



# Book budgeting for the pastor's library

Suggested book budget for a church with 751-1000 members: **\$230-300 per month**

Large churches should be especially mindful of their pastor's book budget. Many large churches have a wide variety of programs, administered by multiple pastors. Each pastor should be allotted a book budget that allows them to read between 3 and 6 books per month in order to remain knowledgeable in their ministry area. Each pastor, whether there are 2 or 10, should be equipped with the resources they need to study the Bible and focus in their area of expertise to develop, professionally and spiritually.

## Fast facts about pastoral book budgets:

**40%** of pastors have a book budget provided by their church for purchasing books, Bible software, and related resources.

**89%** of surveyed pastors use somewhere between 0-10 books in a typical week prepare for sermons and conduct personal study. Many of these pastors said they would use more books for their studies, but they could not afford more.

**61%** of surveyed pastors with a book budget say that the books they typically buy are more expensive now than when they started as a pastor.

**47%** of pastors who do not have a book budget say the main reason is that they pay for books and software out of their own pocket.

Once a pastor has a book budget, they are generally content with the dollar amount they receive:

**72%** of all pastors with book budgets felt their current book budget met their needs in relation to their experience and role in their church.

## Why does my pastor need a book budget?

### COST

Given the cost of books and software, many of today's pastors can't afford to purchase the resources they really need. Churches can help pastors meet this need.

### STAYING CURRENT

Many of the pastors we surveyed use their book budget for electronic books, Bible software, magazines, journals, popular titles, and reference works. A book budget allows your pastor to access more information, from the newest Christian titles to respected reference works. This allows them to conduct more effective studies and stay current with the needs of their congregation.

### EFFICIENCY

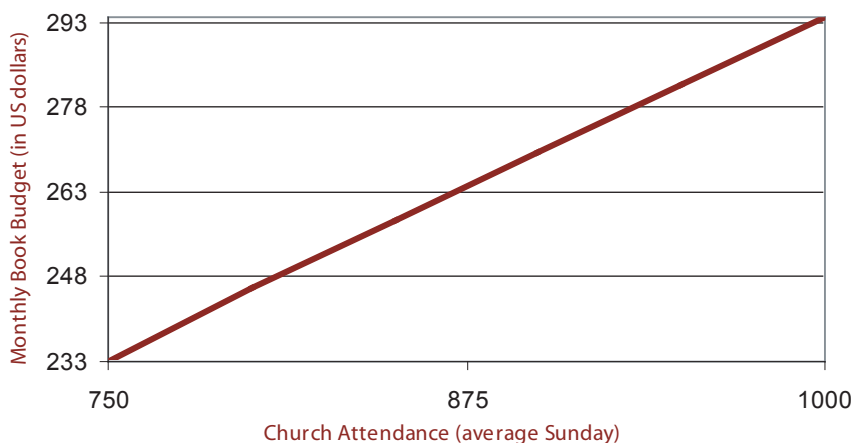
21st century pastors face numerous demands on their time. Having the right resources makes pastors more efficient in their personal study and sermon preparation. Further, today's Bible software puts needed resources just a mouse-click away, saving even more time.

### BETTER PREPARATION

Many churches have never considered setting aside a book budget for their pastor's library. The fact is that pastors who have book budgets are able to study and grow more effectively because they have access to the resources they need every day. Setting up a pastor's book budget benefits the whole church community by better preparing the pastor.

## More facts and tips for developing your pastor's book budget:

### Church Attendance of 751-1000



### Book budget tips from the experts:

- Evaluating your pastor's book and resource needs helps your church focus its spending on what's important.
- It is important to evaluate the many tools available to pastors and churches today. Churches that spend their book budget wisely reap the benefits of resources that continue to be useful as their congregation changes and develops.
- Book budgets allow churches to plan ahead, making larger purchases more realistic, including investments in Bible software.
- When pastors have adequate book budgets, churches are better equipped to grow as they study the Bible. Developing a pastor's budget may be an easy way to encourage your pastor's Bible studies and will benefit the whole congregation.

For more budgeting tools, visit [www.ThePastorsLibrary.com](http://www.ThePastorsLibrary.com)!