: 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, **we do so no longer.**

2 Corinthians 5: 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come:

2 Corinthians 5: 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **The old has gone, the new is here!**

John 20: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked** for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “**Peace be with you!**”

The first lesson of the new
creation: **THERE ARE NO
LOCKED DOORS!**

John 20: 19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The **disciples were overjoyed** when they saw the Lord.

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “**Peace be with you!**”

The hardest part in believing the resurrection is not life after death

but the unbelievable, incredible, overwhelming love of God

Revelation 2: 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and **have not grown weary.**

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Revelation 2: 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. **4** Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5** Consider how far you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first.**

Revelation 2: 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. **4** Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. **5** Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and **remove your lampstand** from its place.

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “**Peace be with you!**”

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me,

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, **I am sending you.**”

The mission of the church:
share our amazement at God's
love with a world that
desperately needs it.

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22**
And with that **he breathed on them** and said,

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” **22**
And with that he breathed on them and said,
“**Receive the Holy Spirit.**”

John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 **If you forgive** anyone’s sins, **their sins are forgiven**; if you do not forgive them, they are **not forgiven.**”

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