



Seventh-day Adventist® Church

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

Global Church Member Survey 2023



INSTITUTE of CHURCH MINISTRY

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ESD Executive Summary

Introduction

This Executive Summary highlights key findings from the study, which include

- Respondent demographics describing the characteristics of survey participants;
- Demographic information about the participants' churches;
- Religious and spiritual behaviors of respondents;
- Members' acceptance of key fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;
- Participants' engagement with the local church;
- The pandemic's impact on churches;
- Church members' awareness of and participation in local Adventist Church mission initiatives;
- Respondents' awareness of and participation in General Conference sponsored programming; and
- Participants' personal well-being, including psychological and spiritual, and issues regarding healing.

Participant and Church Demographics

The Global Church Member Survey (GCMS) offers a snapshot of the beliefs and behaviors of Euro-Asia Division (ESD) Adventist church members from the perspective of those who thoroughly identify as Seventh-day Adventists. Three out of five (59%) respondents joined the Church as an adult over the age of 20, and two-thirds (65%) of respondents have been baptized for more than 21 years. Almost half (46%) are at least second-generation church members. A clear majority (91%) state that they will likely or very likely attend an Adventist church for the rest of their lives. Over a quarter (29%) of respondents are currently employed by the Adventist Church.

Nearly two-thirds (63%) of participants have a college or graduate degree. One in ten (10%) only completed a high school degree, and 4% of participants did not complete basic schooling. Three-fourths (76%) of participants never attended an Adventist school at any point in their education.

Thirty-one percent of participants are aged 55 or older, while another 53% are aged 36 to 54. Participants are predominantly female (66%) and married and living with their spouses (66%). Respondents are from Russia (71%), Belarus (12%), Moldova (8%), and other countries (8%).

These church members are typically part of households with three or more members (56%) and were raised by two biological parents (73%). Half (50%) of respondents currently have children living at home. Among the respondents with children, 59% are raising their children in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or at least some of their adult children are still members of the Church.

Sixteen percent of individuals responding to this study experience challenges with their physical, emotional, mental, cognitive, developmental, visual, or hearing abilities. Of the members with various challenges, 11% report that they sometimes (9%) or often (2%) find it more difficult to participate in church activities than other people in their church.

Participants' churches are most often located in a large city or downtown (48%), or a smaller city or suburb (43%). Two-thirds (67%) attend services with 50 or fewer attendees, and another quarter (25%) attend church with 51–100 people. Typical church membership is less than 100 members (69%). Fifteen percent of members live near an Adventist educational institution, such as a school or university, and another 14% live near a church administrative office, such as a conference, union, or division office.

Religious and Devotional Life Practices

The study participants maintain a devotional life by reading their Bible (78%), studying the Sabbath School lesson (53%), and reading the writings of Ellen G. White (EGW) (39%) more than once a week.

A majority (87%) of respondents pray every day (outside of mealtimes), and 45% report that they think about Jesus's life every day. Putting their reading to good use, the majority of church members report applying their learning from studying the Bible (89%), Sabbath School lessons (79%), and EGW's writings (71%) to their daily lives.

Besides engaging in individual devotions, nearly half (47%) of participants report having family worship at least weekly. However, 39% of respondents report that they never have family worship.

Far fewer participants regularly read Adventist publications. Most (87%) church members never read Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website (66%) or do so less than once a month (21%). A vast majority (94%) share that they never use the Adventist Review magazine or website (86%) or do so less than once a month (8%). Respondents are slightly more likely to read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference, with 20% reporting that they do so at least monthly. Most (83%) respondents have access to electronic books and/or other digital publications available for free.

Over half (54%) of participants never tune into an Adventist radio broadcast. However, over a quarter (27%) report watching Hope Channel programming on a weekly basis, and 47% watch other Adventist television channels or programming on a weekly basis.

Most (87%) respondents agree that tithing is still required of all people by God. The majority of participants engage in tithing through the official tithe envelope (88%); only a few (3%) report not returning tithe.

Social Media Use

Most (83%) survey participants use social media about once per week or more often for any purpose. The top reasons that members engage with social media about once a week or more include reading or responding to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions (73%), and studying their Bibles (67%).

The respondents share positive views over the benefits of using social media, with 77% of survey participants reporting that using social media helps them feel more connected to friends and family. Also, 71% believe that social media is good for their mental health, and another 68% report that their spiritual lives are enhanced by social media use.

Fundamental Beliefs

ESD GCMS participants overwhelmingly support the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. The majority (97%) of participants agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture, and 96% believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, as a whole, reflect the loving and gracious character of God.

Respondents consistently affirm their alignment with the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church; these beliefs include those pertaining to Ellen White's gift of prophecy, the Sabbath, Christian behavior (including the health message), the state of the dead, and issues of marriage and the family.

However, some areas have greater variation among the respondents. Concerning the nature of humanity, over half (52%) agree that "it is possible for believers to grow in Christian maturity so that in the final days of Earth's history [they] will reach a state of sinless perfection." Moreover, regarding salvation, 68% agree that they will not get to Heaven unless they obey God's law perfectly.

Regarding the definition of church unity, 66% of participants agree that "church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief." In addition, a third (33%) of respondents agree that "different world regions of the Adventist Church should be allowed after consultation with the worldwide church to set their own administrative policies." Thus, there is less agreement among church members concerning the issue of church unity.

Engagement with the Local Church and Pandemic Involvement

Survey participants have moderate to high levels of engagement with their local church. The involvement and affirmation include:

- 88% report attending church in person almost every week.
- 78% believe that other church members care about them.
- 69% feel that their pastor cares about them.
- 58% agree that their Sabbath School teachers care about them.
- 57% state that they are satisfied or very satisfied with their local church.

The data reveal several areas that could be strengthened in local churches. For example:

- 76% of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they never attended a Pathfinder meeting. (Note: this is likely attributed to the age of respondents.)
- Only 42% of respondents share that in the last 12 months, they attended a prayer meeting at their local church almost every week or more often.
- Only 44% of respondents agree that youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in their local churches.
- Only a quarter (25%) of respondents share that in the last 12 months, they attended a small group organized through their church almost every week or more often.

Examining local church involvement during the pandemic, the data reveal very little difference in participants who consider themselves active participants and active leaders in their churches. Three in five (60%) respondents report that their church met remotely for a period of time when they could not meet face-to-face. About a quarter of members share that they were provided with a way to continue their normal pattern of giving both tithes (24%) and offerings (27%) during the pandemic.

Adventist Missions

A majority (83%) feel that their church needs to increase its overall evangelistic outreach in the local community. While a similar number (79%) of respondents desire to increase their personal involvement in these efforts, 48% of members share that in the last year, they never attended an evangelistic meeting.

In addition, almost all (96%) respondents agree that “the most effective method for reaching people for Christ is to mingle with them, meet their needs, win their confidence, and then bid them to follow Christ.” However, only 41% of members express that their church needs to

increase its overall effort to meet the local community's needs. Interestingly, three-fourths (73%) of respondents feel that they need to increase their own efforts to meet the local community's needs.

The data on reclaiming former members reveal that 77% of respondents feel that their church needs to increase its efforts to reclaim former members, with a slightly larger number (79%) expressing the need to increase their own involvement with these efforts.

Looking at young people's involvement in the local church's mission, half (50%) of respondents agree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. Thus, it makes sense that two-thirds (76%) of respondents feel that their church needs to increase the overall inclusion of young people in carrying out the mission of the local church.

General Conference Sponsored Programming

Seven of the 11 General Conference initiatives polled show a member awareness rate of 50% or more. These programs include: Total Member Involvement, Revival and Reformation, Mission to the Cities, Comprehensive Health Ministry, 10 Days of Prayer, Annual Week of Prayer, and Global Mission. Three of these programs have a 30% or greater engagement rate: Revival and Reformation (31%), 10 Days of Prayer (48%), and Annual Week of Prayer (64%).

Most often, participants have heard of the programs at church (32%), on social media (26%), or by reading a website (22%) once a month or more often in the past 12 months.

Personal Well-being

Although 83% of members report that they feel that their life is often or usually filled with meaning and purpose, over two in five (44%) participants report that in the past two weeks they felt little interest or pleasure in doing things several days or more. A similar number (48%) share that they felt down, depressed, or hopeless several days or more during the previous two weeks. According to the sample data, 7% of respondents admit that in the last 12 months, they had suicidal thoughts, 3% attempted suicide, and 5% harmed themselves. These symptoms of depression are more noticeable among younger church members than older church members.

Three in five (62%) respondents state that they have grown spiritually in the past 12 months, and because of this growth, a similar number (59%) of respondents claim to have changed their priorities. Only 7% feel that they are spiritually lost to some degree, and 6% have lost some important spiritual meaning that they had before.

Four in five (81%) respondents feel that over the last 12 months they had a sense of gratitude. And 70% report spending more time thinking about spiritual questions.

The respondents are also concerned about other people's well-being, with 89% sharing that they feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world about half the time or more often. And in response to these needs, respondents give a significant amount of time (81%) or money (69%) to help other people about half the time or more often. Beyond the individual level of helping, 63% of respondents share that they apply their faith to political and social issues about half the time or more often.

Conclusions and Recommendations

These data reflect the beliefs, practices, and experiences of Seventh-day Adventist Church members who are relatively mature in faith, primarily middle-aged adults or elderly, but mostly don't have any Adventist education experience. These members have active devotional lives and regularly engage in personal spiritual practices, although there is a lack of reading of Adventist publications.

Church members in this study affirm the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. The one issue that appears unclear to some church members is human perfection and legalism, with over half of respondents agreeing with the statement, "Because Jesus was able to live without sinning, it is possible for believers to grow in Christian maturity so that in the final days of Earth's history, we will reach a state of sinless perfection." Also, nearly two-thirds agree that "they will not go to Heaven unless they obey God's law perfectly." Addressing this issue with preaching and teaching will be necessary for the congregation to have a balanced view of salvation.

Similarly, there is diversity of thought when defining and understanding church unity. Therefore, it may be beneficial to hold discussions with local church leaders about the issue of church unity and to clarify how supporting unity and diversity may help congregations flourish.

Participants in this study are oriented to their local churches as noted through church attendance, church leadership, and feeling connected to and cared about by their pastor, Sabbath School leaders, and other church members. Regarding the opinions toward their local church, only slightly over half of the respondents express their satisfaction, which invites further discussion and investigation of what is causing the members' dissatisfaction and ways to enhance the relationship. Moreover, members' participation in some church activities, such as Pathfinders, prayer, and small-group meetings, are not as vibrant, and overall youth involvement seems to require some improvement.

Most church members agree that there needs to be increased individual efforts in having evangelistic outreach in the local community and activities to meet their needs. Nevertheless, less than half of respondents express that their church needs to increase its efforts to meet

the local community's needs, while regarding evangelistic outreach, a greater majority agree there is a need for an increase in the church's action.

Respondents in this study generally report being moderately healthy spiritually. However, their psychological well-being may need careful attention from church leaders and further examination of the phenomenon expressed by about half of respondents relating to the symptoms of depression. Despite most of them saying their lives are filled with meaning and purpose, a considerable number of respondents also report having symptoms of depression to various degrees.

The study findings support the church members' commitment to the Adventist Church, adherence to its beliefs, and faithfulness to following Christ. However, while this report encourages the leadership of the ESD that the church members in their division remain faithful to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it also reveals some challenges and issues that the Church would benefit from examining and appropriately addressing.

Methodology

Sample Strategy

The initial phase involved translating the survey into the Russian, Armenian, and Moldovan languages. To ensure linguistic fidelity, a meticulous back translation process was diligently executed, validating the accuracy of the translations. In preparation for data collection, the local research team selected a random sample to select survey respondents for participation in this study.

Data Collection

Due to contextual restraints, the data-collection period was limited to one announcement/invitation to data collection sent to the pastors. Pushback due to fear led the leaders of the division to discontinue the data collection and no reminders were sent. Data in the ESD were collected in November 2022 by filling out an e-survey. The collected responses were from across the ESD, but mostly from the West Russia Union. A total of 591 surveys were collected, but only 328 surveys were included in the study after the data cleaning.

Data Analysis

Researchers used both descriptive and inferential methods to analyze the data. For each survey question-and-answer category, researchers computed frequencies and percentages showing the range of answers in the dataset.

To assess the relationship between demographic and other variables, researchers used correlational analysis. The insights garnered through inferential analysis are incorporated in each section of the report.

Demographic Characteristics

This section reviews the demographic characteristics of the individuals who completed the 2023 GCMS. The data provide an overall picture of the “typical” participant, allowing the reader to understand the context from which the survey findings come. The demographics include the country and language of the participant, gender, age, marital status, information about the household and children, participants’ health profiles, and immigration status.

These results cover survey questions P1–P7, P12, and D1–D5. The charts and tables detailing these findings appear in the appendices.

Location, Language, Gender, Marital Status, and Age

ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents consist of church members from six countries/regions. Most respondents are from Russia (71%); 12% of respondents are from Belarus, 8% from Moldova, and 8% are from other countries. The language participants used to fill out the surveys varies only slightly, with the majority completed in Russian (94%). For more detailed information, please see Tables P1 and P2 in Appendix 2.

In terms of gender, two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents are women. Two-thirds (66%) of ESD members report that they are married and living with their spouses. Twelve percent of respondents are single/never married, 9% are widowed, and another 8% are divorced and single. Only a small percentage of respondents report that they are married but living apart (3%).

In general, the participants are middle-aged to older adults. Twelve percent are 65 or older, and 19% are 55–64. Over half (53%) are 36–54, and 14% are 21–35. Only a small percent (2%) is 20 or younger.

Household and Children

The most common household in the ESD contains two people (28%); one in five (22%) respondents lives in a three-person household. Approximately 18% of respondents live in a four-person household, and 15% live in a one-person household. Sixteen percent of respondents live in a household with five or more people.

GCMS 2022–23 respondents were also asked how many people (including themselves) observe the Sabbath. The largest percentage (28%) of households contains two people who keep the Sabbath, while 22% report that three people in their household observe the Sabbath.

Households with one person report the highest percentage (95%) of all members attending, followed by seven-or-more-person households (67%), two-person households (66%), and four-person households (66%).

All people in the household keep the Sabbath	All people in the household keep the Sabbath	Not all people in the household keep the Sabbath	How many people live in household
1	95%	5%	15.3%
2	66%	34%	28.1%
3	55%	45%	22.2%
4	66%	34%	18.4%
5	58%	42%	8.1%
6	53%	47%	5.9%
7+	67%	33%	1.9%
Total	65%	35%	100.0%

Table 1. Households (D1 & D2) – ESD: Number of people living in household / number of people in household observing the Sabbath (n = 297)

Half (50%) of GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they have at least one of their biological children (either a child or teenager) living at home; in addition, 10% of respondents have at least one non-biological child (either a child or teenager) who lives with them.

Slightly more than two out of five (43%) are raising all their children in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or their adult children are still members of the Church. Sixteen percent of respondents have at least one child who is part of the Church but at least one who is not. Nearly a quarter (23%) of respondents’ children are not being raised in the Church or are not still part of the Church as adults. (Note: 18% of respondents report that they do not have children.)

Health Profiles

The GCMS 2023–2023 results enrich our understanding of how church members vary across physical, emotional, mental, cognitive, developmental, visual, and hearing abilities. Sixteen percent of respondents report that they have challenges in these areas. Specifically, 2% of respondents identify as a person who is deaf. For those who report challenges or impairments, 2% report that they often find it more difficult to participate in church activities than other people in their church; another 9% report that they sometimes do so. Conversely, 5% of those who report challenges or impairments share that it rarely or never impacts their ability to participate in church activities.

Commitment to the Church

This section addresses church members' commitment to the church, including baptism, Adventist employment, and holding church offices. These variables help explain how strongly connected the respondents are to the church as an institution. This section includes survey questions P8, D6, D7, D9, and A6.

Most (93%) ESD GMCS 2022–23 respondents consider themselves to be Seventh-day Adventists, with well over half (62%) of respondents reporting that they hold a church office at their local church. The same number (93%) report that they have been baptized as a member of the Adventist Church or joined the Church by profession of faith. Well over half (56%) of respondents have been baptized for 21–30 years, while an additional 9% have been baptized for 30 years or more. Twenty-two percent of respondents have been baptized for 11–20 years, and 13% have been baptized for ten years or less.

When asked how likely it is that they will be attending an Adventist Church for the rest of their lives, most (91%) respondents feel that it is very likely (78%) or likely (13%) that they will do so. Five percent admit that they are unsure, and 3% say that it is unlikely that they will remain for life. [WT1]

Over half (55%) report never being employed by the Adventist Church. Sixteen percent share that they have been employed by the Adventist Church in the past but are not current employees, and 29% are currently employed by the Adventist Church.

Family Matters

This section examines church members' family history with the Adventist Church, current family configuration, and parenting styles the respondents recall during their growing-up years. This section includes survey questions D6, D8, D14, and D15.

Seventeen percent of respondents grew up in the Church and have been connected to the Church since birth. Another small percentage (2%) grew up in the Church but left for a while before returning (one or more times). Three percent joined the Adventist Church with their immediate family before they reached the age of 13. One in five (19%) did not grow up in the Church but joined between the ages of 13 and 20, while a majority (59%) of respondents joined as an adult over the age of 20.

About half (46%) of respondents report that at least one of their parents was an Adventist, 21% report that at least one of their grandparents was an Adventist, and 13% report that at least four continuous generations of their family have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, two-thirds (69%) of respondents claim to be first-generation Adventists, and 28% share that they are unsure of their family's full history with the Adventist Church.

Three-fourths (73%) of ESD respondents grew up in a family comprised of two biological/adoptive parents or other guardians. Another 17% grew up in a family with one biological/adoptive parent or other guardians, and 10% grew up in an alternate situation. When it comes to parenting style and decision-making in the household, one in five (19%) respondents had their parent(s), guardian(s), or other authority figure(s) making decisions for them when they were teenagers. Twenty-eight percent of respondents report that they made decisions together with their families, and half (48%) of respondents made decisions for themselves.

Education

The Adventist educational system often plays a large role in church members' lives. This section notes the levels of education in general and in Adventist institutions specifically. The section draws on survey questions P9–P11.

Across the division, 4% of participants report that they did not complete basic schooling (high school or less). Ten percent of participants have a high school degree but did not complete any further education; another 17% attended vocational school. Seven percent of respondents started but did not complete college. Half (52%) of members completed college/university, and 11% completed graduate school.

Four percent of respondents attended an Adventist school at some point in their education. Three percent attended Adventist elementary or primary school while living in the community, while 3% did so while living on campus. Three percent attended Adventist secondary school while living in the community, and 2% did so while living on campus. Finally, 8% attended Adventist college or university while living in the community, while another 13% did so while living on campus.

Three-fourths (76%) of respondents have never attended an Adventist school. Nine percent of respondents report attending 1–4 years at an Adventist school, another 7% attended 5–8 years at an Adventist school, and 5% attended 9–12 years at an Adventist school. Four percent of respondents had 13 years or more of Adventist education.

Local Church Demographics

Just as describing the demographics of survey respondents aids in our understanding of the findings, noting the local church demographics offers insights into the types of settings in which these church members are located. This section addresses the geography of church locations, the numbers of church members and their attendance patterns, and nearby Adventist institutions. This section draws data from survey questions D10–D13.

When asked about their church's setting, half (48%) of respondents report that their church is in a large city, with 20% of them indicating that their church is actually downtown. Forty-three percent of respondents indicate that their church is in a suburb or smaller city, and 9% attend church in a less populated area (6% in a town or village; 3% in a rural area).

Looking at attendance, two-thirds (67%) of respondents indicate that they attend church with 50 people or less in weekly attendance, while another 25% claim that they attend church with 51–100 people in weekly attendance. Another 7% of respondents share that they attend church with 101–200 people.

The most typical ESD church membership in our sample is 100 people or less (69%). Twenty-six percent attend a church with a membership of 101–200 people. Five percent attend a church with a membership of more than 200 people.

In 1% of churches, the actual attendance is higher than the size of the membership. A third (34%) of churches have membership and attendance in their church in the same size category. In 65% of churches, the attendance is at least one size category smaller than the official membership.

Reconfiguring the data into three church-size categories reveals 2% of churches are large (151 or more people), 32% are mid-size (51–150 people), and two-thirds (67%) are small (50 people or less).

Fifteen percent of ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they live near an Adventist educational institution, such as a school or university. Seven percent live near an Adventist medical institution, such as a hospital or clinic. Fourteen percent live near a church administrative office, such as a conference, union, or division office, and 5% live near some other Adventist institution, such as a publishing house or health food business.

Adventist Practices and Beliefs

This section summarizes the findings related to church members' spiritual practices, such as devotional reading, prayer, and family worship. In addition, it addresses church members' use of specific resources such as Adventist media and literature. Finally, this section explores the connection between church members' beliefs and their application in everyday life, including tithing and the use of social media. These results draw from survey questions R2–R5, A1, A2, A6, B1, and B3.

ESD survey respondents show a high level of commitment to Christ (Q48). Half (49%) feel that their commitment to Christ developed gradually over a period of time and that they are fully committed to Christ now. Over a quarter (28%) of respondents feel that their commitment to Christ came suddenly and changed them and that they are fully committed to Christ now. Sixteen percent share that they have been committed to Christ since they were a young child and continue to be fully committed to Him now. However, three percent report that they committed their lives to Christ at a specific moment, but it didn't last, and 3% are not sure if they are committed to Christ.

Bible and Religious Reading

Half (51%) of ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they read their Bible every day, a quarter (27%) read it more than once a week, and 12% read their Bible about once a week. The remaining 9% admit that they read their Bible once a month or less often.

One in five (21%) participants reports that they study the Sabbath School lesson every day, 32% study it more than once a week, and 28% share that they study the Sabbath School lesson about once a week. Thirteen percent admit that they study their Sabbath School lesson only a few times or less than once a month, and 6% never do so.

Half (53%) of respondents report reading the writings of EGW about once a week or more often. A third (36%) of respondents report that they read EGW once or a few times a month, and 11% never read her writings.

In addition, four in five (79%) respondents have access to all of the writings of EGW in a language they understand. Another 17% share that they only have access to her major works (i.e., Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, Desire of Ages, The Acts of the Apostles, The Great Controversy, and Steps to Christ) in a language they understand, 2% share that they can only “sometimes” access books in a language they understand, and 2% cannot access EGW writings in a language they understand.

The correlation analysis reveals a relationship between the respondents' habits of reading EGW writings and studying Sabbath School lessons and their age; the older they are, the more frequently they use these resources for their devotional life.

Prayer and Meditation on the Life of Jesus

Most (87%) ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents engage in personal prayer every day (outside of mealtimes). Ten percent report that they engage in personal prayer more than once a week or about once a week. The remaining 3% only engage in personal prayer once or a few times a month or less often.

Nearly half (45%) of participants think about Jesus’s life every day; in addition, 27% meditate on Jesus’s life more than once a week, and 14% do so about once a week. Twelve percent do so a few times a month or less than once a month, while 3% never do so. According to the correlation analysis, the older the respondents are, the more they meditate on the life of Jesus.

Family Worship

Over a quarter (28%) of respondents engage in daily morning or evening family worship. Another 19% of respondents have morning or evening family worship more than once a week (14%) or about once a week (5%). Eight percent of respondents report that they have family worship once or a few times a month, and 7% have family worship less than once a month. Sadly, two in five (39%) of respondents report that they never have morning or evening family worship.

Religious Literature Reading Habits

The Adventist Church provides many different religious literature avenues for members to utilize; each of these is designed to help members’ faith grow.

In the ESD, two-thirds (66%) of respondents share that they never read Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website; another 21% do so less than once a month, while 8% do so once or a few times a month. Only 5% of respondents read Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website about once a week or more often. According to correlation analysis, younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to not read the magazine.

Most (86%) ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents share that they never use the Adventist Review magazine or website; 8% do so less than once a month, and 3% do so once or a few times a month. Two percent of respondents use the Adventist Review magazine or website about once a week or more often.

Respondents are only slightly more likely to read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference. Over half (55%) of respondents have never read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference in the last 12 months; another quarter (24%) have done so less than once a month, and 15% have done so once or a few times a month.

Five percent report reading a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference about once a week, but no respondents report doing so more frequently than that.

GCMS 2022–23 respondents were asked if they have access to Adventist publications in their own language through a variety of sources. Most (83%) respondents have access to electronic books and/or other digital publications available for free, and 61% have access to electronic books and/or other digital publications available to be purchased. A vast majority (92%) have access to printed publications through their local church book center, while 89% can access printed publications at an Adventist Book Center store. Finally, 81% have access to printed publications available at major church gatherings, such as camp meetings or conferences.

Survey participants were asked how often they hear sermons on reading and sharing Adventist literature and publications. A third (32%) of respondents hear sermons on this topic frequently (29%) or very frequently (3%). However, half (53%) report that they seldom hear sermons on reading and sharing Adventist literature and publications. Ten percent report that they never hear sermons on this topic, and 5% admit that they don't know.

Adventist Radio and TV

Adventist radio seems to be an underutilized resource in the ESD. Over half (54%) of members report that they never listen to an Adventist radio broadcast. Another 13% report that they do so less than once a month, and 9% only do so once or a few times a month. A quarter (24%) of respondents listen to an Adventist radio broadcast about once a week or more often. Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to not listen to Adventist radio, according to correlation analysis.

A quarter (24%) of respondents report never watching Hope Channel programming. Thirty-one percent watch it less than once a month, and another 18% do so once a month. Over a quarter (27%) of respondents watch Hope Channel programming about once a week or more often.

Two in five (22%) respondents share that they never watch other Adventist television channels or programming, while 19% do so less than once a month; one in ten (12%) survey participants do so once or a few times a month. However, nearly half (47%) of respondents watch other Adventist television channels or programming about once a week or more often. Correlation analysis suggests that older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to watch Adventist television channels besides Hope Channel.

Applying Religion to Daily Life

Church members report being intentional about applying their learning from studying the Bible, Sabbath School lessons, EGW writings, and from church involvement in their daily

lives. A majority (89%) of respondents agree to one degree or another that “I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.” Four out of five (79%) respondents agree to one degree or another that “I apply what I learn from Sabbath School lessons to my daily life.” Seventy-one percent of respondents agree to one degree or another that “I apply what I learn from Ellen White’s writings to my daily life.”

Nearly three-fourths (73%) of GCMS 2022–23 respondents disagree to one degree or another with the statement, “Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life.” However, 13% are unsure (2017–18: 16%), and 14% agree to one degree or another with this statement.

Habit of Tithing

Most (87%) respondents agree to one extent or another that tithing is still required of all people by God. Six percent are not sure, and 6% disagree to one degree or another. When it comes to returning tithe, most (88%) respondents share that they specify their giving as “tithe” on the giving envelope (electronic or regular), and 5% do not indicate it as tithe at the time of giving, simply placing it in the offering plate. Another 5% distribute that 10% at their own discretion, giving to entities other than formal church “tithe.” Three percent of respondents admit that they do not return tithe.

Use of Social Media

GCMS 2022–23 respondents were asked if they use social media (and how often) for specific purposes. Three in five (62%) report using social media for any purpose on a daily basis. Another 16% use it more than once a week, and 5% use it about once a week. Five percent use it once or a few times a month, and 4% use it less than once a month. Only 7% report that they never use social media.

GCMS 2022–23 respondents were also asked if they use social media for a variety of purposes.

- 73% read or respond to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions about once a week or more often, while 14% never do so.
- 39% never read or respond to posts by other Christian churches, organizations, and institutions, while 32% do so about once a week or more often.
- 67% of respondents use social media to study their Bible about once a week or more, while only 16% never do so.
- 39% use social media to share prayer requests and answered prayers about once a week or more often, while only 26% never do so.

- 44% of respondents use social media to pray with others about once a week or more often, while 28% never do so.
- 22% of respondents use social media to learn about the life of EGW about once a week or more often, but 39% never use social media for this purpose.
- 34% of respondents use social media to read and connect with the writings of EGW about once a week or more often, while 35% never do so. Respondents attending smaller churches used social media for this purpose more than those who attend larger churches.
- 36% of respondents use social media to help advance the mission of the Adventist Church about once a week or more often; however, 27% never do so.
- 47% of respondents use social media to learn about religious topics that their pastors or Sabbath School teachers have not talked about once a week or more often, while 18% never do so.
- 39% of respondents use social media to share Bible studies with family, friends, or other people in their social network about once a week or more often. Conversely, 31% never do so.
- 32% of respondents use social media to attend church about once a week or more often, while 59% do so less than once a month (40% never).
- 34% of respondents use social media to worship with other believers (outside of a church service) about once a week or more. A slightly greater percentage (38%) never use social media to worship with other believers (outside of a church service).

The GCMS 2022–23 also assessed how ESD members feel about social media usage.

- A quarter (23%) of respondents share that they never use social media as a distraction from other activities that they should be doing, while over half (56%) admit that they experience social media as a distraction weekly or more often.
- Over half (57%) of respondents agree with the statement, “When I use social media, it is good for my mental health.” Thirteen percent disagree to one degree or another. (Note: 16% report not using social media.)
- Half (53%) of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I use social media, it is good for my spiritual well-being.” However, 20% disagree, sharing that they do not believe social media is good for their spiritual well-being. (Note: 13% report not using social media.). In addition, older respondents tend to agree more with the statement than younger respondents.

- 62% of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I use social media, I feel more connected to friends and family,” while only 12% of respondents disagree. (Note: 11% report not using social media.)
- 22% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I often respond in anger to people online.” However, 3% admit that this is true. (Note: 73% report not using social media.)
- 27% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I have been hurt by other people’s words,” while 4% have been hurt by others’ words on social media. (Note: 62% report not using social media.)
- 22% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I find it hard to stop when I need to.” However, 17% do find it hard to stop when they need to. (Note: 52% report not using social media.)
- 30% of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I cannot use social media, I feel like I am missing out on what is happening.” Eighteen percent of respondents are not sure, while 23% of respondents disagree with this statement. (Note: 28% report not using social media.)

Fundamental Beliefs

This section explores the findings regarding church members' endorsement of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and reveals to what extent study respondents support the Church's official belief statements. This section addresses survey questions A9, B1, B3, B4, B6, and H1–H6.

Overall, a majority (97%) of ESD GCMS 2022–23 participants agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture; only a small percentage are unsure (2%). Most (96%) also believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, as a whole, reflect the loving and gracious character of God. Only a few respondents are not sure (4%).

The Bible, God, and Humanity

Nearly three-fourths (72%) of survey participants believe that the Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who, though expressing their message in terms of their own time and place, expressed eternal truths. Another one in five (20%) believes that the Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who represented God's message in terms of their own place and time. Five percent believe that the Bible is the work of people who copied what God told them word for word, and who wrote without being influenced by their own place and time. Two percent agree that the Bible contains no more truth or wisdom than the religious books of other world religions.

Most (88%) GCMS 2022–23 respondents wholeheartedly believe in the Triune God (i.e., one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three eternal, equal Persons). Another 6% accept this teaching because the Church teaches it. Most (88%) respondents disagree with the statement “the Holy Spirit is God's power in the world, not a Person”; however, 6% remain unsure, and 7% agree. Almost all (98%) respondents also believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings.

A majority (93%) of respondents believe that they are loved by God, even when they sin. However, 3% are unsure, and 3% disagree.

Creation

When it comes to beliefs on Creation, two-thirds (68%) of GCMS 2022–23 respondents believe that God created the world in six literal days in the relatively recent past. Eighteen percent admit they are unsure, and 14% disagree to one degree or another. Younger respondents contribute more to the disagreement and uncertainty about the statement than the older respondents.

However, GCMS 2022–23 participants are certain that God created the universe; 100% of respondents agree with this statement!

Nature of Humanity

Half (52%) of respondents agree with the statement, “Because Jesus was able to live without sinning, it is possible for believers to grow in Christian maturity so that in the final days of Earth’s history, we will reach a state of sinless perfection.” Another 28% are unsure, and the remaining 20% disagree with this statement.

Participants were also asked to respond to the statement, “People have a certain amount of faith, and they really cannot do much to change it.” Fifty-seven percent of respondents disagree with this statement. However, a third (33%) of respondents admit that they are not sure, and the remaining 11% agree that people have a certain amount of faith, and they really cannot do much to change it.

Salvation

Almost all (97%) ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents believe that salvation is through Jesus Christ alone. When members were asked to respond to the statement, “Only people who accept Jesus as their personal Savior can go to Heaven,” 91% survey participants agree with this statement (5% are unsure; 4% disagree). Three-fourths (75%) of respondents agree that the reason that good works are done is as a result of being saved by grace (11% unsure; 14% disagree). According to correlation analysis, the longer the respondents attended Adventist schools, the more likely they are to agree with this statement.

However, there is less agreement when members were asked about other questions regarding salvation. Most interestingly, two-thirds (68%) of respondents agree that they will not get to Heaven unless they obey God’s law perfectly. Eighteen percent of respondents are unsure, and 14% of respondents disagree.

Half (51%) of respondents disagree that “in order to receive God’s grace, I must first live by His rules.” However, 11% are unsure, and 37% agree that they must first live by God’s rules in order to receive His grace. Respondents who spent more years in Adventist schools tend to agree less with the statement than those who spent shorter time in Adventist schools. Most (88%) respondents agree, “I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me.” However, 7% are unsure, and 5% disagree, implying that they feel there is something they must do to earn or achieve salvation. Two-thirds (64%) of participants disagree with the statement, “The more that I follow Adventist health and lifestyle standards, the more likely I will be saved.” However, 21% are unsure, and 14% agree that their salvation is somehow linked to their adherence to Adventist health and lifestyle standards. And the shorter time that they have been baptized, the more they tend to agree with the connection.

When members were asked how often they hear sermons on the topic of righteousness by faith, half (53%) report that they hear sermons on this topic very frequently (5%) or frequently (48%).

Church

Most (99%) ESD respondents agree that Christ is the head of the church. They also agree (99%) that all believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth.

Church Unity

Two-thirds (66%) of GCMS 2022–23 participants agree that “church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief,” while 17% disagree with this statement.

A third (33%) of respondents agree that “different world regions of the Adventist Church should be allowed after consultation with the worldwide Church to set their own administrative policies.” However, two in five (39%) respondents are unsure, and 28% disagree.

Adventist Exclusivity

Most (94%) ESD respondents agree that “the Seventh-day Adventist Church is God’s true last-day church with a message to prepare the world for the Second Coming of Christ by proclaiming the Three Angels’ Message.”

GCMS 2022–23 participants also report the frequency with which they hear sermons on exclusively Adventist topics:

- 55% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on Daniel and Revelation. Forty-two percent seldom hear sermons on this topic, and 3% report that they never do so.
- 64% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on the Three Angels’ Messages. Thirty-one percent report that they seldom hear sermons on this topic, and 5% share that they never do.
- 51% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A third (35%) of survey participants report that they seldom hear sermons on this topic, while 15% never do.

Ellen G. White and the Gift of Prophecy

Most (91%) ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents agree that Ellen White’s writings were the result of the spiritual gift of prophecy. Eight percent of respondents share that they are not sure. Three-fourths (74%) of respondents wholeheartedly embrace the idea that Ellen G. White was a prophet. Another 16% accept her as a prophet because the Adventist Church teaches it. Six percent admit that they have some questions.

Sixty percent of participants believe that “Ellen G. White was inspired by God, and though she presented God’s message in terms of her own place and time, she expressed eternal

truths in harmony with and pointing to the Bible.” Seventeen percent of respondents believe that “Ellen G. White was inspired by God and presented God’s message in terms of her own place and time.” Sixteen percent agree that “Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time.” Three percent believe that “Ellen G. White was a person who created stories of supernatural guidance in order to explain the mysteries of life. Her writings contain a great deal of wisdom about the human experience”; another 3% believe that “Ellen G. White’s writings contain no more truth or wisdom than do the religious works written by leaders of other denominations.”

Forty-three percent of respondents report that they frequently/very frequently hear sermons on the topic of the Spirit of Prophecy. Half (50%) share that they seldom hear sermons on this topic, and 8% never do so.

Christian Living

Sabbath Keeping

The results on Sabbath keeping reveal a clear pattern of agreement among survey respondents. Respondents unanimously (100%) agree that the true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday). Most (83%) respondents also agree that when they keep the Sabbath faithfully, they cope better with the stresses of the week. Ninety-three percent of respondents agree that they keep the Sabbath not because it is something they have to do but because it is part of who they are.

Three in five (58%) respondents report that they hear sermons on the topic of the Sabbath frequently or very frequently. However, 40% share that they seldom hear sermons on this important topic, and 3% never do.

Health - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

Almost all (98%) respondents agree that “God wants me to take care of my body by avoiding alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of other drugs.” There is also strong agreement (98%) with the statement, “My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.” Accordingly, 92% of respondents wholeheartedly agree that Adventists should abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs.

When asked how often in the last 12 months they have used alcohol, tobacco, and drugs:

- 91% never used alcohol.
- 97% never used tobacco products.
- 99% report that they never used marijuana products.
- 100% of respondents report that they never used opiates without a prescription.

Respondents were also asked about their understanding of scientific research on alcohol consumption. Most (94%) respondents believe that, overall, there is no safe level of alcohol use. However, 6% admit that they are not sure.

Health - Diet

Most (97%) ESD respondents wholeheartedly believe that Adventists should eat a healthful diet and abstain from unclean foods identified in Scripture.

When respondents were asked about the type of diet they eat:

- 5% maintain a vegan diet.
- 11% are vegetarians who eat eggs and dairy products (lacto ovo).
- 8% are pescatarian (i.e., they include fish in their diet but no other meat).
- 32% eat meat once a week or less.
- 33% eat meat a few times a week.
- 11% eat meat most days.

Health Message

Four in five (80%) respondents are very familiar with the Adventist health message, while another 16% are somewhat familiar with it. Respondents with higher education levels tend to be more familiar with the health message than those with lower education levels. A majority (89%) follow the Adventist health message a great deal (34%) or a moderate amount (55%).

Two-thirds (65%) of ESD respondents agree/strongly agree that “the Health Message is a core part of Seventh-day Adventist belief that cannot be questioned,” while 23% are unsure and 12% disagree to one degree or another.

Most (86%) ESD respondents agree that “following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer,” and 85% agree that the Adventist health message has largely been supported by scientific discoveries. However, a third (32%) agree that “I can choose which parts of the Health Message to follow and which to ignore,” with 42% disagreeing with the statement.

Sixty percent of respondents disagree that “following the health message ensures my salvation,” while another 20% hold a legalistic view, agreeing that following the health message does, indeed, ensure their salvation. Such a view on the health message is more prevalent among respondents with lower education levels than those with higher education levels. A majority (90%) of ESD survey participants agree that “The Adventist health

message emphasizes physical health (e.g., diet, exercise), mental health, emotional well-being, social support, and relationships as a part of spiritual growth.”

ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents were asked how often they hear Sabbath sermons on the topic of wholistic, healthful living (the importance of health for the body, mind, spirit, and social relationships). Forty-seven percent of respondents hear such sermons very frequently (3%) or frequently (44%), while another 47% seldom hear sermons on this topic.

Marriage

A vast majority (98%) of respondents agree that “the Bible teaches that sexual intercourse should be exclusively reserved for marriage”; 2% are unsure. Similarly, 98% of respondents agree that “the Bible teaches that marriage is a union between an adult man and an adult woman.”

Eschatological Beliefs

Sanctuary

Most (94%) respondents agree that the sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology. However, 4% are unsure. Three-fourths (73%) of respondents wholeheartedly accept the biblical teaching of the investigative pre-Advent judgment that began in 1844; another 17% accept this because the Church teaches it. However, 9% share that they have questions or major doubts about this doctrine.

A majority (87%) of ESD survey participants wholeheartedly believe that Christ is acting as our advocate before God in the heavenly sanctuary right now. Seventy percent of respondents wholeheartedly agree that before Christ returns, God will decide who is to be saved and who will be eternally lost. Seventy-two percent of members report that they hear sermons on the topic of the sanctuary very frequently (10%) or frequently (62%).

Second Coming of Jesus

Seventy-seven percent of ESD respondents wholeheartedly accept the Church’s interpretation of end-time prophecies; another 14% accept this interpretation because the Church teaches it. However, 9% of respondents have questions or major doubts.

Most (94%) respondents agree that fulfillment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near. In contrast, only 19% of respondents believe that Jesus will return in their lifetime. However, 70% admit that they are not sure if Jesus will return before they die. The remaining 11% do not believe that Jesus will return in their lifetime. The degrees of respondents’ experience in Adventist education were correlated with the responses to these questions. The longer they attended Adventist schools, the more they agree to these statements about the second coming.

Sabbath sermons on the topic of the Second Coming of Jesus are reported as common in ESD Adventist churches; 72% of respondents very frequently/frequently hear sermons on this topic.

State of the Dead

The Seventh-day Adventist Church holds a unique belief on the state of the dead, yet this topic remains one of the most successful and persistent lies of the enemy. Thus, it is encouraging that a vast majority (98%) of ESD GCMS 2022–23 respondents agree that “when people die, their bodily remains decay, and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.” Ninety-one percent of survey participants also disagree that “people who have died believing in Christ are in Heaven right now.” Most (93%) respondents disagree with the statement, “The soul is a separate, spiritual part of a person and lives on after death.”

When respondents were asked for their agreement level on the statement, “People who have rejected Christ are burning in Hell right now,” 98% of respondents disagree. Respondents also show strong disagreement (97%) with the statement, “The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living.”

A third (34%) of respondents report that they hear sermons on the state of the dead very frequently (3%) or frequently (31%). However, 58% seldom hear sermons on this important topic, and 8% report that they never do.

Adventist Education

Three-fourths (75%) of respondents agree that there are very distinct theological and worldview differences between what is being taught in a public or government school and what is being taught in a Seventh-day Adventist school. Twenty percent of respondents are not sure, and the remaining 4% disagree, implying that public/government schools do not differ much from Adventist schools.

Members offer more diversity in their responses to the statement, “Every local church should either operate or contribute to the operation of a school.” While three-quarters (76%) of respondents agree with this statement, 19% are unsure, and 6% disagree.

Church in Cultural Context

The GCMS 2022–23 posed new questions to members about the church within today’s cultural context. Some interesting trends emerged.

- 63% of respondents agree that “to be a Seventh-day Adventist means to reject certain elements of the culture around you.” Fourteen percent are unsure, and 23% disagree.

- 82% of respondents agree that “when I meet or hear about Adventists from other parts of the world, they are very much like me in the way they live their faith.” Sixteen percent of respondents are unsure, and 3% disagree.
- 81% of respondents agree that “people outside of the Adventist Church can have important insights into God’s character and plans.” However, 9% are unsure, and 6% disagree.
- 86% of respondents agree that “there are ideas in my culture that contradict my faith.” Interestingly, 9% of respondents are unsure, and 6% disagree, indicating that ideas within culture today match their faith/beliefs as Adventists.
- 53% of respondents agree that they are most comfortable in a church where everyone shares their cultural background. A quarter (24%) are unsure, and 24% disagree with this statement.
- 94% of respondents agree with the statement, “I would welcome someone from a different cultural background as part of my local church family.”
- 91% of respondents agree that Adventists should avoid amusements and entertainments that are not in harmony with the Spirit of Christ.

Engagement with the Local Church

This section discusses the findings related to how church members engage in their local churches. It covers survey questions R1, A1, A4, A5, and A8.

Church Attendance

Most (88%) respondents report attending church in person almost every week (23%), every week (45%), or more often (20%) in the last 12 months.

Seventeen percent of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they attended church services remotely by radio, TV, or Internet once every week or more often. Eleven percent did so almost every week, 7% once a month, and 9% at least once a quarter. Over a quarter (28%) attended church services remotely by radio, TV, or Internet once or twice in the last 12 months, while 27% never did so. Half (49%) of members attend a church that makes worship services available online. The trend of attending the worship service remotely is more noticeable among the respondents who attended larger churches or churches in a more urbanized area.

Church Experience

Almost three in five (57%) GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they are very satisfied (24%) or satisfied (33%) with their local church. Another 24% share that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. However, 9% of respondents admit that they are dissatisfied with their local church, and another 10% report that they are very dissatisfied.

Pastor and Lay Leaders

Over two-thirds (69%) of respondents agree that their pastor cares about them.

In the past 12 months, over half (53%) of members report that they did not receive a visit from their pastor. A quarter (27%) received a visit once or twice, and 9% received a visit at least once a quarter. Only a small percentage of respondents received a pastoral visit once a month (4%), almost every week (1%), or more often (6%).

Even fewer respondents received a visit from a church elder in the past 12 months. Two-thirds (69%) of members never received a visit from an elder. Twenty percent received an elder visit once or twice, and 3% report receiving a visit at least once a quarter. Only 9% of respondents received an elder visit once a month or more often.

Caring and Nurturing

Fifty-eight percent of church members agree that their Sabbath School teachers care about them. More respondents (78%) agree that other people in their church care about them. Moreover, 68% of respondents feel that their church needs to increase efforts for the overall care and nurturing of members.

In the last 12 months, one in five (22%) GCMS 2022–23 respondents shares that they never received a visit from another church member.

Relational and Discipleship Training

Three in five (62%) respondents agree that their local church has the ability to communicate across cultures, clans, tribes, and religions.

Regarding the training offered by the church, 41% of respondents agree that their local church offers training on conflict resolution and reconciliation. However, 35% are unsure if their church offers such training, while 25% disagree that their church does so.

Similarly, 19% of ESD survey participants agree that their local church has a program for preparing new members to become leaders. Fifteen percent of respondents share that they are not sure, and two-thirds (68%) of respondents disagree that their church offers such a program. More training is done on nurturing and disciplining church members; two in five (41%) respondents agree that their local church offers this type of training.

Family Focus

Three out of five (59%) ESD respondents agree that they attend a church that plans activities for everyone in the family. Twenty-one percent of respondents are unsure, and 19% disagree.

Seventeen percent of GCMS 2022–23 participants agree with the statement, “I currently provide financial support for children (mine or others) to attend an Adventist school.”

Fifteen percent are unsure. However, 68% of respondents disagree with this statement to one degree or another, indicating that they do not provide financial support.

Youth and Young Adults

Forty-four percent of respondents agree that youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in their local church.

Twenty-eight percent of respondents agree that their local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders. These efforts to include youth and young adults in ministry are more active in larger churches with more attendance. Also, 54% of respondents agree that their conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders. However, some members are unsure if their local church (36%) or conference/mission (28%) has such a program.

Involvement in Church

Most (92%) respondents share that in the last 12 months, they participated in a communion service at least once a quarter. However, 4% share that in the last year, they only participated in communion once or twice, and another 4% report that they never did so.

A third (34%) of respondents share that they helped with a church ministry on Sabbath every week or more often. Another 18% report that in the last 12 months, they did so almost every week. Twelve percent helped once a month, 6% helped at least once a quarter, and 12% helped once or twice in the last year. The remaining 18%, however, share that in the last year, they never helped with a church ministry on Sabbath.

A fifth (20%) of members report that in the last year, they helped with a church ministry during the week every week or more often. Another 11% helped about once a week, and 6% helped once a month. However, another 4% only helped at least once a quarter, 11% helped once or twice in the last year, and 47% of respondents never helped with a church ministry during the week.

Multiple questions under this section relate to the respondents' current involvement in their church and whether they hold church offices. Respondents active in their local church and serving it by taking positions show more significant participation in communion service, Sabbath School, prayer meetings, small groups, or activities during the week or on Sabbaths.

Sabbath School

Three in five (62%) survey participants share that in the last 12 months, they attended Sabbath School in person every week or more often. Another 24% attended almost every week. Four percent attended once a month, 3% attended at least once a quarter, and 2% attended only once or twice. Only 5% of respondents never attended Sabbath School in person in the last 12 months.

One in five (19%) respondents shares that in the last 12 months, they attended Sabbath School remotely via radio, TV, or the Internet every week or more often; another 10% did so almost every week. Seven percent attended remotely once a month, 7% at least once a quarter, and 18% did so once or twice in the last year. Thirty-nine percent of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they never attended Sabbath School remotely by radio, TV, or the Internet.

Prayer Meetings and Small Group

Thirty percent of respondents share that in the last 12 months, they attended a prayer meeting at their local church every week or more often; another 12% did so almost every week. Five percent attended once a month, and 5% at least once a quarter. Fourteen percent did so once or twice in the last year, and over a third (36%) never attended a prayer meeting at their local church.

Sixteen percent of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they attended a small group organized through their church every week or more often. Another 9% did so almost every week, and 4% did so once a month. Five percent attended a small group at least once a

quarter, and 8% did so once or twice in the last 12 months. However, three out of five (59%) respondents never attended a small group organized by their church.

Pathfinders

A majority (76%) of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they never attended a Pathfinder meeting.

Nurturing Church Members

Thirty-nine percent of respondents share that they often help others with their religious questions and struggles, and 23% share that they usually do so. A quarter (26%) report that they help others with their religious questions and struggles about half the time, while 10% seldom do. Three-fourths (75%) of ESD participants feel that they need to increase their involvement in caring for and nurturing local church members. One fifth (20%) feel that their involvement is at the right level.

The Pandemic's Impact on Churches

This section focuses on church members' experiences related to the coronavirus pandemic in three ways: Church members' involvement in the local church, their experiences with worship services, and giving offerings. These cover survey questions D16–D21.

Involvement in the Local Church

The coronavirus pandemic changed the way that some people participate in their church. GCMS 2022–23 participants were asked to think back to a time just before the pandemic started in late 2019; they were then asked to describe their involvement in their local church before the coronavirus pandemic. Over a third (37%) of respondents consider themselves as active participants in their local church, while a similar number (21%) consider themselves active leaders. Ten percent consider themselves casual participants, and 9% report that they attended church activities and services but rarely participated or interacted with church members. Seventeen percent share that pre-COVID, they attended church through recorded or live-streamed audio or video but otherwise did not interact with the church; the remaining 6% did not attend church or participate at all in church activities.

After answering this question about their involvement in the local church pre-COVID, members were asked to describe their current involvement in their local church. Two in five (41%) respondents consider themselves active participants, and 23% consider themselves active leaders in their local church. Fourteen percent of participants currently consider themselves casual participants, and 16% report that they attend church activities and services but rarely participate or interact with church members. Four percent currently attend church through recorded or live-streamed audio or video but otherwise do not interact with the church; only 2% do not attend church or participate at all in church activities. These results show that the COVID-19 pandemic had little impact on members' involvement in their local church.

While three in five (61%) respondents share that their involvement in their local church was the same before and after COVID, a quarter (27%) report that their involvement increased after COVID. However, 12% admit that their involvement has decreased.

Worship Service and Experiences

Members were asked what happened to worship services at the church they attended during the coronavirus pandemic. A majority (60%) of respondents report that their church met remotely for a period of time when they could not meet face-to-face. Over a quarter (28%) of respondents share that their church continued to meet face-to-face throughout the pandemic. Eleven percent report that their church closed for a period of time, and there was no remote worship option.

Members were then asked to describe their own worship experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. A third (35%) attended their local church remotely for a period of time. Another third (33%) of members continued to meet face-to-face, and 13% report that they attended an Adventist church located in a different place remotely for a period of time. Five percent stopped attending church for a period of time, and 13% met face-to-face with other Adventists, but not in a church (for example, in a home church).

Over a third (37%) of ESD GCMS 2022–23 participants report that their church developed new ministries during or as a result of the pandemic. Forty-five percent of respondents share that their church did not do so. The remaining 18% of respondents do not know.

Impact on Offering

Respondents were asked if, during any period of time in which they were unable to meet on-site with their local church due to the coronavirus pandemic, they were provided with one or more methods (electronic or otherwise) that enabled them to continue their normal pattern of giving. Approximately a quarter of respondents share that they were provided with a way to continue their normal pattern of giving both tithes (24%) and offerings (27%).

Adventist Mission

This section focuses on Adventist missions, noting various approaches to evangelism. The data come from survey questions D21, R1, R6, R7, A1, A4, and B1.

Mission Outreach Values and Practices

Most (83%) respondents feel that their church needs to increase its overall evangelistic outreach in the local community. Thirteen percent feel that their church's evangelistic outreach efforts are at the right level. (Note: 4% do not feel that this question applies to their church.)

Making it more personal, four in five (79%) feel that they, themselves, need to increase their involvement in their church's evangelistic outreach in the community. Fourteen percent feel that their personal involvement is at the right level. (Note: 6% do not feel that this question applies to their church.)

Christ's Method

Most (97%) respondents agree that "the most effective method for reaching people for Christ is to mingle with them, meet their needs, win their confidence, and then bid them to follow Christ." Three percent are unsure.

Similarly, most (89%) survey participants agree that "In order to reach people for Christ, we need to get to know them and their needs before we preach the Gospel to them." However, only 17% of survey participants report that in the last 12 months, they spent time forming new friendships with non-Adventists in their community every week or more often, with another 14% reporting that they did so almost every week. Twelve percent did so once a month, 10% did so at least once a quarter, and 24% did so only once or twice. The remaining quarter (25%) never spent time forming new friendships with non-Adventists in their community.

Nine percent of ESD respondents share that in the last 12 months, they spent time meeting the needs of non-Adventists in their community once a week or more often. Another 12% did so almost every week. Eighteen percent spent time meeting non-Adventists' needs in their community once a month, 12% at least once a quarter, and 24% did so once or twice. The remaining quarter (24%) report never doing so. These results correlate with the respondents' level of education. The higher the respondents' education level is, the more frequently they participated in meeting the needs of non-Adventist neighbors.

Three in five (62%) respondents feel proud of their local church and its role and reputation in the community, while a quarter (26%) are not sure, and 11% disagree.

Two in five (41%) respondents feel that their church needs to increase its overall efforts to meet the local community's needs. Thirty-six percent of respondents feel that their church's overall efforts to meet the local community's needs are at the right level. The longer the respondents received an Adventist education, the more they think that their church needs to increase its efforts to meet the needs of the community.

Regarding their involvement in meeting the local community's needs, 73% feel that they, themselves, need to increase their involvement. Twenty percent feel that their personal involvement and efforts are at the right level.

Public Evangelism & Witnessing

In the last 12 months, nearly half (48%) of respondents never attended a public evangelistic meeting in their area. One in five (22%) did so once or twice, and 10% did so at least once a quarter. Twenty percent attended a public evangelistic meeting in their area once a month or more often.

In the past 12 months, 16% of respondents witnessed to non-Adventists in their community every week or more often. Another 19% did so almost every week. Nineteen percent did so once a month, 11% did so at least once a quarter, and 22% did so once or twice. Twelve percent never did so.

Reclaiming Former Church Members

Over three-quarters (77%) of respondents feel that their church needs to increase its efforts to reclaim former members. Sixteen percent of respondents feel that their church's efforts are at the right level.

A similar percentage (79%) of respondents feel that they need to increase their involvement with their church's efforts to reclaim former members. Fourteen percent of respondents feel that their personal involvement is at the right level.

Youth Involvement in Local Church Mission

The last item in this section deals with young people's involvement in the local church's mission. Half (50%) of respondents agree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. Another 31% is not sure. The remaining 19% disagree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. The youth's participation in the mission is more apparent in larger churches with more attendance.

Three-fourths (76%) of GCMS 2022–23 respondents feel that their church needs to increase the overall inclusion of young people in carrying out the mission of the local church.

Seventeen percent of respondents feel that their church's efforts are at the right level. Again, 72% of respondents feel that they need to personally increase their involvement in including

young people in carrying out the mission of the local church. Another 17% feel that their personal efforts are at the right level.

Awareness and Involvement in Mission Programs

As part of this study, church members were asked about their awareness of certain General Conference programs. The results show that:

- 59% of respondents have not heard of the “I Will Go Strategic Focus 2020–2025” initiative. A quarter (25%) have heard of it but have not participated; 15% have participated in this program. The longer the respondents have been baptized, the more they are aware of the initiative.
- 47% of members have not heard of “Total Member Involvement.” Thirty percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 23% have participated in this program.
- 38% of respondents have not heard of “Revival and Reformation.” Thirty-one percent of respondents have heard of it but have not participated, and 31% have participated in this program.
- 29% of respondents have not heard of “Mission to the Cities,” while over half (52%) have heard of it but have not participated. One in five (19%) has participated in this program.
- 42% of respondents have not heard of the “Comprehensive Health Ministry” program (2017–18: 43%). Thirty-four percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 24% have participated.
- 63% of respondents have not heard of the “Believe His Prophets” initiative. A quarter (25%) have heard of it but have not participated, and 12% have participated in this program. In addition, the longer the respondents have been baptized, the more they are familiar with the program.
- 20% of respondents have not heard of the “10 Days of Prayer” program, while another 31% have heard of it but have not participated. Almost half (48%) have participated in this program.
- 69% of members have not heard of “Adventist Possibility Ministries.” A quarter (24%) have heard of this program but have not participated in it, while only 8% have participated in this program.
- 15% of respondents have not heard of “Annual Week of Prayer,” while 21% have heard of it but have not participated. Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents have participated in this initiative.

- 38% of respondents have not heard of “Global Mission.” Forty-four percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 18% have participated. The longer the respondents have been in the church, the more familiar they are with the initiative.
- 70% of respondents have not heard of the “Enditnow” program. A quarter (27%) have heard of it but have not participated, and 3% have participated.

When asked how often, in the last 12 months, they had heard about one or more of the General Conference initiatives listed previously:

- 33% of respondents share that they never heard about these initiatives via word of mouth, while a quarter (24%) heard of them via word of mouth once or twice. Twenty percent heard of them via word of mouth at least once a quarter, 12% once a month, and 7% almost every week. Four percent heard of them via word of mouth on a weekly basis.
- 11% never heard about GC programs at church, while 31% heard about them once or twice at church. Twenty-six percent heard of them at least once a quarter at church, 14% once a month, and 12% almost every week. Six percent heard about them at church every week.
- 41% of respondents never heard about these initiatives at a meeting or seminar. A quarter (26%) heard about them once or twice at a seminar, 18% at least once a quarter, 10% once a month, and 3% almost every week. Two percent of respondents heard about these programs at a meeting or seminar on a weekly basis.
- 41% of respondents never heard about these GC initiatives by reading a church publication, while 26% did so once or twice in the last 12 months. Fifteen percent did so at least once a quarter, 12% once a month, and 4% did so almost every week. Two percent heard about these programs by reading a church publication every week.
- 64% of respondents share that they never heard about these programs on television or radio. Sixteen percent heard about them via television or radio once or twice in the last 12 months, 8% at least once a quarter, 5% once a month, and 4% almost every week. Two percent heard of these programs via television or radio every week.
- 38% of respondents never heard of these GC initiatives via a website; another 24% did so once or twice in the last year. Fifteen percent of respondents did so at least once a quarter, 12% once a month, and 5% almost every week. Five percent heard of these programs via a website on a weekly basis.
- 37% of respondents never heard about GC programs via social media, while 26% did so once or twice. Eleven percent did so at least once a quarter, 13% did once a month, and 7% did almost every week. Six percent report that they heard about these programs via social media on a weekly basis.

Personal Well-being

This section discusses the various types of personal well-being of survey participants, such as psychological well-being, spiritual well-being, spiritual growth and transformation, purpose in life, and healing. The survey questions include A8, A10–A12, and B1.

Psychological Well-being

Three in five (56%) respondents report that in the last two weeks, they never felt little interest or pleasure in doing things. A little less than a third (30%) admit that they felt this way for several days, and 5% felt this way for more than seven days. Nine percent share that they felt this way every day.

Fifty-two percent of respondents share that in the last few weeks, they never felt down, depressed, or hopeless. Thirty-six percent admit that they felt this way for several days, and 4% felt this way for more than seven days. Seven percent reveal that they felt this way every day.

Correlation analysis reveals a relationship between age and these two questions. According to the analysis, the younger the respondents are, the more they have had these symptoms of depression.

Seven percent of respondents admit that in the last 12 months, they had suicidal thoughts; small percentages of respondents share that in the last year, they attempted suicide (3%) or harmed themselves (5%).

Spiritual Well-being

Spiritual Growth and Transformation

GCMS 2022–23 participants were asked to respond to the statement, “Over the last 12 months . . . I have grown spiritually.” A quarter (25%) of respondents report that this is true for them a great deal (2017–18: 27%), and for another 37%, this is mostly true. For a quarter (25%), this is somewhat true, 10% a little true, and 3% not true for them at all.

Respondents were also asked to respond to the statement, “Over the last 12 months . . . because of spiritual changes I have been through, I have changed my priorities.” Twenty-six percent of respondents feel that this is true for them a great deal, while a third (33%) feel that this is mostly true for them. A quarter (26%) report that this is somewhat true for them, 10% a little true, and 5% not true for them at all.

Fifty-three percent of respondents share that it is not true for them at all that “Over the last 12 months . . . in some ways I think I am spiritually lost.” For a quarter (24%) this statement is a little true, and for 15%, it is somewhat true. This statement is mostly true for 3% of respondents, while for 4% it is true a great deal.

Most (86%) respondents report that it is not at all true for them that “Over the last 12 months . . . my faith has been shaken, and I am not sure what I believe.” Eight percent of respondents admit that this is a little true, and 4% share that it is somewhat true.

Cultivating the Heart

Forty-five percent of respondents feel that it is true for them a great deal that “Over the last 12 months . . . I more often have a sense of gratitude.” For 36% of respondents, this is mostly true, 12% somewhat true, and 6% a little true.

Thirty-one percent of respondents feel that it is true for them a great deal that “Over the last 12 months . . . I spend more time thinking about spiritual questions.” Another 39% report that this is mostly true for them, 19% somewhat true, and 9% a little true. For 3%, this statement is not true for them at all.

Respondents were asked to respond to the statement, “Over the last 12 months . . . I feel I have lost some important spiritual meaning that I had before.” Seventy percent of respondents share that this is not at all true for them. Fifteen percent share that this is a little true, and 9% feel that this is somewhat true. For 3% of respondents, this is mostly true, and it is a great deal true for 3%.

Purpose in Life

Eighty-three percent of members report that they often (55%) or usually (28%) feel that their “life is filled with meaning and purpose.” Ten percent feel this way about half the time, and 6% seldom feel this way.

Fifty percent of respondents share that they often (25%) or usually (25%) “give a significant amount of time to help other people.” Thirty-one percent do so about half the time, and 16% seldom do so. Two percent of respondents never give a significant amount of time to help other people.

Over a third (36%) of respondents often (18%) or usually (18%) “give a significant amount of money to help other people.” A third (33%) do so about half the time, while 25% seldom do. Six percent of members admit that they never give a significant amount of money to help other people. The older the respondents are, the more they tend to make financial contributions to help others.

Two-thirds (64%) of respondents share that they often (38%) or usually (26%) feel “a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world.” Another 25% feel this way about half the time. However, 9% report that they seldom feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world, and 3% never feel this way.

Twenty-one percent of respondents report that they often (9%) or usually (12%) show that they care a great deal about reducing poverty in society. Twenty-six percent do so about half the time, while 27% seldom do. A quarter (25%) of respondents self-report that they never show that they care a great deal about reducing poverty in society. In addition, the older the respondents are, the more they care about reducing poverty.

A third (36%) of respondents often (23%) or usually (13%) apply their faith to political and social issues. A quarter (27%) do so about half the time, 18% seldom do so, and 19% never do so.

On Healing

Most (91%) respondents agree that “Prayer in the name of Jesus is the only way to defeat evil powers and demonic spirits.” Five percent are not sure, and 3% disagree.

A majority (96%) of respondents disagree that “Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing.” Two percent agree that this practice is acceptable for Christians.

Appendix A ESD Charts

Global Church Member Survey 2023

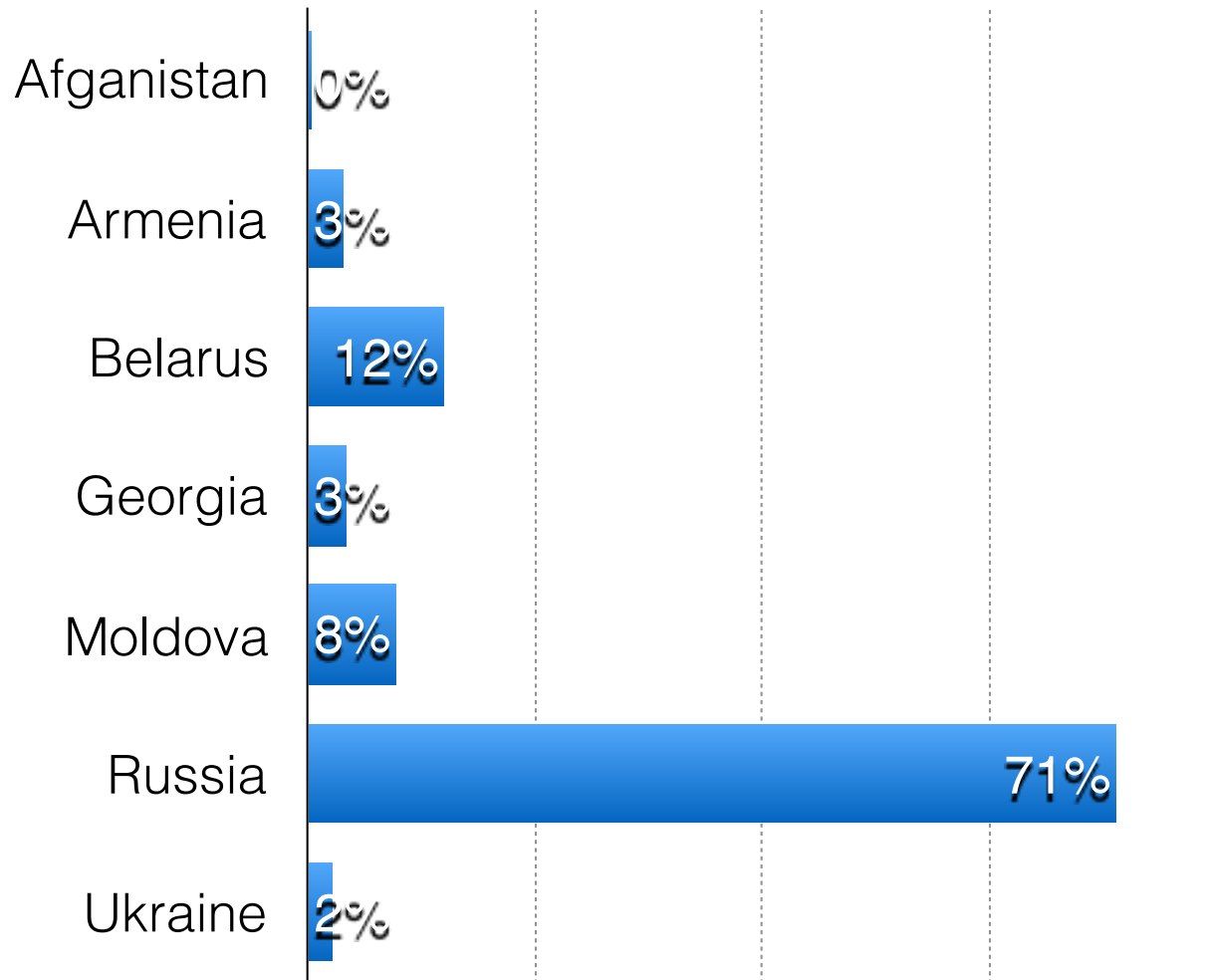
Euro-Asian Division
Charts (N=328)



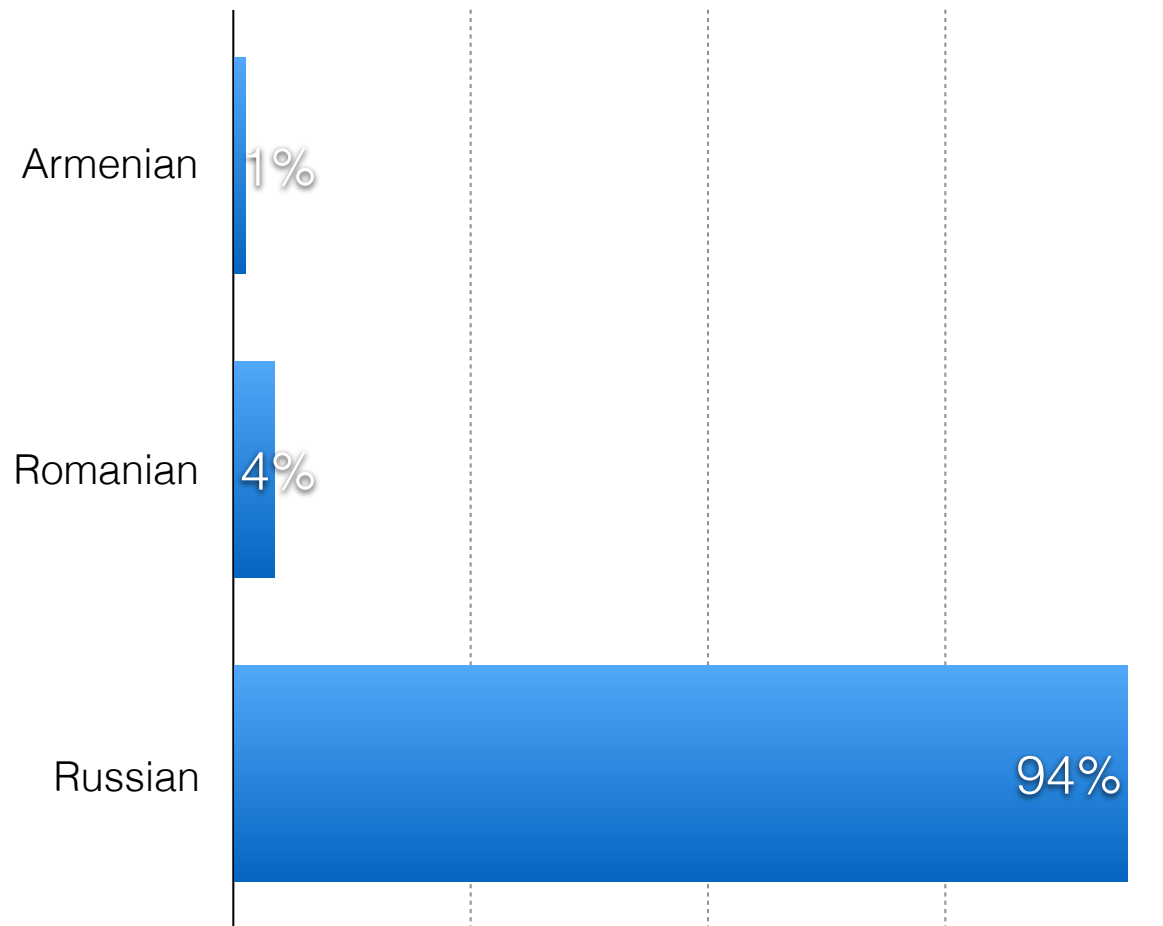
INSTITUTE *of* CHURCH MINISTRY

PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

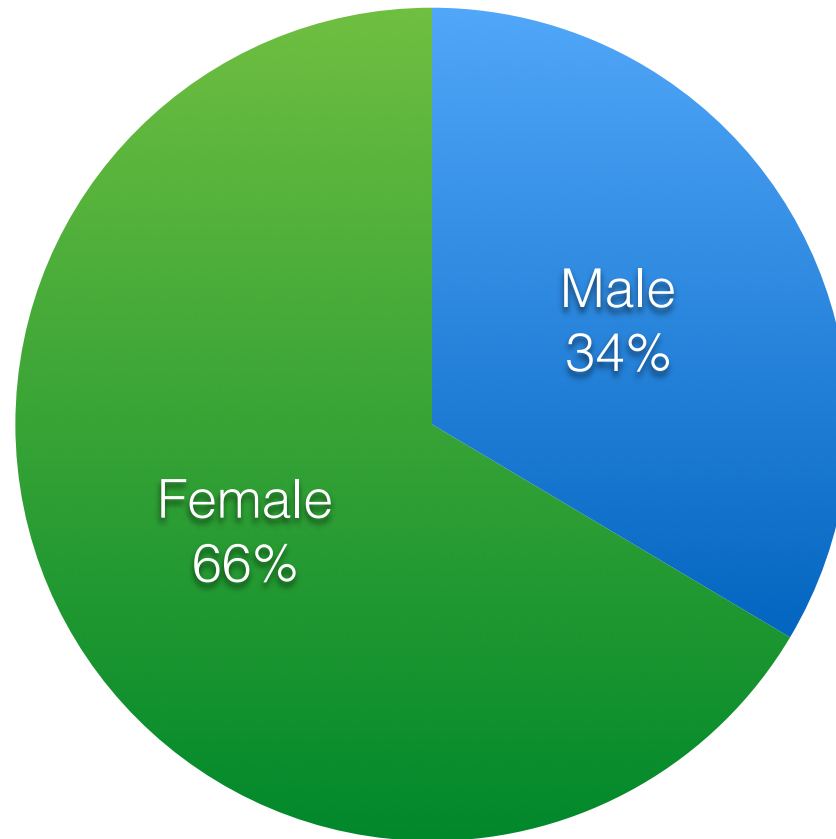
P1. IN WHAT COUNTRY DO YOU LIVE?



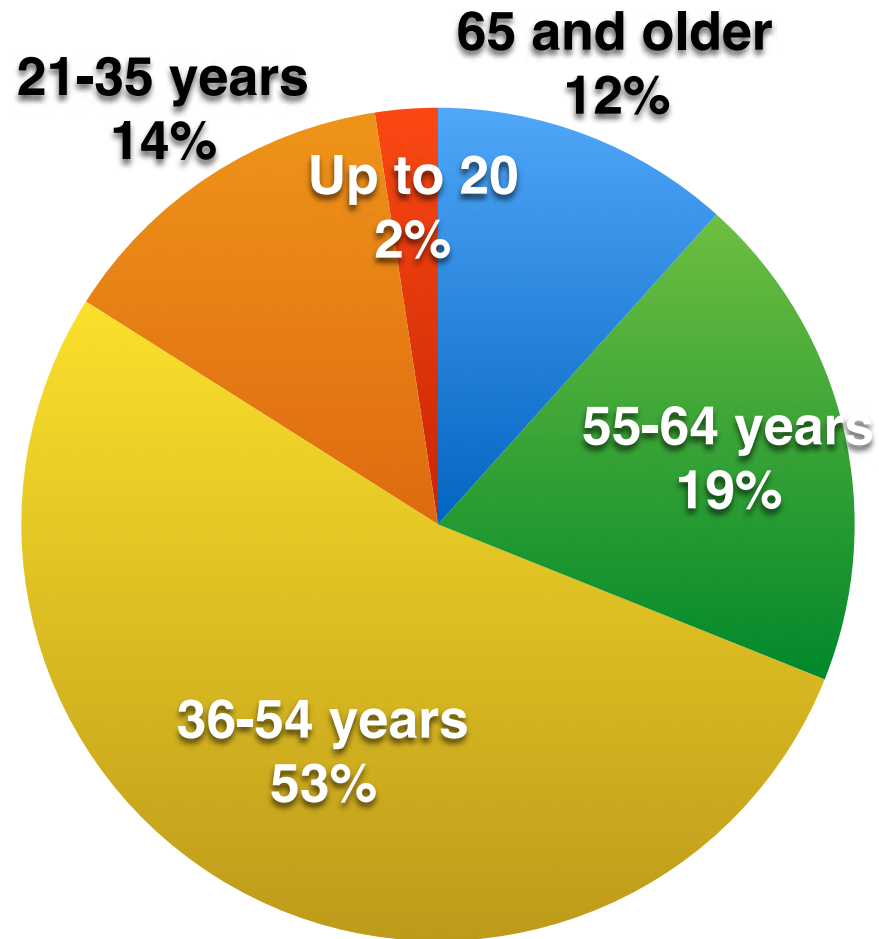
P2. IN WHAT LANGUAGE ARE YOU COMPLETING THIS SURVEY?



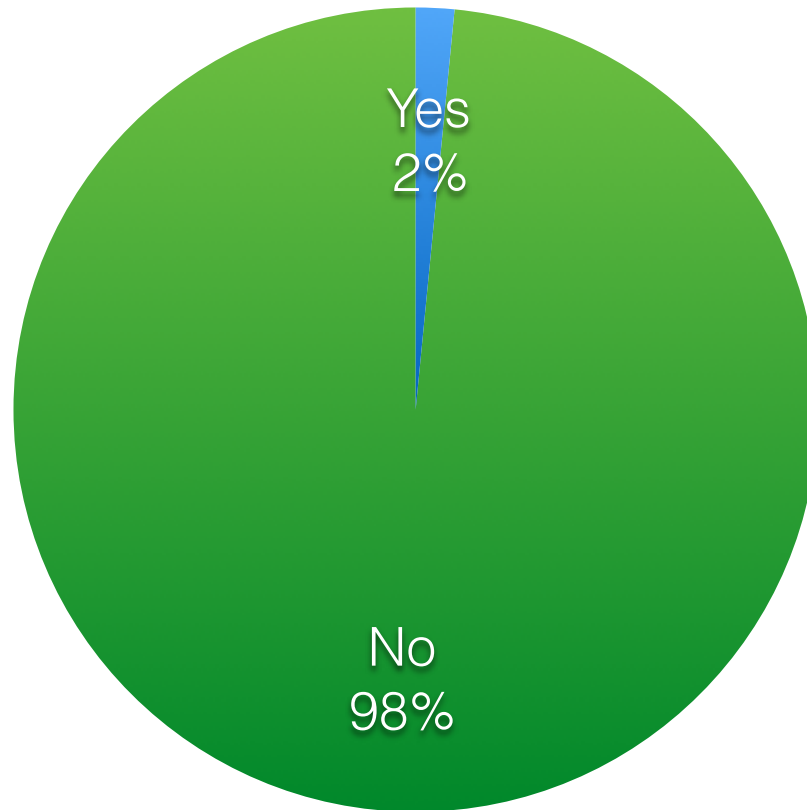
P3. GENDER



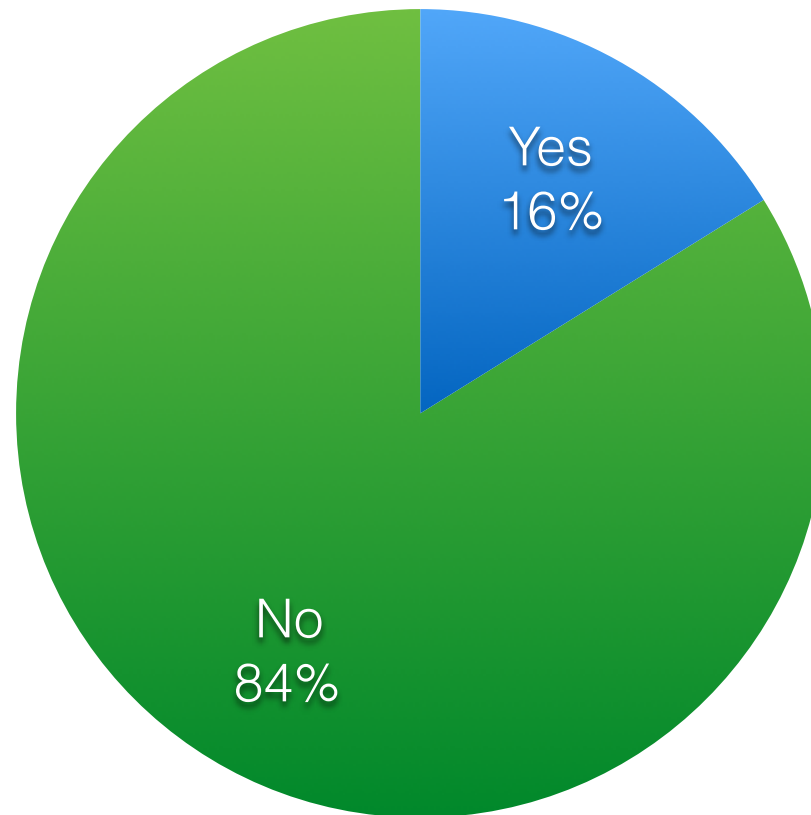
P4. YEARS OF AGE



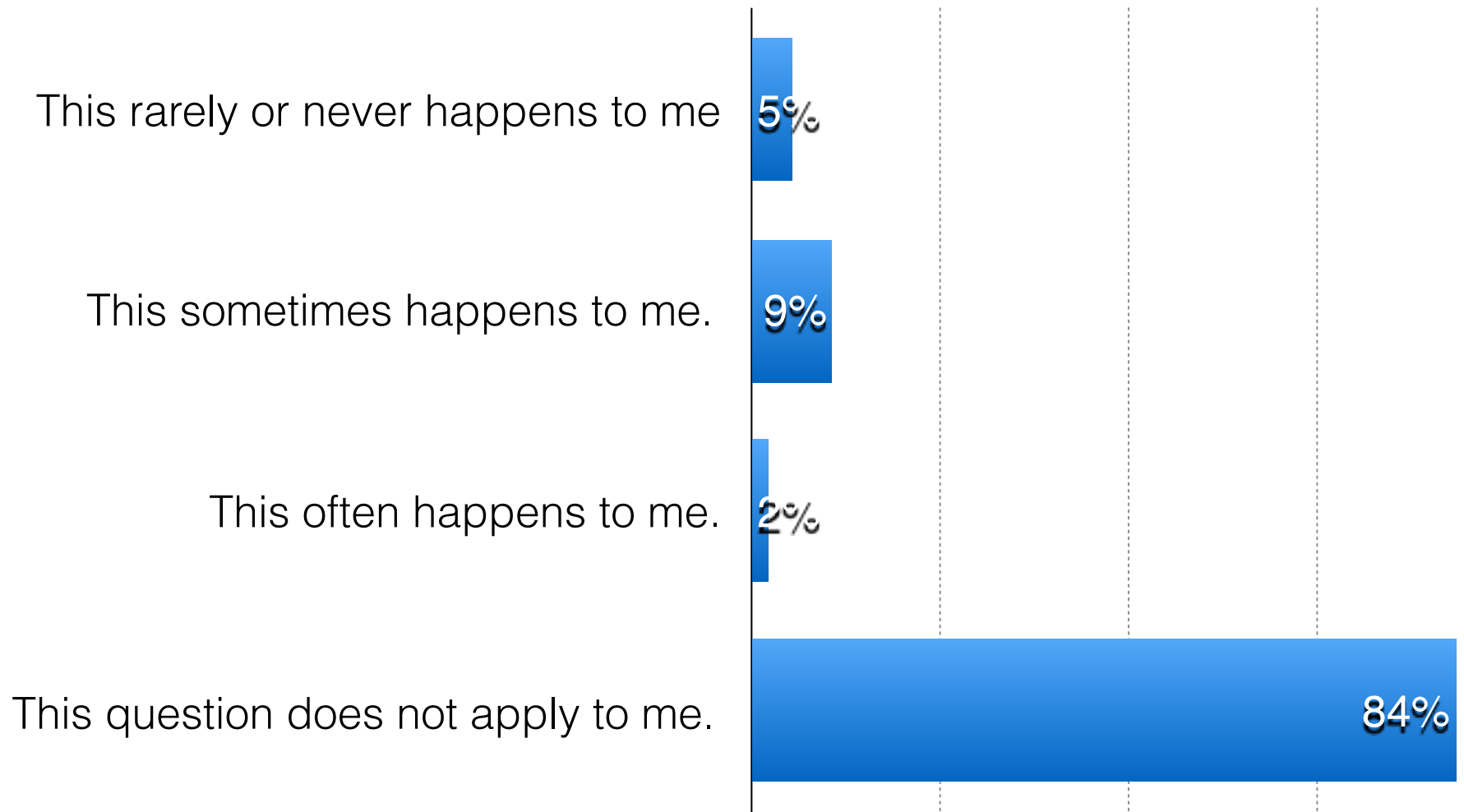
P5. DO YOU IDENTIFY AS A PERSON WHO IS DEAF?



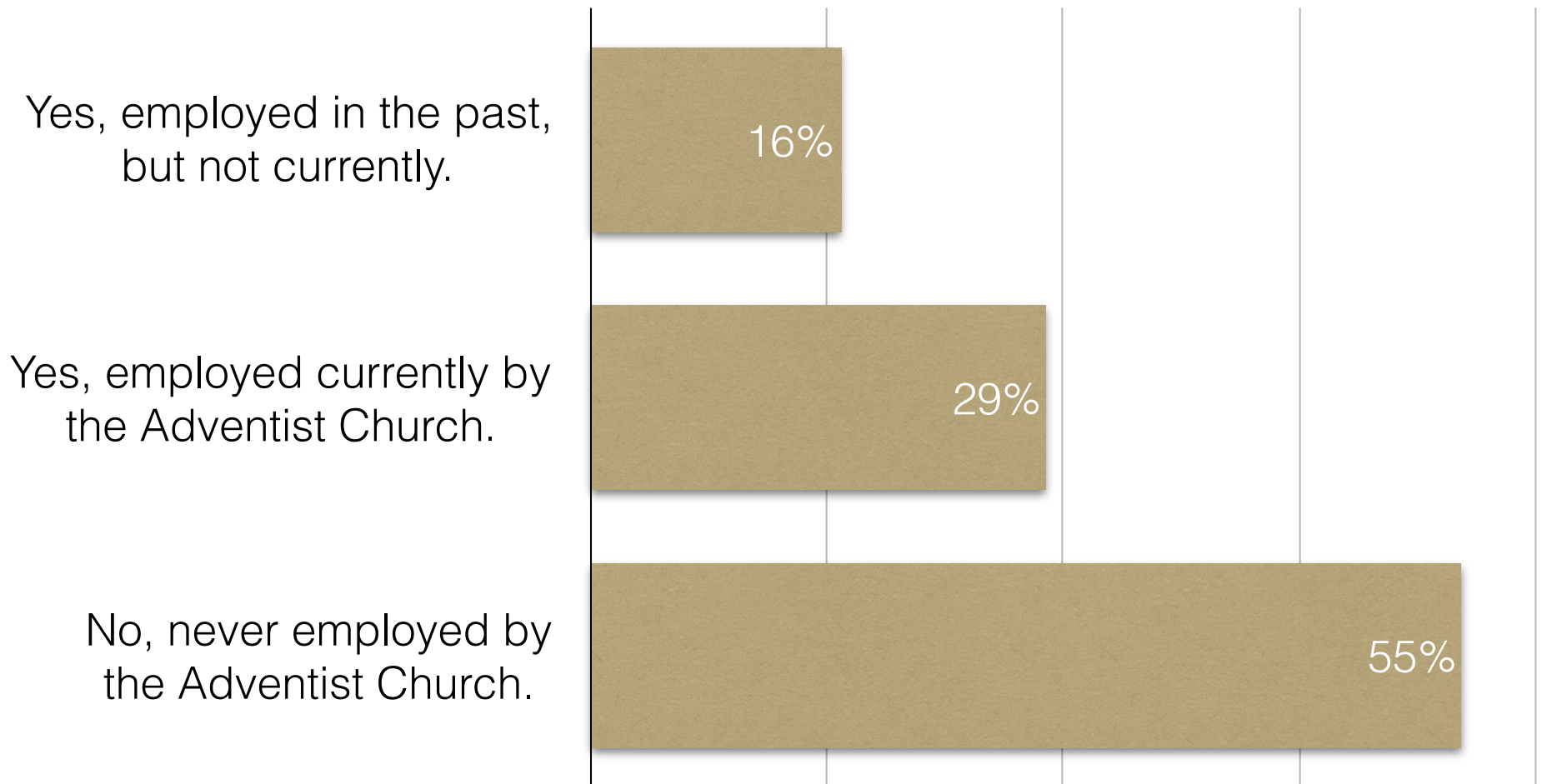
P6. DO YOU HAVE CHALLENGES IN ANY OF THESE AREAS: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, VISUAL, OR HEARING?



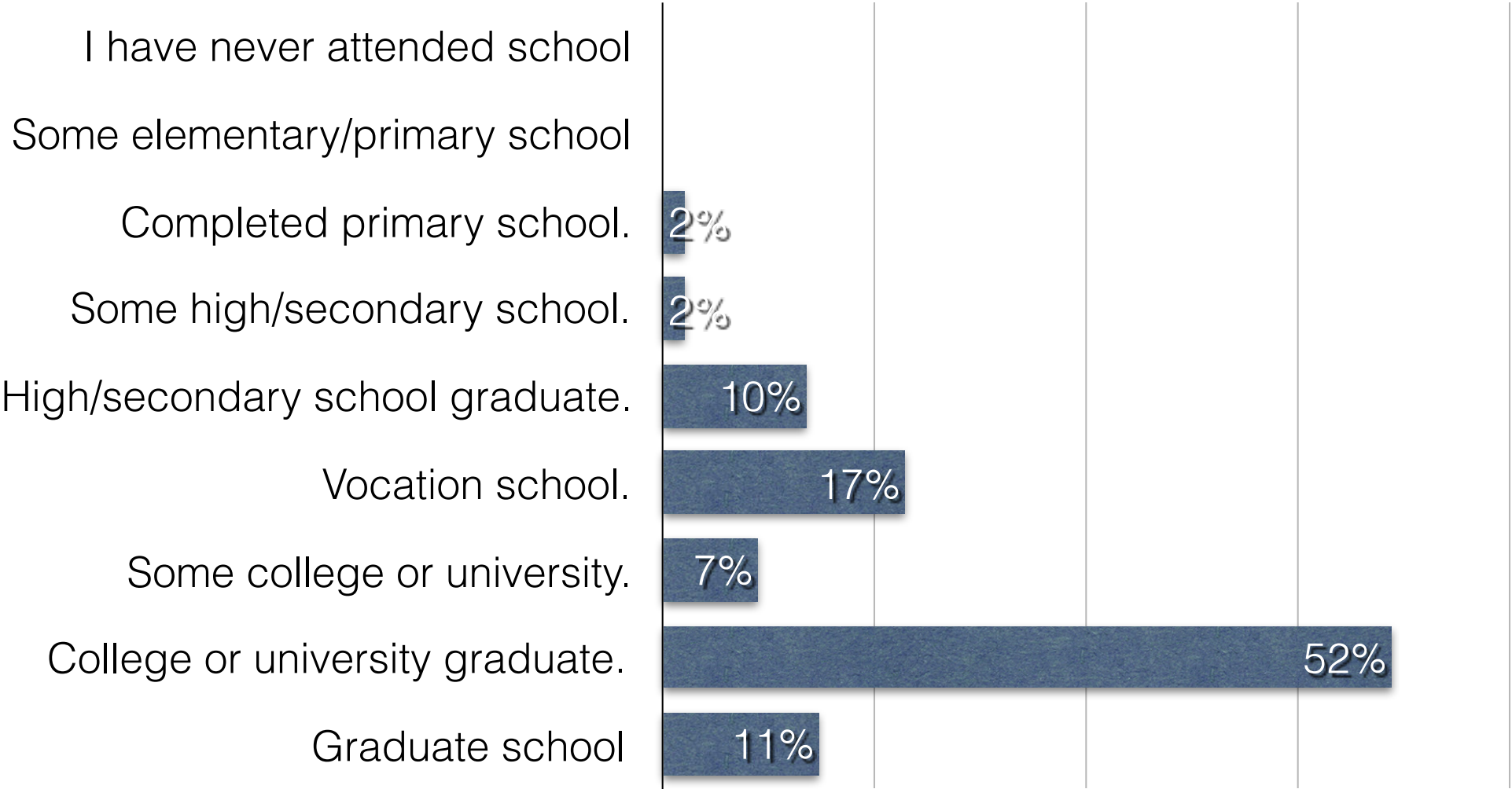
P7. IF YOU REPORTED CHALLENGES OR IMPAIRMENTS HAVE YOU FOUND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAN OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH?



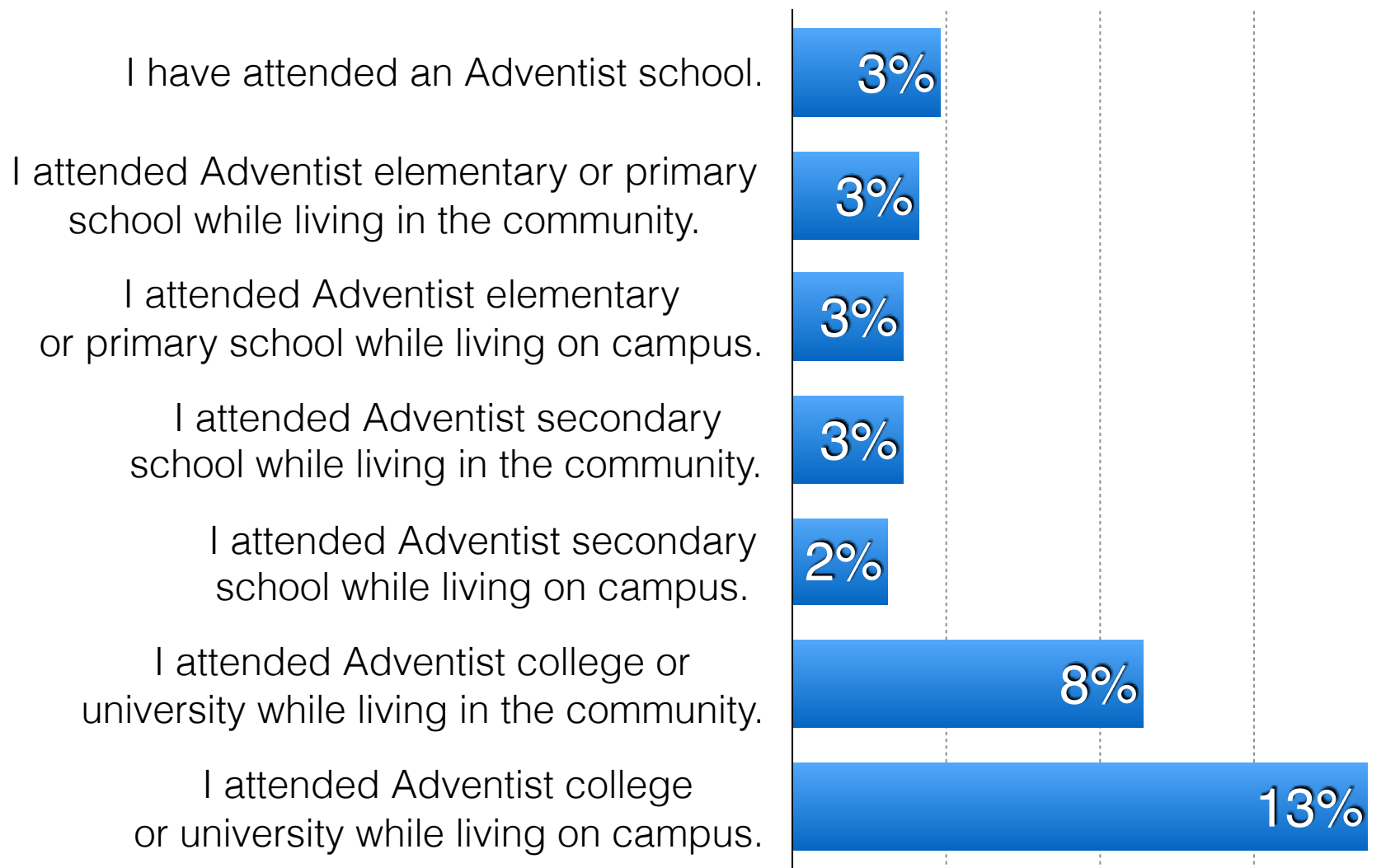
P8. ARE YOU CURRENTLY OR HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE PAST EMPLOYED BY THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



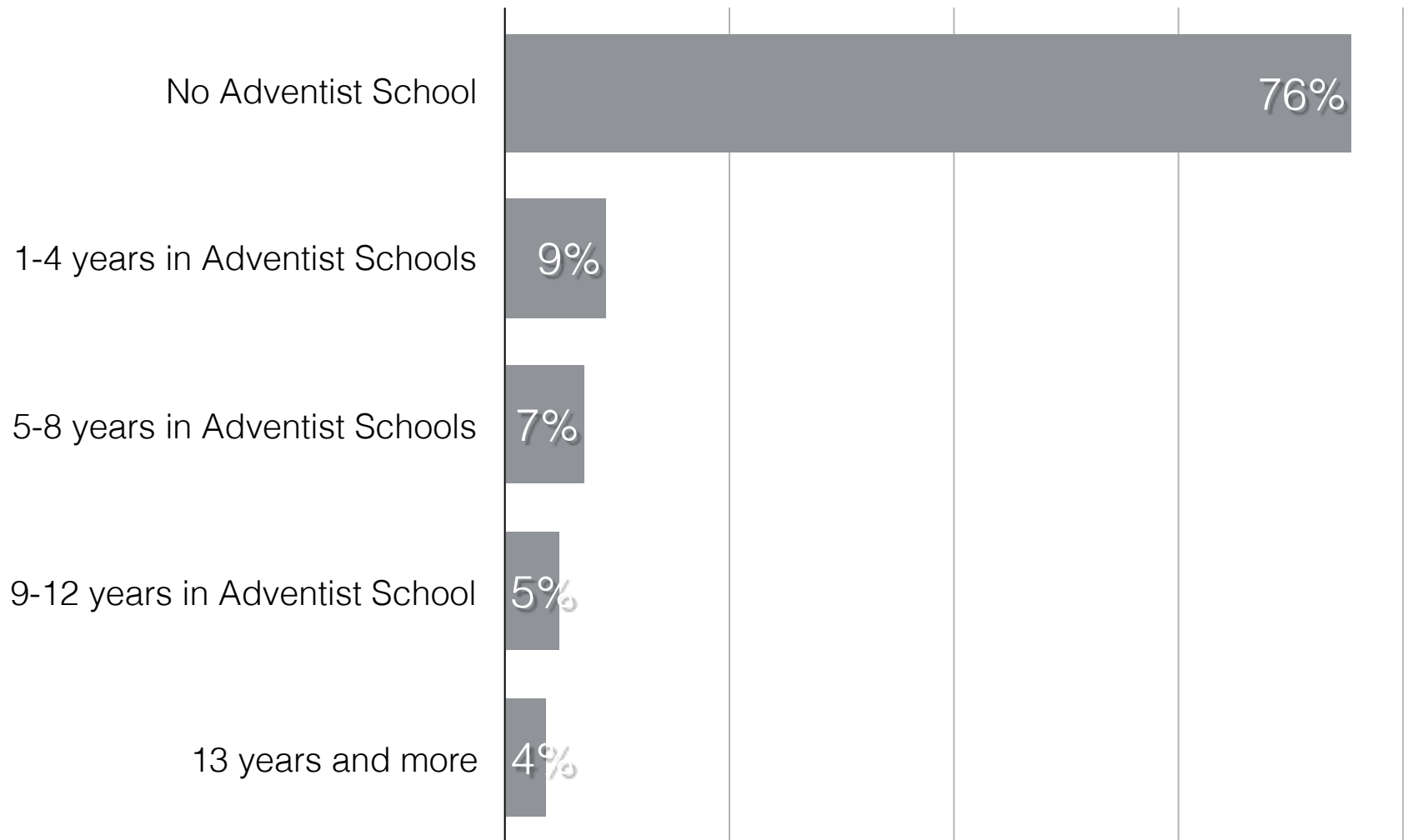
P9. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOL YOU HAVE COMPLETED? (MARK ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)



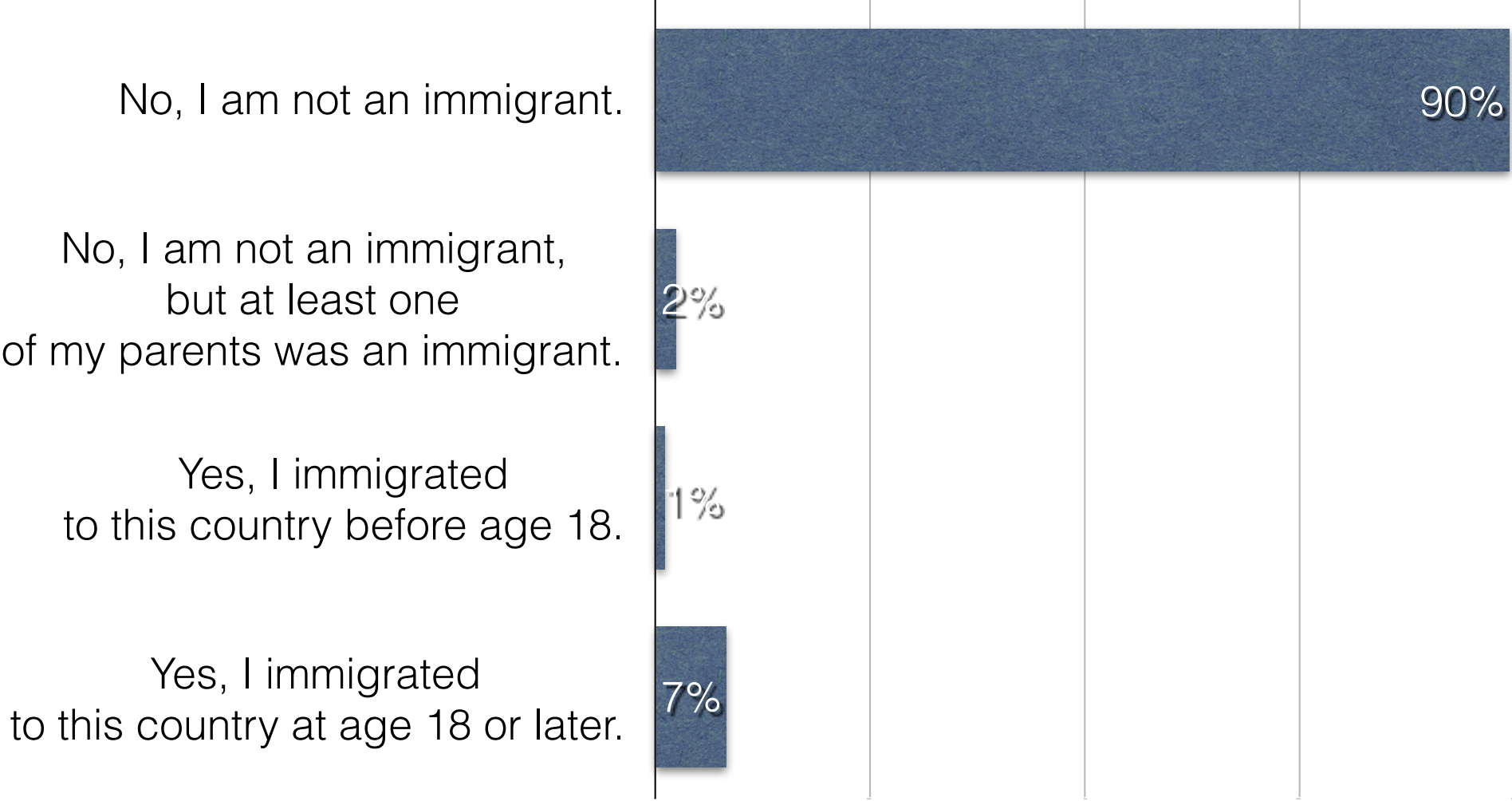
P10. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD?



P11. WHAT IS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF YEARS THAT YOU HAVE SPENT ATTENDING AN ADVENTIST SCHOOL?

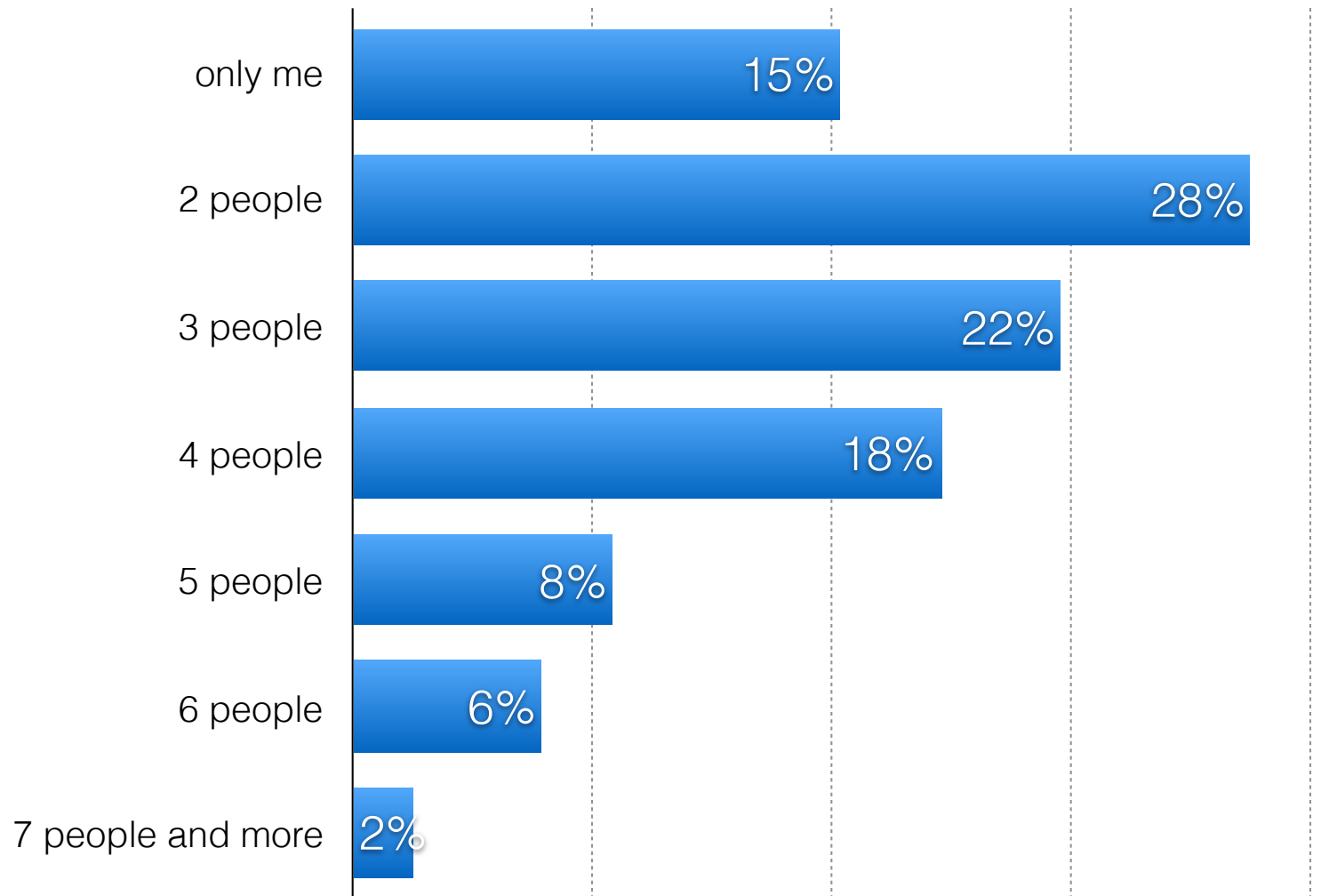


P12. ARE YOU AN IMMIGRANT TO THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?

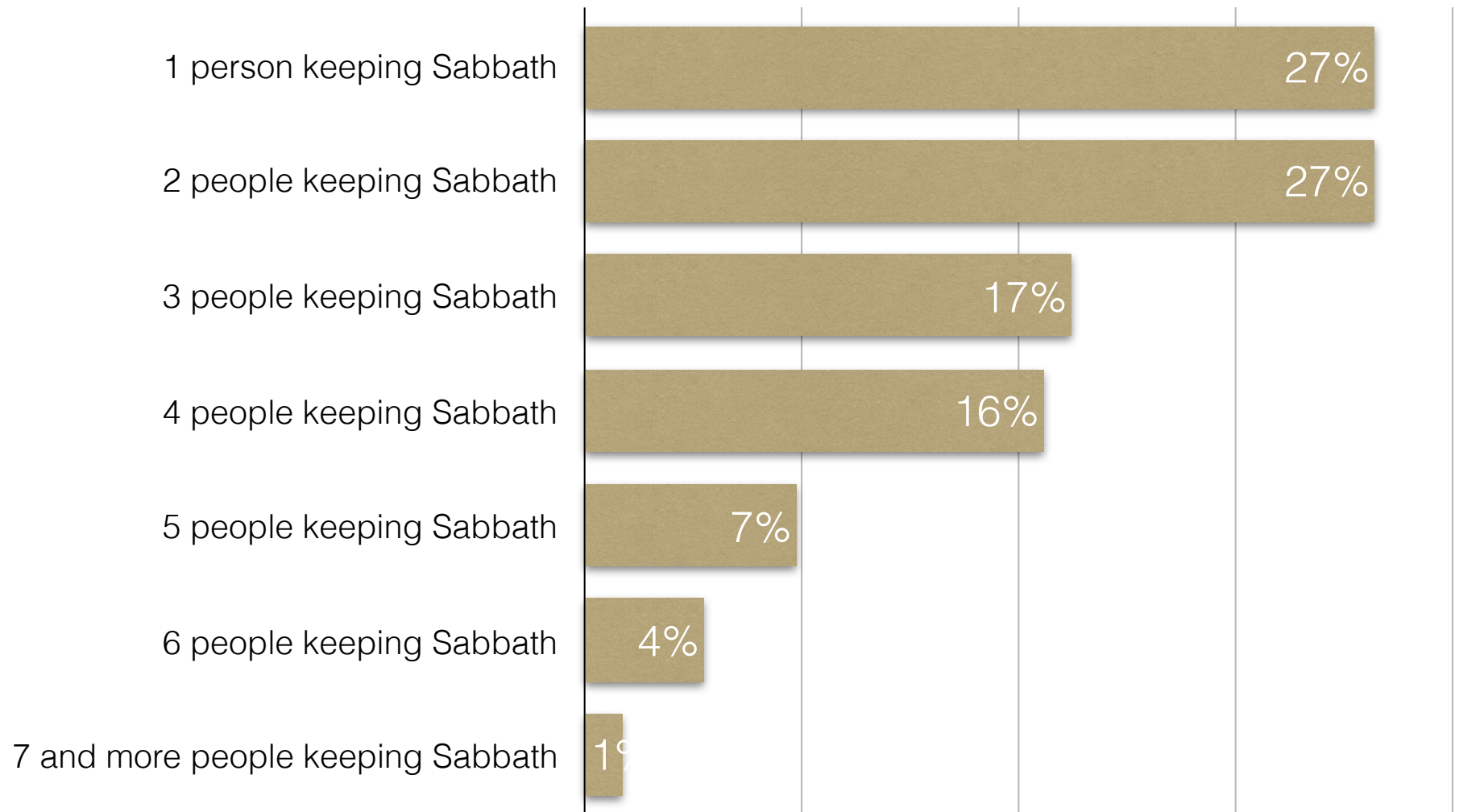


**HOUSEHOLD AND
RELIGIOUS
DEMOGRAPHICS**

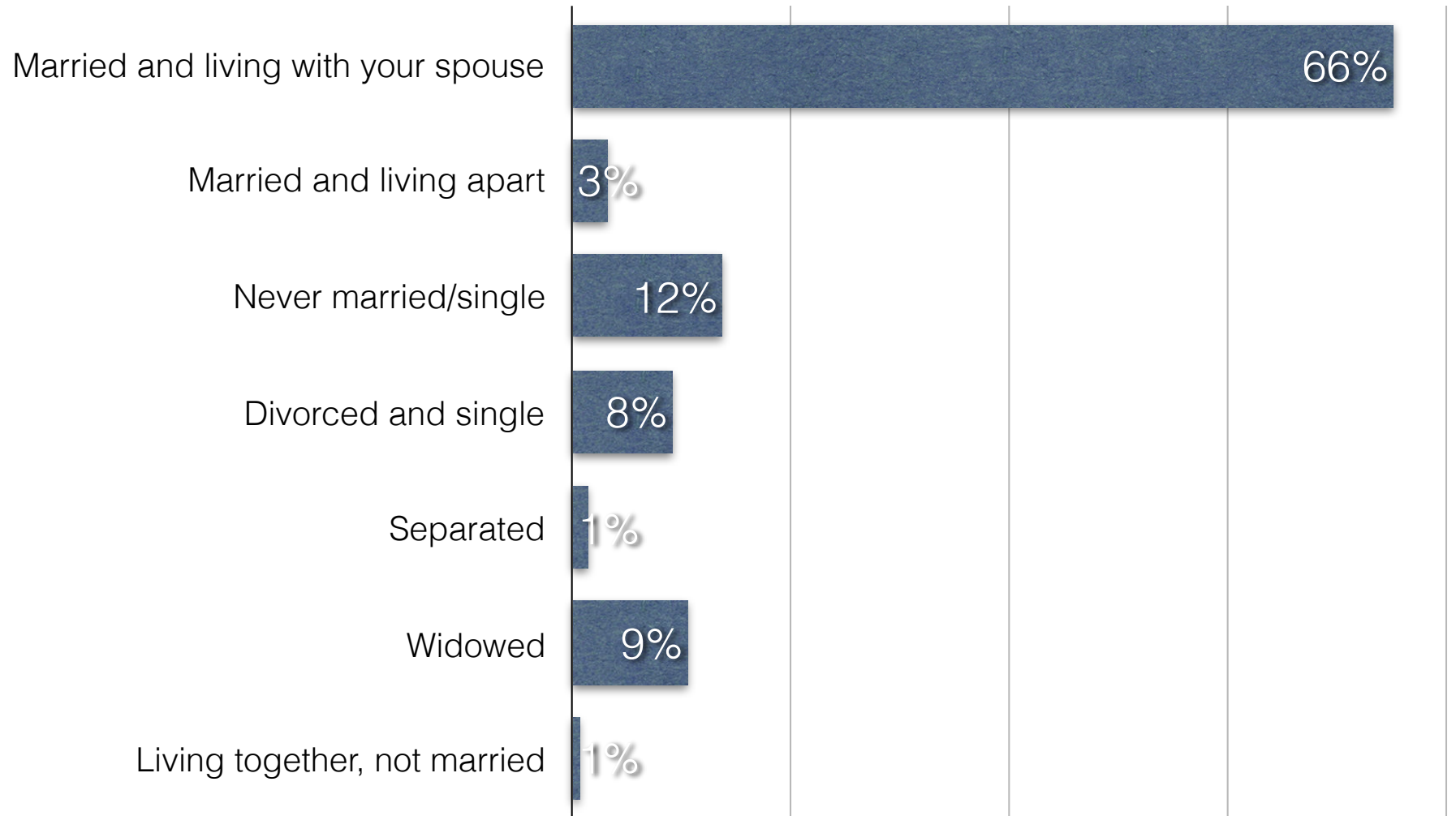
D1. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD (INCLUDING YOURSELF)?



D2. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD (INCLUDING YOURSELF) OBSERVE THE SABBATH?



D3. MARITAL STATUS



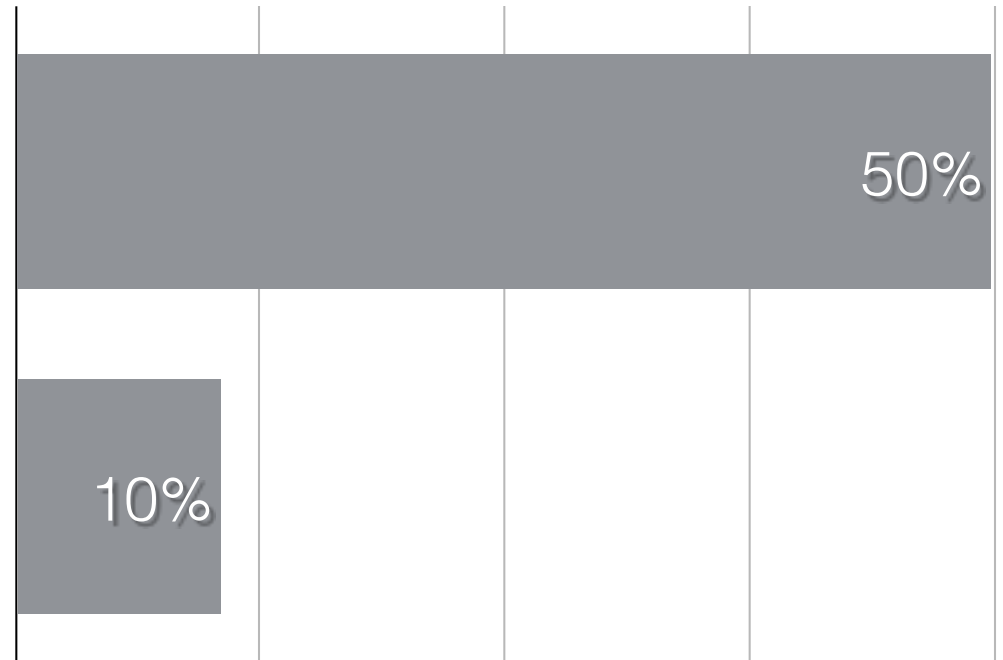
D4. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN LIVING AT YOUR HOME?

At least one of my biological children is still a child or teenager living at home.

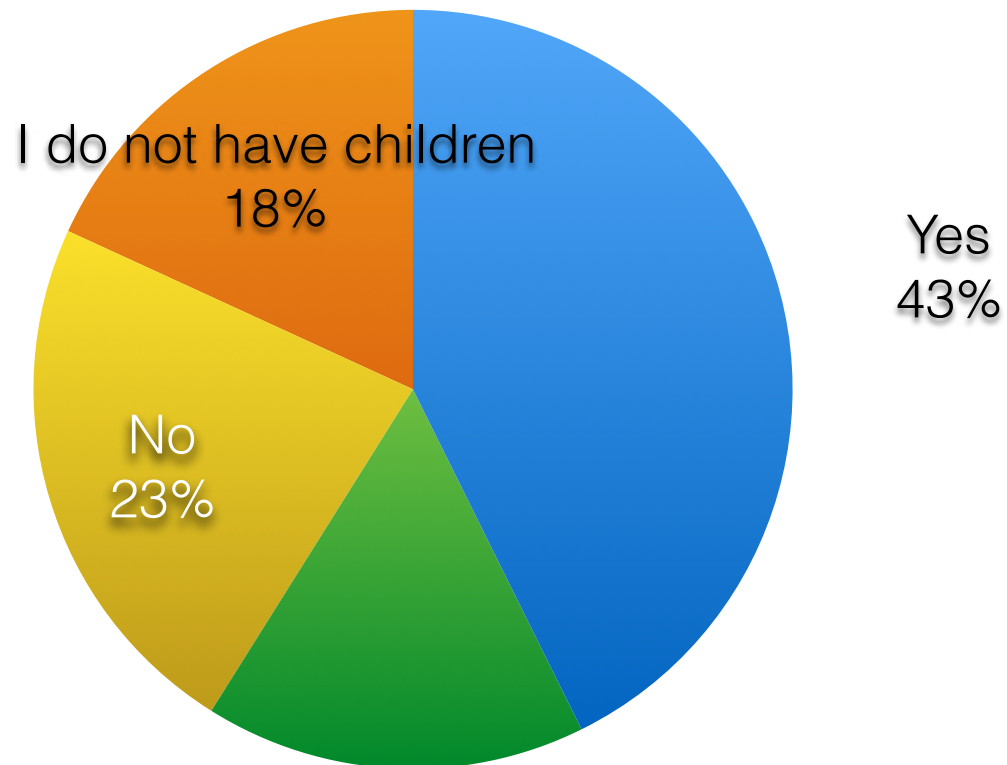
50%

There is at least one child or teenager who is not my biological child living in my home.

10%

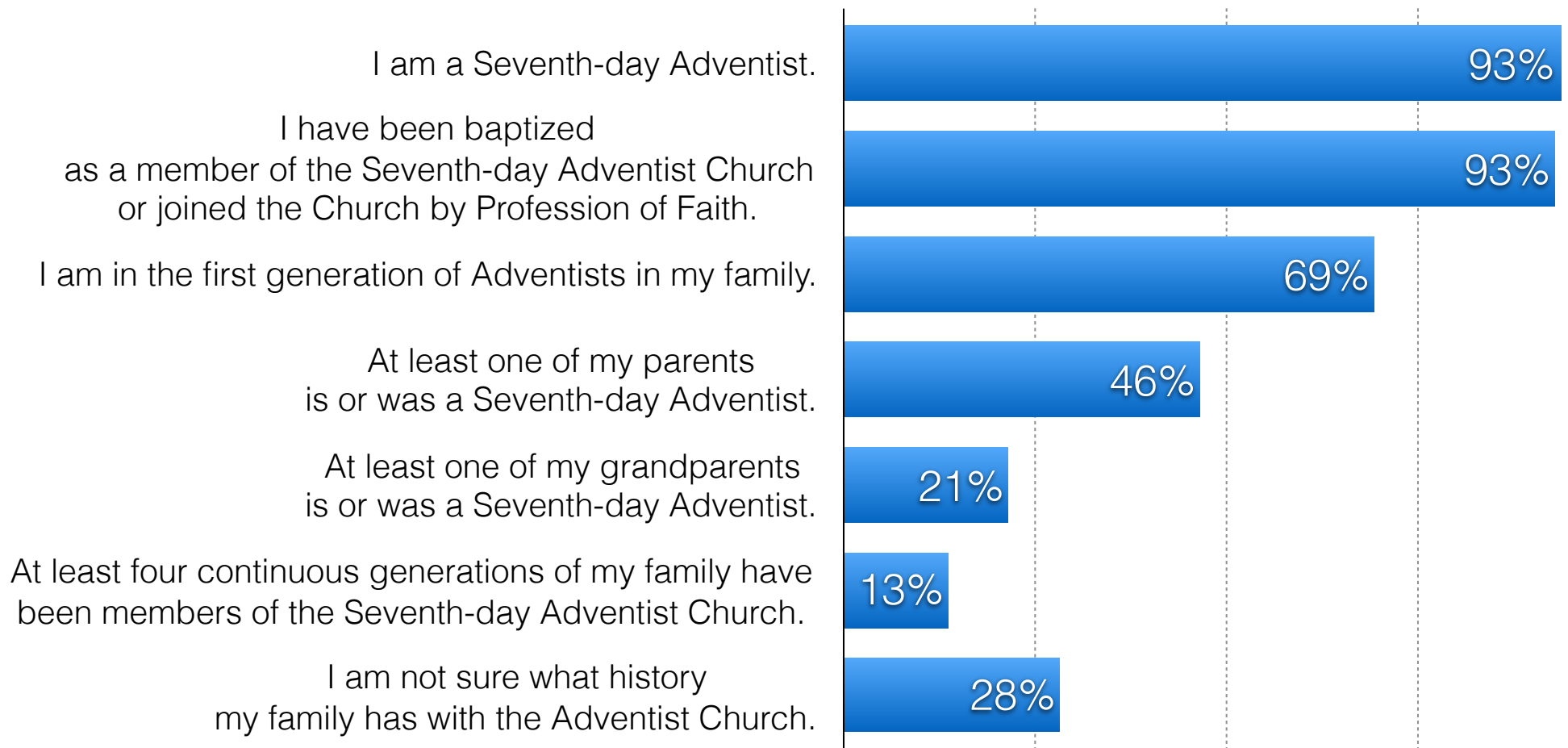


**D5. ARE ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN BEING RAISED
IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OR ARE
THEY ALL STILL MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH?**

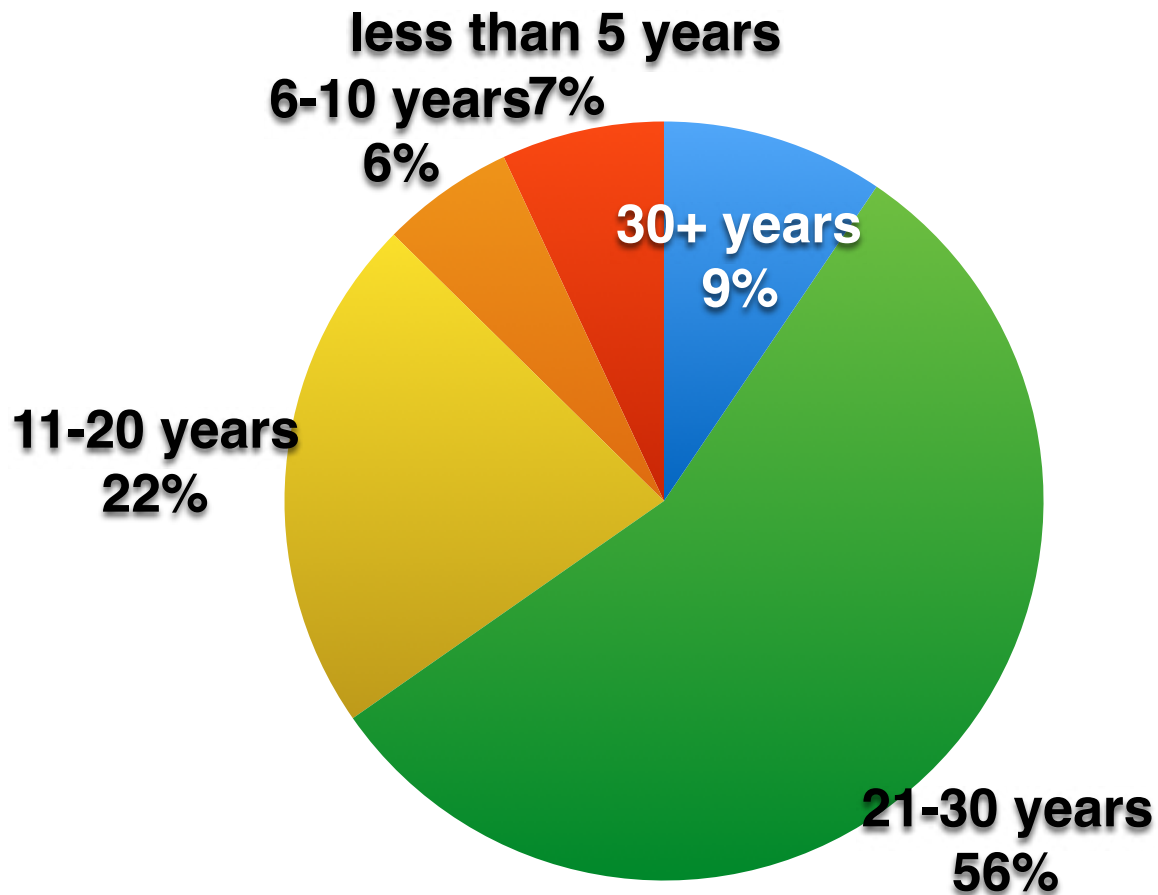


At least one child who is part of church, and at least one who is not
16%

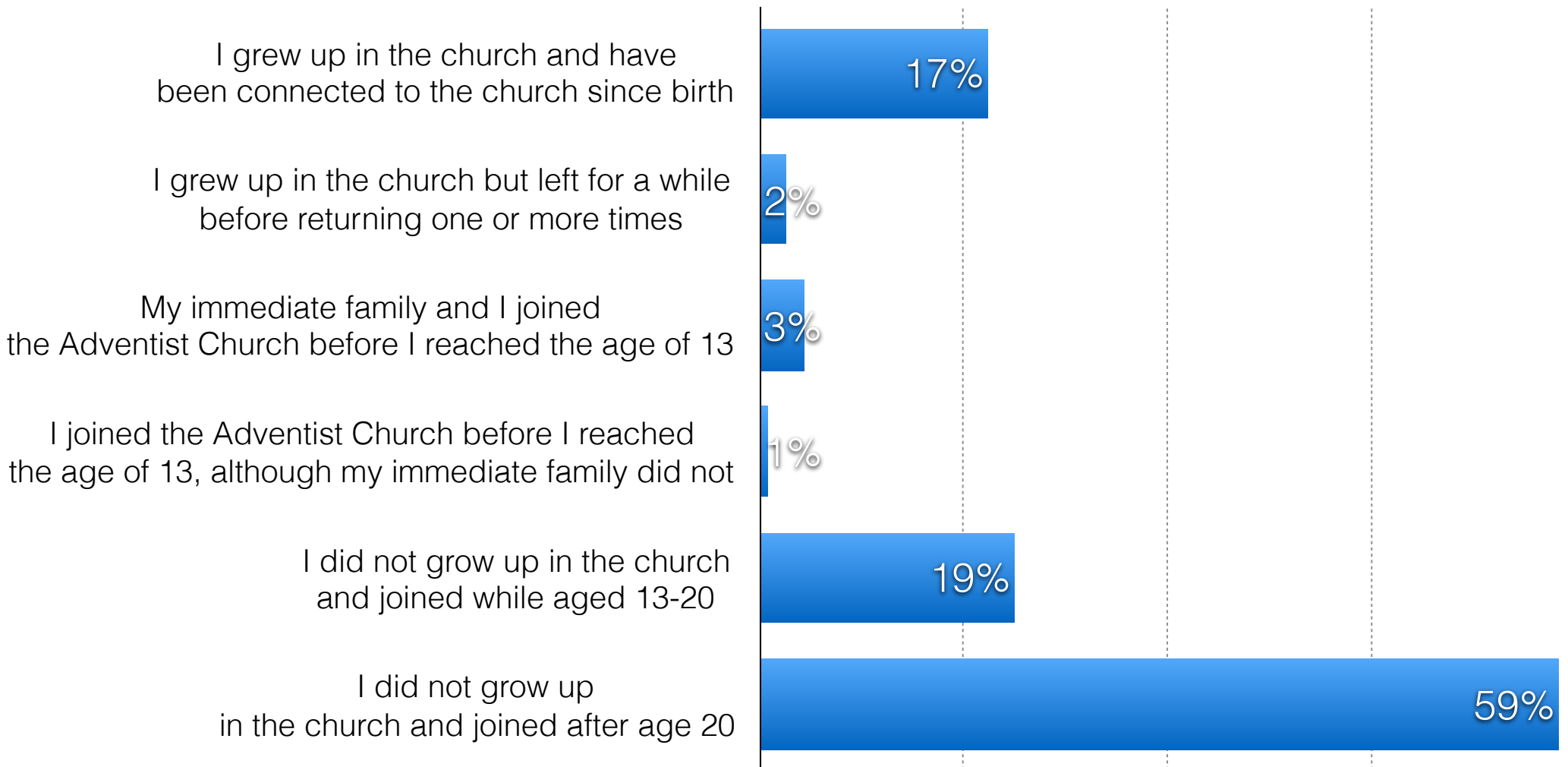
D6. WHAT HISTORY DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE WITH THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



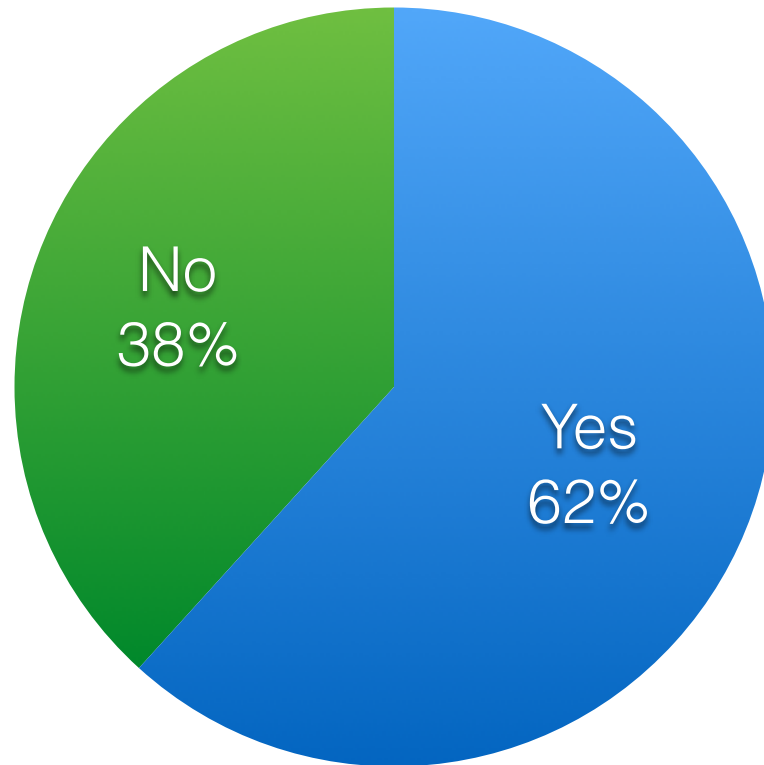
D7. YEARS OF BEING BAPTIZED.



D8. AT WHAT AGE DID YOU JOIN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?

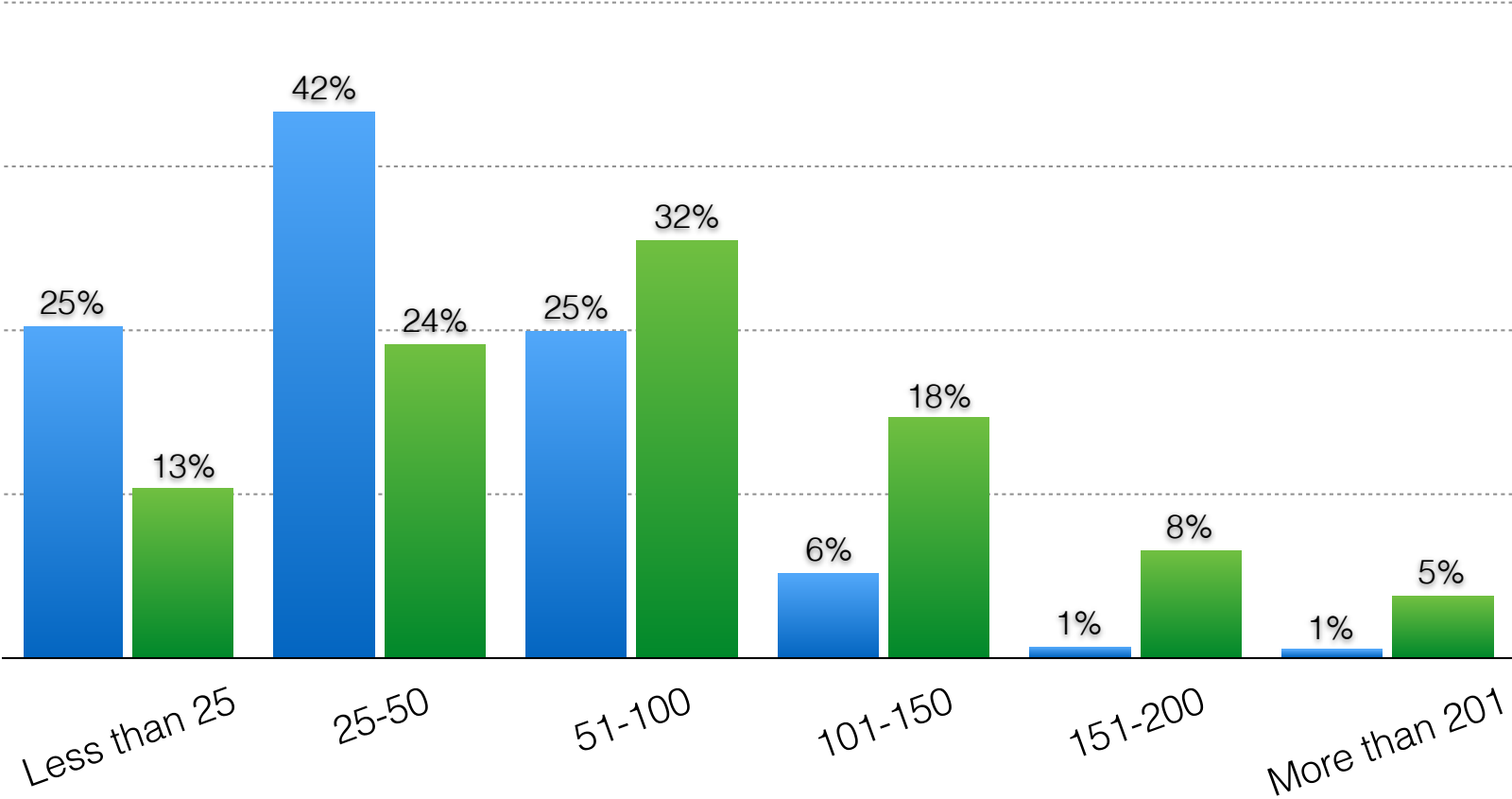


D9. DO YOU HOLD A CHURCH OFFICE AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?

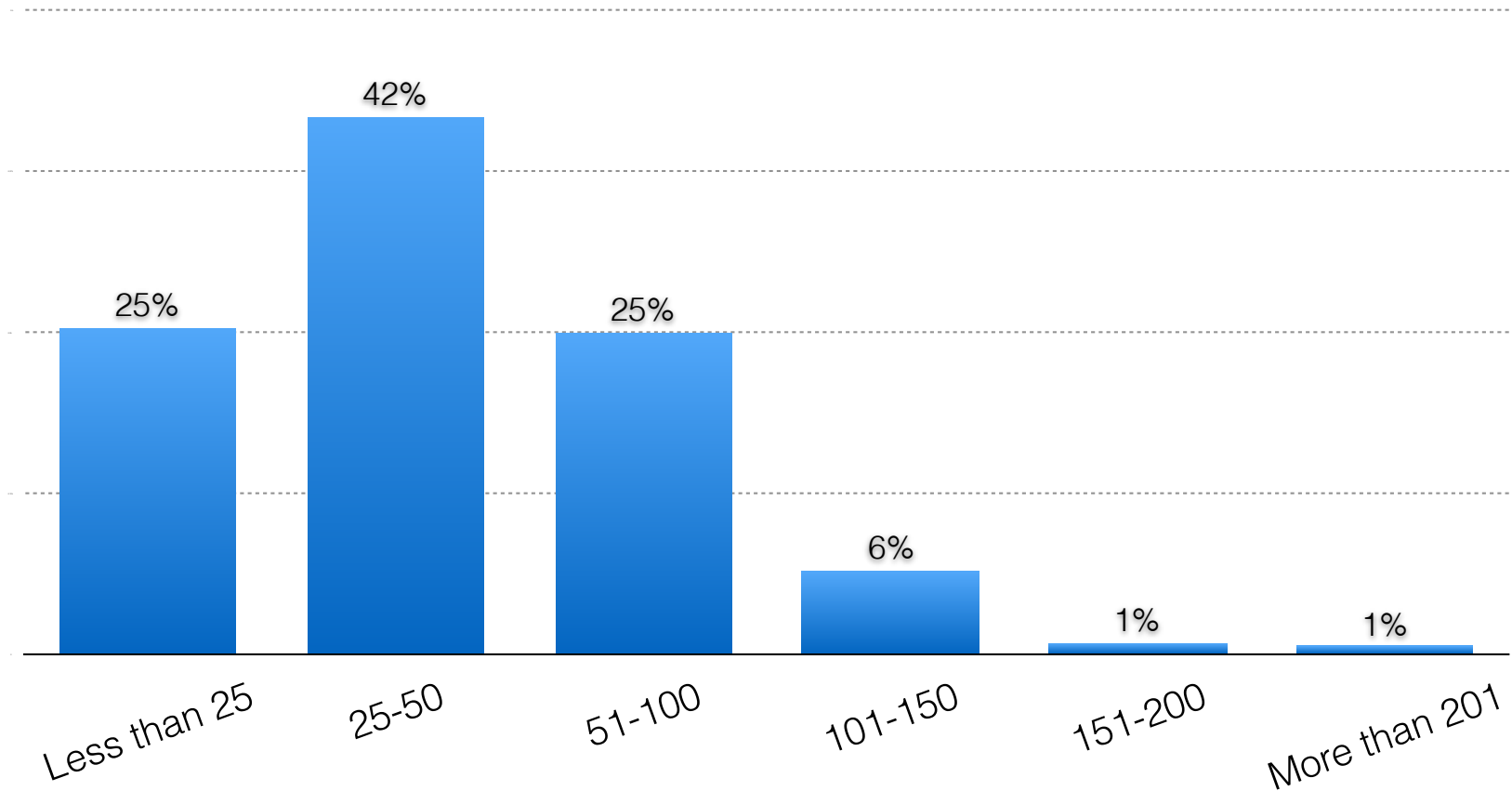


D10 & D11. CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

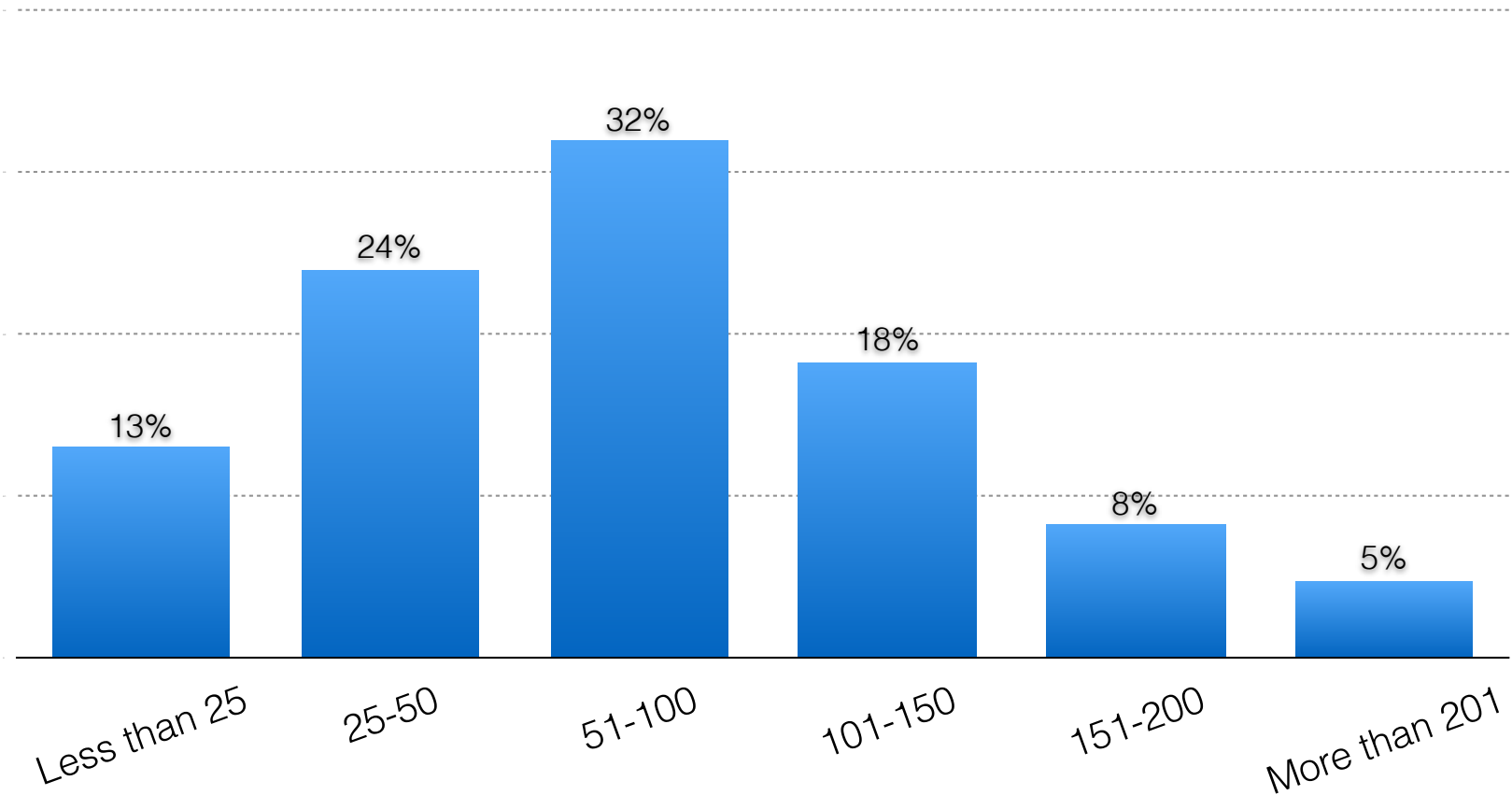
Attendance Membership



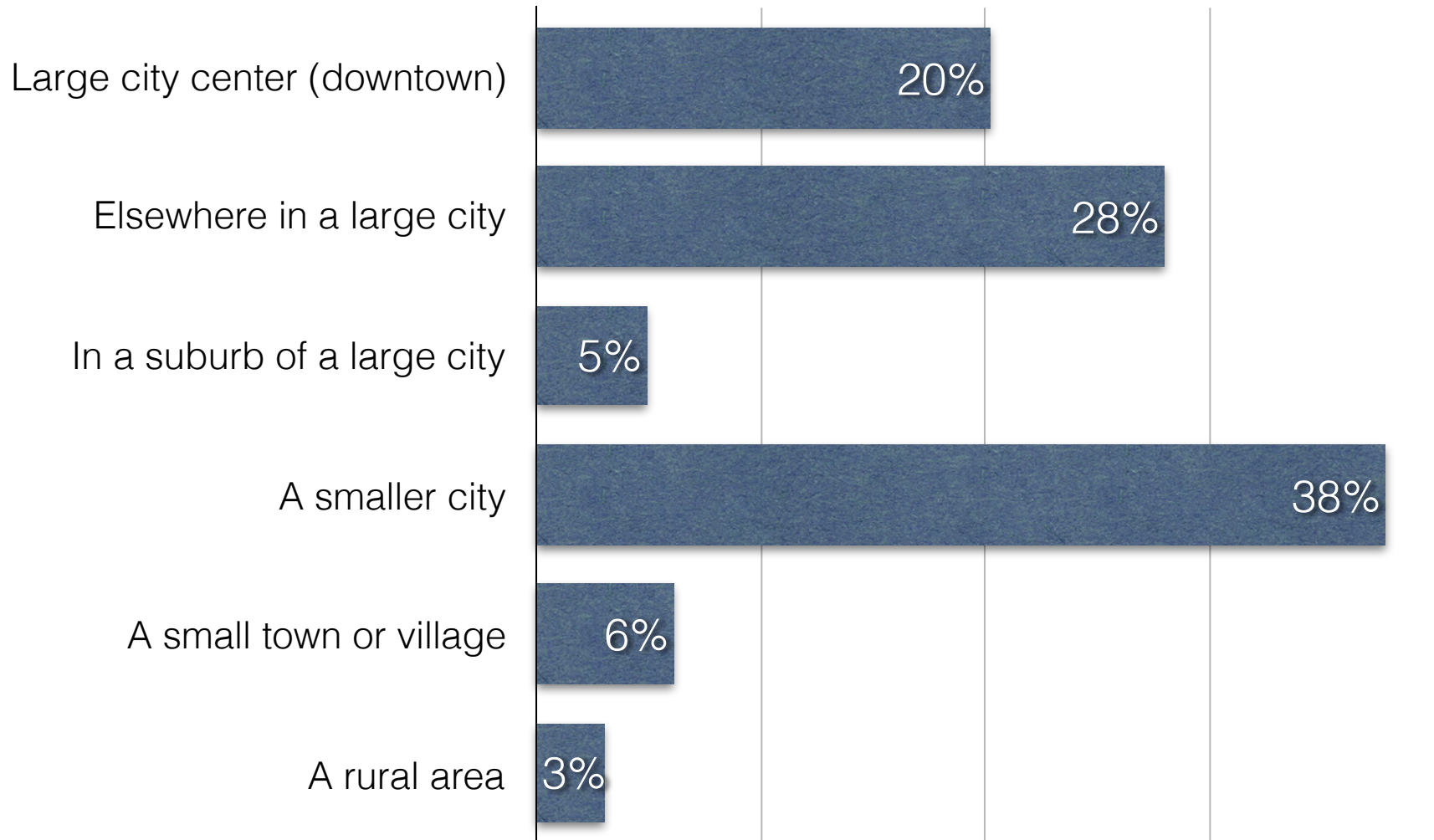
D10. CHURCH ATTENDANCE



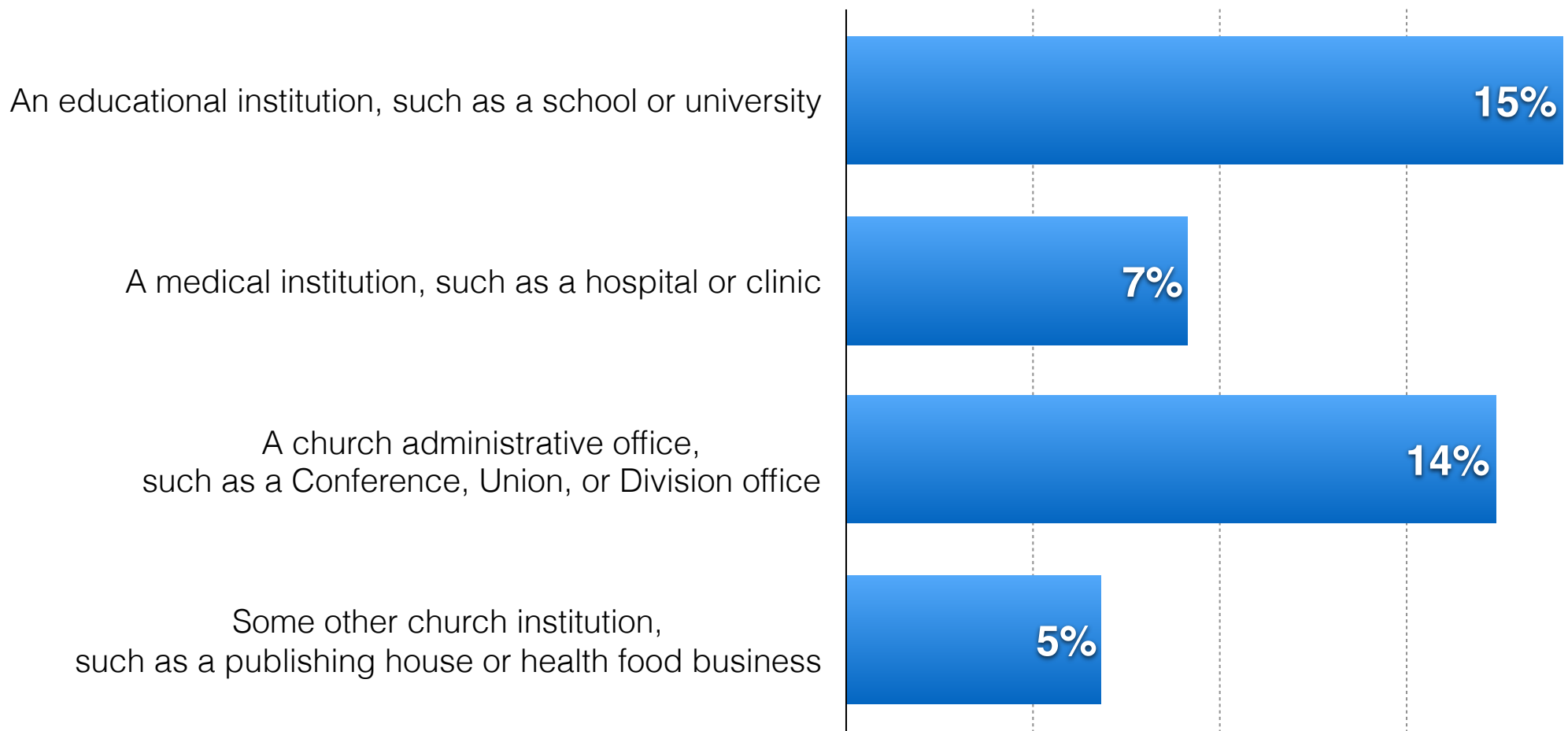
D11. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



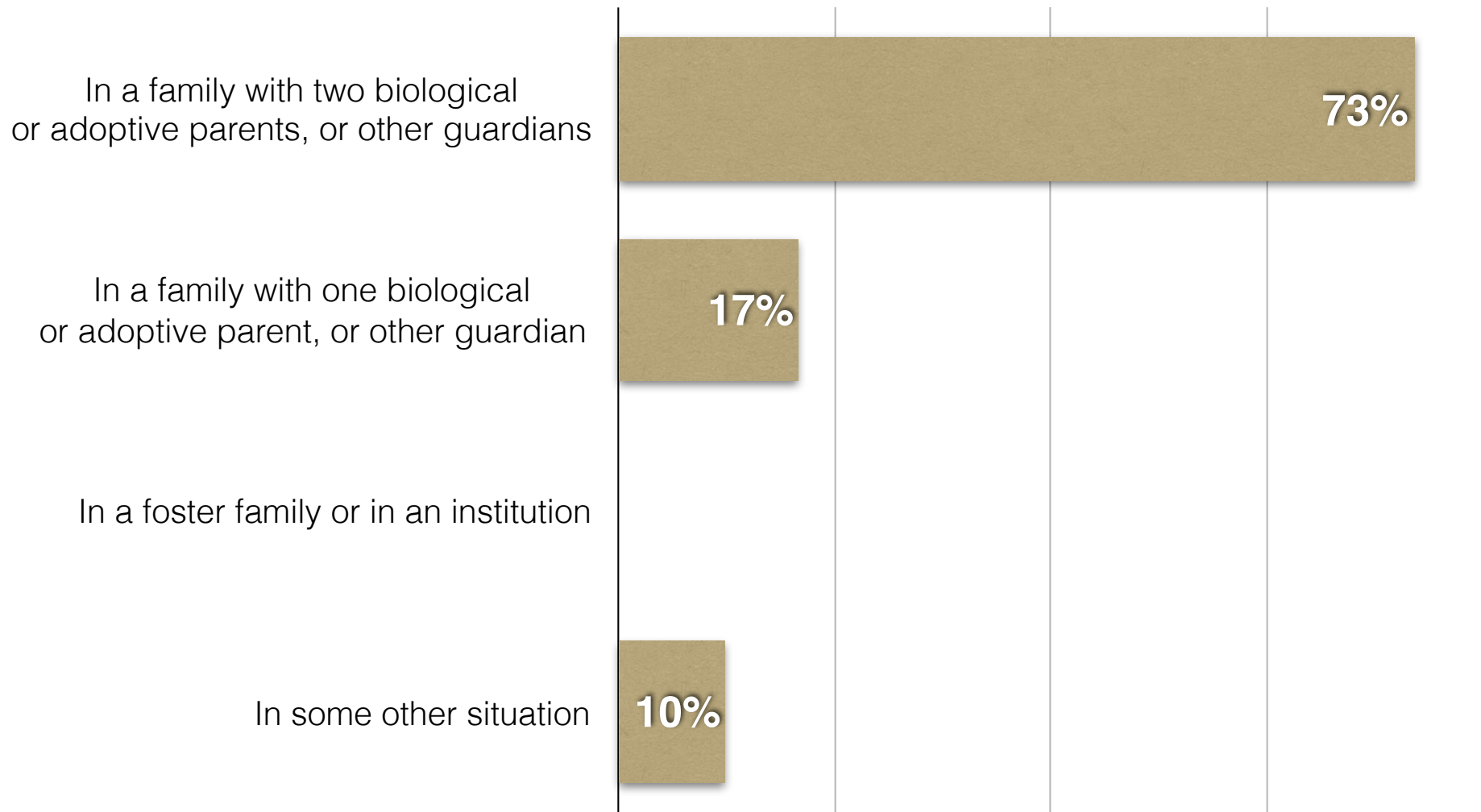
D12. WHAT IS THE SETTING WHERE THE CHURCH IS LOCATED?



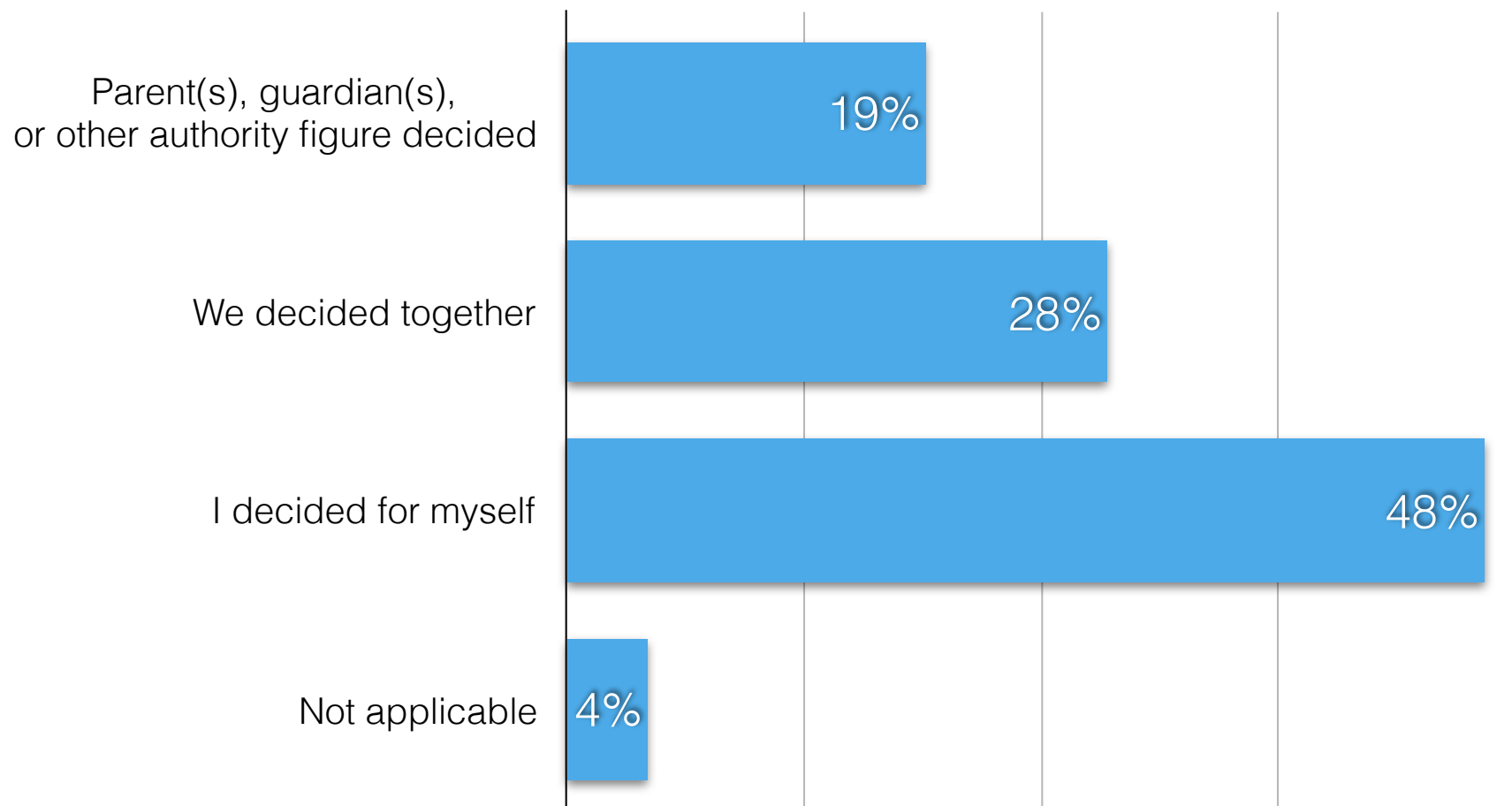
D13. IS YOUR CHURCH LOCATED NEAR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADVENTIST INSTITUTIONS?



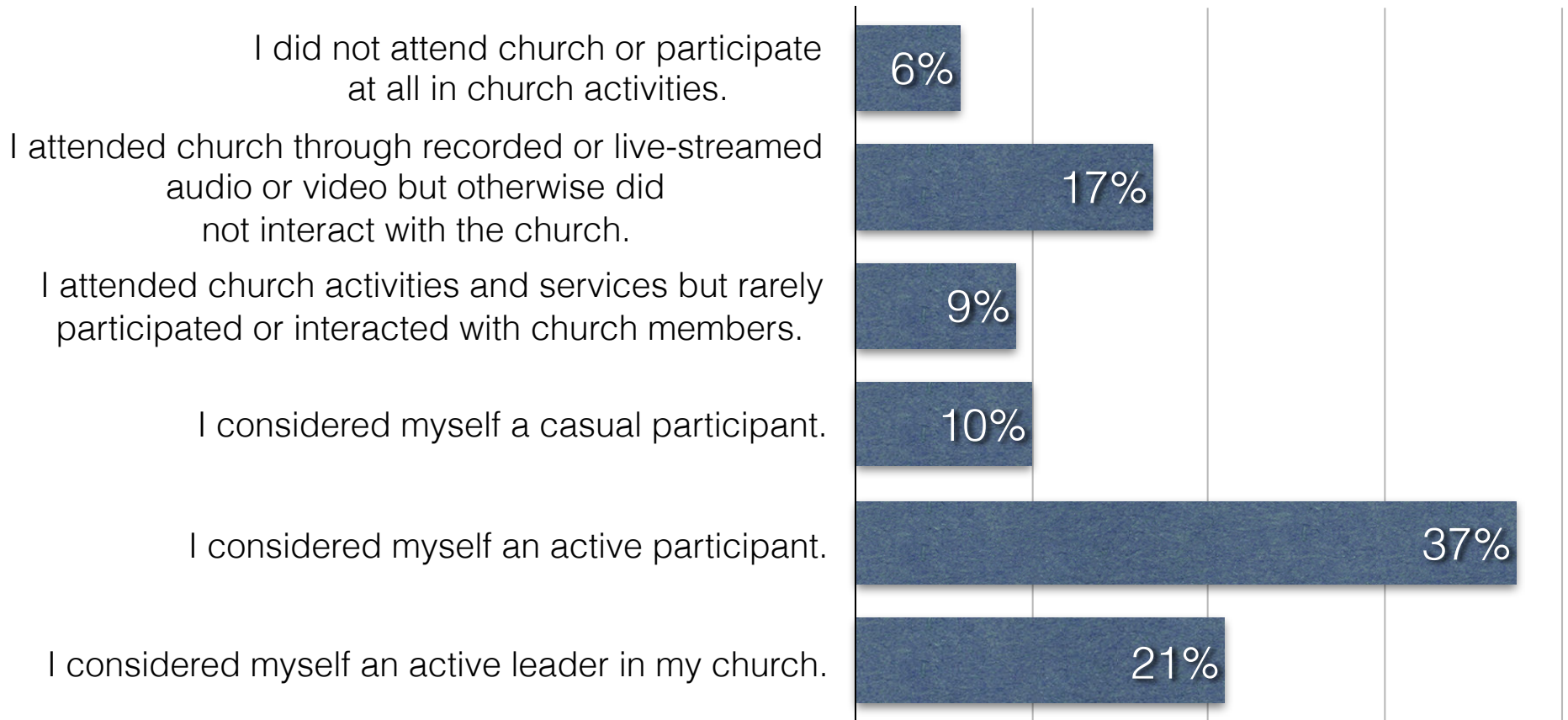
D14. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE FAMILY SITUATION IN WHICH YOU GREW UP?



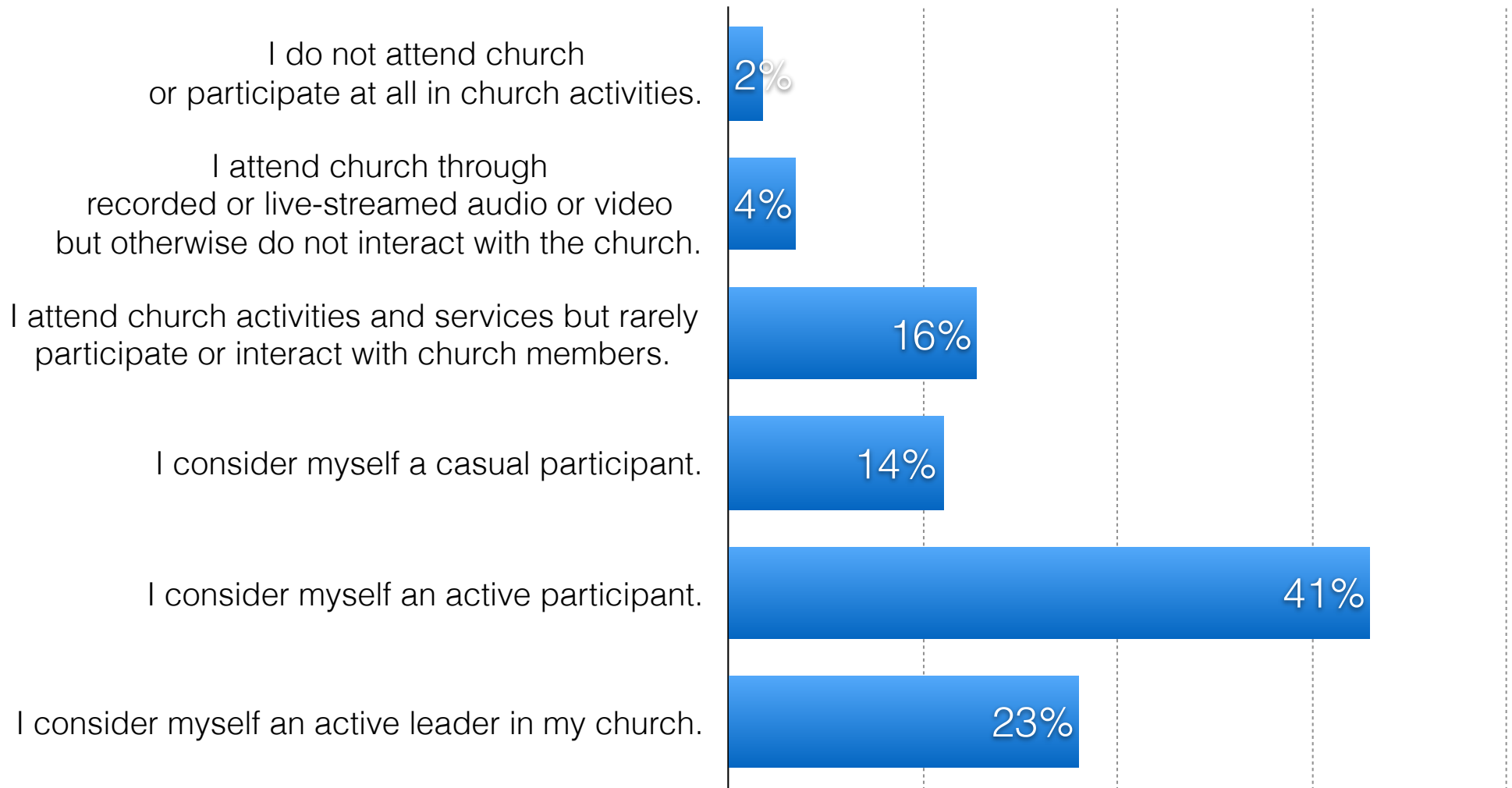
D15. WHEN YOU WERE A TEENAGER, BEFORE YOU LEFT HOME, HOW WERE DECISIONS USUALLY MADE ABOUT THE MUSIC TO WHICH YOU LISTENED, THE MEDIA (TELEVISION, MOVIES, OR WEBSITES) THAT YOU VIEWED, THE TIME THAT YOU WENT TO BED, OR THE FRIENDS WITH WHOM YOU SPENT TIME.



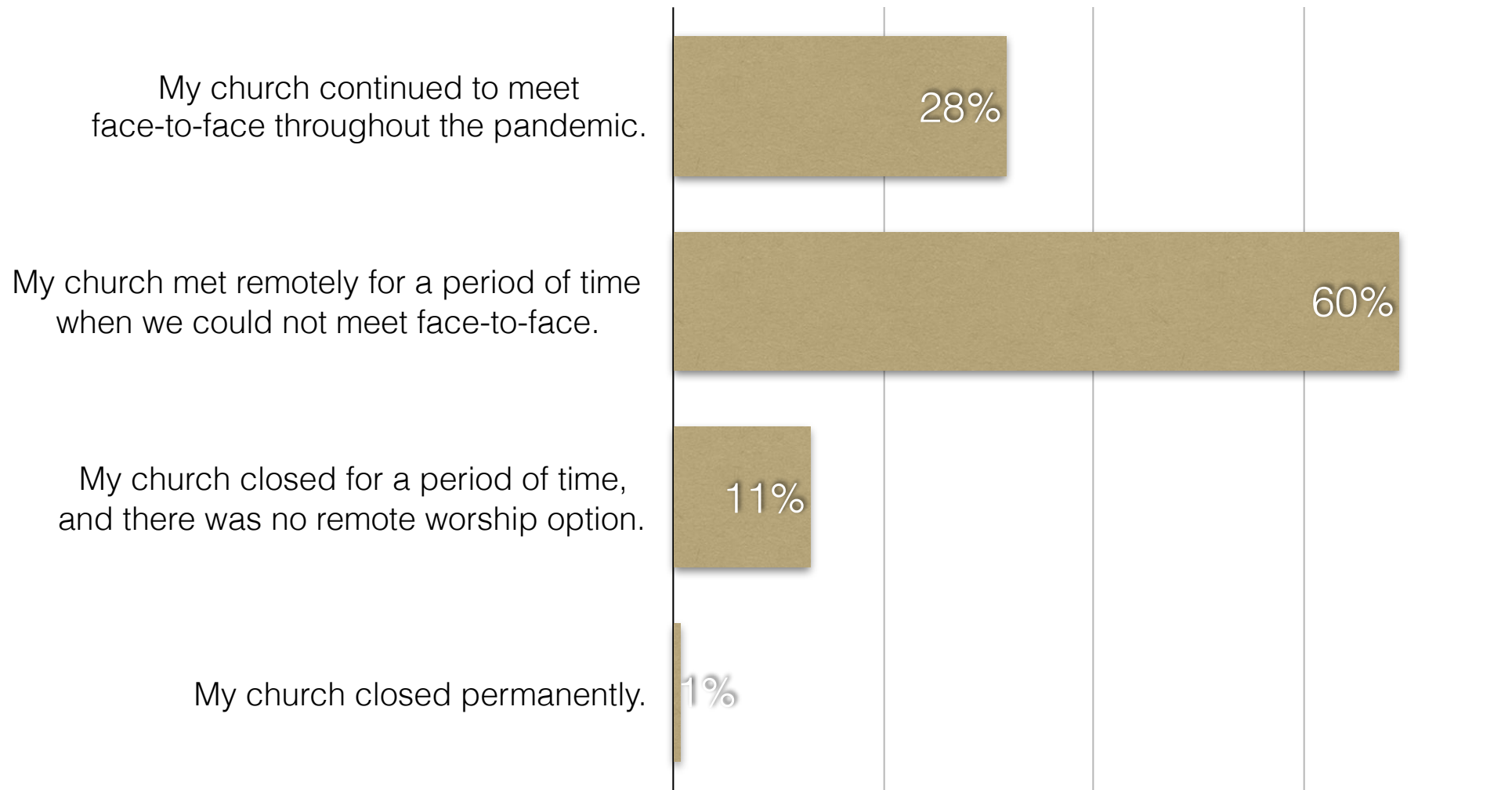
D16. THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WAY THAT SOME PEOPLE PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR CHURCH. THINK BACK TO A TIME JUST BEFORE THE PANDEMIC STARTED IN LATE 2019. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?



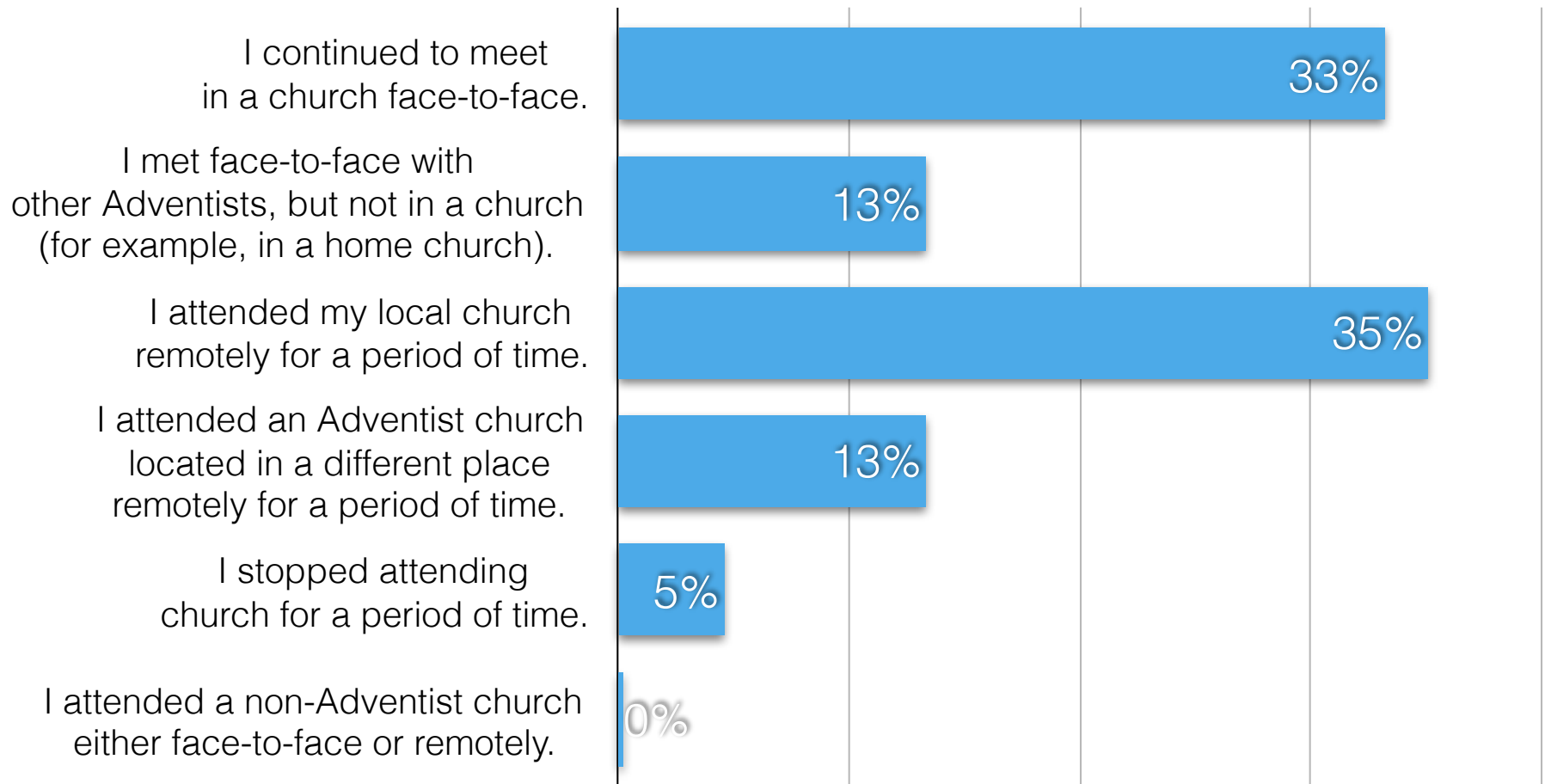
D17. HOW WOULD YOU CURRENTLY DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



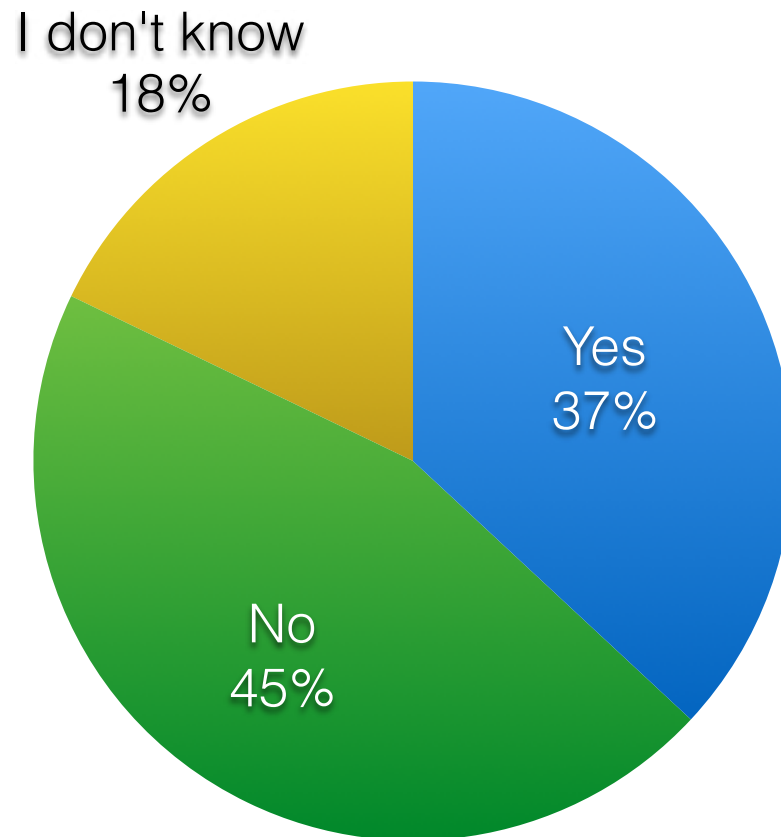
D18. DURING THE PANDEMIC, WHAT HAPPENED TO WORSHIP SERVICES AT THE CHURCH THAT YOU ATTENDED?



D19. DURING THE PANDEMIC, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE?

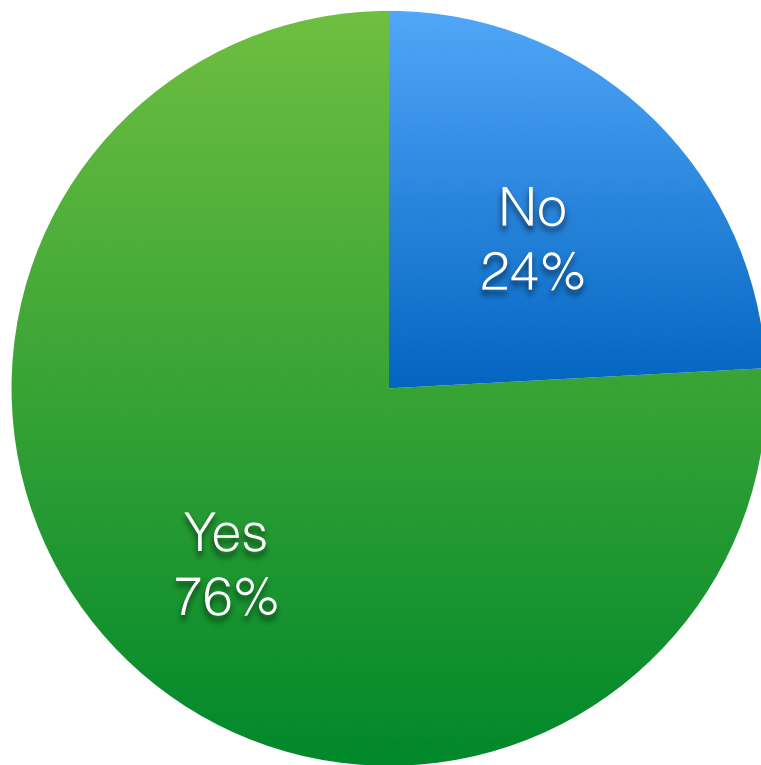


D20. DID YOUR CHURCH DEVELOP ANY NEW MINISTRIES DURING OR AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC?

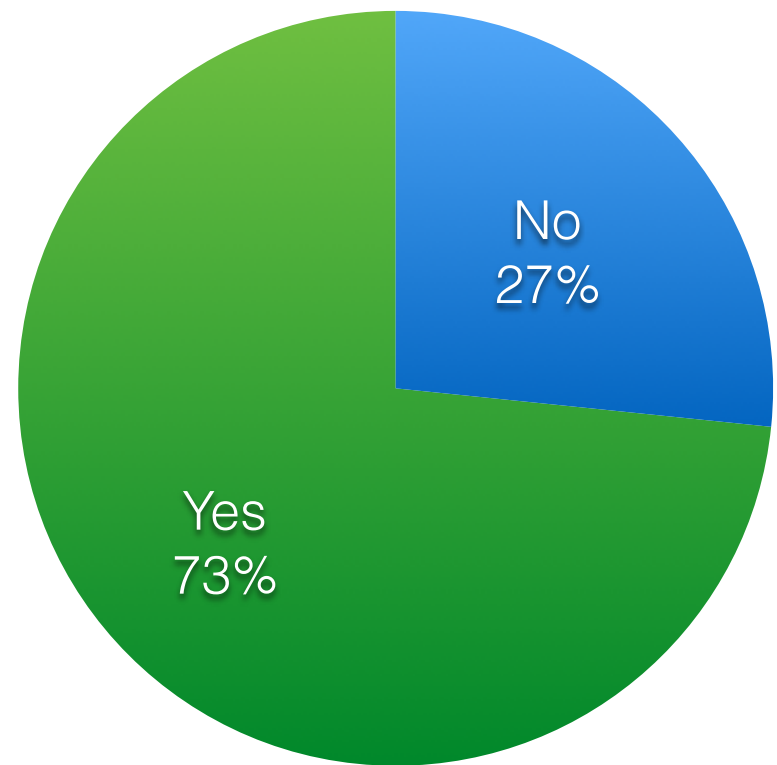


D21.DURING ANY PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH YOU WERE UNABLE TO MEET ON-SITE WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, WERE YOU PROVIDED WITH ONE OR MORE METHODS (ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE) THAT ENABLED YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR USUAL PATTERN OF ...

RETURNING TITHE?

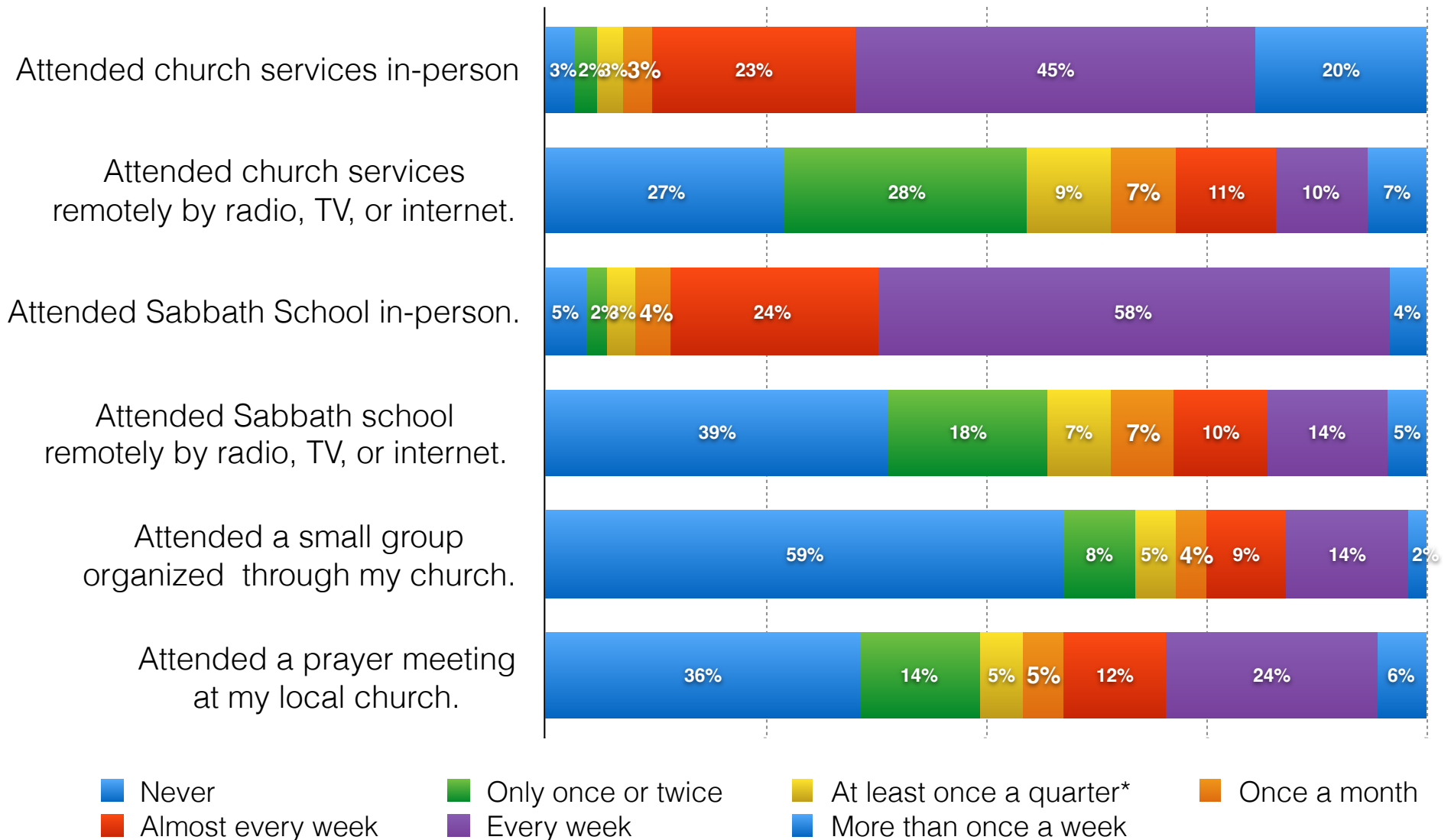


GIVING OFFERINGS?

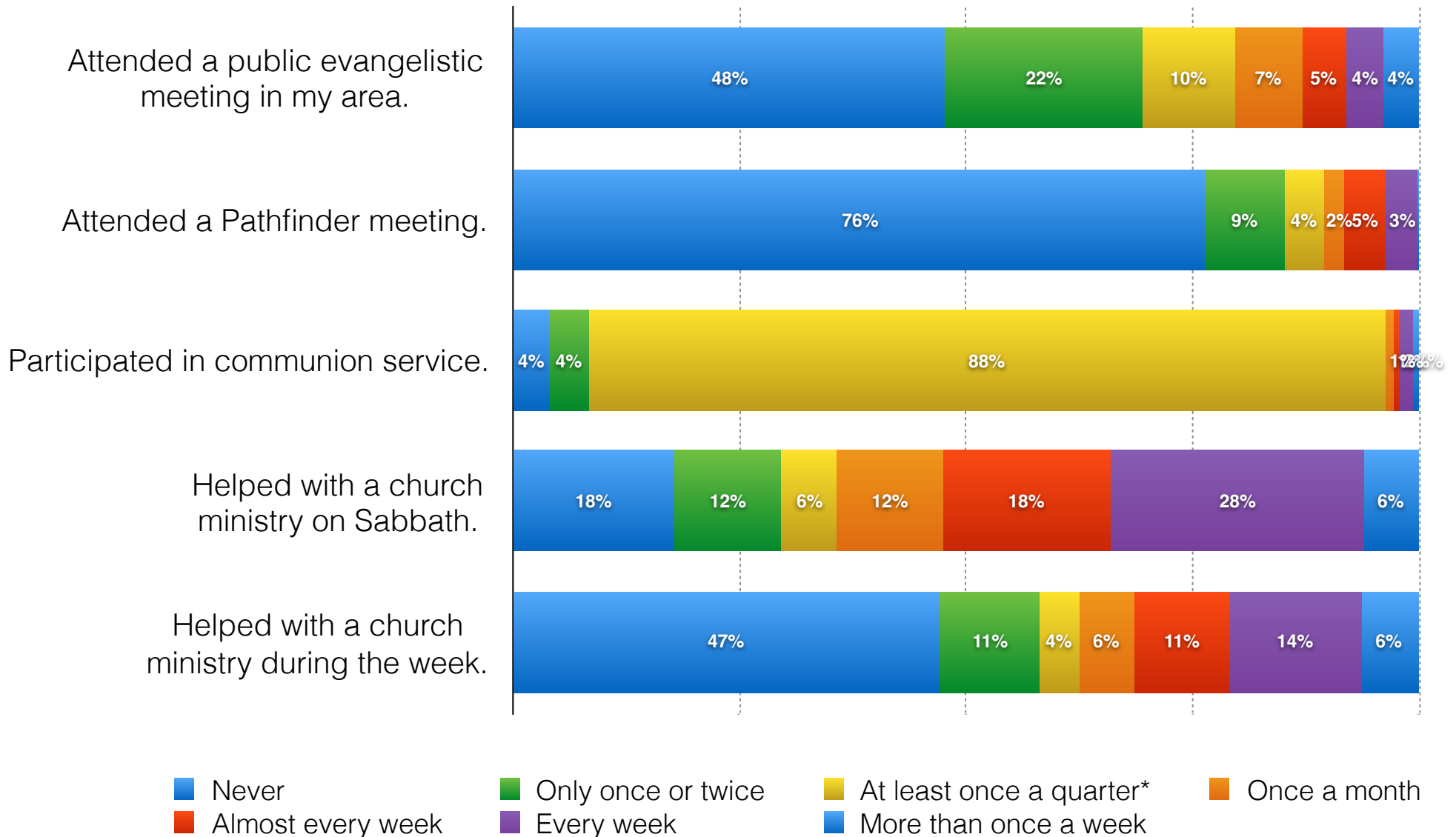


**RELIGIOUS
BEHAVIORS AND
ROLES**

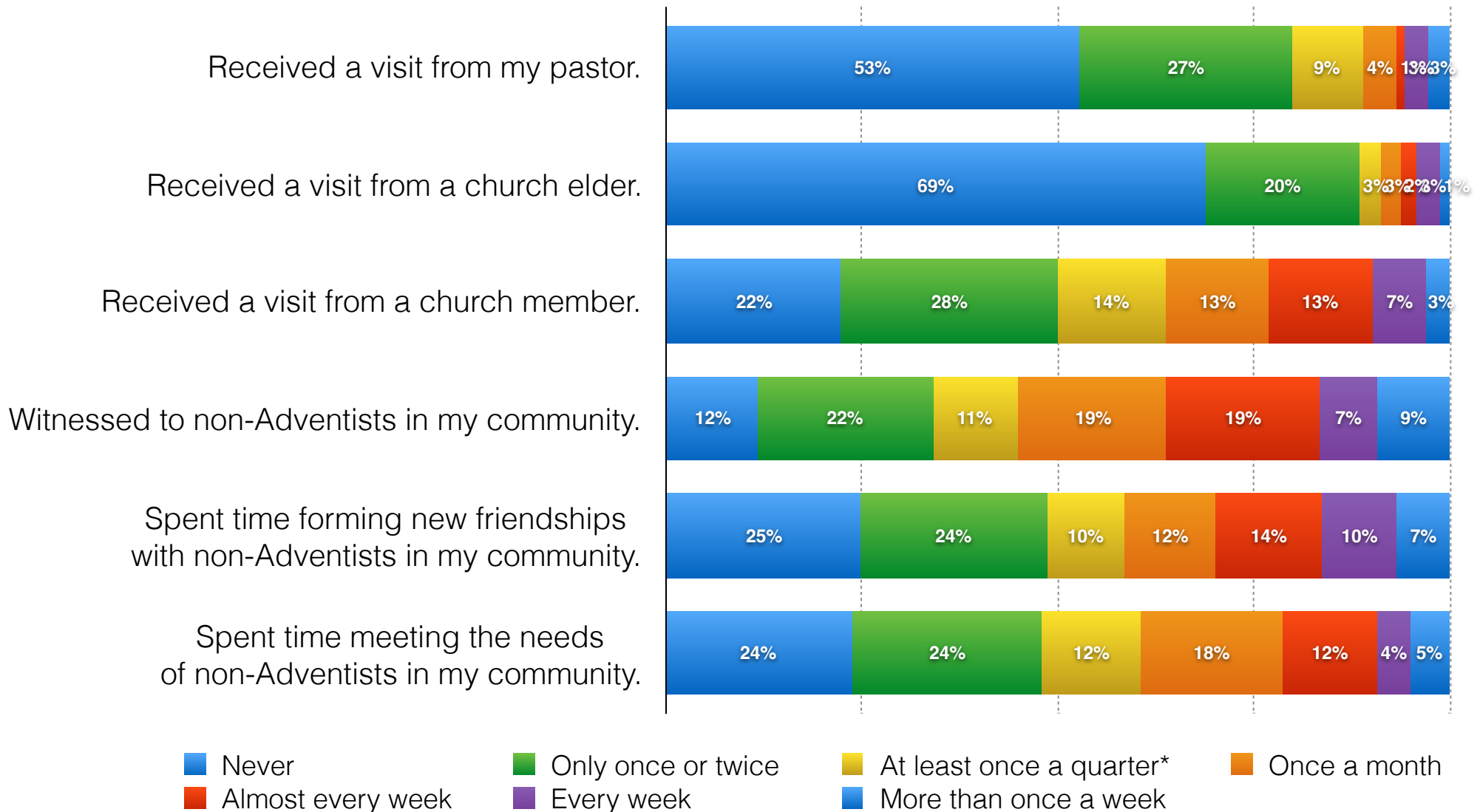
R1A. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



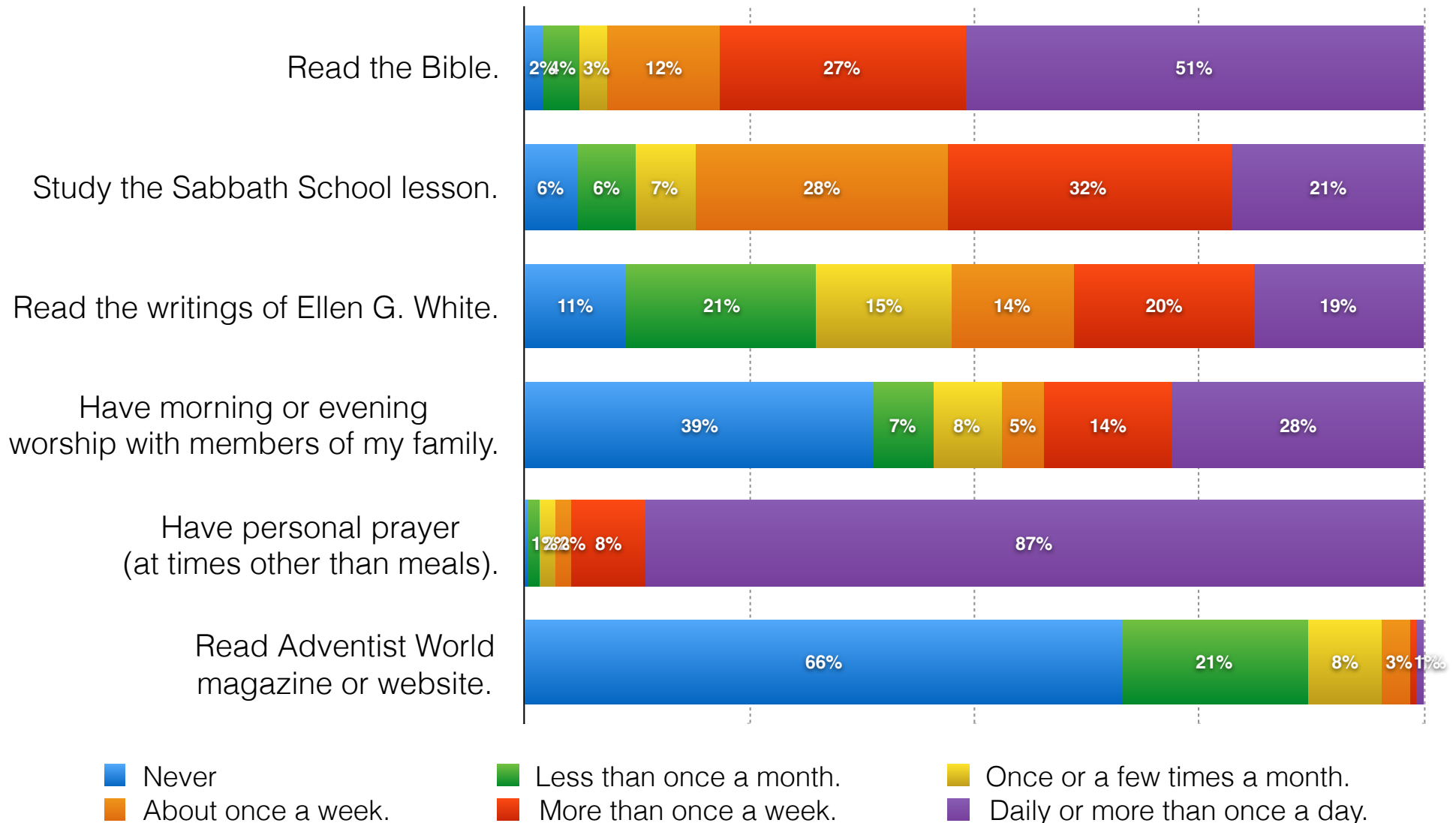
R1B. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



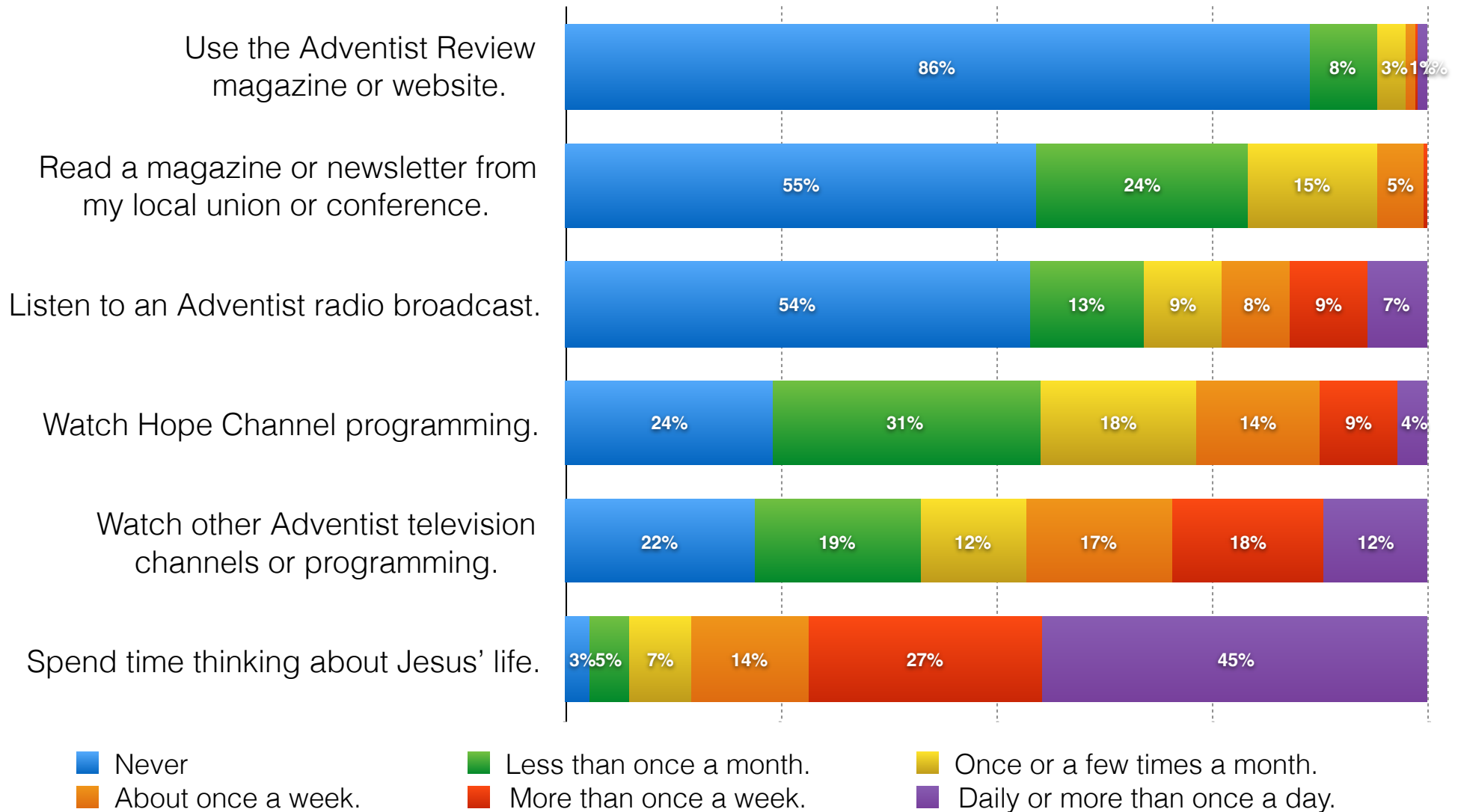
R1c. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



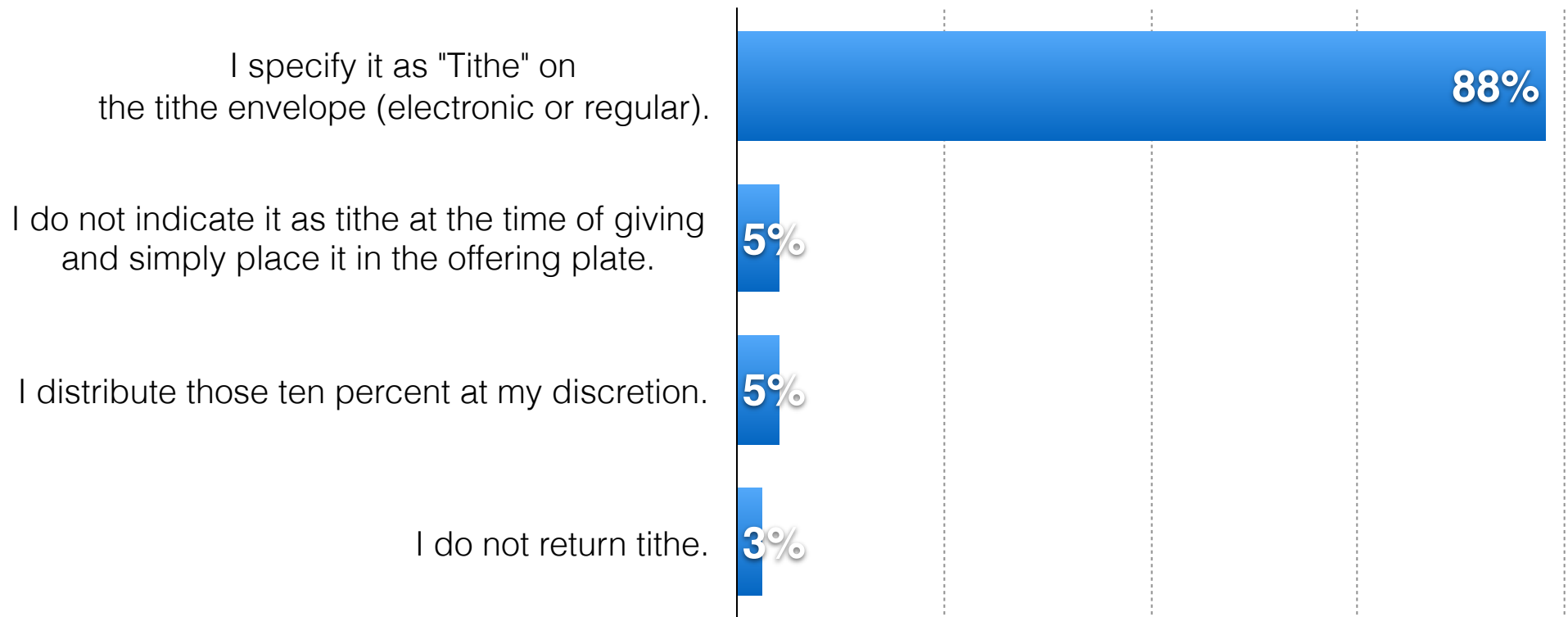
R2A. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



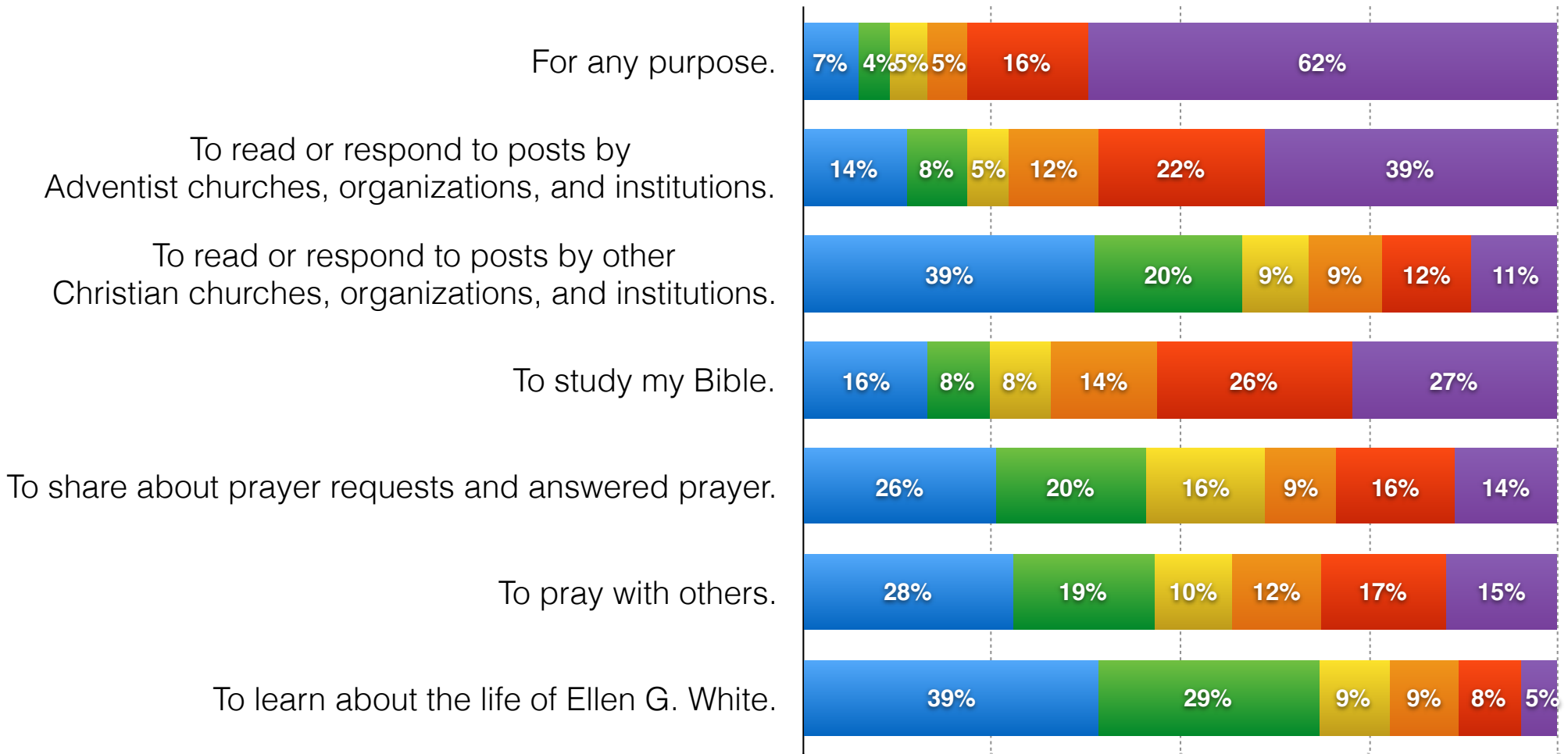
R2B. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



R3. WHEN YOU RETURN TITHE, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS BEST FITS THE WAY THAT YOU RETURN TITHE?

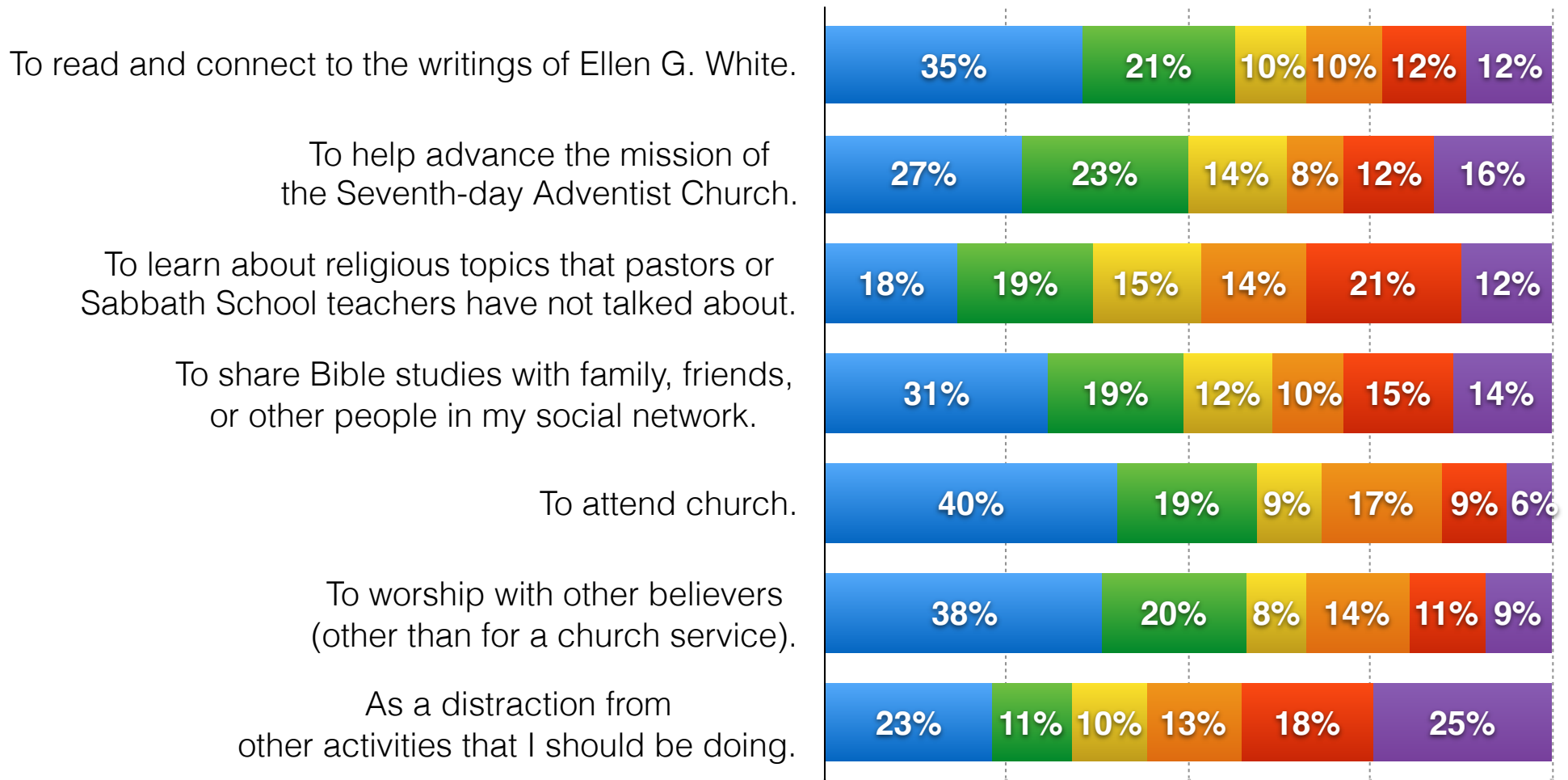


R4A. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



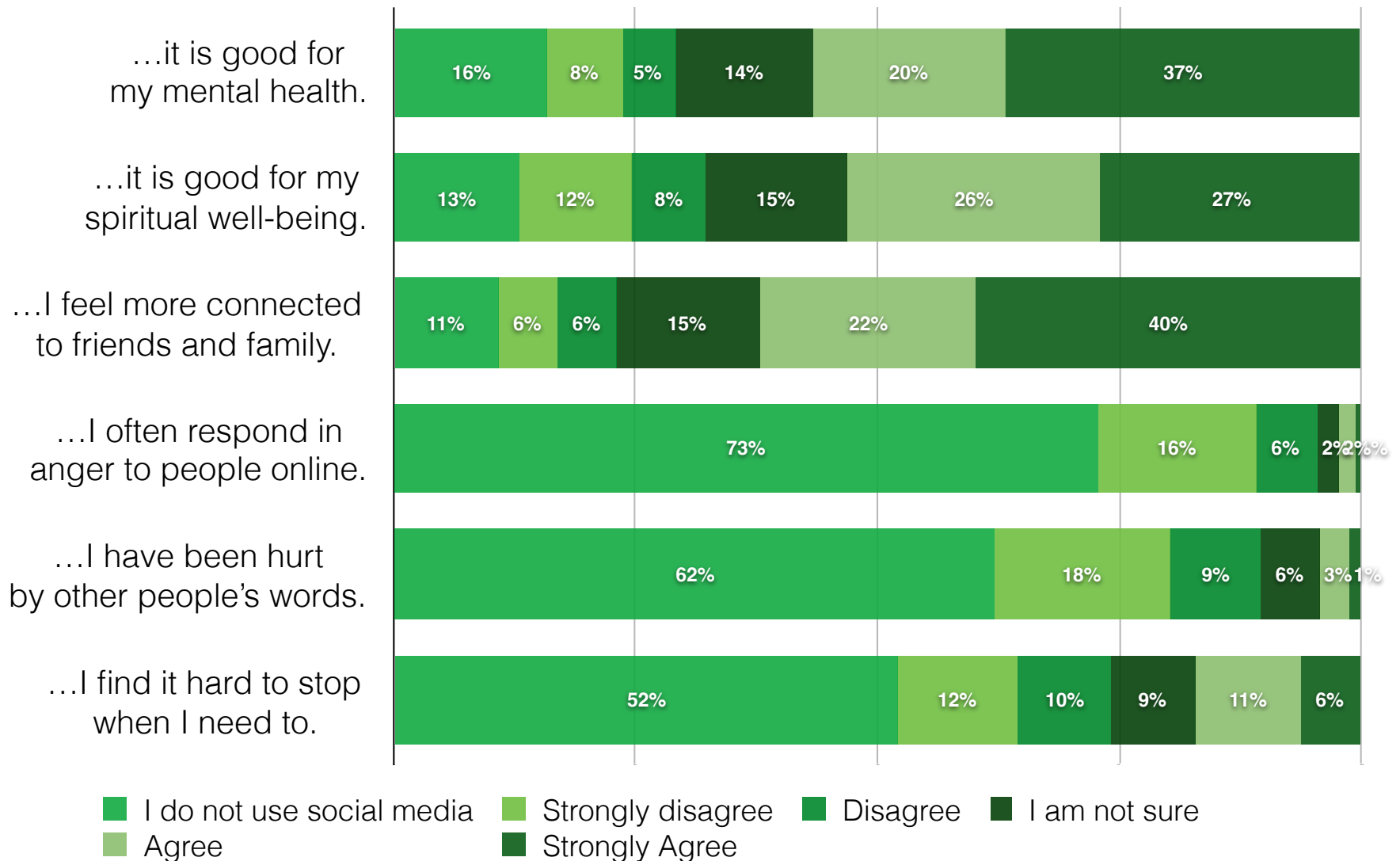
- Never
- Less than once a month
- Once or a few times a week.
- About once a week.
- More than once a week.
- Daily or more than once a day.

R4B. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?

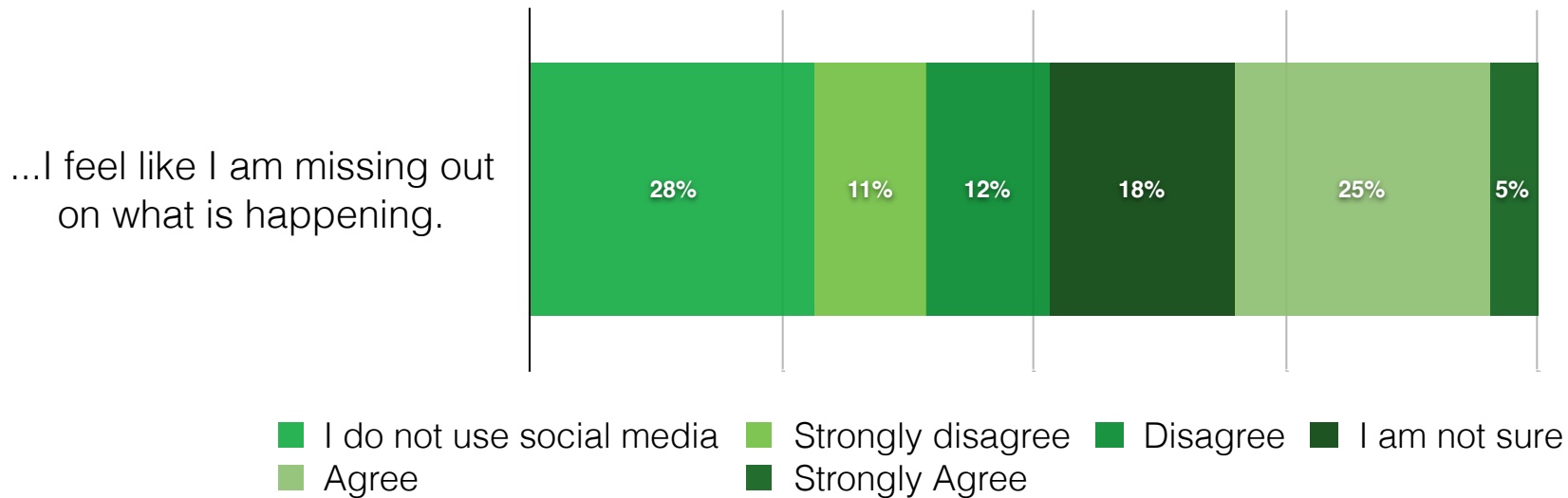


■ Never ■ Less than once a month ■ Once or a few times a week.
■ About once a week. ■ More than once a week. ■ Daily or more than once a day.

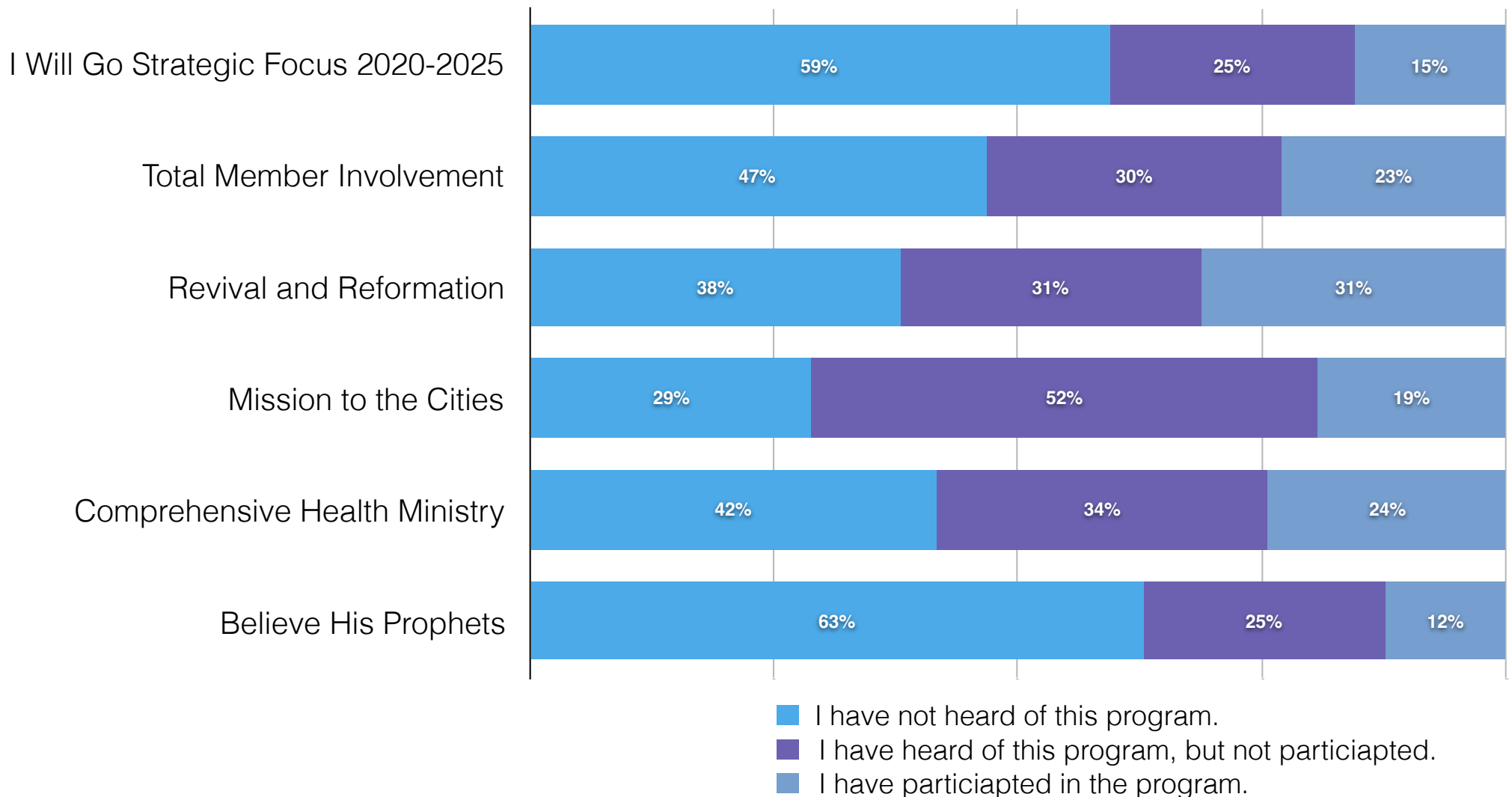
R5. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA USE. WHEN I USE SOCIAL MEDIA...



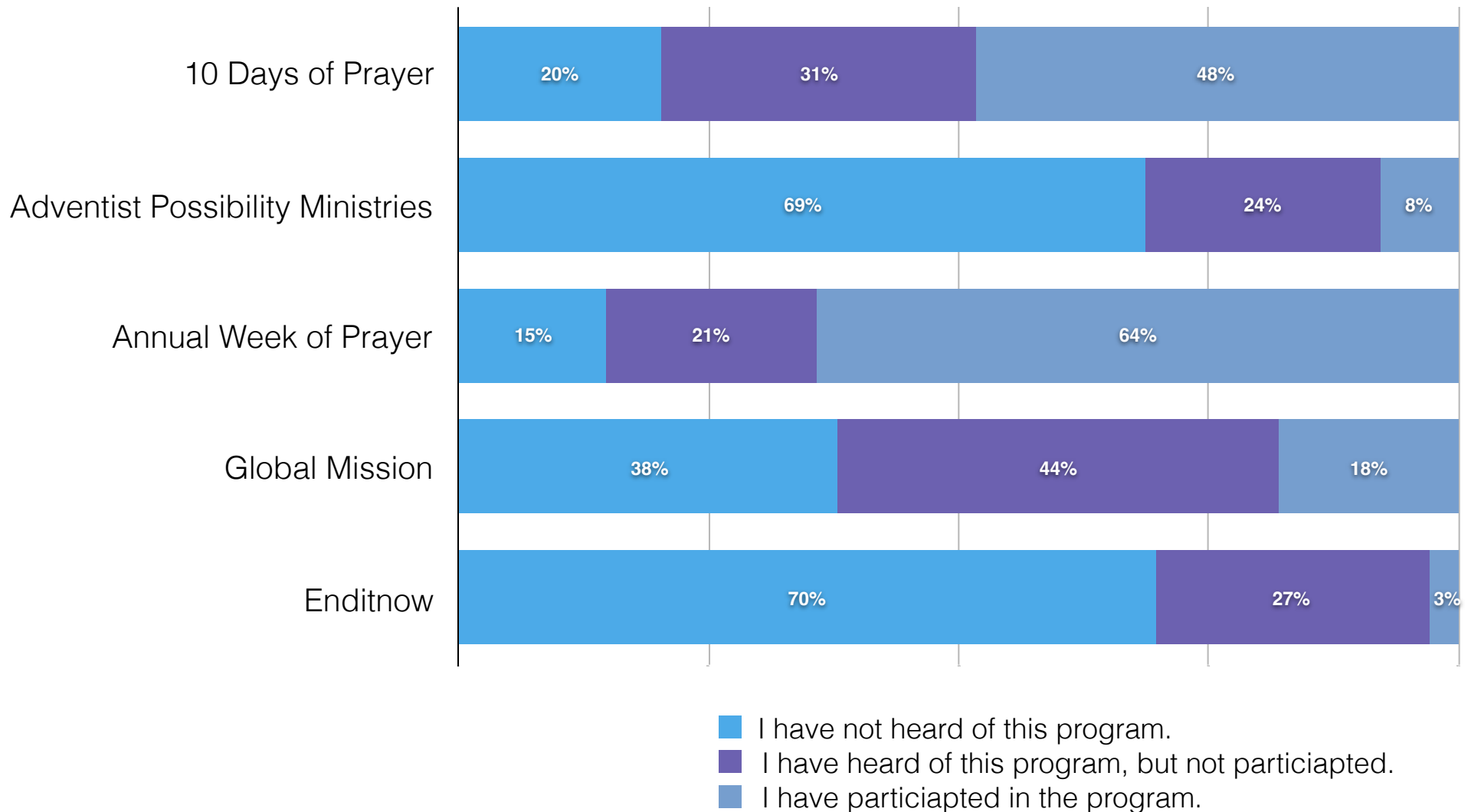
R5. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA USE. WHEN I CANNOT USE SOCIAL MEDIA...



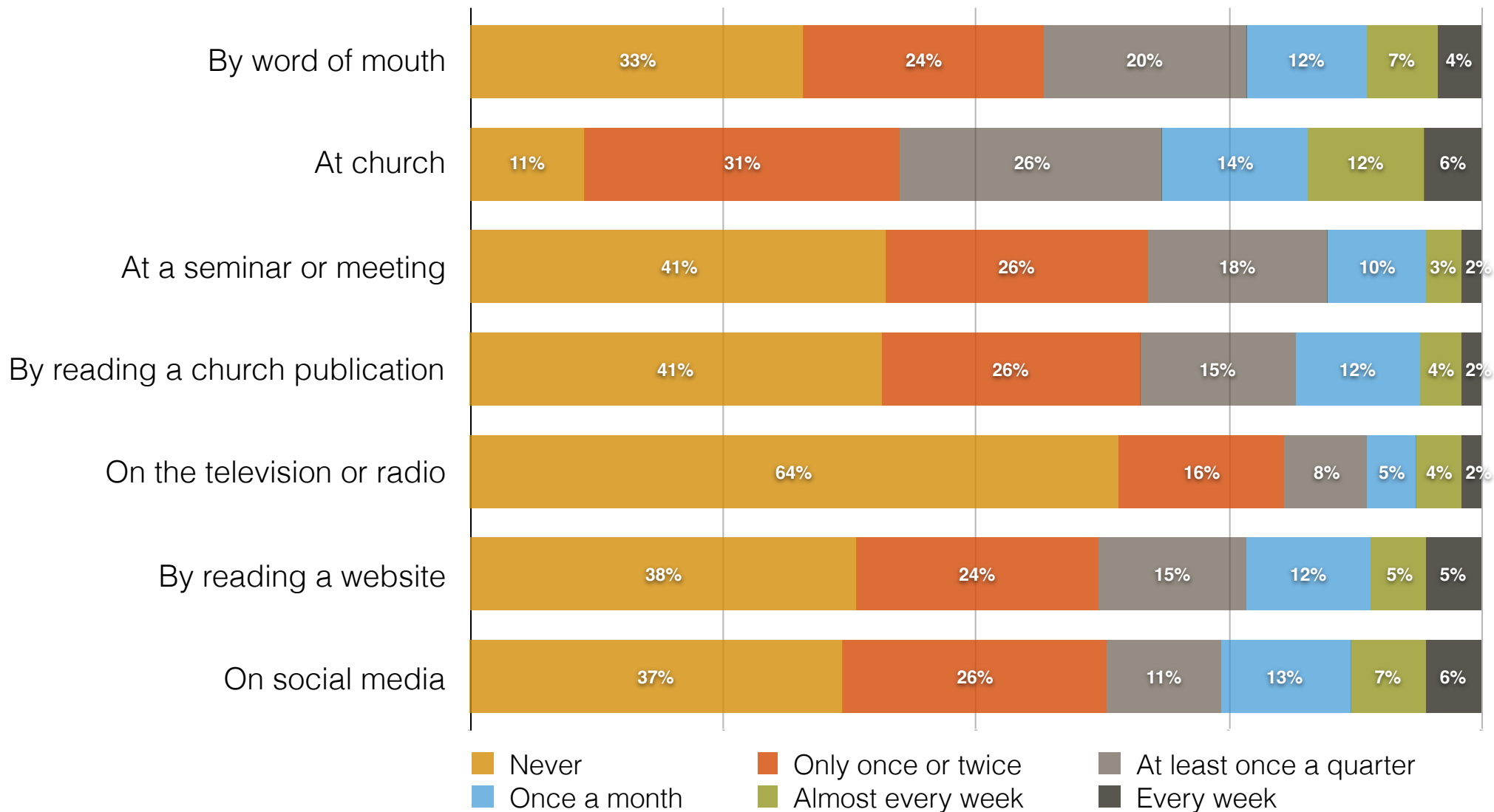
R6A. HOW MANY OF THESE GENERAL CONFERENCE INITIATIVES YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT OR PARTICIPATED IN?



R6B. HOW MANY OF THESE GENERAL CONFERENCE INITIATIVES YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT OR PARTICIPATED IN?

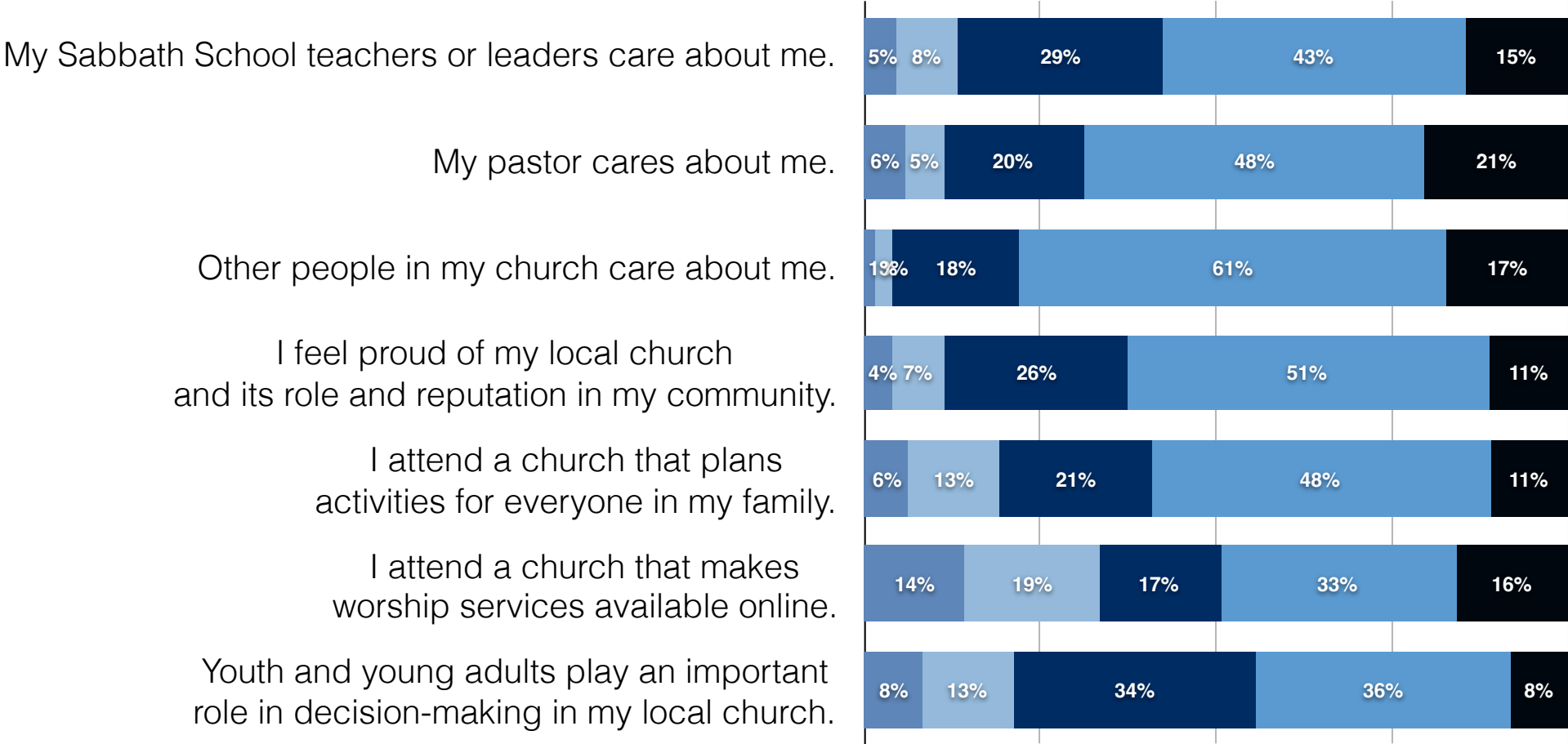


R7. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOW OFTEN DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONE OR MORE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE INITIATIVES LISTED IN THE LAST QUESTION?



RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES

A1A. PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS



■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

A1B. PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

Youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of my local church.



My local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.



My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.



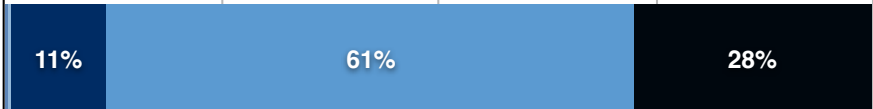
My local church has a program for preparing new members to become leaders.



I currently provide financial support for children (mine or others) to attend a SDA school.

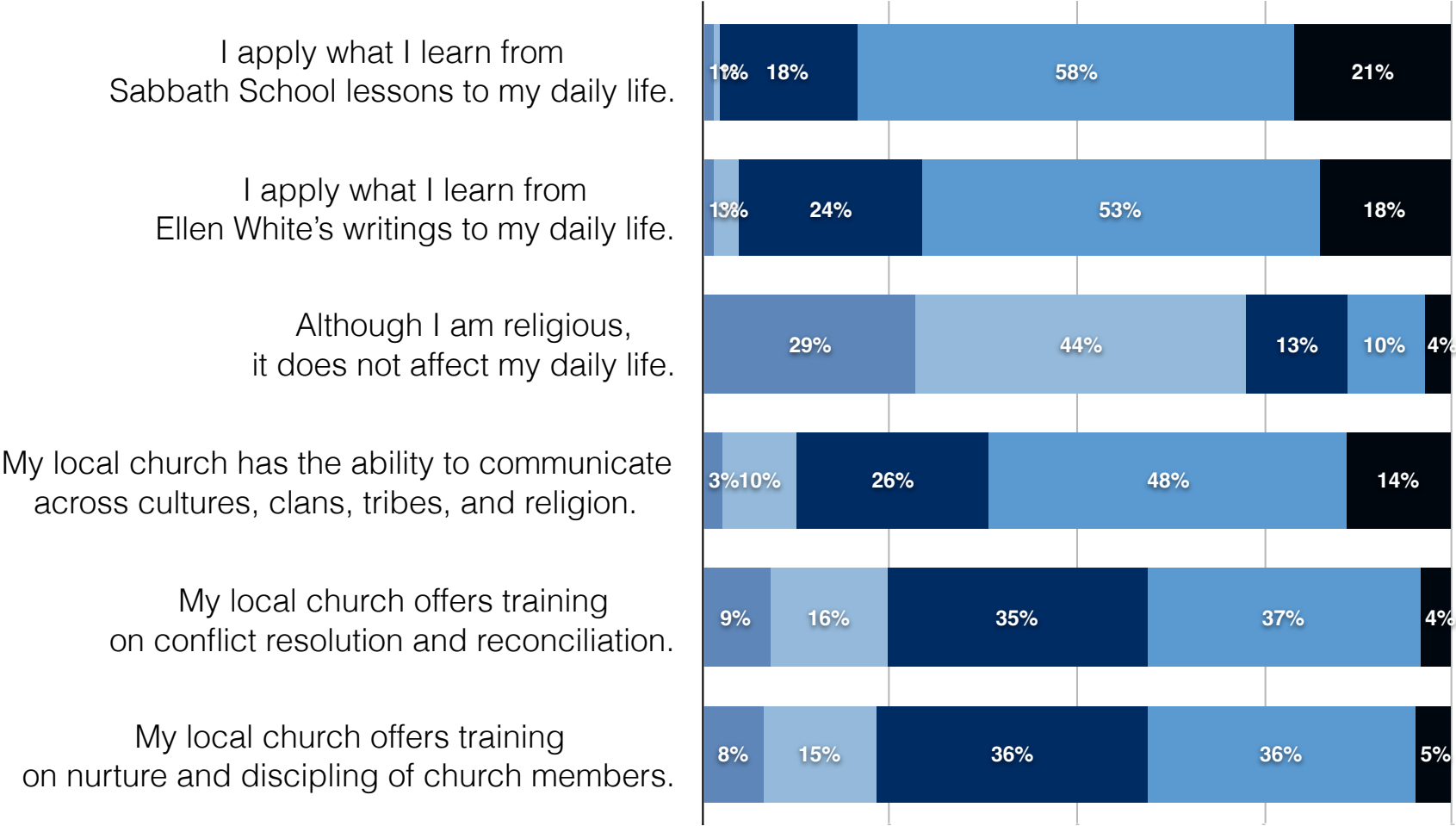


I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.



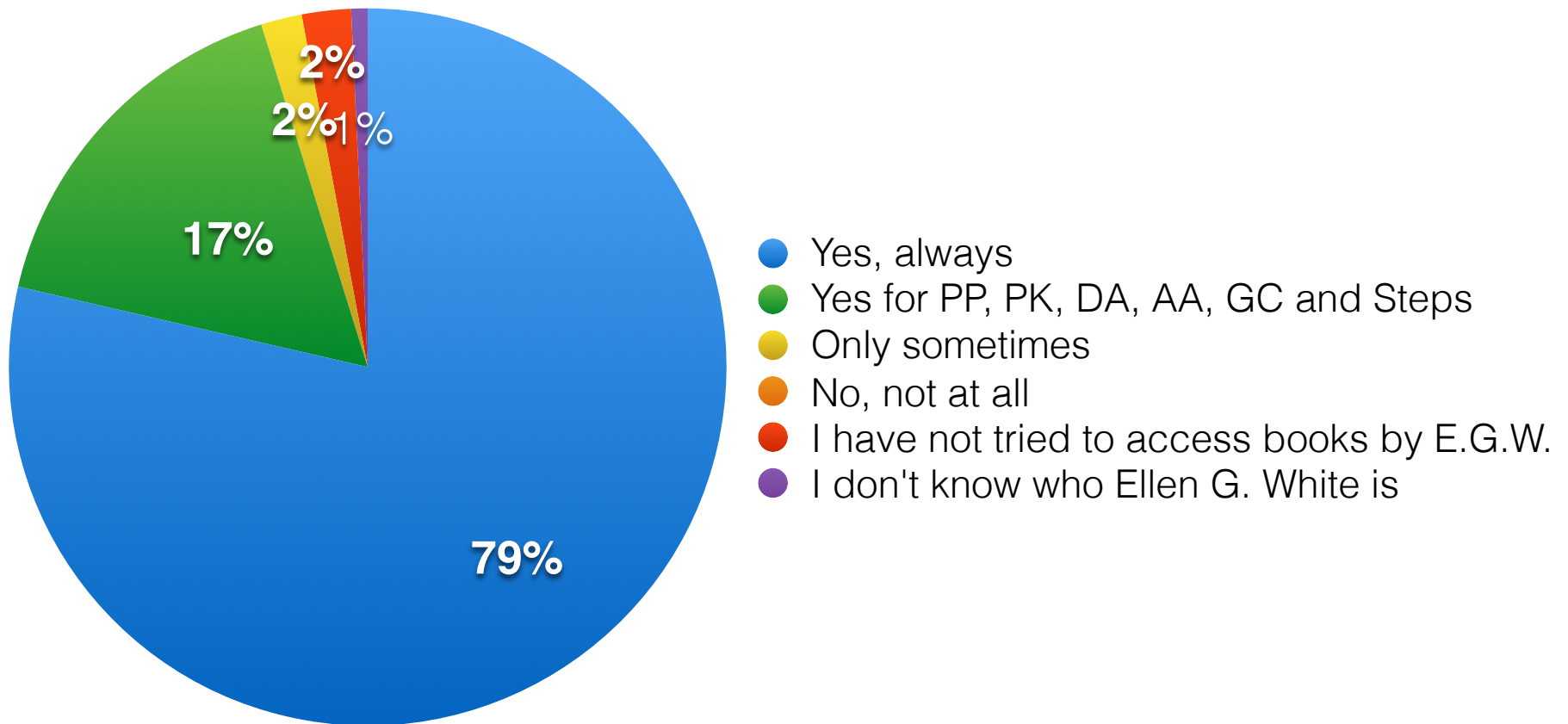
■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

A1C. PLEASE EXPRESS YOUR AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

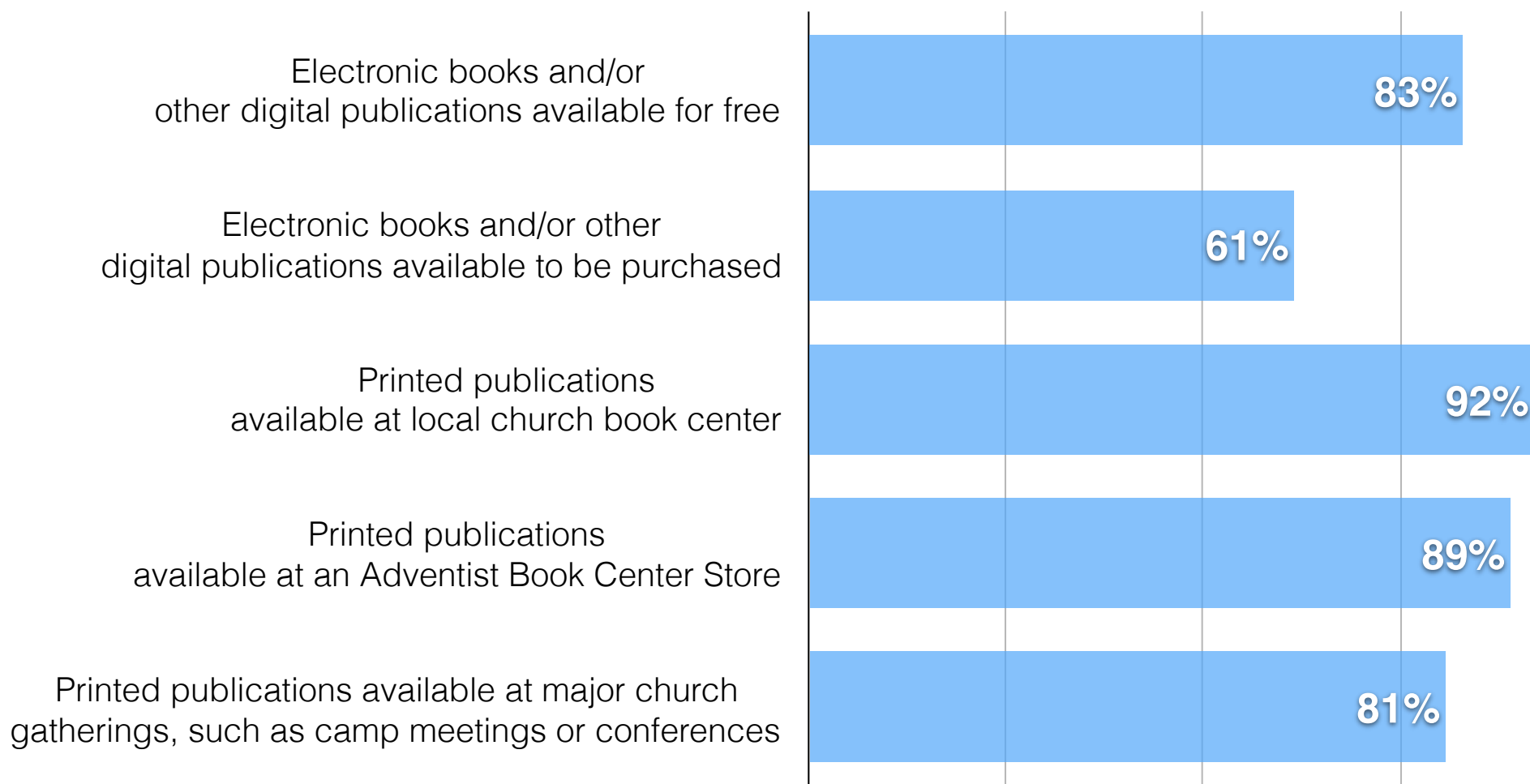


■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

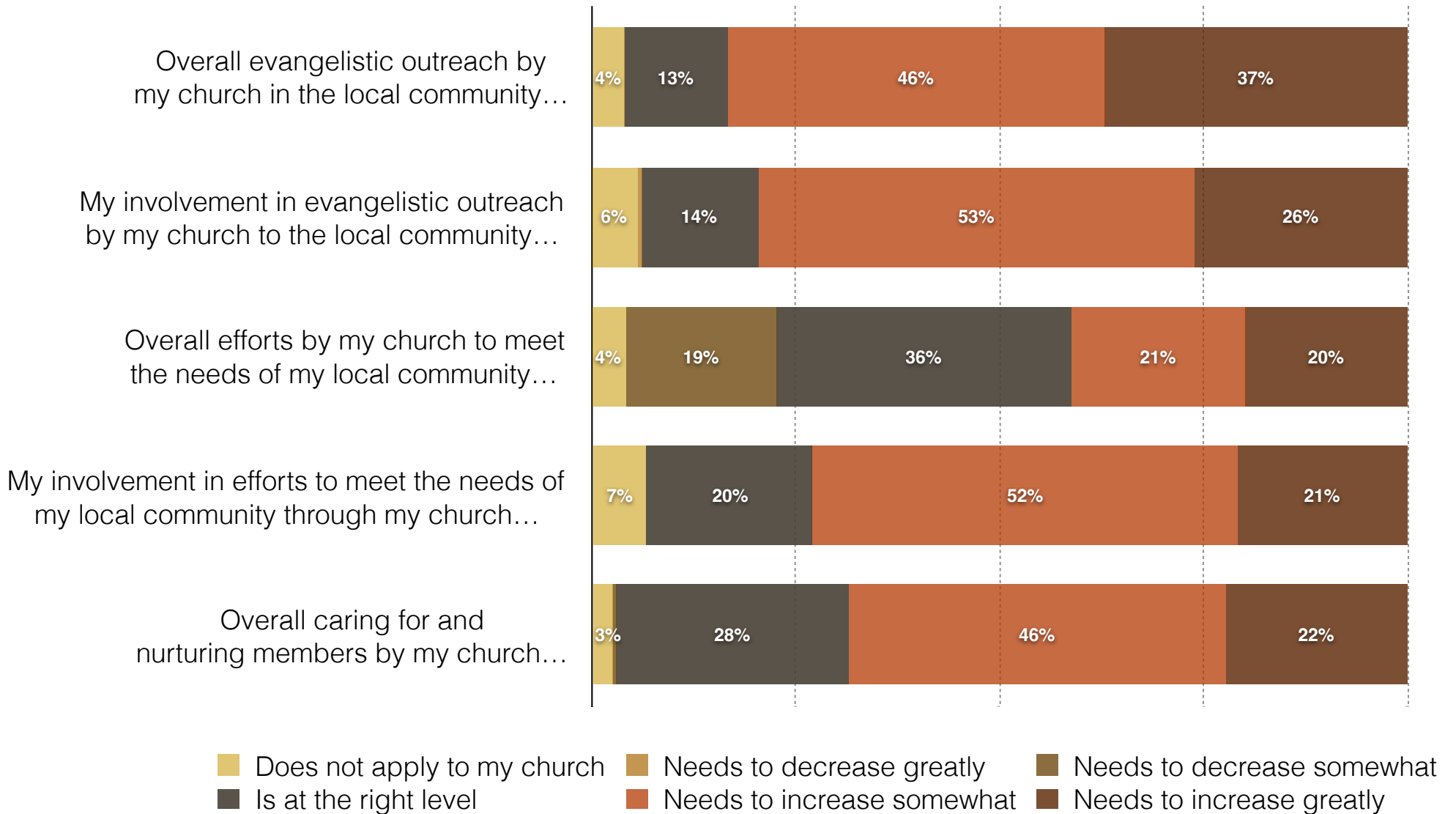
A2. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS THE BOOKS BY ELLEN G. WHITE IN A LANGUAGE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND?



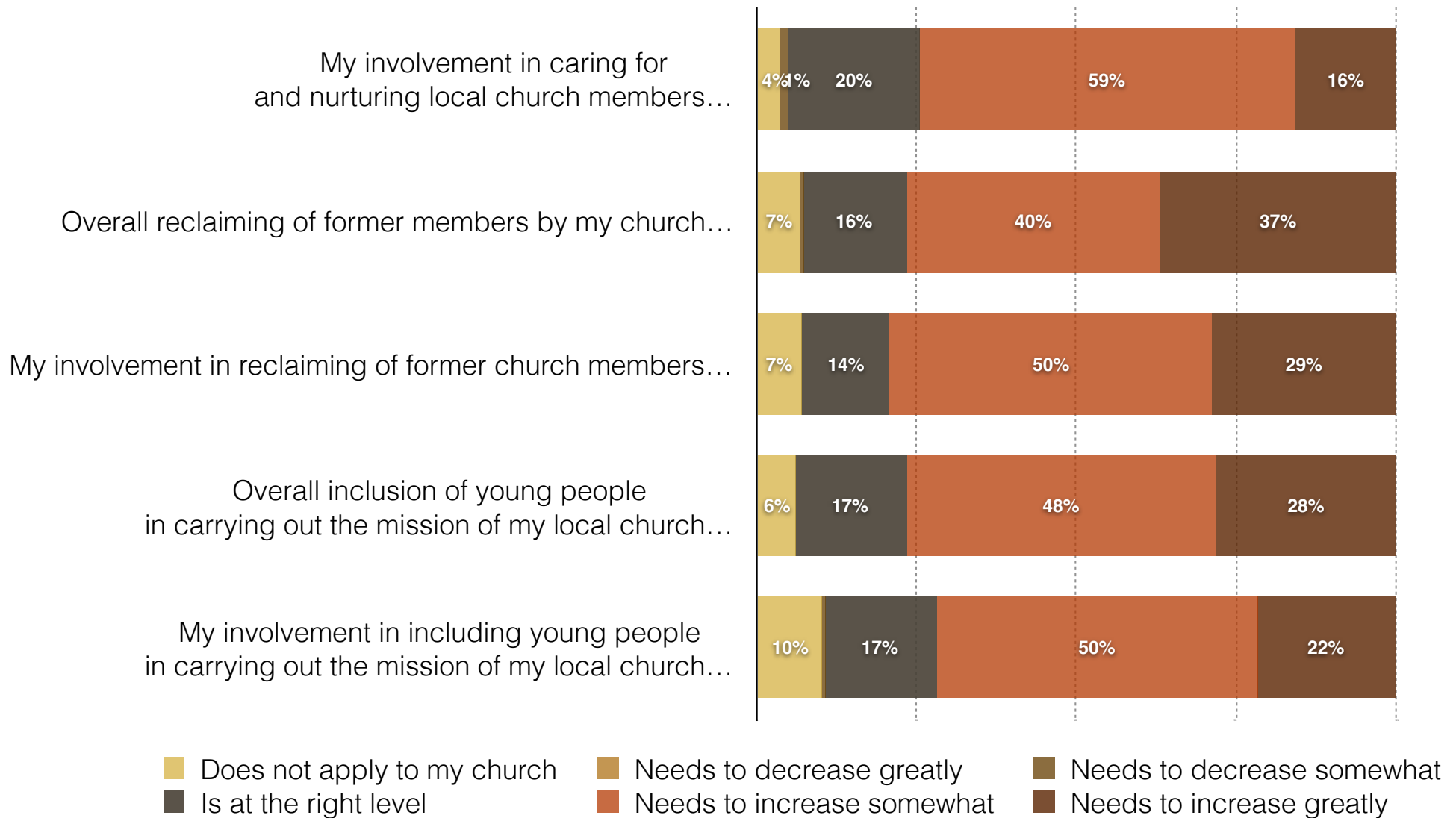
A3. DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ADVENTIST PUBLICATIONS IN YOUR LANGUAGE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SOURCES?



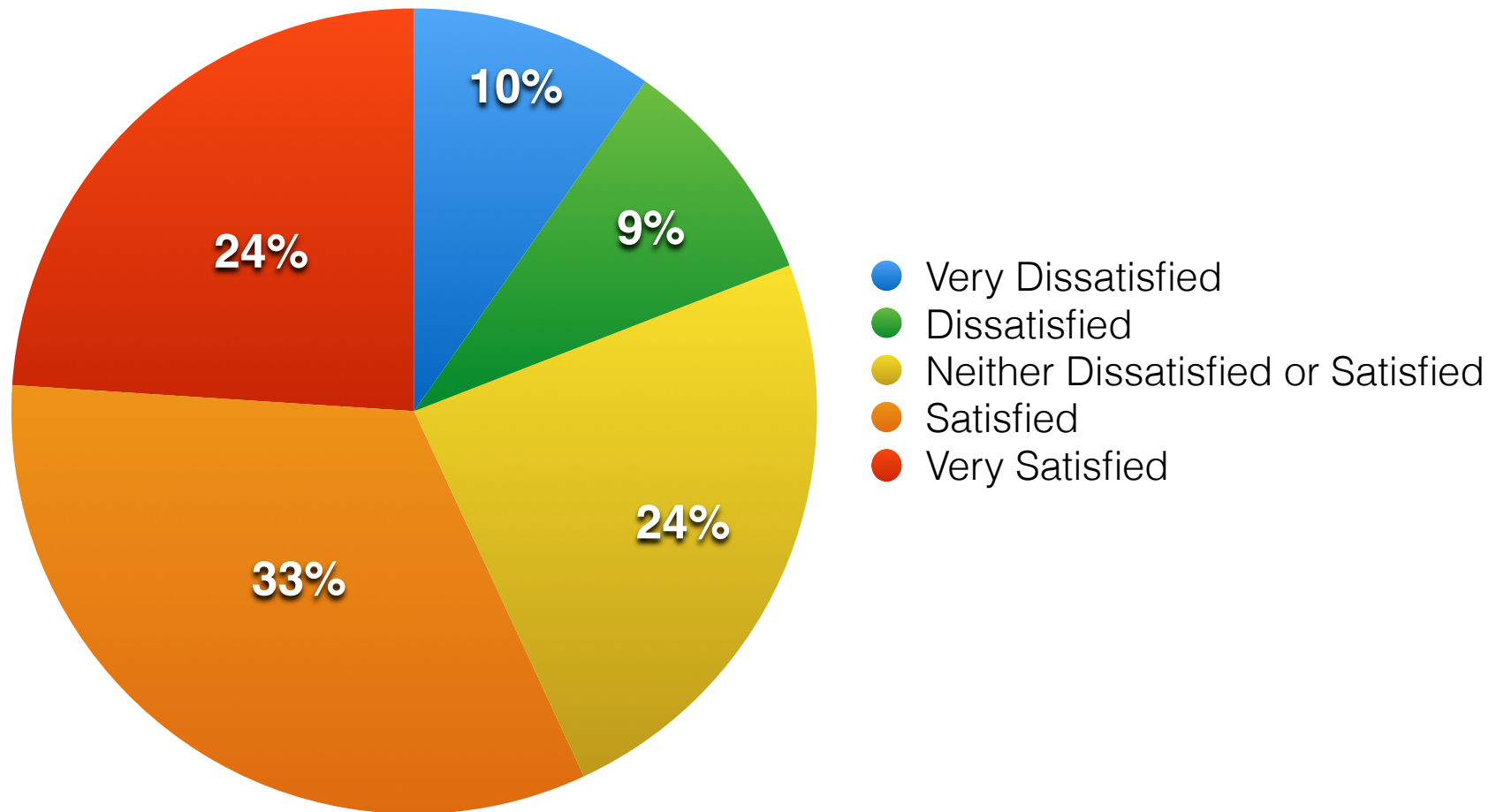
A4A. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT NEED TO CHANGE OR STAY THE SAME.



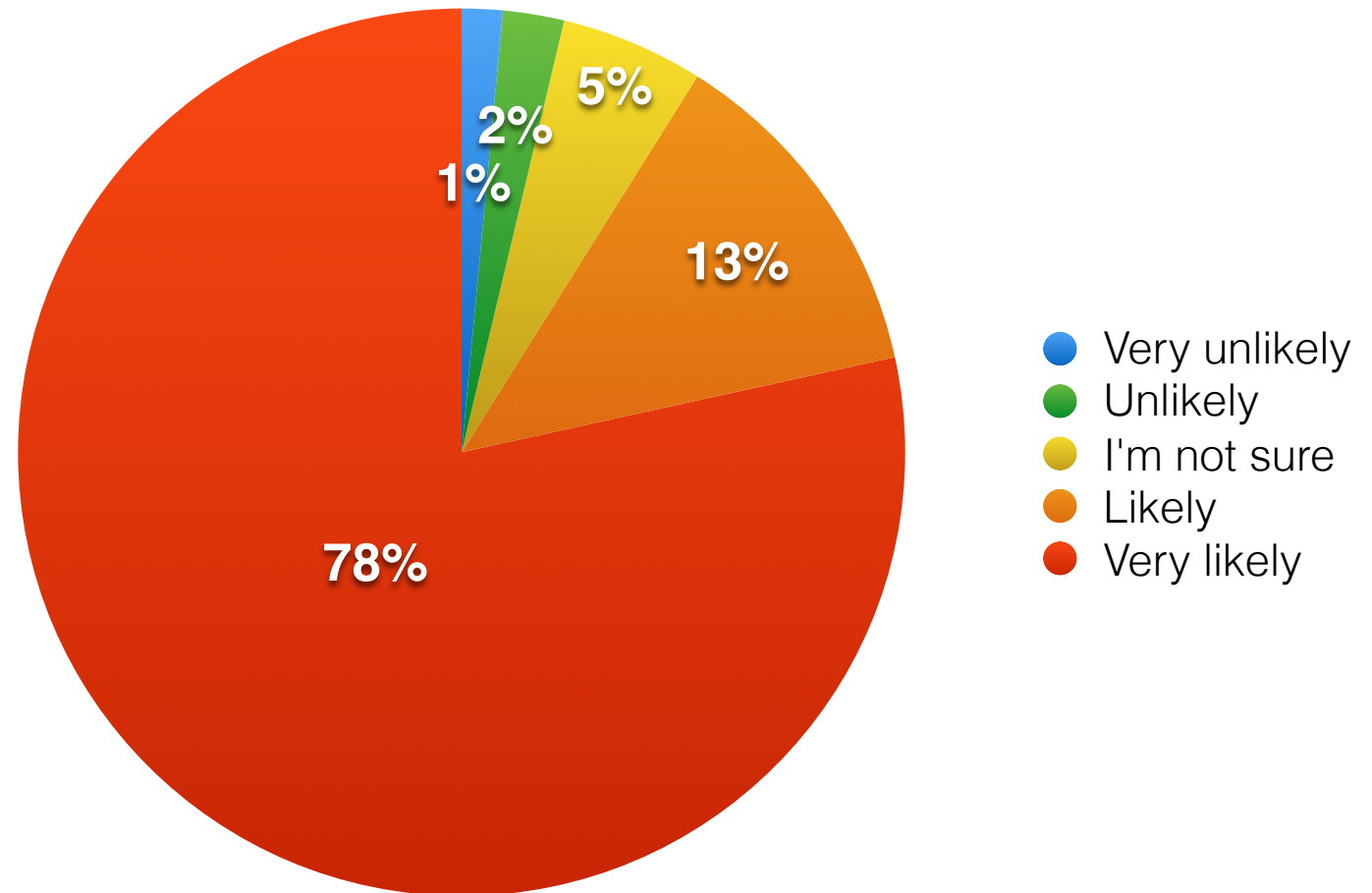
A4B. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT NEED TO CHANGE OR STAY THE SAME.



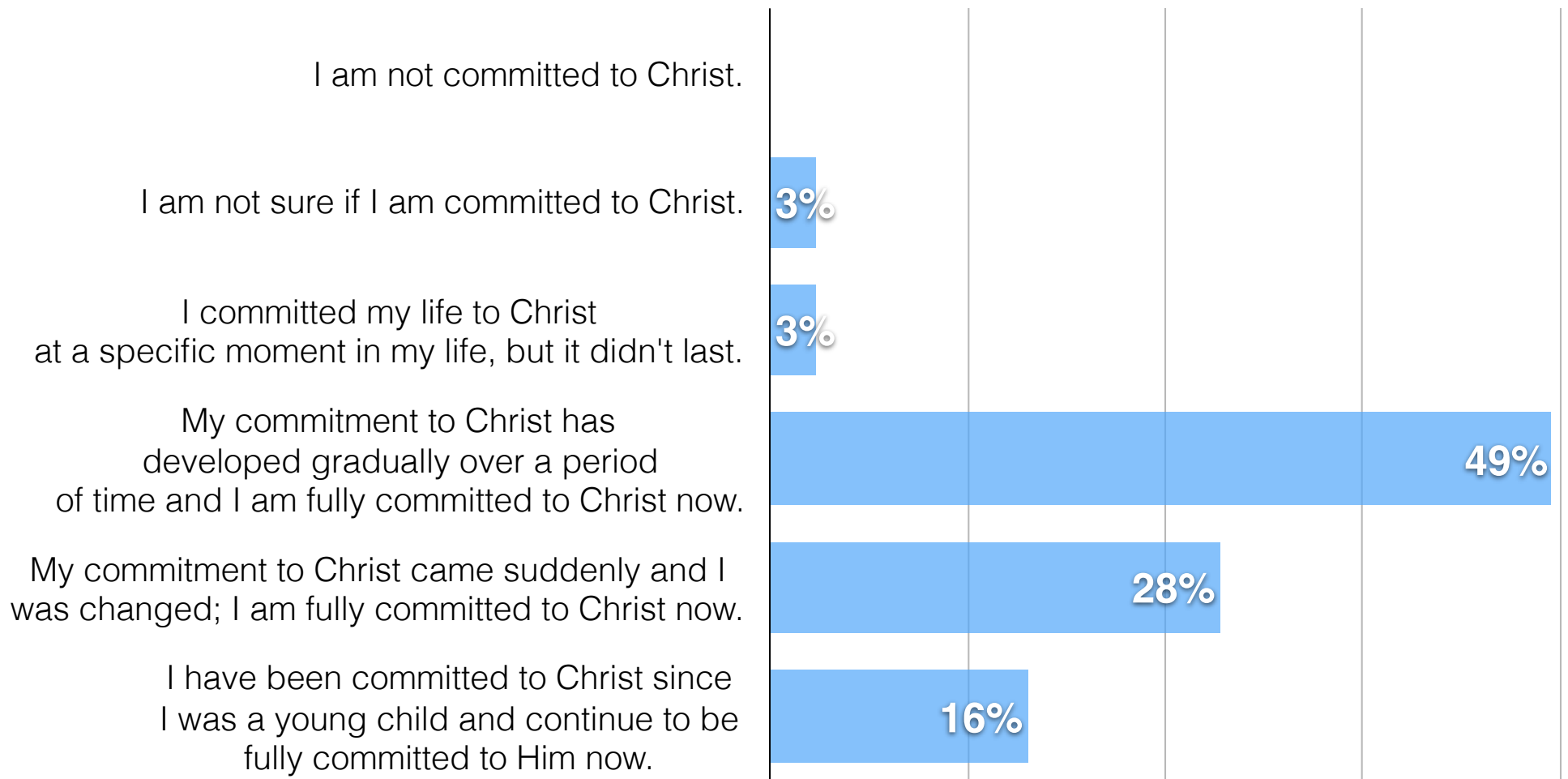
A5. HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



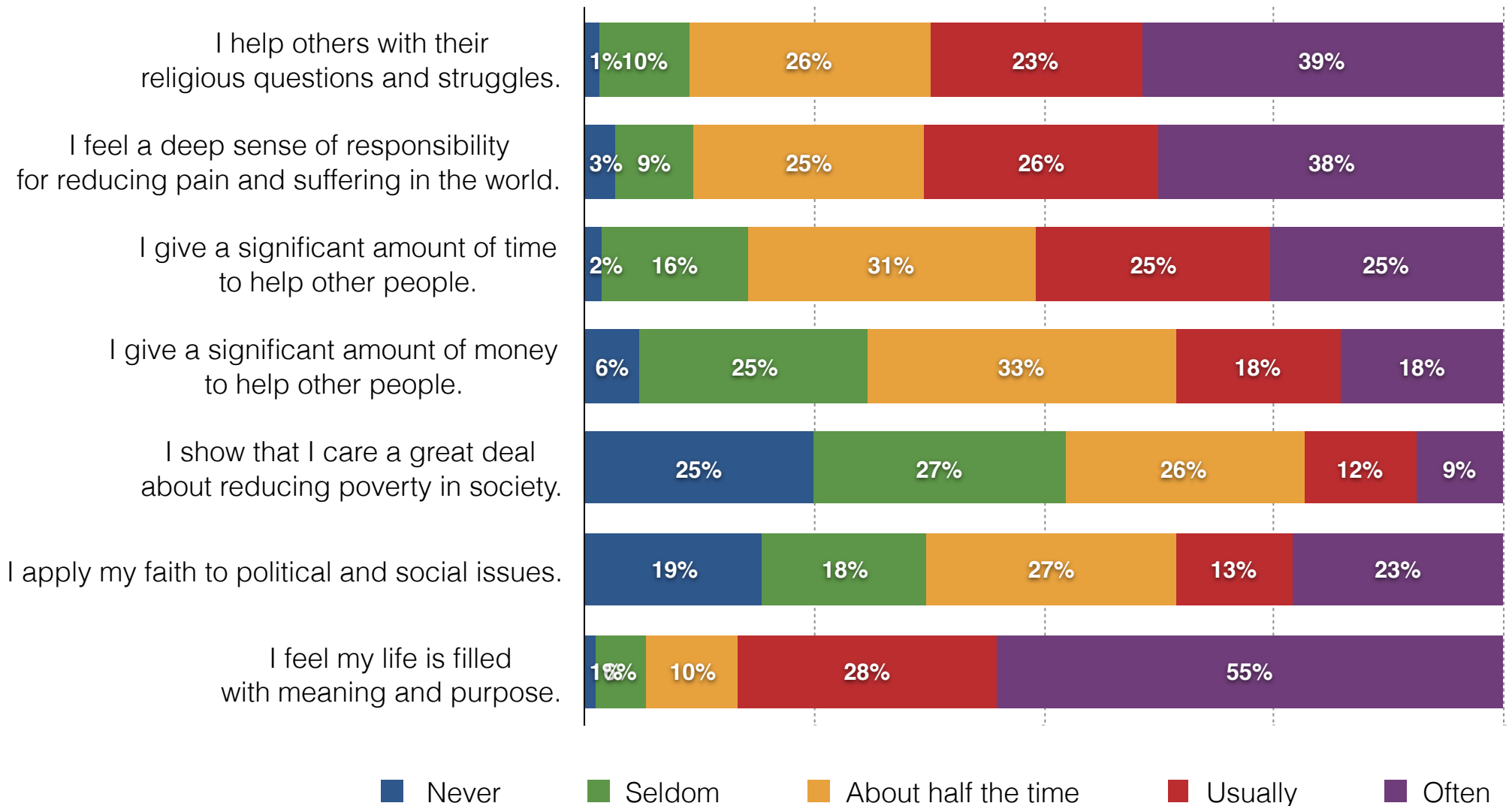
A6. HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?



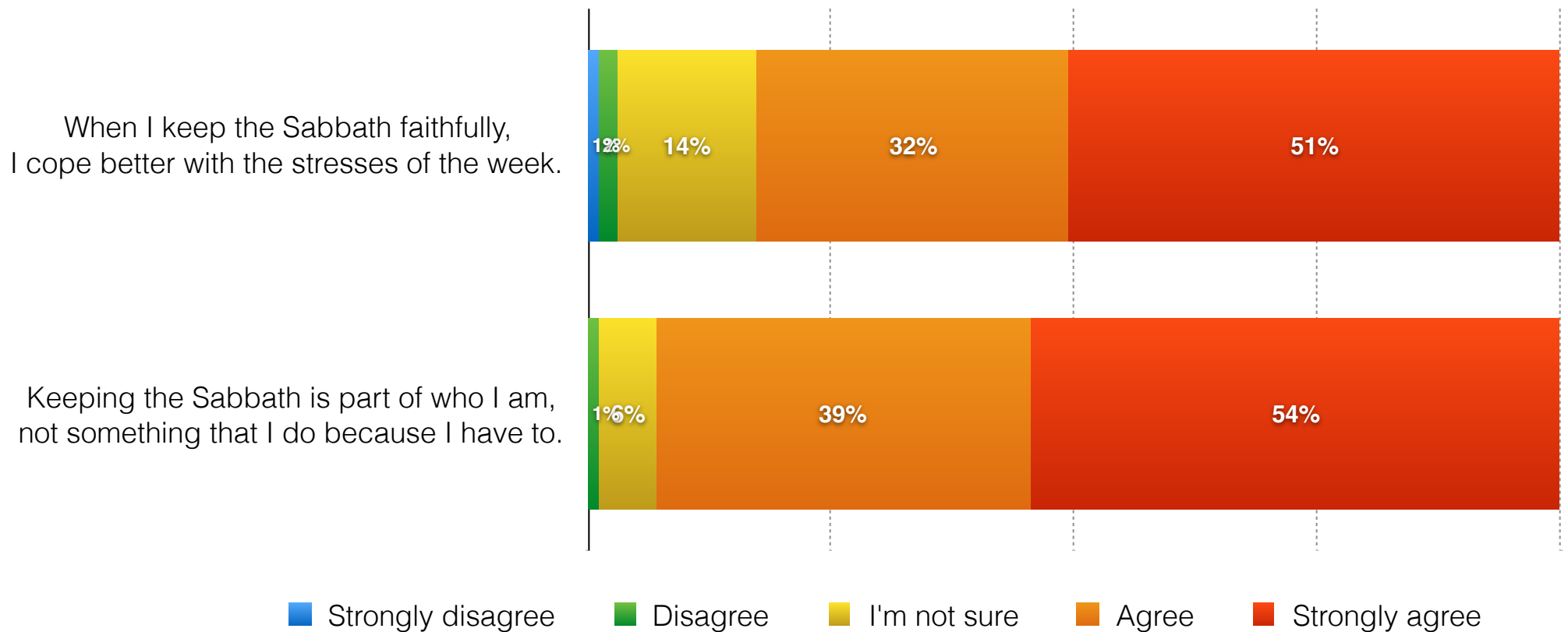
A7 - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST?



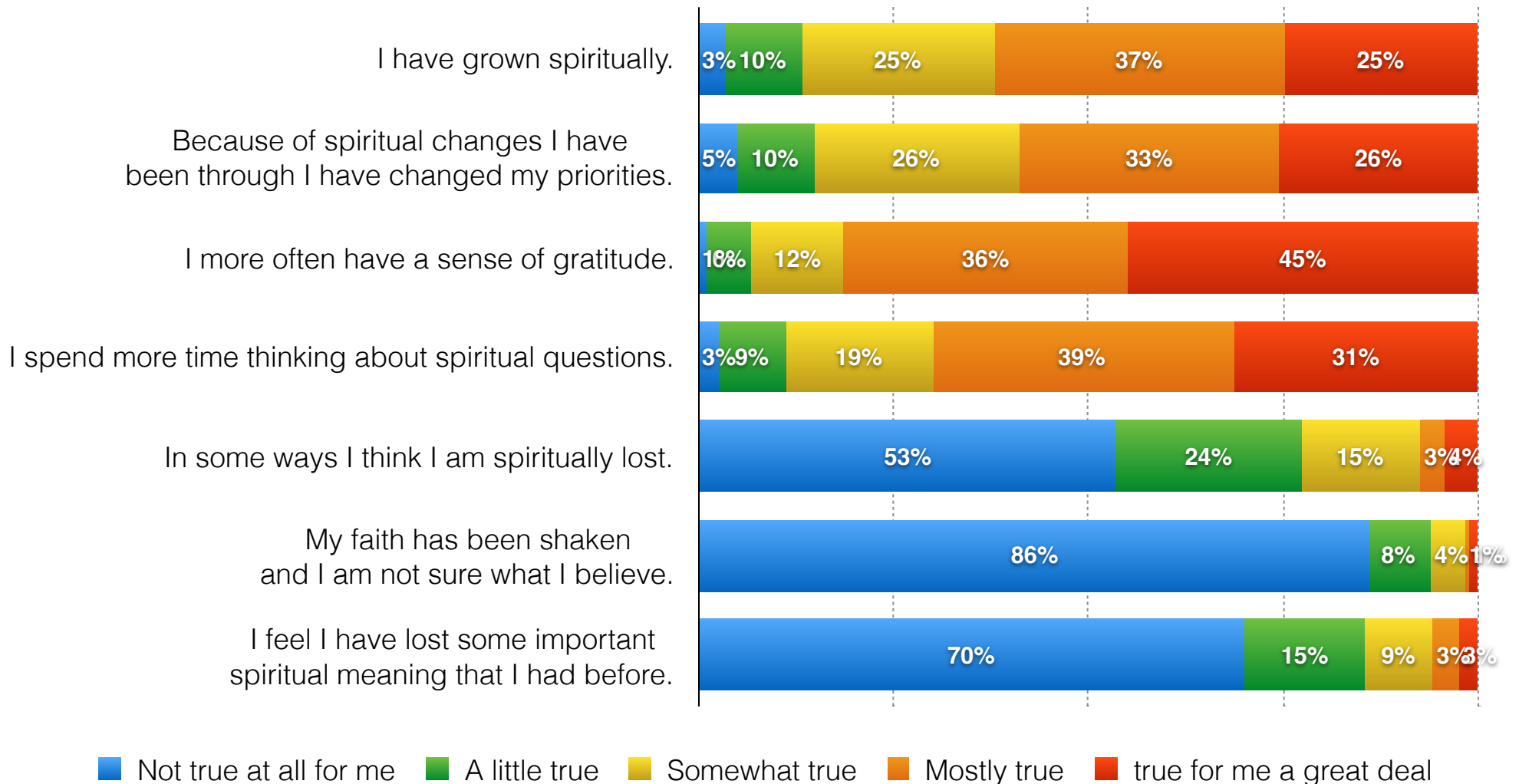
A8. HOW OFTEN IS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE FOR YOU PERSONALLY?



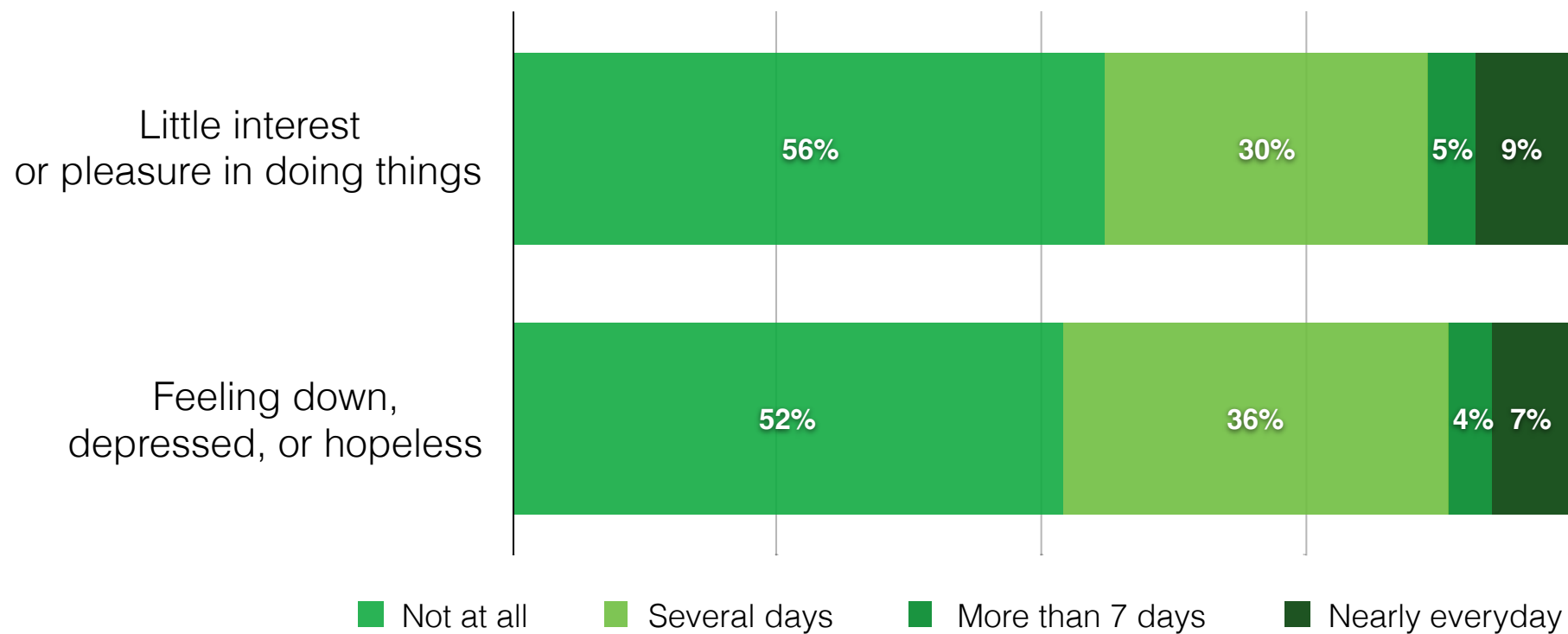
A9. SABBATH-KEEPING IS PART OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH LIFE. BELOW ARE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR SABBATH-KEEPING EXPERIENCE. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH STATEMENT.



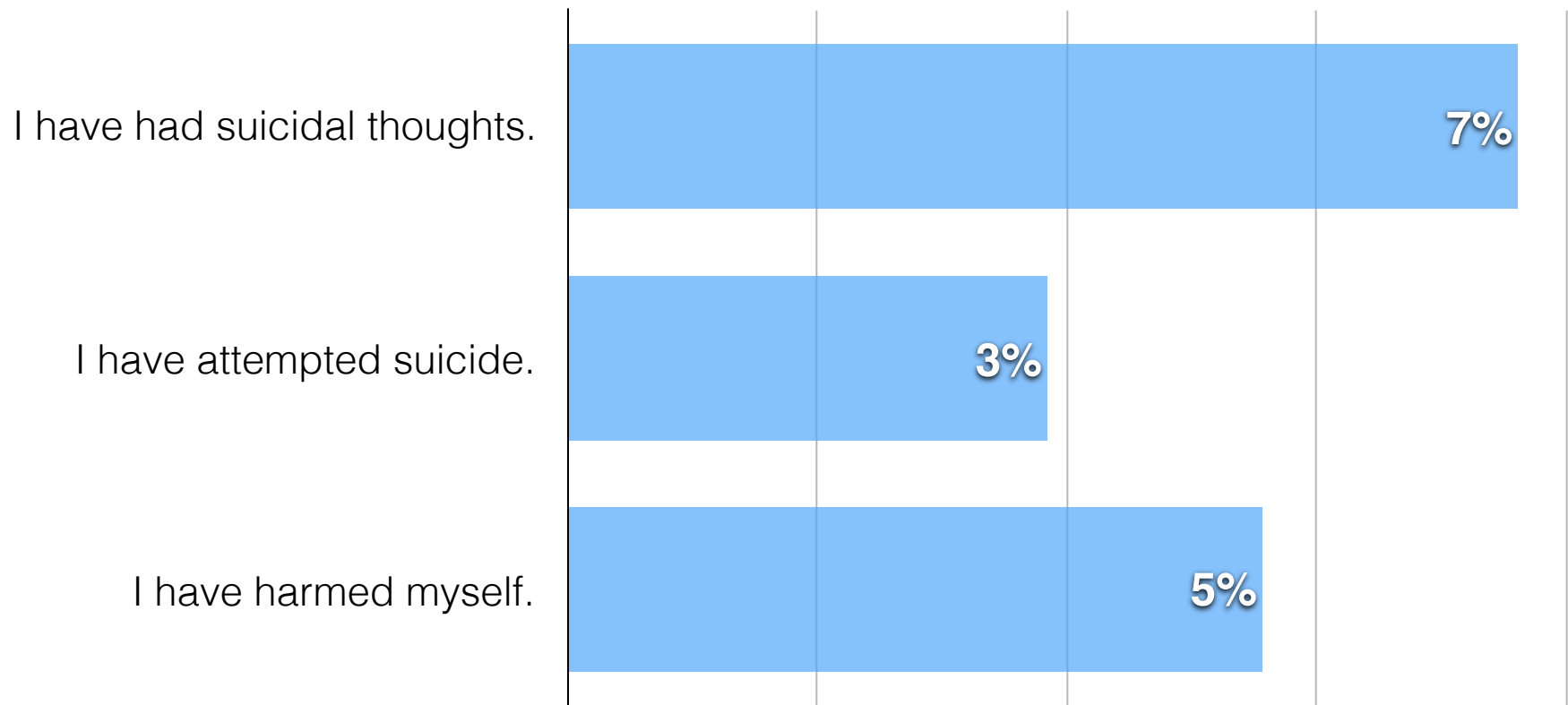
A10. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE FOR YOU OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.



A11. OVER THE LAST 2 WEEKS, HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU BEEN BOTHERED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROBLEMS?

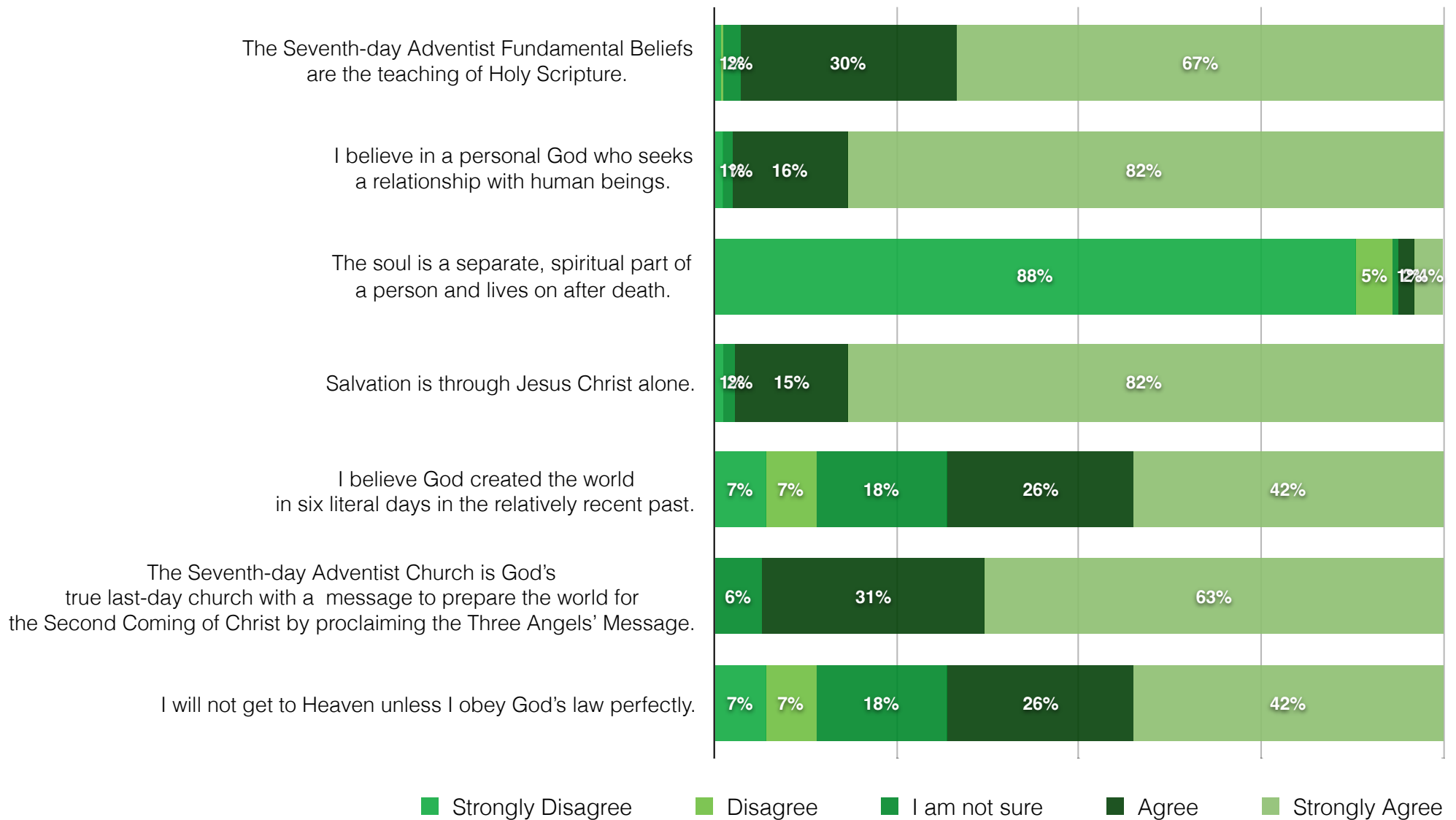


**A12. PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU
HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FOLLOWING
DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.**

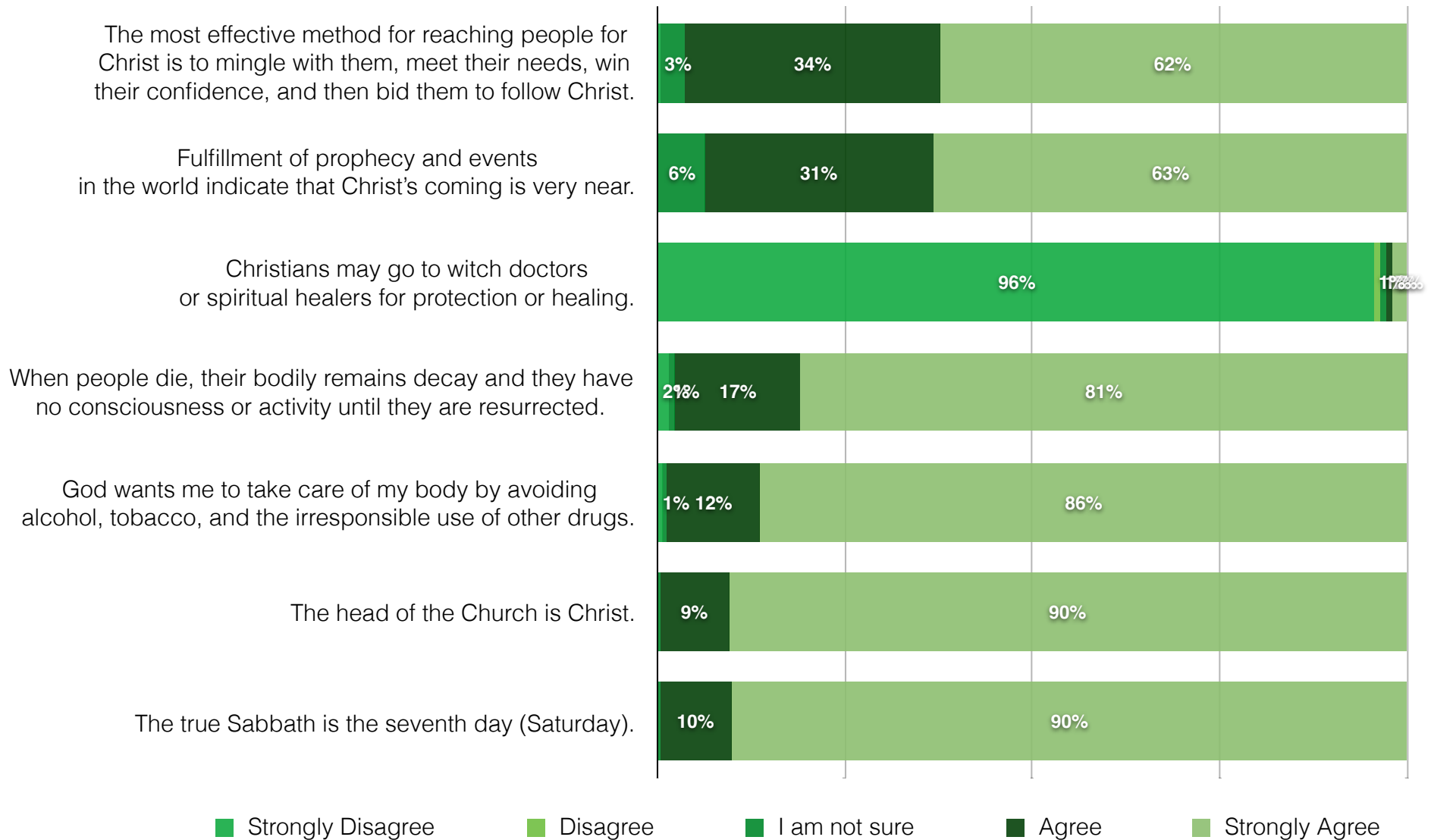


BELIEFS

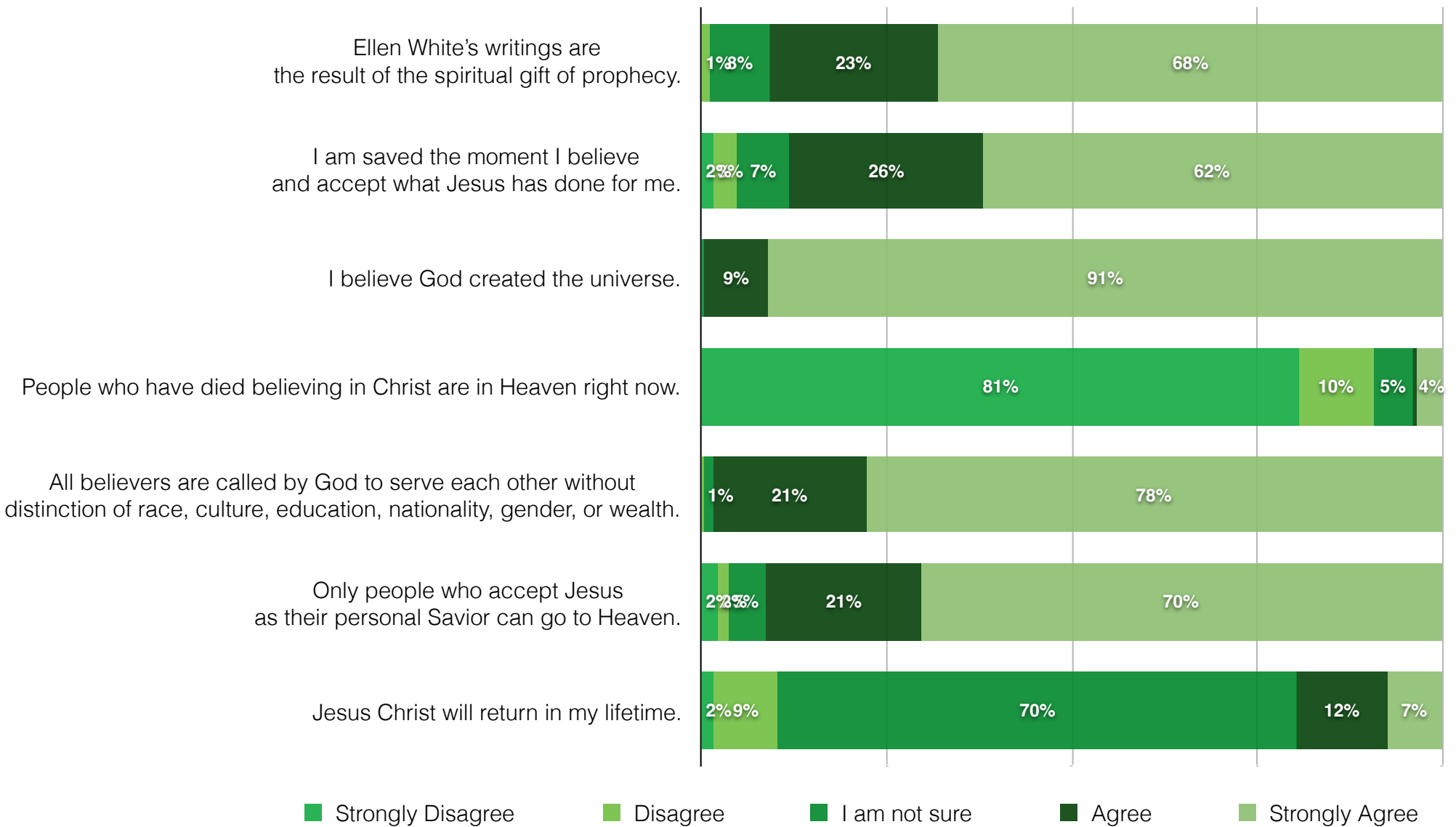
B1A. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



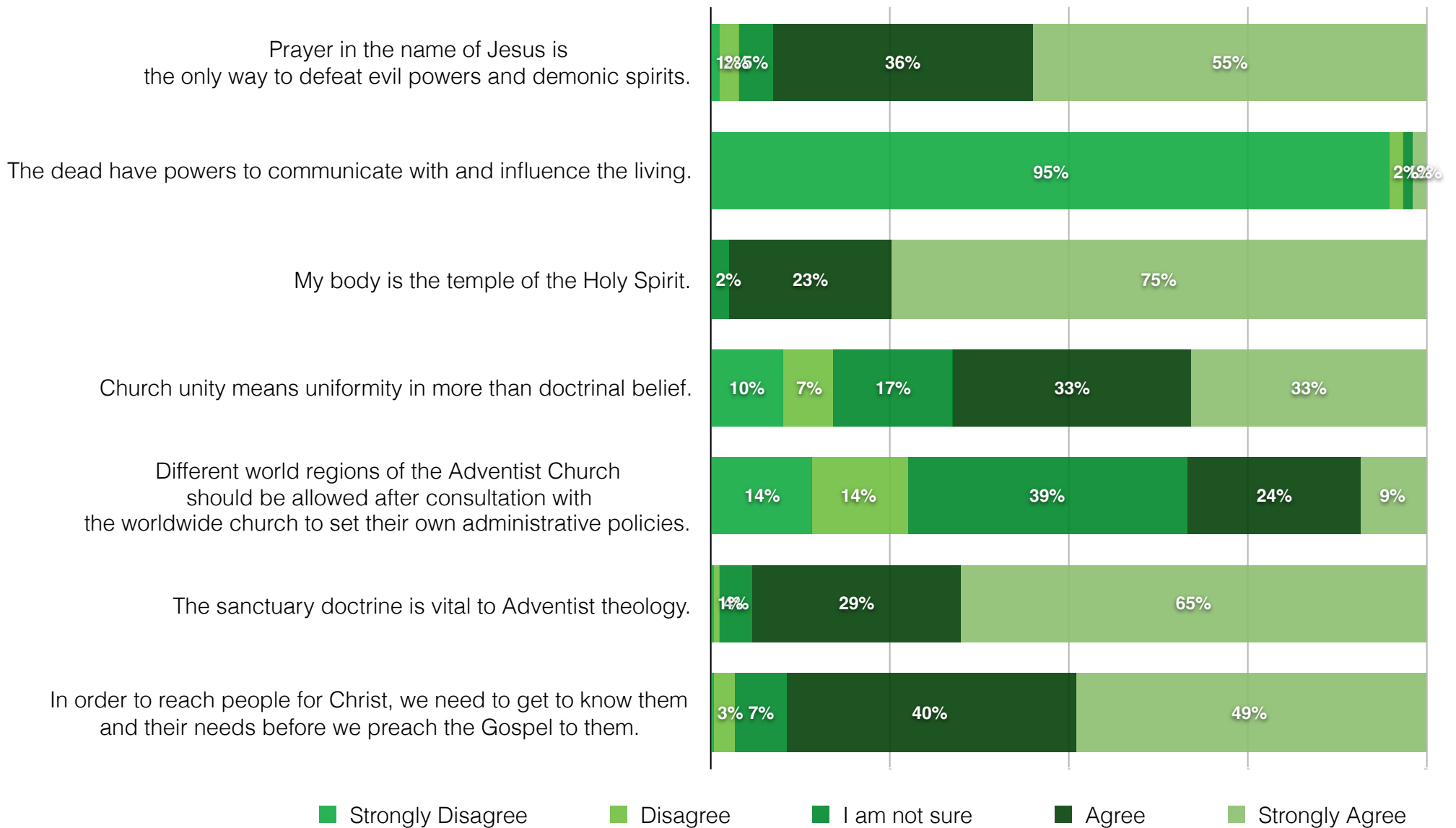
B1B. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



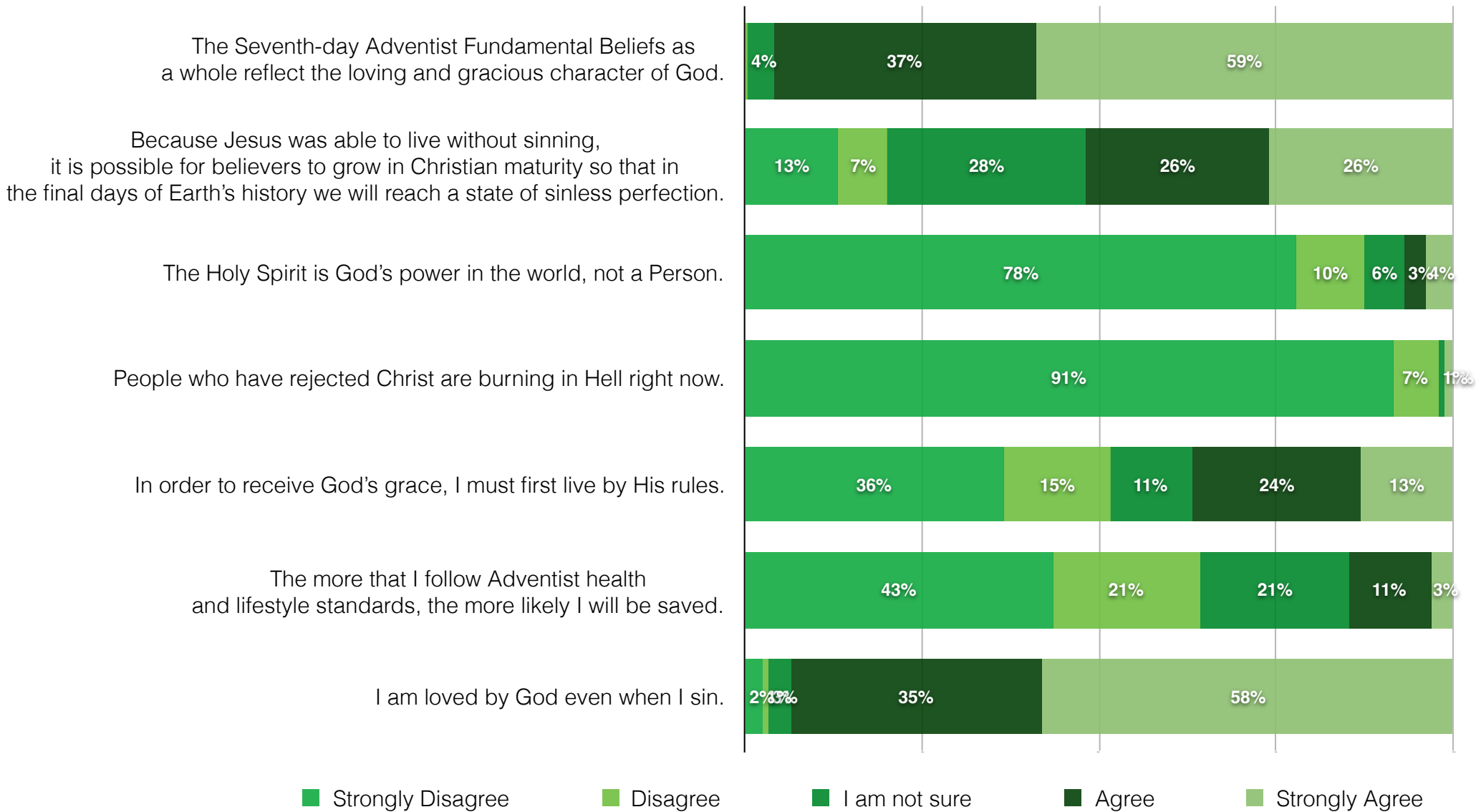
B1c. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



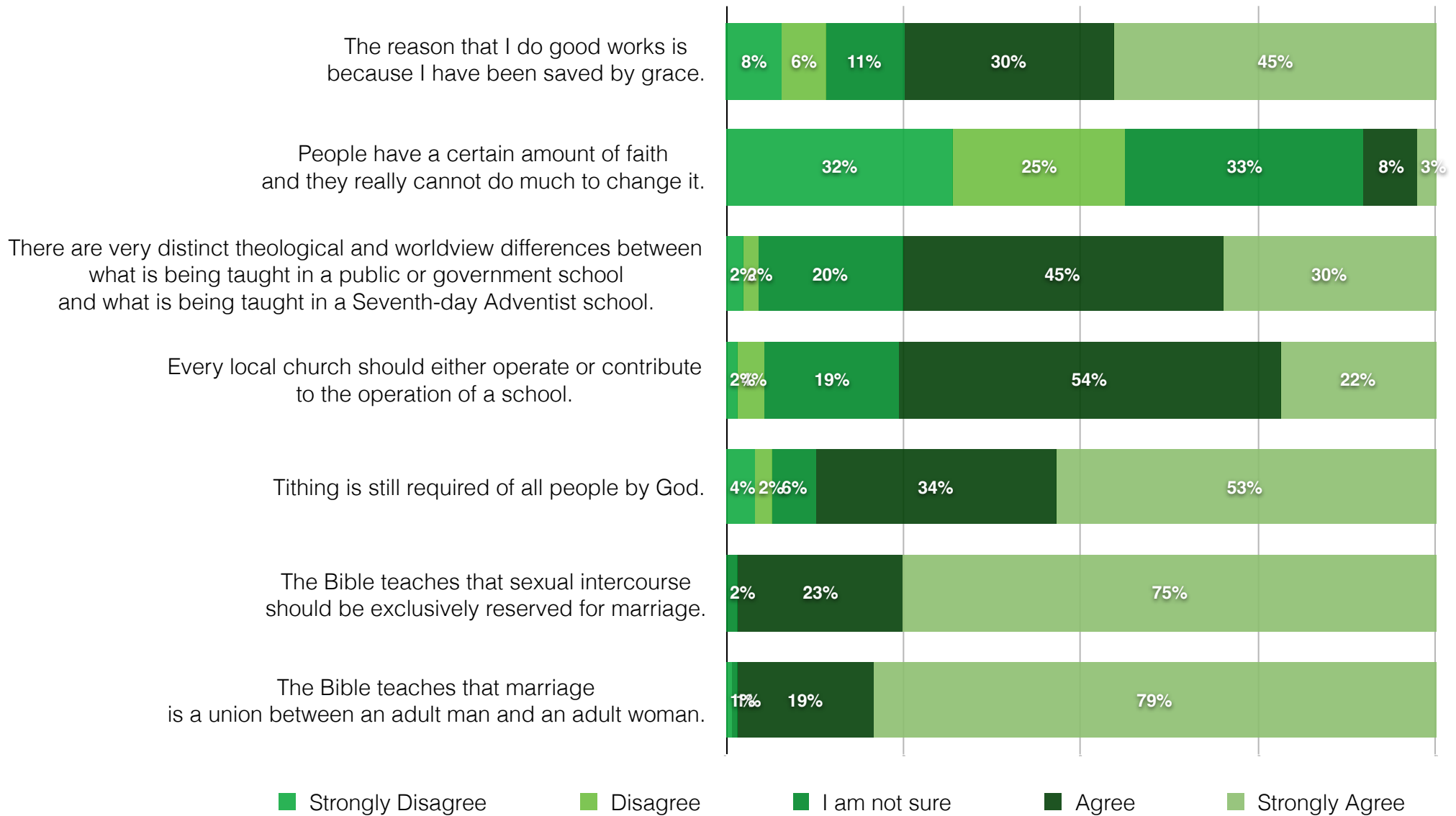
B1D. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



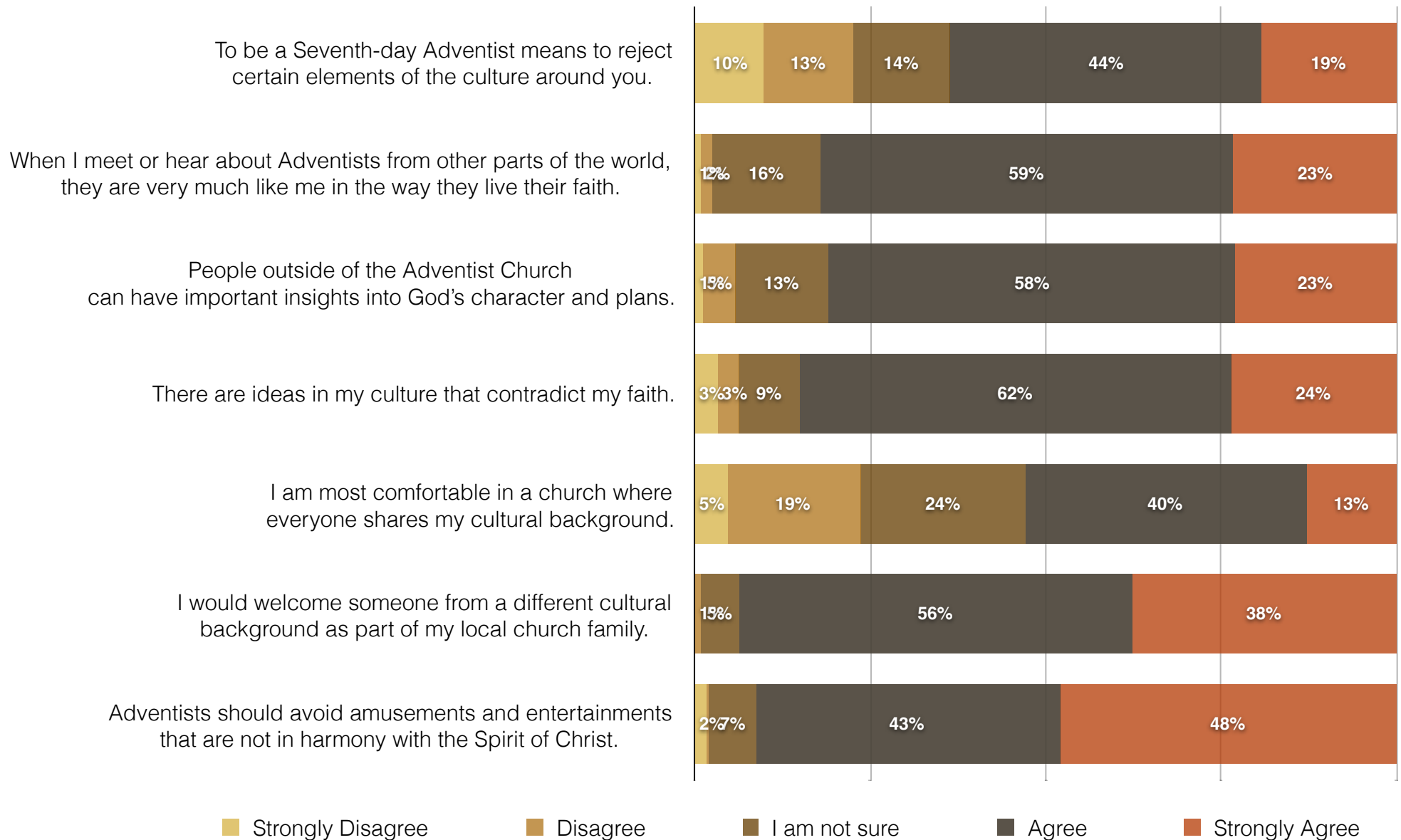
B1E. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



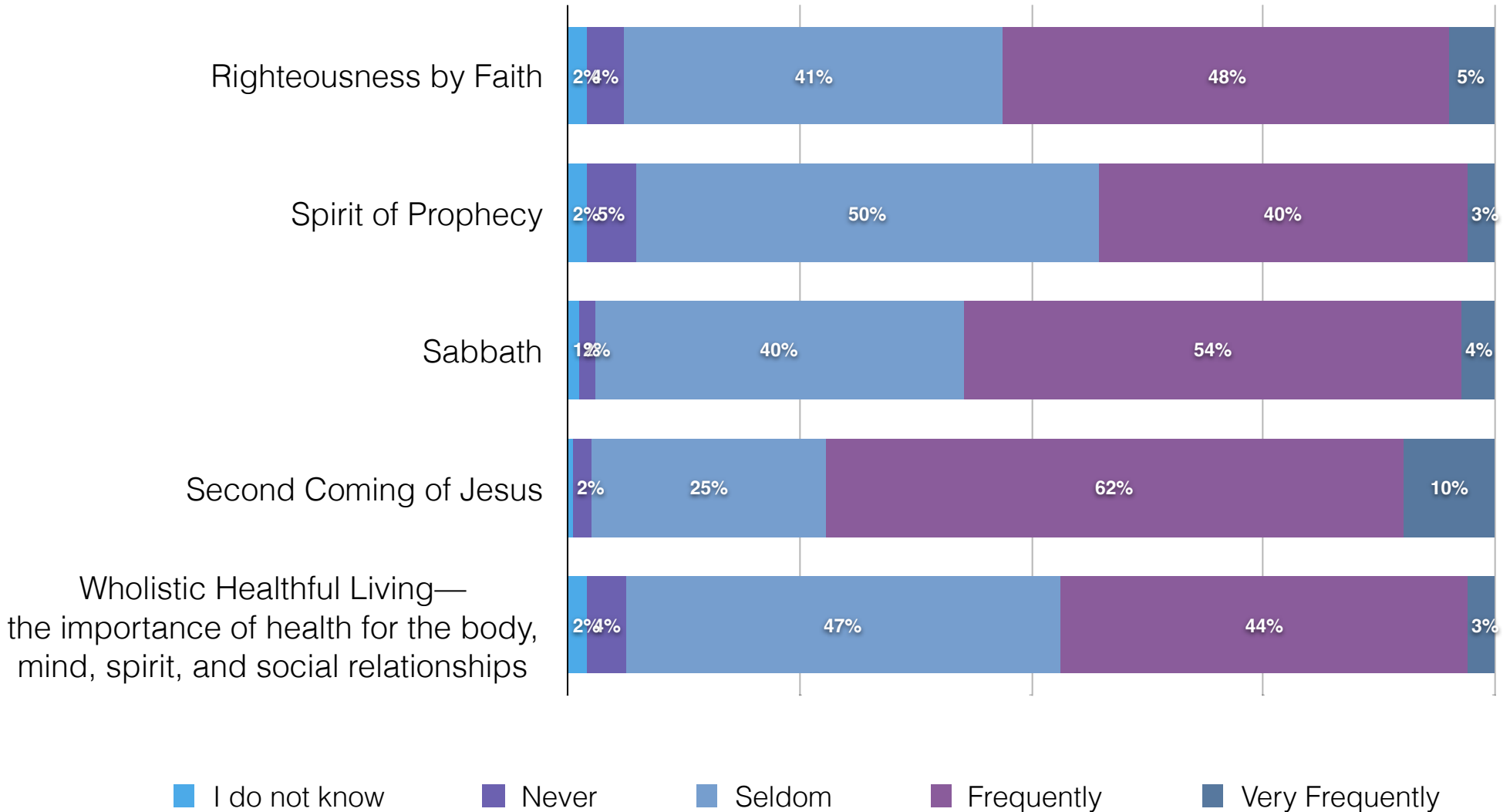
B1F. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



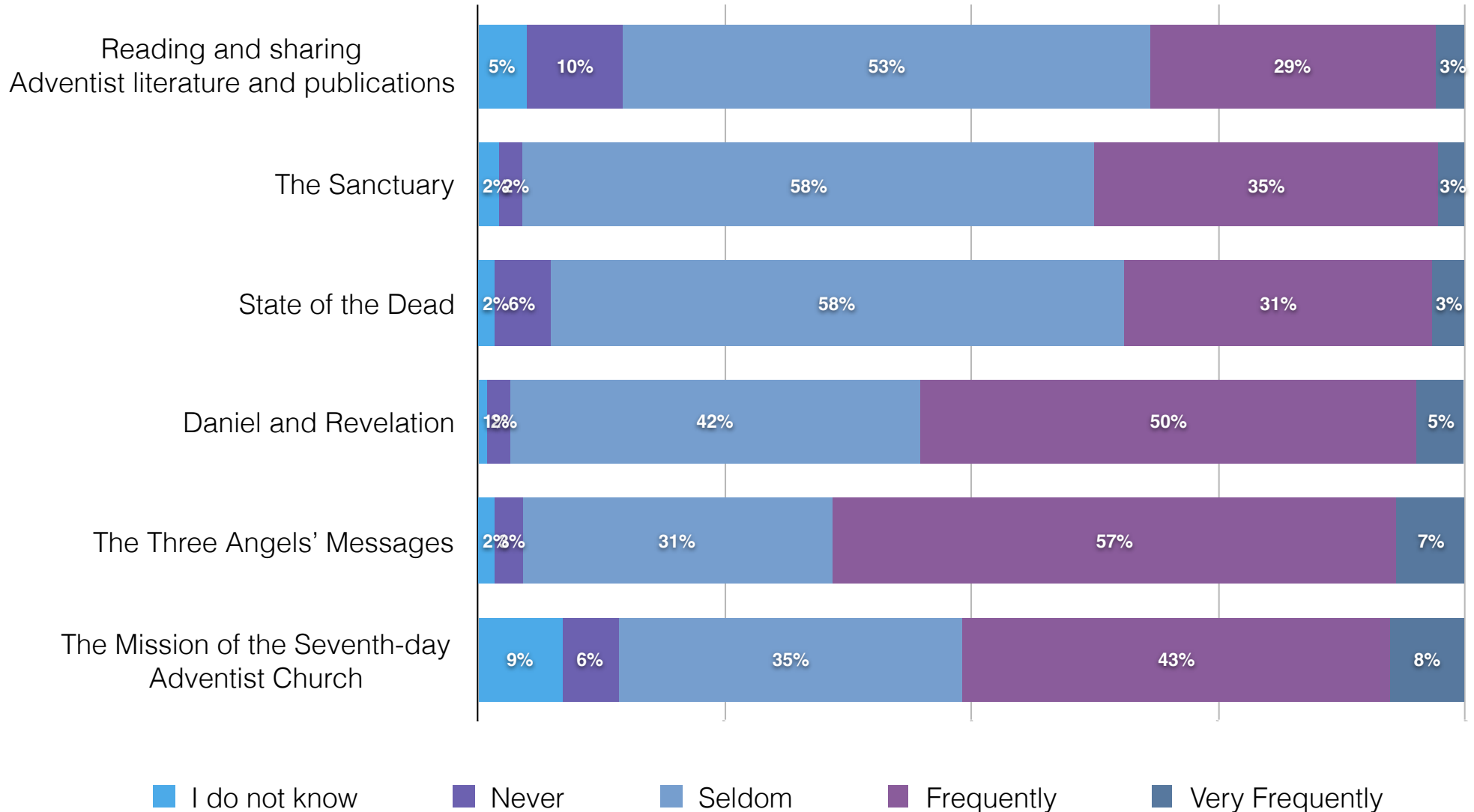
B2. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE BELIEFS LISTED.



B3A. HOW OFTEN DOES THE SABBATH SPEAKER IN YOUR CHURCH PREACH ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS?



B3B. HOW OFTEN DOES THE SABBATH SPEAKER IN YOUR CHURCH PREACH ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS?



B4. READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY: THEN MARK ONLY ONE STATEMENT THAT IS CLOSEST TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE BIBLE IS.

The Bible contains no more truth or wisdom than do the religious books of other world religions.

2%

The Bible is the work of people who collected stories that had been created to explain the mysteries of life. It contains a great deal of wisdom about the human experience.

1%

The Bible is the work of people who genuinely loved God and who wanted to share their understanding of God's activity in the world.

0%

The Bible is the work of people who copied what God told them word for word, and who wrote without being influenced by their own place and time.

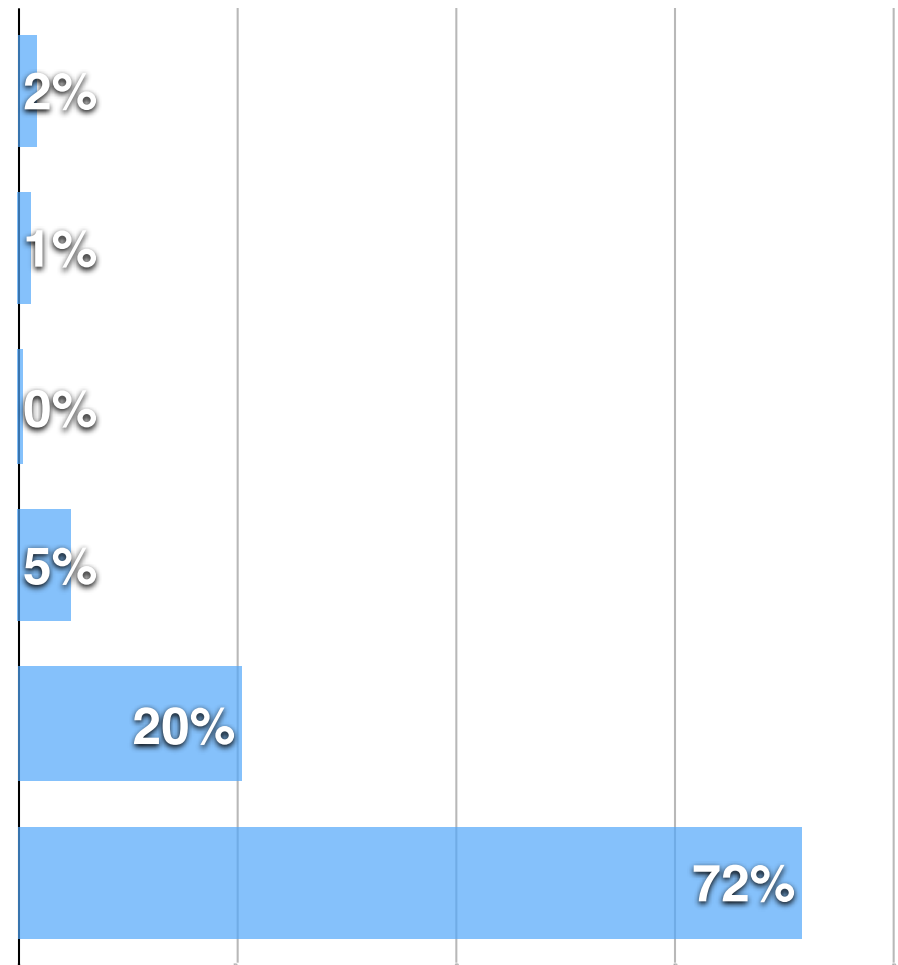
5%

The Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who represented God's message in terms of their own place and time.

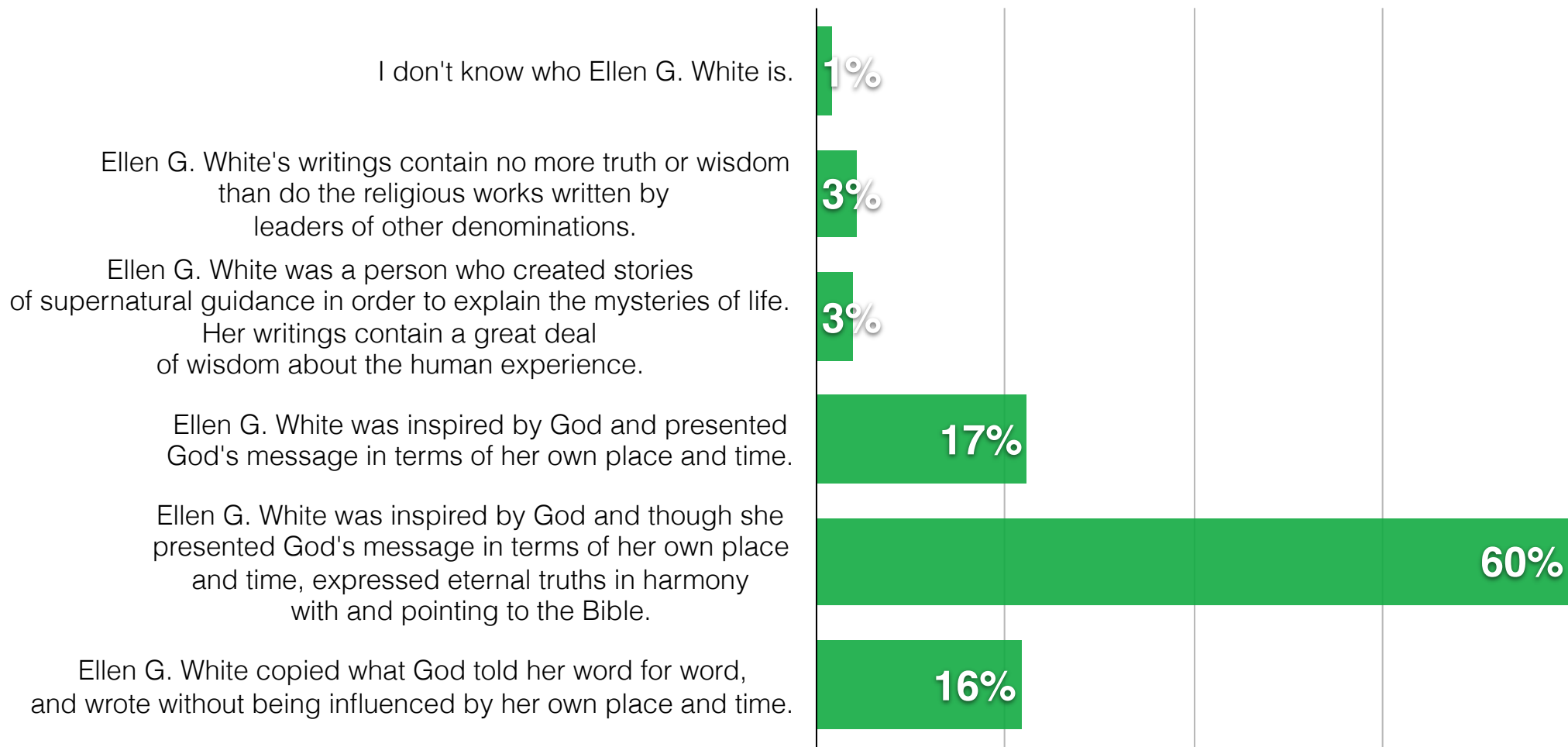
20%

The Bible is the work of people who were inspired by God and who, though expressing their message in terms of their own time and place, expressed eternal truths.

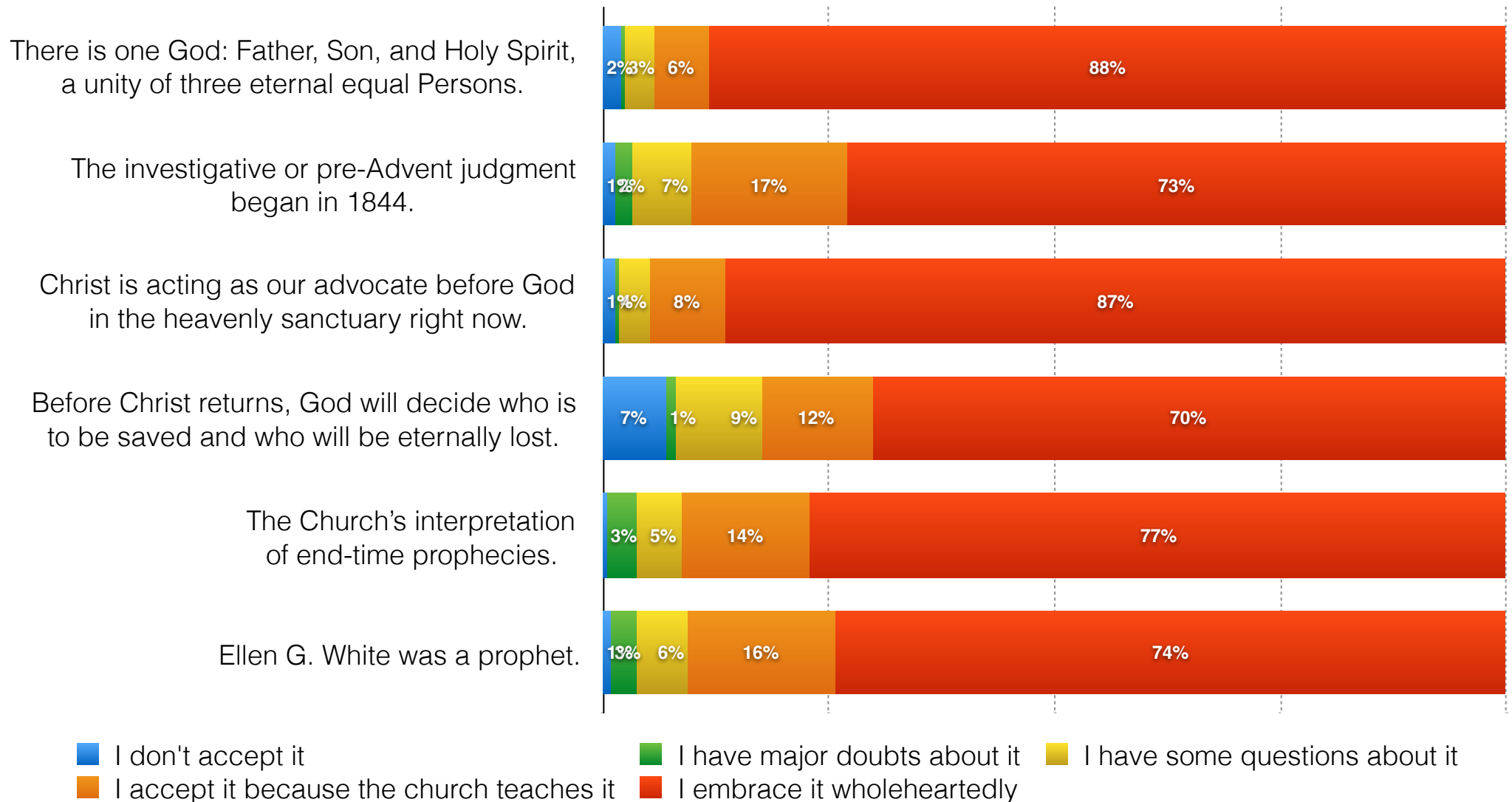
72%



B5. READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY; THEN MARK ONLY ONE STATEMENT THAT IS CLOSEST TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WRITINGS OF ELLEN G. WHITE.

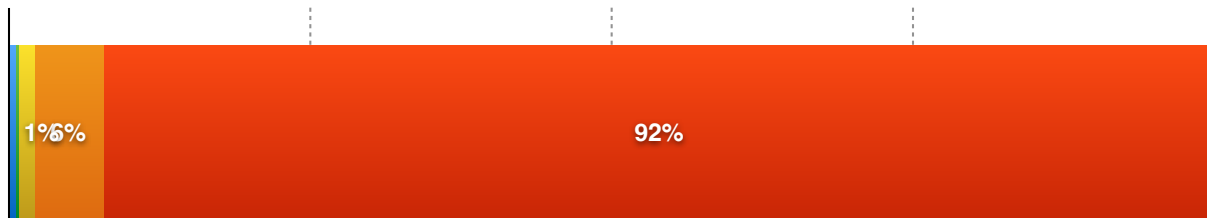


B6A. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL TEACHINGS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?

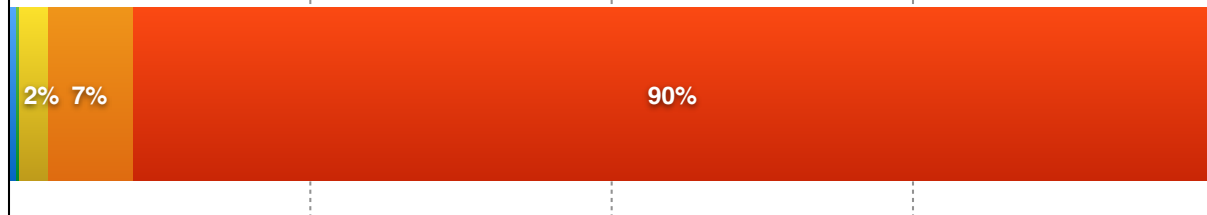


B6B. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL TEACHINGS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?

Adventists should abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs.



Adventists should eat a healthful diet and abstain from unclean foods identified in Scripture.

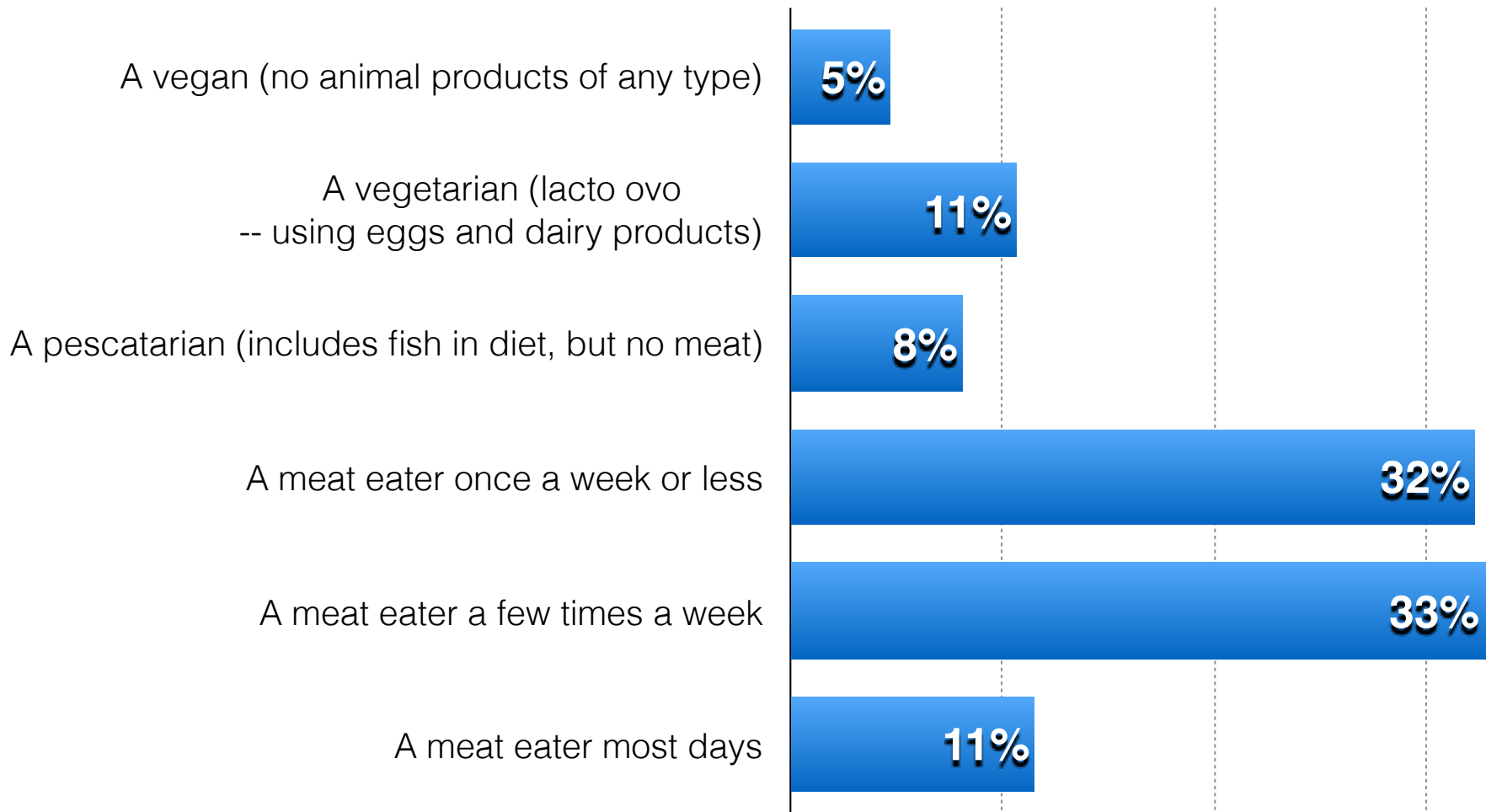


- I don't accept it
- I have some questions about it
- I embrace it wholeheartedly

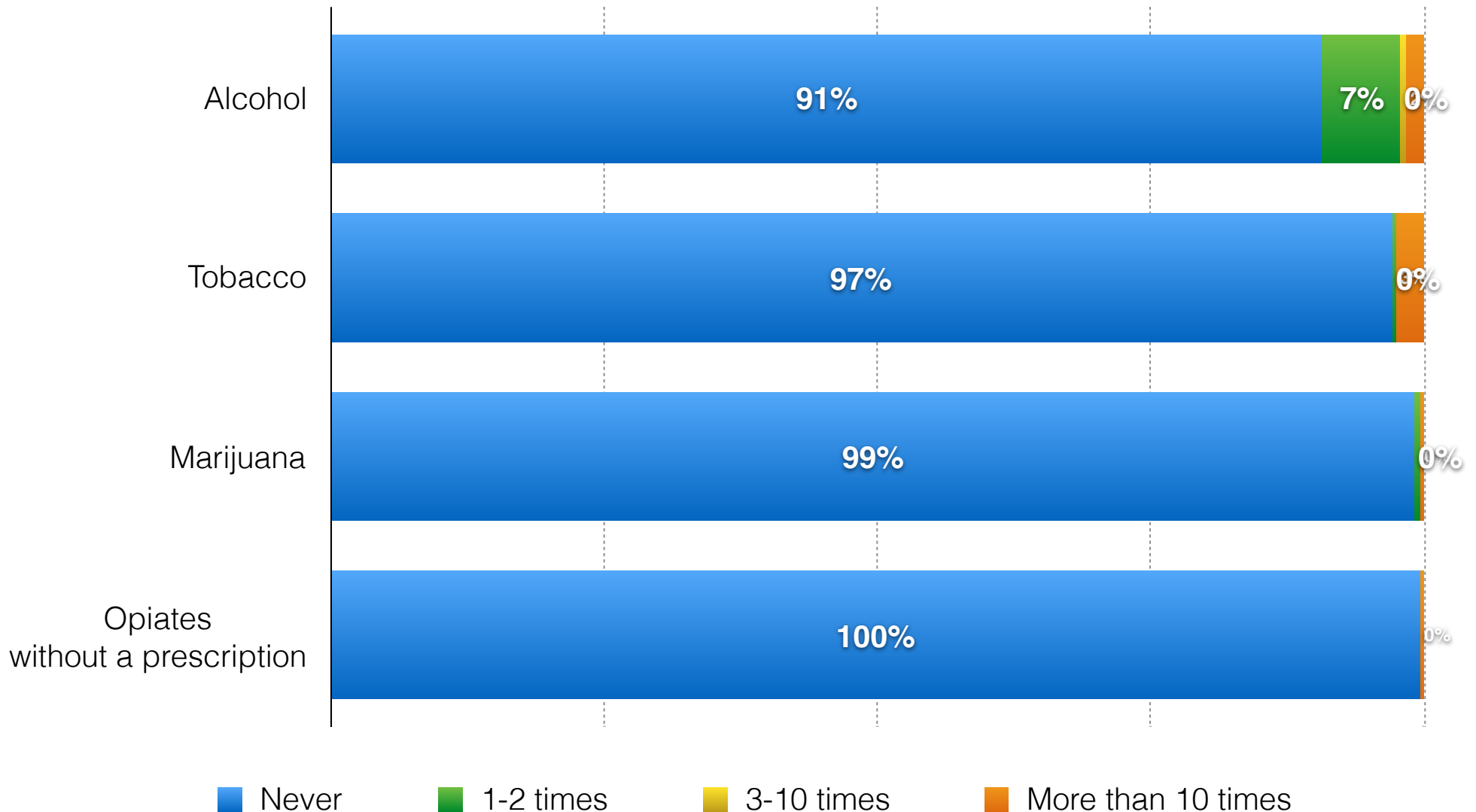
- I have major doubts about it
- I accept it because the church teaches it

HEALTH

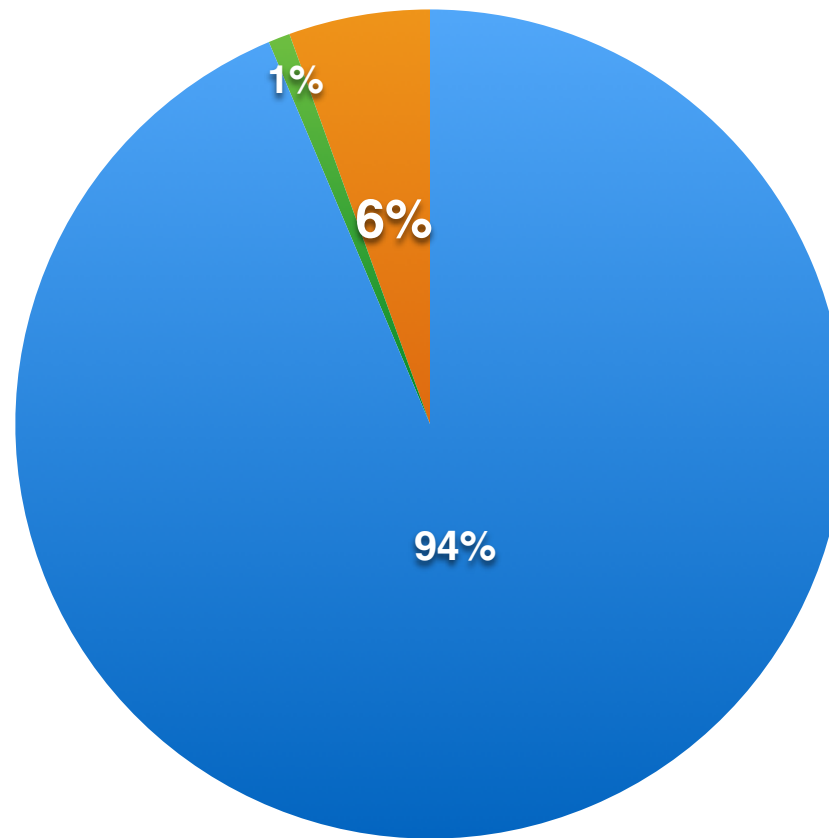
H1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS (CHECK JUST ONE):



H2. HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU USED WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

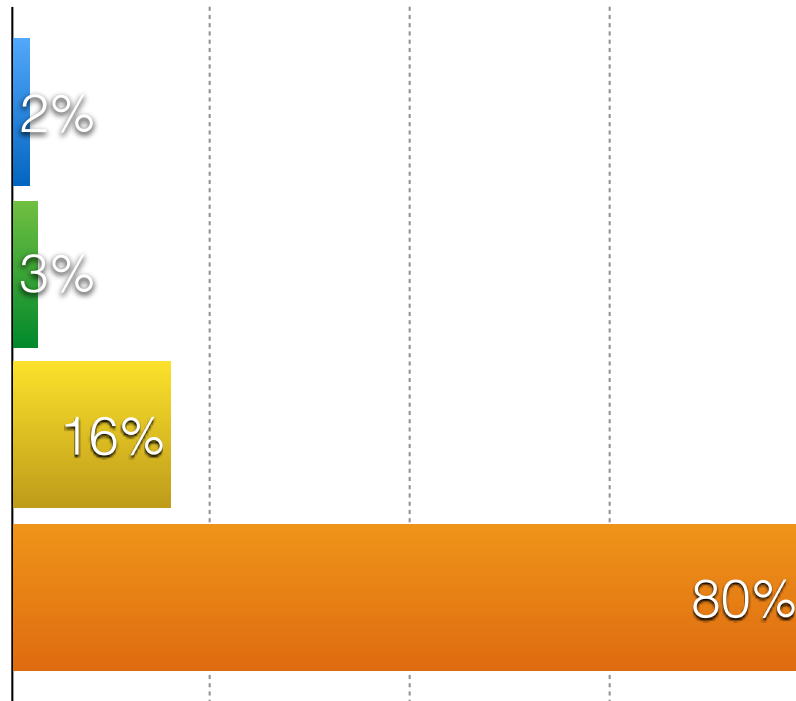


**H3. READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY;
THEN MARK ONLY ONE STATEMENT THAT IS CLOSEST TO
YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON
ALCOHOL USE.**



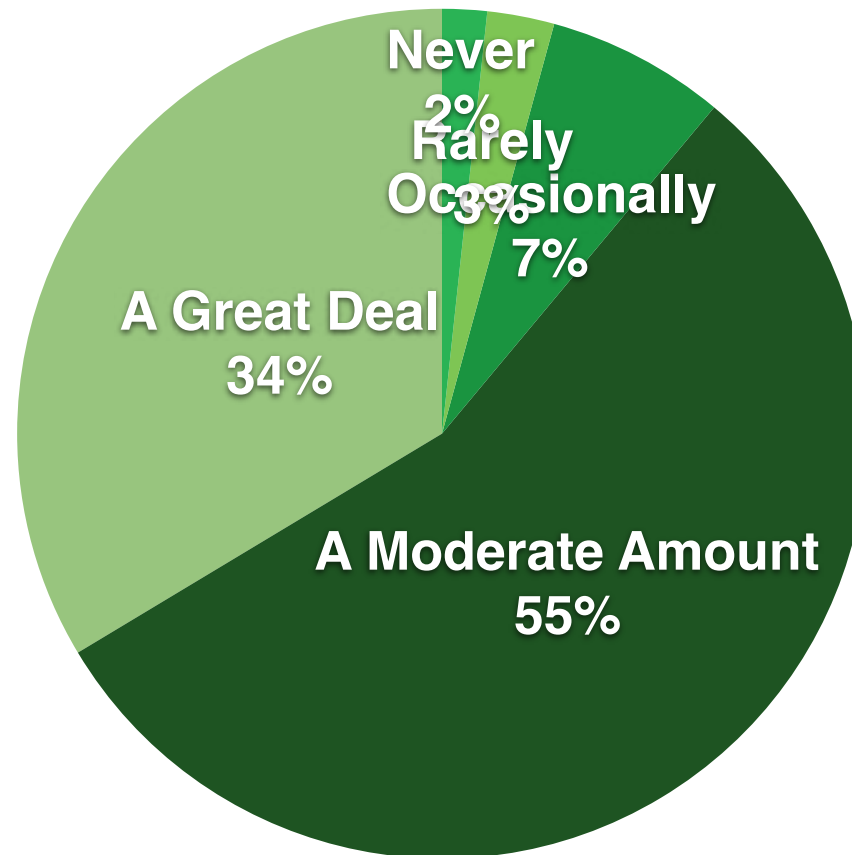
- Overall, there is no safe level of alcohol use
- Alcohol, in moderation (1-2 drinks a day), does not do much harm.
- Alcohol, in moderation (1-2 drinks a day), promotes health and is safe to use.
- I am not sure.

H4 - HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE?



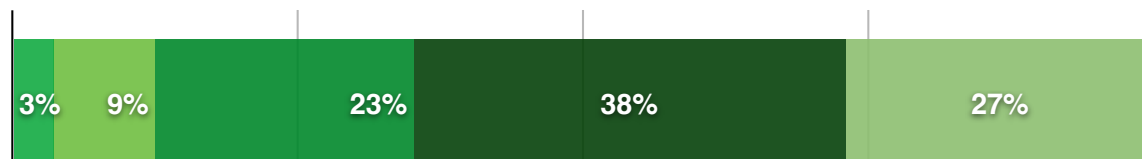
- I do not know what the Adventist Health Message is.
- I know just a little about the Adventist Health Message.
- I am somewhat familiar with the Adventist Health Message.
- I am very familiar with the Adventist Health Message.

H5. DO YOU FOLLOW THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE?



H6. THE FINAL SET OF STATEMENTS WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT CHURCH MEMBERS BELIEVE ABOUT THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE.

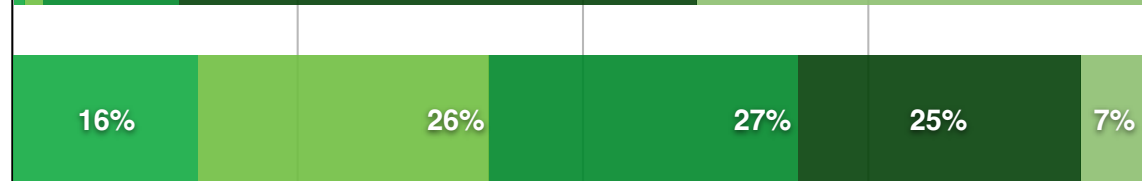
The Health Message is a core part of Seventh-day Adventist belief that cannot be questioned.



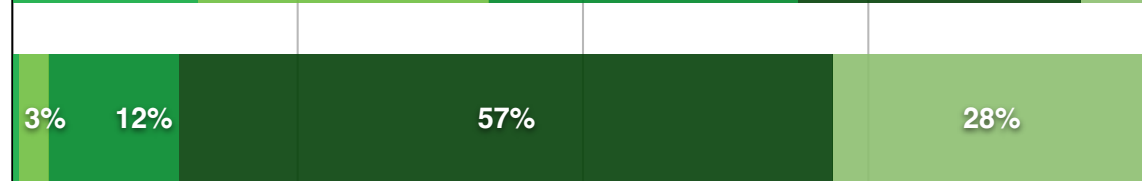
Following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer.



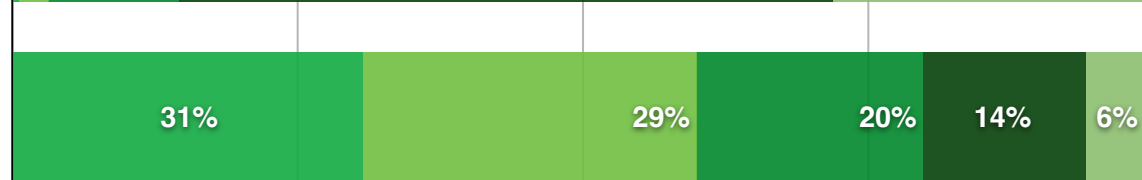
I can choose which parts of the Health Message to follow and which to ignore.



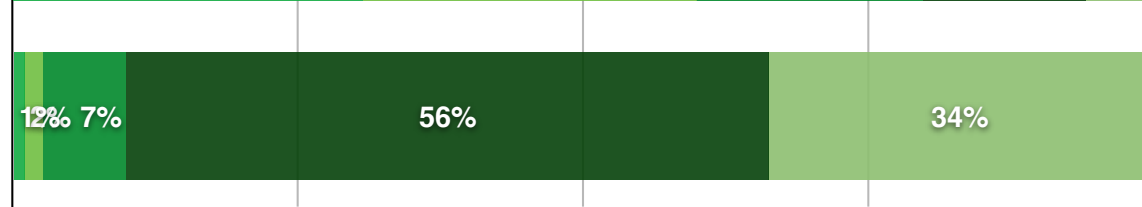
The Health Message has largely been supported by scientific discoveries.



Following the health message ensures my salvation.



The Adventist Health Message emphasizes physical health (e.g. diet, exercise), mental health, emotional well-being, social support, and relationships as a part of spiritual growth.



■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly Agree