Elderly Congregation Assistance: The Use of the YouVersion Bible Application for Personal and Digital Faith Communities

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Abstract

The YouVersion Bible is a free Bible app from Life Church. YouVersion provides a digital Bible integrated with support services for reading the Bible. YouVersion provides a friend facility so users can share and read the Bible together. The completeness of these facilities provides opportunities for elderly congregations to use them personally or with the community. However, the completeness of the facilities is a challenge for elderly congregations to use them technically and to use the content for spiritual needs. The community service team consisting of a combination of personnel from the Faculty of Information Technology and the Faculty of Theology has carried out the task of organizing training and mentoring. Participants were 22 active elderly congregations familiar with technology, taking part in technical training on the use of facilities, simple Bible teaching, and the concept of a complete spiritual digital community with features that support community activities. During mentoring, participants were given independent tasks to explore the application's features. Intensive discussions including question and answer sessions had been held both directly and via WhatsApp groups. Monitoring of application usage based on feature usage activities and badge acquisition: participants who continuously use the YouVersion Bible application features after the training is completed are 53% of the 22 participants. Digital spiritual communities have not yet been formed based on community support features. In addition, participants have not yet related the use of Bible applications, including social media, that support relationships with others online with church activities and spirituality.

Keywords: *digital spiritual community, elderly church members, feature usage, training-mentoring, YouVersion Bible*

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Introduction

Since mobile devices adopted modern operating systems such as Android and iOS, behavior has shifted regarding information access and retrieval. Notably, data from Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) in 2021 indicates that mobile phone usage among the elderly increased to 46.79% (Pahlevi, 2022). This percentage serves as a straightforward illustration of smartphone adoption among elderly church congregants, including their access to digital Bibles. The decline in congregants carrying thick and heavy printed Bibles during various church services has become increasingly evident. Therefore, it can be argued that smartphone usage among the elderly is common, including using Bible applications.

One of the freely available Bible applications is the YouVersion Bible, developed by Life Church. YouVersion offers a digital Bible integrated with various supporting features, such as daily devotionals on diverse topics (referred to as Reading Plans), multiple Bible versions, and annotation tools, including Notes, Highlights, and Bookmarks. Beyond personal use, YouVersion provides a "Friend" feature, allowing users to share insights, comment on friends' activities, and read Bible plans together. Figure 1 (a) presents the homepage of the YouVersion Bible application with an Indonesian-language interface featuring the BIMK Bible version from the Indonesian Bible Society (LAI) and the "Daily Refresh" feature on the "Today" and "Community" tabs. The "Today" tab displays services and content for the account owner, while the "Community" tab showcases updates on the account owner's activities and those of their friends (exemplified in Figure 1 (b)). The community updates displayed in the "Community" tab are open to user interaction, enabling the account owner to respond and view responses from other users. The Reading Plan feature also allows users to invite friends to join and read the same plan together. This particular feature fosters opportunities for the formation of digital faith communities.

The comprehensiveness of these features provides opportunities for elderly congregants to utilize the application individually and within their faith communities. However, the extensive range of features also presents challenges for elderly users in terms of technical usability and in effectively engaging with the content for their spiritual needs. These challenges have led a joint *Community Engagement Program (PkM)* team from the Faculty of Information Technology and the Faculty of Theology to equip elderly congregants with the necessary skills

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to use and benefit from the YouVersion Bible application. The *PkM* program implemented is
titled "Assisting the Formation of Digital Faith Communities for Elderly Congregants".
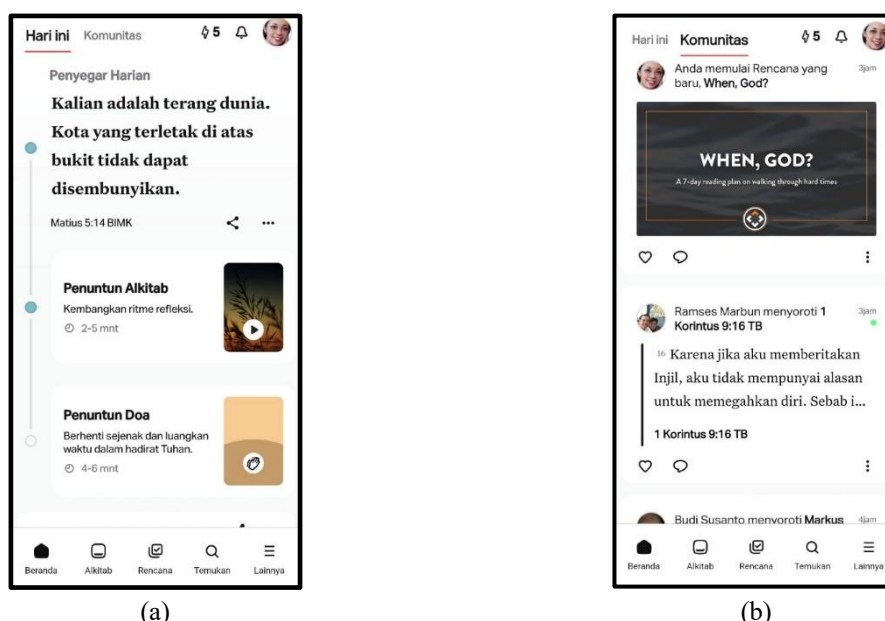

(a)   (b)

Fig. 1. Initial view of YouVersion today tab (a) and community tab (b)

Mobile phones and digital Bible use in socio-religious contexts are closely related to two
significant issues: digital ministry and digital community (Drescher & Anderson, 2012).
Digital ministry within faith communities, such as churches, must be understood as a service
paradigm, considering digital culture and paradigms that differ significantly from traditional
societal structures (Spadaro, 2014). The digital paradigm is characterized by fluid and open
relationships, distributed authority, more substantial individual contributions, and a networked
culture. These characteristics influence religious service and ministry approaches (Panzer,
2022; Spadaro, 2014). Digital ministry is not merely about replacing traditional service tools
with digital alternatives or substituting onsite worship with online worship; instead, it involves
delivering ministry embodying a digital society's characteristics.

The adoption of digital Bibles and smartphones among church members, including the elderly,
has become increasingly common in line with technological advancements. However, the
development of digital ministry that impacts faith communities and spirituality through faith-
based communication requires technological utilization and approaches that align with the
characteristics of digital society. One of the consequences of digital ministry that emerges from
digital culture is the formation of digital faith communities (Zsupan-Jerome, 2014). Digital

faith communities are characterized by fluidity and networked interactions. Unlike traditional communities that rely on formal and normative bonds, digital faith communities are formed based on relationships and functions. In this context, relationships and functions play a crucial role in establishing a digital faith community where individuals can decide whether to participate.

The evolving landscape of digital ministry and faith communities presents new challenges for pastoral care in churches, particularly in fostering the spiritual growth of congregants, including the elderly. The increasing availability of digital infrastructure across Indonesia, coupled with the widespread accessibility of smartphones, has made digital culture a norm. The acceleration of digital disruption was further reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022, significantly increasing reliance on digital interactions. In the post-pandemic era, church members have become more accustomed to digital culture (Kotan, 2021). A society immersed in digital culture is well-positioned to integrate digital ministry and sustain digital faith communities.

Digital natives from Generations Y, Z, and Alpha tend to embrace and participate in digital ministry quickly. Many have already been actively involved in these digital religious practices. In contrast, elderly congregants, particularly those from the senior Generation X and the Baby Boomer generation, require additional support to engage with digital ministry. Therefore, focused efforts are necessary to assist elderly congregants in navigating digital culture by providing technical guidance and offering cultural adaptation support.

This community assistance program collaborates with GKJ Dayu and GKI Gejayan as partner churches. Each church has introduced an initiative integrating Bible teaching with smartphone literacy for elderly fellowship groups in both congregations. Through this initiative, elderly congregants are guided in their spiritual engagement and ability to use smartphones effectively in digital faith communities.

Methods

This program aims to establish a solid digital faith community among elderly congregants, enhance their independence in utilizing technology to support their spiritual growth, and

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quantitatively measure the program's impact on participants' spiritual transformation. We implement a mentorship approach that integrates both face-to-face and online learning methods to achieve these objectives.

Fig. 2. A session activity from 'introducing digital faith communities'

The participants, who were active elderly individuals already familiar with technology, underwent a structured training program. The training began with an installation session for the YouVersion application and hands-on practice with its various features. These features were then applied during simple Bible study sessions. Participants are also introduced to the concept of a digital faith community and taught how to actively engage in such communities using features that facilitate communal interactions (Figure 2 shows an overview of the debriefing activities). Debriefing activities were conducted to reinforce the participants' understanding and encourage reflection on their experiences. During this session, participants were invited to share their insights, challenges, and impressions regarding the use of digital tools, particularly YouVersion, to foster spiritual engagement. The facilitator guides the discussion by highlighting the key elements of a digital faith community, such as mutual encouragement, shared devotional practices, and online fellowship. Through this reflective dialogue, participants not only consolidated their technical learning but also began to articulate the value of digital spaces in sustaining faith-based relationships and communal support. Debriefing thus serves as both an evaluative and formative stage in the learning process, fostering a deeper appreciation of how digital platforms can meaningfully support spiritual life in later adulthood.

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Participants are assigned independent tasks to explore the application's features throughout the mentorship process. Interactive discussions and Q&A sessions, conducted in person and through WhatsApp groups, serve as platforms for participants to share experiences and address challenges encountered during their learning process. We employ questionnaires administered before (The initial survey completion activity is shown in Figure 3), during, and after the training to assess the program's effectiveness. These questionnaires aim to evaluate participants' comprehension, satisfaction levels, and behavioral changes resulting from the program.

Fig. 3. First questionnaire completion

The first questionnaire, administered before the training, explored participants' perceptions of the relationship between religion and doctrine, ethics, the purpose of spiritual life, and the meaning of spirituality. It also examined their perspectives on the use of smartphones and social media for spiritual activities. In addition, participant profile data was collected prior to the start of the training. During the training, after participants were introduced to the YouVersion Bible application, they completed a second questionnaire. This questionnaire captured their experiences in using the app's features, the difficulties they encountered, the features they liked, and their feedback on the method of material delivery and mentoring. A third questionnaire was distributed after the training ended. It provided an opportunity for participants to evaluate the mentoring process, assess the relevance of the materials and application to their needs, and offer suggestions for future programs or improvements for the team.

The combination of technical training in application usage and understanding its application for personal and communal spirituality aligns with the concept that spiritual development and

faith education are interconnected, shaping self-awareness, beliefs, and moral responsibility in life (Christiani & Hadiwitanto, 2022).

Results and Discussions

Participant Profile

The program involved 22 participants, with a higher proportion of older women than men, and most participants were over 55 years old. Most participants had been using smartphones for over three years, with only one having less than three years of experience. This familiarity with smartphone usage facilitates their engagement in learning the Word of God (Rahajeng et al., 2022), including through digital technology. Figure 4 shows a group photo session involving all participants and facilitators at the conclusion of the workshop. This moment signifies the collective spirit and shared commitment to embrace digital faith practices fostered throughout the training program.

Fig. 4. Facilitators and participants

Additionally, as shown in Table 1, the use of instant messaging applications and social media is a common practice among the participants. The following points summarize the characteristics of the assisted participants based on Table 1:

1. Familiarity with the YouVersion Bible Application

   Sixteen participants had been introduced to the YouVersion Bible application within the past three months, including those who installed it during the mentoring sessions as well as those who had already installed it but had not used it extensively. The remaining six participants did not provide a response regarding their prior usage.

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2. Bible Reading Habits

   All participants reported that they engage in Bible reading. Half of them read the Bible daily, while the rest read almost every day, with only a few reporting that they read once a week or did not respond. When reading the Bible, 18 out of 22 participants primarily used a Bible application, while three reported using both a digital Bible application and a printed Bible.

3. Suitability of Participants for the Program

   Based on the above descriptions, the participants were an appropriate target group for the program. Most participants fell into the elderly category, except for two younger participants (under 55 years old) who served as facilitators from their respective churches. Participants demonstrated basic smartphone proficiency, particularly in using instant messaging applications such as WhatsApp, which was utilized for coordination and as a platform for Q&A outside of training sessions. Additionally, participants had a habit of Bible reading, which further supported their engagement in utilizing the features of the YouVersion Bible application effectively.

Table 1. Participant demographics

Characteristics	Category	Total
Gender	Male	8
	Female	14
Age	< 55 year	2
	55-60 year	4
	61-65 year	5
	66-70 year	7
	> 70 year	4
Smart Phone Usage	< 3 year	1
	3-5 year	1
	> 5 year	20
Apps on Smartphones	Whatsapp	21
	Instagram	7
	Facebook	10
	Youtube	16
	Zoom	15
	Bible Application	14
Bible format used	Book	7
	Application	18
Bible Reading Frequency	Every day	11
	Almost every day	6
	Once a week	3

Use of YouVersion Bible App Features

Some participants could not attend all sessions during the training sessions, resulting in an incomplete understanding of certain features. Consequently, facilitators had to repeat

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explanations on previously covered features when absent participants rejoined the sessions. Each training session incorporated hands-on practice in using the application's features. The Bible study materials introduced participants to version comparison, highlighting, and note-taking tools. Meanwhile, the digital faith community segment focused on features such as friend connections, comments, and group-based reading plans.

Following the training, participants identified several YouVersion features that they found particularly useful and engaging:

1. Application download process
2. Reading resources (Reading Plans) with topic selection and verse-sharing options
3. Audio feature for listening to the Bible
4. Overall accessibility and user-friendly features
5. Poster creation feature for selected verses
6. Search functionality
7. Ability to share verse posters via other platforms
8. Adding comments on highlighted verses
9. Parallel verse comparison across multiple Bible versions
10. Note-taking feature
11. Downloading Bible translations and images

Table 2. Purpose of using YouVersion

Purpose items	Total
Reading the Bible	15
Listening to audio	8
Following the reading plan	15
Highlighting the verse	9
Marking passages	10
Sharing the verse	11

By learning and practicing these features, participants utilized the YouVersion Bible application for various purposes, as outlined in Table 2. Participants reported using the app for one or more purposes, including reading the Bible, listening to Bible passages, following reading plans, highlighting verses, marking passages with labels or bookmarks, and sharing verses with others. The most frequently chosen activities were reading the Bible and following reading plans.

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The YouVersion Bible application incorporates gamification features to motivate users in their Bible reading activities through achievement badges (Guo et al., 2022). These badges serve as gamified incentives that track and display users' engagement with various Bible-related activities within YouVersion. The application offers three main types of badges:

1. Feature-Based Achievement Badges

   These badges track user engagement with specific features related to Bible reading. The badges are tiered, meaning they are awarded based on increasing frequency of achievement. For example, for the Highlight feature, users receive badges upon reaching milestones of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, and beyond, up to 1,000 highlights. The feature-based badges include:

   a. Highlighting: Assigning colors to specific Bible verses.

   b. Bookmarking: Marking and labeling collections of verses.

   c. Notes: Creating personal notes linked to specific Bible verses with adjustable privacy settings.

   d. Reading Plan Enrollment: Selecting and starting a Bible reading plan.

   e. Reading Plan Completion: Completing a selected reading plan.

   f. Full Bible Completion: Finishing a complete Bible reading plan.

   g. Verse Sharing: Sharing specific Bible verses on external platforms such as WhatsApp.

   h. YouVersion App Sharing: Sending invitations for others to use the YouVersion application via external platforms such as WhatsApp.

   i. Daily Devotional Reading: Engaging with a series of daily devotionals provided by YouVersion.

2. Annual Celebration and Special Event Badges

   These badges are awarded for completing Bible reading challenges associated with special occasions throughout the year:

   a. 21-Day Challenge: Completing one reading plan within 21 days during February.

   b. Easter Challenge: Completing a reading plan focused on Easter or Lent.

   c. Mid-Year Challenge: Completing a reading plan lasting at least seven consecutive days in July.

   d. Christmas Challenge: Completing a reading plan focused on Christmas or Advent.

3. Special Commemorative Badge: "The Bible is Alive"

   This exclusive badge was introduced in 2021 to celebrate the milestone of 500 million installations of the YouVersion Bible application. It was associated with a unique Bible reading plan available only during that year.

All badges are directly tied to Bible reading plans, encouraging users to develop consistent reading habits. This design aligns with research findings that Bible reading strongly correlates with spirituality and religious life (Hadiwitanto, 2021). The different types of badges are clearly presented in Fig. 5, each displaying a distinct logo, the year of achievement (for celebration/event badges), or the quantitative milestone achieved (for feature-based badges).

Monitoring participant achievements through YouVersion badges provides insights into their last recorded use of application features, the number of badges earned, and the milestones achieved for each badge. The monitoring conducted on August 12, 2024, captured detailed participant progress, as summarized in Table 4. The application records the most recent use of features associated with badges; however, their activity remains untracked if a participant only reads the Bible without actively engaging with these features. The key badges and their corresponding application features are as follows:

1. Mid-Year Challenge [TT] – Earned through participation in a Bible reading plan.
2. Highlight [S] – Awarded for using the highlight feature.
3. Bookmark [M] – Earned through bookmarking and labeling verses.
4. Note [C] – Assigned when users create personal notes on Bible passages.
5. Reading Plan Subscription [BR] – Received when users subscribe to a reading plan.
6. Reading Plan Completion [RS] – Awarded upon completing a reading plan.
7. Verse Sharing [BA] – Given for sharing Bible verses.
8. YouVersion Sharing [BY] – Earned when users share YouVersion invitations with others.
9. Daily Refresh [PH] – Awarded for engaging with the daily devotional feature.

Figure 5 displays a collection of digital badges earned by participants through their engagement with various features and activities in the YouVersion Bible application. These badges serve

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as motivational tools, visually representing milestones such as plan completions, scripture sharing, and participation in thematic challenges.
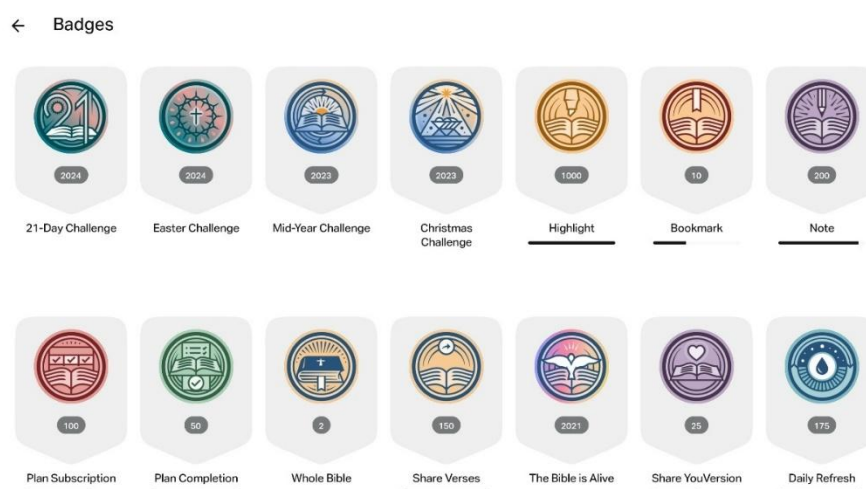

Fig. 5. Badge collection

The training concluded on May 4, 2024, 15 weeks before the monitoring date on August 12, 2024. Of the 22 initial participants, progress tracking was possible for 20 individuals. Two participants were excluded from monitoring: one withdrew after the third session, and another only attended the first and fifth sessions without establishing a connection with other participants or facilitators, preventing their data from being recorded.

The Reading Plan Subscription [BR] feature was used to foster a sense of spiritual community through the YouVersion application. During the training, the team invited all participants to engage in a shared reading plan titled Worry for Nothing, a three-day devotional. All participants responded positively to the invitation and subscribed to the reading plan selected by the team. They were encouraged not only to complete the readings over three consecutive days but also to write down their reflections and impressions. Following this activity, participants were given the opportunity to choose additional reading plans to complete individually or with friends. Reading Plan Subscription [BR] emerged as the most frequently used feature, with all 20 participants selecting and initiating at least one Bible reading plan. However, only 17 participants completed at least one reading plan [RS]. The application only records and displays completed reading plans when they are set to be publicly visible. As a result, there is no available data on participants who failed to complete their reading plans.

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Other feature that was also frequently used was The Note feature [C]. However, engagement with this feature was lower than with Daily Refresh [PH] and significantly lower than Highlight [S], which recorded the highest activity level. In terms of overall activity volume, the most frequently used features were:

1. Highlighting [S] – 465 recorded activities
2. Reading Plan Subscription [BR] – 232 recorded activities
3. Verse Sharing [BA] – 108 recorded activities

Table 3. Achievement of application feature usage based on Badge

No.	Code	Check	TT	S	M	C	BR	RS	BA	BY	PH	Total
1	AR	11M		5			3		5	1	1	5
2	CH	13M		5		1	5	1			1	5
3	DA	2M		10		1	10	1	5		1	6
4	**DB**	**8J**	**2024**	**50**		**5**	**50**	**10**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**8**
5	DS	14M				1	5	1				3
6	DC	2M		5	5	1	10	1			1	
7	ES	3M		10	1	1	5		1		1	6
8	HD	6M		10		1	10	20	3		1	6
9	KS	6M		10	1	1	10	3	10	1	1	8
10	**LC**	**29J**		**50**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**20**	**1**	**5**	**8**
11	MP	8M		10	1	5	10	5	1	1	1	8
12	MS	5M		10	1	1	50	10	10		20	7
13	**SP**	**3J**		**50**	**1**	**5**	**10**	**3**	**20**		**1**	**7**
14	PA	14M		10	1	1	10	3	1		1	7
15	**PH**	**1M**	**2024**	**50**	**1**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**15**	**1**	**1**	**9**
16	**SS**	**20J**	**2024**	**150**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**1**	**25**	**9**
17	TD	18M				1	1		1	1		4
18	TP	13M		10		1	5	1	1		1	6
19	VH	12M		1	1	1	10	5			1	6
20	WW	15M		10	1	5	5	1			1	6
	Number of feature users			18	12	19	20	17	15	8	18	
	Number of activities			456	25	53	232	86	108	17	69	

The Verse Sharing [BA] feature was particularly popular at the beginning of the training, as participants found it engaging. This feature allows users to create Bible verse posters with background images provided by the application. The posters can be shared across external platforms such as WhatsApp. However, as participants became familiar with additional

features, other functionalities such as Highlighting [S] and Reading Plans [BR] gained higher
adoption rates.

The continuity of YouVersion Bible application usage among participants is reflected in the
"Check" column in Table 3. Based on the monitoring data:

1. Five participants (22%) remained actively engaged with the application, with usage
   recorded ranging from a few hours (J) to one week (M) prior to August 12, 2024.
2. Seven participants (31%) continued using the application up to 10 weeks before the
   monitoring date.
3. The remaining 47% of participants continued using YouVersion for 1 to 4 weeks after the
   training program ended.

The effectiveness of the mentoring program in empowering elderly church members to sustain
their personal use of the YouVersion Bible application can thus be estimated at 22% and 53%.

Participants responded to statements regarding religion as doctrine, ethical values, and identity
and statements related to values, purpose, and the meaning of spirituality. In both cases,
participants expressed uncertainty or neutrality in their responses. These responses were then
analyzed about their perspectives on smartphone usage, social media, and online interactions:

1. Participants enormously appreciated the ability to use mobile applications and the internet
   for religious activities (>80% agreement).
2. Participants firmly believed that social media platforms (such as Facebook, WhatsApp
   Groups, Instagram, and Bible Apps) could facilitate the formation of strong faith
   communities (80% agreement).
3. Participants highly valued the ability to engage in faith-based relationships via the Internet,
   which is unrestricted by time and distance (>80% agreement).

However, these responses showed no significant correlation with participants' perceptions of
religion as doctrine, ethical values, and identity, nor their understanding of values, purpose,
and the meaning of spirituality.

Discussions

Religion, doctrine, and faith present a relational understanding of God, creating space for life
issues, social transformation, and engagement through worship and church activities, whether

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onsite or online. Meanwhile, spirituality is primarily concerned with values, purpose, and the meaning of life, which stem from concrete life issues, social realities, and personal transformation. This distinction highlights the potential for effective digital ministry beyond worship services, emphasizing the need for community-oriented digital development. Thus, it can be concluded that participants have not yet fully integrated the use of Bible applications and social media-which facilitate online faith-based relationships-with their church activities and spiritual formation.

Several YouVersion Bible application features support the formation of digital faith communities, including:

1. Friendship features (Add Friend) to connect with other users.

2. Commenting on verses allows discussions on scripture.

3. Appreciation through "likes" (♥) on friends' comments or activities (as shown in Fig. 6).

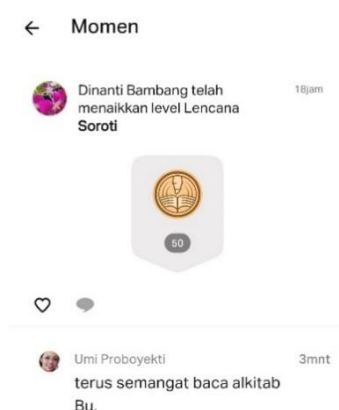4. Group-based Bible reading plans, fostering collective scripture engagement.

Fig. 6. Comment on friends' activities

These features offer opportunities for participants to engage in faith-based digital interactions, yet their potential for strengthening church and spiritual practices remains an area for further exploration and development.

The YouVersion application features were actively practiced during in-class meetings and online within the application. Participants were encouraged to engage in group Bible reading plans, share reflections, and comment on shared reading plans through WhatsApp groups. During the week leading up to the final session, participants engaged in group-based Bible reading, with the majority successfully following the reading plan and leaving comments

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within the application. Out of 22 participants, only 19 participants and three facilitators successfully joined the group reading plan. The remaining three participants faced challenges due to:

1. One participant failed to join the plan,
2. One participant not yet being connected as a friend with the facilitator, which prevented them from receiving the invitation, and
3. One participant has withdrawn from the mentoring program.

Participants who successfully joined the group reading plan effectively utilized the discussion feature, allowing them to share personal reflections and provide comments on the readings. This activity demonstrates that using YouVersion features to foster a digital faith community was largely successful.

However, tracking group-based activities through badges was impossible, as the YouVersion application does not distinguish whether a reading plan was completed individually or as a group. Also, badges for commenting on others' activities are unavailable, indicating that the platform primarily facilitates individual engagement with Bible reading rather than explicitly encouraging collective faith-based interactions.

Table 4. Evaluation from mentoring participants

Evaluation entity	Answer items	Total
Relevance of training activities	Very relevant	12
	Somewhat relevant	3
	Neutral	1
	Somewhat irrelevant	0
	Very irrelevant	0
Training activities need to be continued	Very necessary	11
	Somewhat necessary	2
	Neutral	3
	Somewhat not necessary	0
	Very unnecessary	0
Material studied	Very complete	11
	Somewhat complete	5
	Neutral	1
	Incomplete	0
	Very incomplete	0

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The mentoring activities were evaluated at the final meeting attended by 17 participants, as five other participants could not attend. Some of the statements in the last questionnaire were evaluations of the mentoring program. The mentoring program was designed to unite the YouVersion Bible app, considered full featured, with elderly congregations. The participants rated the program as relevant and considered it worth continuing (as listed in Table 4).

Regarding the material provided, participants provided input as an evaluation of the mentoring program:

1. Discussion between friends in the application is still not smooth, so additional practice is needed.
2. At the beginning, our goal needs to be explained so that participants can walk to that goal.
3. Everything went well; what needs to be improved is the attendance rate and teaching time.
4. The delivery of material can be slowed down and repeated because the memory of the elderly is low batt
5. There is a short module because the elderly are slow loading.
6. Very good and very useful for us to share with our group.
7. There is a continuation of this learning
8. We would like to continue the activity and make the best of it
9. The training should be shorter, e.g., 3 times a week to avoid forgetting 9.
10. The teaching method is already suitable, and in the future, it can be added more
11. The internet network is slow, so sometimes it makes us fail to follow the practical directions
12. For Many elderly participants, the time used is quite long and needs to be shortened. Practice sessions to try out all the facilities of the application so that elderly participants learning YouVersion get more immediate and precise benefits
13. It is clear, but it is better to have a notebook/pocket to guide those of us who are blank
14. Lots of practice creating communication groups under guidance and guidance.

Conclusion

The empowerment of elderly congregants to utilize the diverse features of the YouVersion Bible application has resulted in some participants continuing to engage with the application for their spiritual needs. As part of a faith community, several participants actively shared or invited others to use the YouVersion application. However, the formation of a digital faith

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community was not explicitly observed, as such activities are not publicly reported within the application and are not recognized through achievement badges. Thus, while participants have been empowered to use features that facilitate collective faith engagement within a digital faith community, the actual formation of such a community remains undetectable through the application's usage data.

A concise and user-friendly manual will be developed and distributed to participants as a follow-up initiative. This manual will serve as a support tool to help them share their knowledge and promote digital faith engagement within their respective church communities.

Acknowledgements

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