



Seventh-day Adventist® Church

UKRAINE UNION CONFERENCE

Global Church Member Survey 2023



INSTITUTE of CHURCH MINISTRY

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UUC Executive Summary3
Methodology10
Demographic Characteristics11
Family Matters14
Education15
Local Church Demographics.....16
Adventist Practices and Beliefs17
Fundamental Beliefs.....24
Engagement with the Local Church33
The Pandemic’s Impact on Churches.....38
Adventist Mission40
Personal Well-being.....45
Appendices48

UUC 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 the Ukraine Union Conference (UUC) Adventist church members from the perspective of those who thoroughly identify as Seventh-day Adventists. Half (50%) of respondents joined the Church as an adult over the age of 20, and 52% of respondents have been baptized for more than 21 years. Well over half (58%) are at least second-generation church members. A clear majority (96%) state that they will likely or very likely attend an Adventist Church for the rest of their lives. A third (32%) of respondents are currently employed by the Adventist Church.

Sixty percent of participants have a college or graduate degree. One in ten (12%) only completed a high school degree, and 3% of participants did not complete basic schooling. Three-fourths (74%) of participants never attended an Adventist school at any point in their education.

Twenty-six percent of participants are aged 55 or older, while another 46% are aged 36–54. Participants are predominantly female (66%) and married and living with their spouses (66%).

These church members are typically part of households with three or more members (64%) and were raised by two biological parents (77%). Half (50%) of respondents currently have children living at home. Among the respondents with children, 58% are raising their children in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or at least some of their adult children are still members of the Church.

Eleven 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, 7% report that they sometimes (5%) 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 (35%), or smaller city or suburb (38%). Two-thirds (65%) attend services with 50 or fewer attendees, and another quarter (24%) attend church with 51–100 people. Typical church membership is less than 100 members (69%). A quarter (24%) of members live near an Adventist educational institution, such as a school or university, and another 18% live near a medical institution, such as a hospital or clinic.

Religious and Devotional Life Practices

The study participants maintain a devotional life by reading their Bible (78%), studying the Sabbath School lesson (48%), and reading the writings of Ellen G. White (EGW) (31%) more than once a week.

A majority (86%) of respondents pray every day (outside of mealtimes), and 38% 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 (90%), Sabbath School lessons (85%), and EGW's writings (73%) to their daily lives.

Besides engaging in individual devotions, half (52%) of participants report having family worship at least weekly. However, 32% of respondents report that they never have family worship.

Far fewer participants regularly read Adventist publications. Most (91%) church members never read Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website (81%), or do so less than once a month (10%). A vast majority (95%) share that they never use the Adventist Review magazine or website (89%), or do so less than once a month (6%). Respondents are slightly more likely to read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference, with 28% reporting that they do so at least monthly. Most (83%) respondents have access to Adventist electronic books and/or other digital publications available for free.

Almost half (46%) of participants never tune into an Adventist radio broadcast. However, a third (34%) report watching Hope Channel programming on a weekly basis, and 39% watch other Adventist television channels or programming on a weekly basis.

Most (88%) respondents agree that tithing is still required of all people by God. The majority of participants engage in tithing through the official tithe envelope (92%); only a few (2%) report not returning tithe.

Social Media Use

Most (84%) 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 often include reading or responding to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions (80%), and studying their Bibles (70%).

The respondents share positive views over the benefit of using social media, with 60% of survey participants reporting that using social media helps them feel more connected to friends and family. However, only 31% believe that social media is good for their mental health, and another 33% report that their spiritual lives are enhanced by social media use.

Fundamental Beliefs

UUC GCMS participants overwhelmingly support the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church. The majority (94%) of participants agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture, and 99% 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, half (51%) 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, 81% agree that they will not get to Heaven unless they obey God's law perfectly.

Regarding the definition of church unity, 90% of participants agree that "church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief." In addition, a quarter (26%) 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."

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:

- 91% report attending church in person almost every week.
- 75% feel that their pastor cares about them.
- 73% believe that other church members care about them.
- 70% state that they are satisfied or very satisfied with their local church.
- 60% agree that their Sabbath School teachers care about them.

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

- 79% 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 48% of respondents agree that youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in their local churches.
- Only 41% of respondents share that in the last 12 months, they attended a prayer meeting at their local church almost every week or more often; even fewer (23%) 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. Half (52%) of respondents report that their church met remotely for a period of time when they could not meet face-to-face. About one in five members shares that they were provided with a way to continue their normal pattern of giving both tithes (22%) and offerings (26%) during the pandemic.

Adventist Missions

A majority (76%) 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, 38% of members share that in the last year, they never attended an evangelistic meeting.

In addition, almost all (93%) 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.” Over half (58%) of members express that their church needs to increase its overall effort to meet the local community’s needs. Interestingly, seven in ten

(70%) 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 81% of respondents feel that their church needs to increase its efforts to reclaim former members, with the same number (81%) expressing the need to increase their own involvement with these efforts.

Looking at young people's involvement in the local church's mission, three in five (59%) respondents agree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. Thus, it makes sense that seven in ten (71%) 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: 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: Comprehensive Health Ministry (31%), 10 Days of Prayer (40%), and Annual Week of Prayer (68%).

Most often, participants hear of the programs at church (36%), by reading a church publication (24%), or on social media (23%).

Personal Well-being

Although 84% of members report that they feel that their life is often or usually filled with meaning and purpose, half (51%) of participants report that in the past two weeks they felt little interest or pleasure in doing things for several days or more. A similar number (50%) 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 and 2% harmed themselves.

Two-thirds (66%) of respondents state that they have grown spiritually in the past 12 months, and because of this growth, the same percentage (66%) of respondents claim to have changed their priorities. Only 5% feel that they are spiritually lost to some degree, and 7% have lost some important spiritual meaning that they had before.

Four in five (82%) respondents feel that over the last 12 months they had a sense of gratitude, and 64% report spending more time thinking about spiritual questions.

The respondents are also concerned about other people's wellbeing, 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. In response to these needs, respondents give a significant

amount of time (69%) or money (69%) to help other people about half the time or more often. Beyond the individual level of helping, 89% 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 young or middle-aged adults, and central to the functioning of the church organization or their local congregations. 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 nearly 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 four out of five 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 so that the congregation can have a balanced view of salvation.

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. However, members’ participation in some church activities, such as Pathfinder, prayer, and small group meetings, are not as vibrant, and overall youth involvement seems to require some improvement.

The church members’ 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. In addition, the state of younger respondents contributes to the number of people having the described symptoms of depression. Moreover, troubling matters with younger members’ well-being continued with their responses toward spiritual health. While most respondents in this study report being spiritually healthy, more younger church members appear to have experienced a spiritual decline than older members.

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 UUC 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 deliberately examining and appropriately

addressing.

Methodology

Sample Strategy

The survey was translated to the Ukrainian language and verified by back translation. Although a random sample was prepared, it was no longer useful because of contextual restraints; by October 2022, the Ukraine Union Conference was no longer part of the ESD.

Data Collection

The GCMS electronic survey in the Ukrainian language was made available to the members in Ukraine through the pastors who received an invitation from the secretary Volodymyr Veletchik via WhatsApp. Between October and November 2022, a total of 968 surveys were collected and 534 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. In addition, they compared the 2022–23 survey data with the previous 2017–18 survey results to mark any noticeable changes or similarities, offering a sense of trends over time.

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

UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents consist of church members in Ukraine. The language participants used to fill out the surveys varies only slightly, with the majority being completed in Ukrainian (91%). For more detailed information, please see Tables P1 and P2 in the Appendix 2.

In terms of gender, two-thirds (66%) of survey respondents are women. Two-thirds (66%) of UUC members report that they are married and living with their spouses. Fifteen percent of respondents are single/never married, 7% are widowed, and another 7% are divorced and single. Only a small percentage of respondents report that they are married but living apart (3%) or separated (2%).

In general, the participants are middle-aged to older adults. Ten percent are 65 or older, and 16% are 55–64. Almost half (46%) are 36–54, and 24% are 21–35. Only a small percentage (5%) are 20 or younger.

Household and Children

The average household size in the UUC is 3.3 people. A quarter (26%) of respondents live in a three-person household, and another 23% contain two people. Approximately 19% of respondents live in a four-person household, and 13% live in a one-person household. Nineteen 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 of households contain two (25%) or three (25%) people who keep the Sabbath, while 20% report that one person in the household keeps the Sabbath.

Households with one person report the highest percentage (98%) of all members attending, followed by two-person households (74%) and three-person households (70%).

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	98%	2%	12.8%
2	74%	26%	22.9%
3	70%	30%	26.1%
4	65%	35%	18.7%
5	63%	37%	12.8%
6	35%	65%	3.2%
7+	47%	53%	3.0%
Total	70%	30%	100.0%

Table 1. Households (D1 & D2) – UUC: Number of people living in household / number of people in household observing the Sabbath (n = 489)

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, 6% of UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents have at least one non-biological child (either a child or teenager) who lives with them.

Slightly less than half (47%) of all respondents are raising all their children in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or their adult children are still members of the Church. Eleven percent of respondents have at least one child who is part of the Church but at least one who is not. Fifteen percent of respondents’ children are not being raised in the Church or are not still part of the Church as adults. (Note: 27% 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. Eleven percent of respondents report that they have challenges in these areas. 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 5% report that they sometimes do so. Conversely, 9% 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 (96%) UUC GMCS 2022–23 respondents consider themselves to be Seventh-day Adventists, with nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents reporting that they hold a church

office at their local church. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in 2022–23 hold a church office at their local church (GCMS 2017–18: hold a church office 73%).

A similar number (94%) report that they have been baptized as a member of the Adventist Church or joined the Church by profession of faith. Two in five (43%) respondents have been baptized for 21–30 years, while an additional 9% have been baptized for 30 years or more. Twenty-seven percent of respondents have been baptized for 11–20 years, and 20% 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 (96%) respondents feel that it is very likely (88%) or likely (8%) that they will do so. Two percent admit that they are unsure, and 2% say that it is unlikely that they will remain for life.

Half (49%) report never being employed by the Adventist Church. Eighteen percent share that they have been employed by the Adventist Church in the past but are not current employees, and a third (32%) are currently employed by the Adventist Church. More respondents in the GCMS 22–23 survey are currently employed or were employed in the past by the Church (GCMS 2017–18: employed in the past 11%; currently employed 29%; never employed 60%).

Family Matters

This section examines the 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.

A quarter (25%) 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). Seven percent joined the Adventist Church with their immediate family before they reached the age of 13. One in five (18%) did not grow up in the Church but joined between the ages of 13 and 20, while half (50%) of respondents joined as an adult over the age of 20.

When compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 joined the Church after age 20, while more respondents joined the Church as a teenager or have been connected to it since birth (GCMS 2017–18: since birth 25%; joined as a teenager 18%; joined as an adult 47%).

Three in five (58%) respondents report that at least one of their parents was an Adventist, 34% report that at least one of their grandparents was an Adventist, and 19% report that at least four continuous generations of their family have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, 59% of respondents claim to be first-generation Adventists, and 30% share that they are unsure of their family's full history with the Adventist Church.

Three-fourths (77%) of UUC respondents grew up in a family comprised of two biological/adoptive parents or other guardians. Another 14% grew up in a family with one biological/adoptive parent or other guardians, 4% grew up in a foster family or in an institution, and 9% grew up in an alternate situation. When it comes to parenting style and decision-making in the household, fewer than one in five (17%) respondents had their parent(s), guardian(s), or other authority figure(s) making decisions for them when they were teenagers. Thirty percent of respondents report that they made decisions together with their families, and half (49%) 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 and draws on survey questions P9–P11.

Across the division, 3% of participants report that they did not complete basic schooling (high school or less). Twelve percent of participants have a high school degree but did not complete any further education; another 19% attended vocational school. Seven percent of respondents started but did not complete college. Two in five (39%) respondents completed college/ university, and 21% completed graduate school. When compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 have post-graduate degrees, while fewer respondents have high school degrees as their highest academic degree achieved (GCMS 2017–18: High school or secondary graduate 37%; graduate school 1%).

Only 3% respondents attended an Adventist school at some point in their education. Eight percent attended Adventist college or university while living in the community, while another 12% did so while living on campus.

Three-fourths (74%) of respondents have never attended an Adventist school. Sixteen percent of respondents report attending 1–4 years at an Adventist school, while another 8% attended 5–8 years at an Adventist school.

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, a third (35%) of respondents report that their church is in a large city, with 12% of that number indicating that their church is actually downtown. Thirty-eight percent of respondents indicate that their church is in a suburb or smaller city, and 27% attend church in a less populated area (16% in a town or village; 11% in a rural area). Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 attend churches located elsewhere in a large city, while fewer respondents attend churches in a rural area (GCMS 2017–28: elsewhere in a large city 16%; rural area 22%).

Looking at attendance, two-thirds (65%) of respondents indicate that they attend church with 50 people or less in weekly attendance, while another 24% claim that they attend church with 51–100 people in weekly attendance. Another 11% of respondents share that they attend church with 101–200 people.

The most typical UUC church membership in our sample is 100 people or less (70%). Twenty-three percent attend a church with a membership of 101–200 people. Six percent attend a church with a membership of more than 200 people.

In a quarter (24%) of churches, the actual attendance is higher than the size of the membership. Another quarter (24%) of churches have membership and attendance in their church in the same size category. In 52% of churches, the attendance is at least one size category smaller than the official membership.

Reconfiguring the data into three church-size categories reveals that 3% of UUC churches are large (151 or more people), 33% are mid-size (51–150 people), and two-thirds (64%) are small (50 people or less).

A quarter (24%) of UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they live near an Adventist educational institution, such as a school or university. Eighteen percent live near an Adventist medical institution, such as a hospital or clinic. Eight percent live near a church administrative office, such as a conference, union, or division office, and 11% 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.

UUC survey respondents show a moderate to high level of commitment to Christ. Half (52%) feel that their commitment to Christ developed gradually over a period of time and that they are fully committed to Christ now. Nineteen percent have been committed to Christ since they were a young child and continue to be fully committed to Him now. Another 17% of respondents feel that their commitment to Christ came suddenly and changed them and that they are fully committed to Christ now. However, 10% are not sure if they are committed to Christ, 7% are not committed to Christ, and 2% report that they committed their lives to Christ at a specific moment, but it didn't last. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 say that their commitment to Christ developed gradually or suddenly, and that they are fully committed to Christ now (GCMS 2017–18: gradually developed 46%; changed suddenly 24%).

Bible and Religious Reading

Half (48%) of UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they read their Bible every day, a quarter (30%) read it more than once a week, and 12% read their Bible about once a week. The remaining 11% admit that they read their Bible once a month or less often.

One in five (19%) participants reports that they study the Sabbath School lesson every day, 29% study it more than once a week, and 34% 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 5% never do so. According to the correlation analysis, the older the respondents are, the more frequently they study Sabbath School lessons. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents study the Sabbath School lesson more than once a week or daily (GCMS 2017–18: more than once a week 39%; daily 28%).

Less than half (45%) of respondents report reading the writings of EGW about once a week or more often. Forty-four percent of respondents report that they read EGW once or a few times a month, and 11% never read her writings. Fewer GCMS 2022–23 respondents read EGW's writings daily than in the GCMS 2017–18 (GCMS 2017–18: daily 20%).

Three-fourths (75%) of respondents have access to all of the writings of EGW in a language they understand. Another 20% 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, and 2% share that they can only “sometimes” access books in a language they understand. Three percent of respondents claim they do not know who Ellen G. White is.

Prayer and Meditation on the Life of Jesus

Most (86%) UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents engage in personal prayer every day (outside of mealtimes). Twelve percent report that they engage in personal prayer more than once a week or about once a week. The remaining 2% only engage in personal prayer once or a few times a month or less often. Correlation analysis reveals that the older responders pray more frequently than the younger respondents. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 have personal prayer every day (GCMS 2017–18: daily 92%).

Thirty-eight percent of UUC GCMS 2022–23 participants think about Jesus’s life every day; in addition, 28% meditate on Jesus’s life more than once a week, and 17% do so about once a week. Sixteen percent do so a few times a month or less than once a month. According to the correlation analysis, the older the respondents are, the more they meditate on the life of Jesus. Fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 spend time thinking about Jesus’s life daily (GCMS 2017–18: daily or more than once a day 55%).

Family Worship

Over a quarter (28%) of respondents engage in daily morning or evening family worship. Another 24% of respondents have morning or evening family worship more than once a week (15%) or about once a week (9%). Six percent of respondents report that they have family worship once or a few times a month, and 10% have family worship less than once a month. Sadly, a third (32%) of respondents report that they never have morning or evening family worship. When respondents have more people in the household keeping the Sabbath, they tend to have family worship more frequently. In addition, compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 have morning or evening family worship every day (GCMS 2017–18: daily 41%).

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 UUC, four in five (81%) respondents share that they never read the Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website; another 10% do so less than once a month, while 5% do so once or a few times a month. Only 4% of respondents read the Adventist World magazine or access the Adventist World website about once a week or more often.

Most (89%) UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents share that they never use the Adventist Review magazine or website; 6% 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 slightly more likely to read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference. Half (49%) of respondents have never read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference in the last 12 months; another quarter (23%) have done so less than once a month, and 19% have done so once or a few times a month. Nine percent report reading a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference about once a week or more often. Fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 read a magazine or newsletter from their local union or conference less than once a month, while more respondents never read the magazine or newsletter (GCMS 2017–18: never 25%; less than once a month 54%).

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 64% have access to electronic books and/or other digital publications available to be purchased. A vast majority (89%) have access to printed publications through their local church book center, while 94% can access printed publications at an Adventist Book Center store. Finally, 89% 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 (42%) of respondents hear sermons on this topic frequently (37%) or very frequently (5%). However, almost half (46%) report that they seldom hear sermons on reading and sharing Adventist literature and publications. Six 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 UUC. Nearly half (46%) of members report that they never listen to an Adventist radio broadcast. Another 16% report that they do so less than once a month, and 13% 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.

Sixteen percent of respondents report never watching Hope Channel programming. Twenty-seven percent watch it less than once a month, and another 23% do so once a month. A third (34%) of respondents watch Hope Channel programming about once a week or more often.

Also, correlation analysis finds that older respondents tend to watch the Hope Channel more frequently than younger respondents. Fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 watch Hope Channel programming daily or more than once a week (GCMS 2017–18: daily or more than once a day 16%; more than once a week 25%).

One in five (22%) respondents shares that they never watch other Adventist television channels or programming, while 20% do so less than once a month; 17% of survey participants do so once or a few times a month. However, two in five (39%) respondents watch other Adventist television channels or programming about once a week or more often. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 watch other Adventist television channels or programming more than once a week, while fewer respondents never watch (GCMS 2017–18: never 45%; more than once a week 12%).

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 (90%) of respondents agree to one degree or another that “I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.” Over four in five (85%) respondents agree to one degree or another that “I apply what I learn from Sabbath School lessons to my daily life.” Seventy-three 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, 12% are unsure, and 15% agree to one degree or another with this statement.

Habit of Tithing

Most (88%) respondents agree to one extent or another that tithing is still required of all people by God. Four percent are not sure, and 8% disagree to one degree or another. When it comes to returning tithe, most (92%) respondents share that they specify their giving as “tithe” on the giving envelope (electronic or regular), but 4% do not indicate it as tithe at the time of giving, simply placing it in the offering plate. Another 2% distribute that 10% at their own discretion, giving to entities other than formal church “tithe.” Very few (2%) 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 (59%) report using social media for any purpose on a daily basis. Another 18% use it more than once a week, and 7% use it about once a week. Four percent use it once or a few times a month, and 6% use it less than once a month. Only 6% report

that they never use social media. Correlation analysis finds that using social media is more prevalent among younger respondents than older people. However, the frequency of using it for sharing prayer requests, answered prayers, praying with others, or learning about religious topics that have not been covered in the church increased with respondents' age.

When compared to the GCMS 2017–18, significantly more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 use social media for any purpose daily, more than once a week, or about once a week, while fewer respondents never use social media (GCMS 2017–18: never 40%; less than once a month 14%; about once a week 13%; more than once a week 14%; daily or more than once a day 20%).

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

- 80% read or respond to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions about once a week or more often, while 7% never do so. Significantly more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 read or respond to posts by Adventist churches, organizations, and institutions daily, more than once a week, or about once a week, while fewer respondents never read or respond to them or do so less than once a month. (GCMS 2017–18: never 55%; less than once a month 21%; about once a week 11%; more than once a week 8; daily or more than once a day 6%).
- 45% never read or respond to posts by other Christian churches, organizations, and institutions, while 32% do so about once a week or more often. Again, significantly more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 read or respond to posts by other Christian churches, organizations, and institutions, daily, more than once a week, or about once a week, while fewer respondents never read or respond to them. (GCMS 2017–18: never 74%; about once a week 4%; more than once a week 4%; daily or more than once a day 3%).
- 70% of respondents use social media to study their Bible about once a week or more, while only 13% never do so.
- 42% use social media to share prayer requests and answered prayers about once a week or more often, while only 25% never do so.
- 43% of respondents use social media to pray with others about once a week or more often, while 29% never do so.
- 21% of respondents use social media to learn about the life of EGW about once a week or more often, but 37% never use social media for this purpose.
- 28% of respondents use social media to read and connect with the writings of EGW about once a week or more often, while 33% never do so.

- 42% of respondents use social media to help advance the mission of the Adventist Church about once a week or more often; however, 20% never do so.
- 48% 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.
- 36% 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, 29% never do so.
- 42% of respondents use social media to attend church about once a week or more often, while 32% never do.
- 34% of respondents use social media to worship with other believers (outside of a church service) about once a week or more. The same percentage (34%) never use social media to worship with other believers (outside of a church service).

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

- One in five (21%) respondents shares that they never use social media as a distraction from other activities that they should be doing, while 60% admit that they experience social media as a distraction weekly or more often. The younger the respondents are, the more they express being distracted by social media.
- Thirty-one percent of respondents agree with the statement, “When I use social media, it is good for my mental health.” However, 45% are unsure, and 19% disagree to one degree or another. (Note: 5% report not using social media.)
- A third (33%) of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I use social media, it is good for my spiritual well-being.” However, 42% are unsure, and 20% disagree, sharing that they do not believe that social media is good for their spiritual well-being. (Note: 5% report not using social media.)
- 60% of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I use social media, I feel more connected to friends and family,” while only 17% of respondents disagree. (Note: 6% report not using social media.)
- 60% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I often respond in anger to people online.” However, 12% admit that this is true. (Note: 8% report not using social media.)

- 48% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I have been hurt by other people’s words,” while 18% have been hurt by others’ words on social media. (Note: 7% report not using social media.)
- 52% of respondents disagree with the statement, “When I use social media, I find it hard to stop when I need to.” However, 26% do find it hard to stop when they need to. (Note: 6% report not using social media.)
- 41% of survey participants agree with the statement, “When I cannot use social media, I feel like I am missing out on what is happening.” Sixteen percent of respondents are not sure, while 39% of respondents disagree with this statement. (Note: 5% 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 (94%) of UUC GCMS 2022–23 participants agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of the Holy Scripture; a small percentage are unsure (3%), and another 3% disagree. Nearly all (99%) of the participants believe that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, as a whole, reflect the loving and gracious character of God. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents strongly agree that the Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs as a whole reflect the loving and gracious character of God, while fewer respondents agree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: agree 32%; strongly agree 66%).

The Bible, God, and Humanity

Nearly two-thirds (63%) 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. One in five (18%) 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. Sixteen 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 is the work of people who genuinely loved God and who wanted to share their understanding of God's activity in the world.

Most (85%) 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 11% accept this teaching because the Church teaches it. Most (87%) respondents disagree with the statement “the Holy Spirit is God's power in the world, not a Person”; however, 5% remain unsure, and 8% agree. Almost all (97%) respondents also believe in a personal God who seeks a relationship with human beings.

A majority (94%) of respondents believe that they are loved by God, even when they sin. However, 4% are unsure, and 2% disagree.

Creation

When it comes to beliefs on Creation, almost all (97%) GCMS 2022–23 respondents believe that God created the world in six literal days in the relatively recent past. Two percent disagree to one degree or another.

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

Nature of Humanity

Half (51%) 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 22% 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.” Two-thirds (68%) of respondents disagree with this statement. However, a quarter (24%) of respondents admit that they are not sure, and the remaining 8% of respondents agree that people have a certain amount of faith, and they really cannot do much to change it.

Salvation

Almost all (98%) UUC 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,” 93% survey participants agree with this statement (5% are unsure; 2% disagree). Almost three-fourths (71%) of respondents agree that the reason that good works are done is as a result of being saved by grace (15% unsure; 15% disagree).

However, there is less agreement when members were asked about other questions regarding salvation. Most interestingly, four in five (81%) respondents agree that they will not get to Heaven unless they obey God’s law perfectly. Eleven percent of respondents are unsure, and only 8% of respondents disagree.

Half (47%) of respondents disagree that “in order to receive God’s grace, I must first live by His rules.” However, 12% are unsure, and 41% agree that they must first live by God’s rules in order to receive His grace. Correlation analysis finds that the longer a respondent received Adventist education, the more likely it is that they disagree with the statement. Most (94%) respondents agree that “I am saved the moment I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me.” However, 4% are unsure, and 2% disagree, implying that they feel that there is something they must do to earn or achieve salvation. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree with the statement that they are saved the moment they believe and accept what Jesus has done for them (GCMS 2017–18: strongly agree 66%).

Half (53%) of participants disagree with the statement, “The more that I follow Adventist health and lifestyle standards, the more likely I will be saved.” However, 28% are unsure, and 18% agree that their salvation is somehow linked to their adherence to Adventist health and lifestyle standards.

When members were asked how often they hear sermons on the topic of righteousness by faith, almost two-thirds (63%) report that they hear sermons on this topic very frequently (9%) or frequently (54%).

Church

All (100%) UUC respondents agree that Christ is the head of the church. They also agree (98%) that all believers are called by God to serve each other without distinction of race, culture, education, nationality, gender, or wealth.

Church Unity

Most (90%) GCMS 2022–23 participants agree that “church unity means uniformity in more than doctrinal belief,” while 2% disagree with this statement.

A quarter (26%) 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, over two in five (44%) respondents are unsure, and 29% disagree. Fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 disagree with allowing different world regions of the Adventist Church to set their own administrative policies, while more respondents say they are not sure about this issue (GCMS 2017–18: strongly disagree 17%; disagree 17%; not sure 27%).

Adventist Exclusivity

Most (95%) UUC 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:

- 62% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on Daniel and Revelation. Thirty-four percent seldom hear sermons on this topic.
- 75% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on the Three Angels’ Messages. Twenty-two percent report that they seldom hear sermons on this topic.
- 80% of respondents frequently or very frequently hear sermons on the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Seventeen percent of survey participants report that they seldom hear sermons on this topic.

Ellen G. White and the Gift of Prophecy

Most (93%) UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents agree that Ellen White’s writings were the result of the spiritual gift of prophecy. Five percent of respondents share that they are not sure. Slightly less than two-thirds (63%) of respondents wholeheartedly embrace the idea that Ellen G. White was a prophet. Another 27% accept her as a prophet because the Adventist Church teaches it. Six percent admit that they have some questions, and 3% do not accept her as a prophet.

Fifty-nine 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.” A quarter (23%) believe that “Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time.” Thirteen 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.” 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.”

Three in five (59%) respondents report that they frequently/very frequently hear sermons on the topic of the Spirit of Prophecy. Thirty-one percent share that they seldom hear sermons on this topic, and 2% never do so.

Christian Living

Sabbath Keeping

The results on Sabbath keeping reveal a clear pattern of agreement among survey respondents. Respondents almost unanimously (99%) agree that the true Sabbath is the seventh day (Saturday). Most (88%) respondents also agree that when they keep the Sabbath faithfully, they cope better with the stresses of the week. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree that they cope better with stresses of the week when they keep the Sabbath faithfully, while fewer respondents agree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: agree 40%; strongly agree 51%).

Ninety 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.

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents report that they hear sermons on the topic of the Sabbath frequently or very frequently. However, 30% share that they seldom hear sermons on this important topic.

Health - Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs

Most (85%) 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 (99%) with the statement, “My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.” However, only 83% of respondents wholeheartedly agree that Adventists should abstain from alcohol, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree that their bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, while fewer respondents agree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly agree 77%; agree 22%).

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

- 88% never used alcohol.
- 96% never used tobacco products.
- 99% report that they never used marijuana products.
- 98% 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 (93%) respondents believe that, overall, there is no safe level of alcohol use. However, 6% believe that alcohol, in moderation (1–2 drinks a day), promotes health and is safe to use.

Health - Diet

A majority (83%) of UUC 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:

- 2% maintain a vegan diet.
- 13% are vegetarians who eat eggs and dairy products (lacto ovo).
- 12% are pescatarian (i.e., they include fish in their diet but no other meat).
- 31% eat meat once a week or less.
- 30% eat meat a few times a week.
- 12% eat meat most days.

When compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 eat meat once a week or less, while more respondents eat meat a few times a week or most days (GCMS 2017–18: once a week or less 45%; a few times a week 22%; most days 6%).

Health Message

Most (85%) respondents are very familiar with the Adventist health message, while another 14% are somewhat familiar with it. A majority (88%) follow the Adventist health message a great deal (51%) or a moderate amount (37%). The tendency to follow the health message is correlated with age. The older respondents tend to practice the health message more seriously than younger respondents.

Four in five (80%) UUC respondents agree/strongly agree that “the Health Message is a core part of Seventh-day Adventist belief that cannot be questioned,” while 14% are unsure and 6% disagree. Fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree with the health message being a core part of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs that cannot be questioned, while more respondents say that they are not sure about the statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly agree 41%; not sure 8%).

Most (93%) UUC respondents agree that “following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer,” and 93% also agree that the Adventist health message has largely been supported by scientific discoveries. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree with the health message being largely supported by scientific discoveries, while fewer respondents agree to the statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly agree 35%; agree 54%).

One in five (18%) agrees that “I can choose which parts of the Health Message to follow and which to ignore,” with 27% unsure. About half (54%) disagree with that statement.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents disagree that “following the health message ensures my salvation,” 25% are unsure, and 16% hold a legalistic view, agreeing that following the health message does, indeed, ensure their salvation. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly disagree with the belief that following the health message ensures their salvation, while fewer respondents agree or strongly agree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly disagree 15%; agree 17%; strongly agree 16%).

A majority (95%) of UUC 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.”

UUC 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). Fifty-four percent of respondents hear such sermons very frequently (8%) or frequently (46%), while another 40% seldom hear sermons on this topic.

Marriage

A vast majority (97%) of respondents agree that “the Bible teaches that sexual intercourse should be exclusively reserved for marriage.” All (100%) respondents agree that “the Bible teaches that marriage is a union between an adult man and an adult woman.”

Eschatological Beliefs

Sanctuary

Most (91%) respondents agree that the sanctuary doctrine is vital to Adventist theology. However, 6% are unsure, and 3% disagree. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree with sanctuary doctrine being vital to Adventist theology, while fewer respondents agree with the statement.

Seventy percent of respondents wholeheartedly accept the biblical teaching of the investigative pre-Advent judgment that began in 1844; another 22% accept this because the Church teaches it. However, 6% share that they have questions or major doubts about this doctrine.

Eighty percent of UUC survey participants wholeheartedly believe that Christ is acting as our advocate before God in the heavenly sanctuary right now. However, only 58% wholeheartedly agree that before Christ returns, God will decide who is to be saved and who will be eternally lost. Forty-four percent of members report that they hear sermons on the topic of the sanctuary very frequently (5%) or frequently (39%).

Second Coming of Jesus

Two-thirds (66%) of UUC respondents wholeheartedly accept the Church’s interpretation of end-time prophecies; another 28% accept this interpretation because the Church teaches it. However, 5% of respondents have questions or major doubts.

Most (97%) respondents agree that fulfillment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near. More respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 strongly agree that the fulfillment of prophecy and events in the world indicate that Christ’s coming is very near, while fewer respondents agree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: agree 27%; strongly agree 71%).

In contrast, only 18% of respondents believe that Jesus will return in their lifetime. However, 78% admit that they are not sure if Jesus will return before they die. The remaining 4% do not believe that Jesus will return in their lifetime.

Sabbath sermons on the topic of the Second Coming of Jesus are reported as common in UUC Adventist churches; 83% 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 UUC GCMS 2022–23 respondents agree that “when people die, their bodily remains decay, and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected.” Compared to the GMCS 2017–18, more respondents strongly agree to the statement that when people die, their body remains decay, and they have no consciousness or activity until they are resurrected, while fewer respondents agree with the statement (GMCS 2017–18: agree 21%; strongly agree 76%).

Ninety-four percent of survey participants also disagree that “people who have died believing in Christ are in Heaven right now.” Most (94%) respondents disagree with the statement, “The soul is a separate, spiritual part of a person and lives on after death.” More GMCS 2022–23 respondents strongly agree to the statement that people who have died believing in Christ are in Heaven right now (GCMS 2017–18: strongly agree 68%).

When respondents were asked for their agreement level on the statement, “People who have rejected Christ are burning in Hell right now,” 95% of respondents disagree. Respondents show even stronger disagreement (98%) with the statement, “The dead have powers to communicate with and influence the living.” In the GCMS 2022–23, more respondents strongly disagree that the dead have the power to communicate with and influence the living, while fewer respondents disagree with the statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly disagree 85%, disagree 13%).

Almost half (48%) of respondents report that they hear sermons on the state of the dead very frequently (5%) or frequently (43%). However, 47% seldom hear sermons on this important topic, and 2% report that they never do.

Adventist Education

Over four in five (84%) 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. Thirteen percent of respondents are not sure, and the remaining 3% 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 61% of respondents agree with this statement, 30% are unsure, and 10% 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.

- 69% of respondents agree that “to be a Seventh-day Adventist means to reject certain elements of the culture around you.” Fifteen percent are unsure, and 16% disagree.
- 81% 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.
- 78% of respondents agree that “people outside of the Adventist Church can have important insights into God’s character and plans.” However, 16% 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 5% disagree, indicating that ideas within culture today match their faith/beliefs as Adventists.
- 56% of respondents agree that they are most comfortable in a church where everyone shares their cultural background. A quarter (27%) are unsure, and 16% disagree with this statement.
- 93% of respondents agree with the statement, “I would welcome someone from a different cultural background as part of my local church family.”
- 92% 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 (91%) respondents report attending church in person almost every week (23%), or every week (44%), or more often (24%) in the last 12 months. When compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 attended church services in-person more than once a week or every week, while more respondents attended the in-person services almost every week (GCMS 2017–18: more than once a week 33%; every week 54%; almost every week 23%).

Twenty-one percent of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they attended church services remotely by radio, TV, or the Internet once every week or more often. Thirteen percent did so almost every week, 7% once a month, and 9% at least once a quarter. Nearly a third (31%) attended church services remotely by radio, TV, or the Internet once or twice in the last 12 months, while 19% never did so. Half (48%) of members attend a church that makes worship services available online.

Church Experience

Seventy percent of GCMS 2022–23 respondents report that they are very satisfied (36%) or satisfied (34%) with their local church. Another 23% share that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. However, 5% of respondents admit that they are dissatisfied with their local church, and another 3% report that they are very dissatisfied. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 are very satisfied with their local church, while more respondents say they are satisfied with their church (GCMS 2017–18: satisfied 27%, very satisfied 46%).

Pastor and Lay Leaders

Three-fourths (76%) of respondents agree that their pastor cares about them.

In the past 12 months, 38% of members report that they did not receive a visit from their pastor. A third (32%) received a visit once or twice, and 13% received a visit at least once a quarter. Smaller percentages of respondents received a pastoral visit once a month (9%), almost every week (4%), or more often (5%). Correlation analysis finds that the more people there are in a household and the more rural their church is, the more frequently they received a pastoral visit. Also, compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents never received a visit from their pastors (GCMS 2017–18: never 24%).

Even fewer respondents received a visit from a church elder in the past 12 months. Three in five (60%) members never received a visit from an elder. Twenty percent received an elder

visit once or twice, and 9% report receiving a visit at least once a quarter. Only 11% of respondents received an elder visit once a month or more often. Again, compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents never received a visit from a church elder, while more respondents received a visit only once or twice (GCMS 2017–18: never 50%; only once or twice 27%).

Caring and Nurturing

Sixty percent of church members agree that their Sabbath School teachers care about them. More respondents (73%) 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, 15% of GCMS 2022–23 respondents share that they never received a visit from another church member.

Relational and Discipleship Training

Seventy percent of respondents agree that their local church has the ability to communicate across cultures, clans, tribes, and religions.

Regarding the training offered by the church, 46% of respondents agree that their local church offers training on conflict resolution and reconciliation. However, 32% are unsure if their church offers such training, while 21% disagree that their church does so.

Similarly, 23% of UUC survey participants agree that their local church has a program for preparing new members to become leaders. Thirty-seven percent of respondents share that they are not sure, and two in five (41%) respondents disagree that their church offers such a program. Churches in urbanized areas tend to provide these programs more than those in less urbanized areas. More training is done on nurturing and disciplining church members; two in five (42%) respondents agree that their local church offers this type of training.

Family Focus

Two-thirds (66%) of UUC respondents agree that they attend a church that plans activities for everyone in the family. Nineteen percent of respondents are unsure, and 15% disagree.

A quarter (23%) of GCMS 2022–23 participants agree with the statement, “I currently provide financial support for children (mine or others) to attend an Adventist school.” Thirteen percent are unsure. However, 64% of respondents disagree with this statement to one degree or another, indicating that they do not provide financial support.

Youth and Young Adults

Half (48%) of respondents agree that youth and young adults play an important role in decision-making in their local church.

Twenty-six percent of respondents agree that their local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–24 strongly disagree or disagree that their local church has a program for preparing young people to become leaders, while fewer respondents agree to this statement (GCMS 2017–18: strongly disagree 3%; disagree 11%; agree 42%).

Correlation analysis reveals that youth and young adults in larger churches take part in their local church more than those in smaller churches by participating in decision-making or participating in a nurturing program.

Also, 52% 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 (31%) or conference/mission (31%) has such a program.

Involvement in Church

Most (91%) respondents share that in the last 12 months, they participated in a communion service at least once a quarter. However, 7% share that in the last year, they only participated in communion once or twice, and another 2% 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 24% report that in the last 12 months, they did so almost every week. Twelve percent helped once a month, 7% helped at least once a quarter, and 9% helped once or twice in the last year. The remaining 14%, 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 15% helped about once a week, and 9% helped once a month. However, another 5% only helped at least once a quarter, 17% helped once or twice in the last year, and 34% of respondents never helped with a church ministry during the week.

According to correlation analysis, the longer the respondents received Adventist education, the more frequently they helped with a church ministry either on Sabbath or 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

Two-thirds (65%) of survey participants share that in the last 12 months, they attended Sabbath School in person every week or more often. Another 25% attended almost every week. Three percent attended once a month, and 3% attended only once or twice. Only 3% of respondents never attended Sabbath School in person in the last 12 months. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 attended Sabbath School in person every week or more than once a week, while more respondents attended the Sabbath School almost every week (GCMS 2017–18: more than once a week 9%; every week 74%; almost every week 14%).

One in five (17%) 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. Six percent attended remotely once a month, 7% at least once a quarter, and 26% did so once or twice in the last year. A third (34%) 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

Twenty-eight 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 13% did so almost every week. Seven percent attended once a month, and 6% at least once a quarter. Fifteen percent did so once or twice in the last year, and 31% never attended a prayer meeting at their local church. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 never attended a prayer meeting, while fewer respondents attended it every week (GCMS 2017–18: never 18%; every week 30%).

Fourteen 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 5% did so once a month. Four percent attended a small group at least once a quarter, and 11% did so once or twice in the last 12 months. However, nearly three out of five (57%) respondents never attended a small group organized by their church. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 never attended a small group, while fewer respondents attended it every week (GCMS 2017–18: never 41%; every week 19%).

Pathfinders

A majority (79%) of respondents report that in the last 12 months, they never attended a Pathfinder meeting; part of this is likely attributed to the age of respondents (i.e., not active in Pathfinders and/or no longer having children of participation age). Counting only those who have a child or teenager living at home (n = 174), 47% never went to Pathfinders in the last 12 months.

Nurturing Church Members

Thirty percent of respondents share that they often help others with their religious questions and struggles, and 27% share that they usually do so. Thirty percent report that they help others with their religious questions and struggles about half the time, while 10% seldom do. Three percent report that they never help others with their religious questions and struggles. Seventy-one percent of UUC participants feel that they need to increase their involvement in caring for and nurturing local church members. One quarter (26%) feel that their involvement is at the right level.

Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 believe that their involvement in caring for and nurturing church members needs to increase (GCMS 2017–18: increase somewhat 54%).

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. Slightly less than half (44%) of respondents consider themselves as active participants in their local church, while 20% consider themselves active leaders. Thirteen percent consider themselves casual participants, and 8% report that they attended church activities and services but rarely participated or interacted with church members. Thirteen 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 2% 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. Almost half (46%) of respondents consider themselves active participants, and 22% consider themselves active leaders in their local church. Thirteen percent of participants currently consider themselves casual participants, and 13% 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.

While 56% of 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, 18% 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. Half (52%) of respondents report that their church met remotely for a period of time when they could not meet face-to-face. Two in five (39%) respondents share that their church continued to meet face-to-face throughout the pandemic. Nine 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 quarter (28%) attended their local church remotely for a period of time. Half

(48%) of members continued to meet face-to-face, and 9% report that they attended an Adventist church located in a different place remotely for a period of time. Two percent stopped attending church for a period of time, and 12% met face-to-face with other Adventists, but not in a church (for example, in a home church).

Two in five (42%) UUC GCMS 2022–23 participants report that their church developed new ministries during or as a result of the pandemic. Forty-four percent of respondents share that their church did not do so. The remaining 14% 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 (22%) and offerings (26%).

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

Three-fourths (76%) of respondents feel that their church needs to increase its overall evangelistic outreach in the local community. Twenty-two percent feel that their church's evangelistic outreach efforts are at the right level.

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. Seventeen percent feel that their personal involvement is at the right level.

Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 believe that the overall evangelistic outreach by their church in the local community and their involvement are at the right level, while fewer respondents believe that the outreach and their involvement need to increase (GCMS 2017–18 efforts by my church: is at the right level 17%; needs to increase somewhat 46%; my involvement: is at the right level 12%; needs to increase somewhat 50%).

Christ's Method

Most (93%) 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.” Six 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 20% 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 16% reporting that they did so almost every week. Twelve percent did so once a month, 10% did so at least once a quarter, and 21% did so only once or twice. The remaining 21% never spent time forming new friendships with non-Adventists in their community.

Sixteen percent of UUC 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 16% did so almost every week. Seventeen percent spent time meeting non-Adventists' needs in their community once a month, 16% at least once a quarter, and 21% did so once or twice. The remaining 14% report never doing so.

Three-fourths (72%) of respondents feel proud of their local church and its role and reputation in the community, while a quarter (23%) are not sure, and 5% disagree.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents feel that their church needs to increase its overall efforts to meet the local community's needs. Two in five (39%) respondents feel that their church's overall efforts to meet the local community's needs are at the right level.

Regarding their involvement in meeting the local community's needs, 70% feel that they, themselves, need to increase their involvement. Twenty-six percent feel that their personal involvement and efforts are at the right level.

Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 believe that their churches' efforts to meet the needs of the local community are at the right level, while fewer respondents believe that the efforts need to increase somewhat or greatly (GCMS 2017–18: at the right level 20%, increase somewhat 48%, increase greatly 29%). Their views on their involvement in such efforts follow a similar pattern (GCMS 2017–18: at the right level 16%, increase greatly 33%).

Public Evangelism & Witnessing

In the last 12 months, two in five (38%) respondents never attended a public evangelistic meeting in their area. Almost a quarter (23%) did so once or twice, and 11% did so at least once a quarter. Twenty-eight percent attended a public evangelistic meeting in their area once a month or more often. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 attended a public evangelistic meeting, while more respondents attended only once or twice or at least once a quarter (2017–18: never 20%, only once or twice 31%, at least once a quarter 20%).

In the past 12 months, 23% of respondents witnessed to non-Adventists in their community every week or more often. Another 20% did so almost every week. Sixteen percent did so once a month, 9% did so at least once a quarter, and 23% did so once or twice. Nine percent never did so. Correlation analysis reveals that older respondents are more likely than younger respondents to share their faith with their non-Adventist neighbors.

Reclaiming Former Church Members

Four out of five (81%) respondents feel that their church needs to increase its efforts to reclaim former members. Thirteen percent of respondents feel that their church's efforts are at the right level.

The same percentage (81%) of respondents feel that they need to increase their involvement with their church's efforts to reclaim former members. Twelve percent of respondents feel that their personal involvement is at the right level.

Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents believe that both the church and their involvement in reclaiming of former church members needs to increase somewhat (GCMS 2017–18 church: increase somewhat 45%; my involvement: increase somewhat 46%).

Youth Involvement in Local Church Mission

The last item in this section deals with young people's involvement in the local church's mission. Three in five (59%) respondents agree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. Another 23% are not sure. The remaining 17% disagree that youth and young adults are actively involved in carrying out the mission of their local church. Furthermore, compared to those in smaller churches, youth and young adults in larger churches tend to be more involved in carrying out the church's mission.

Seventy-one percent of respondents feel that their church needs to increase the overall inclusion of young people in carrying out the mission of the local church. Twenty-three percent of respondents feel that their church's efforts are at the right level. Again, 69% of GCMS 2022–23 respondents feel that they need to personally increase their involvement in including young people in carrying out the mission of the local church. Another 23% 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:

- 55% of respondents have not heard of the “I Will Go Strategic Focus 2020–2025” initiative. A third (34%) have heard of it but have not participated; 11% have participated in this program.
- 56% of members have not heard of “Total Member Involvement.” Thirty-one percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 13% have participated in this program.
- 63% of respondents have not heard of “Revival and Reformation.” A quarter (24%) of respondents have heard of it but have not participated, and 13% have participated in this program.
- 42% of respondents have not heard of “Mission to the Cities,” while 44% have heard of it but have not participated. Fourteen percent have participated in this program.
- 22% of respondents have not heard of the “Comprehensive Health Ministry” program. Forty-seven percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 31% have participated.
- 64% of respondents have not heard of the “Believe His Prophets” initiative. Thirty percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 6% have participated in this program.
- 28% of respondents have not heard of the “10 Days of Prayer” program, while another 32% have heard of it but have not participated. Forty percent have participated in this program.

- 74% of members have not heard of “Adventist Possibility Ministries.” Twenty percent have heard of this program but have not participated in it, while only 6% have participated in this program.
- 18% of respondents have not heard of “Annual Week of Prayer,” while 14% have heard of it but have not participated. Over two-thirds (68%) of respondents have participated in this initiative.
- 38% of respondents have not heard of “Global Mission.” Forty-seven percent have heard of it but have not participated, and 14% have participated.
- 65% of respondents have not heard of the “Enditnow” program. A quarter (26%) have heard of it but have not participated, and 9% 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:

- 30% of respondents share that they never heard about these initiatives via word of mouth, while 28% heard of them via word of mouth once or twice. Twenty percent heard of them via word of mouth at least once a quarter, 14% once a month, and 5% almost every week. Three percent heard of them via word of mouth on a weekly basis.
- 14% never heard about GC programs at church, while 26% heard about them once or twice at church. A quarter (25%) heard of them at least once a quarter at church, 19% once a month, and 12% almost every week. Five percent heard about them at church every week.
- 48% of respondents never heard about these initiatives at a meeting or seminar. Twenty percent heard about them once or twice at a seminar, 17% at least once a quarter, 11% once a month, and 3% almost every week.
- 43% of respondents never heard about these GC initiatives by reading a church publication, while 21% did so once or twice in the last 12 months. Thirteen percent did so at least once a quarter, 10% once a month, and 3% did so almost every week.
- 45% of respondents share that they never heard about these programs on television or radio. Twenty-three percent heard about them via television or radio once or twice in the last 12 months, 12% at least once a quarter, 11% once a month, and 7% almost every week. Three percent heard of these programs via television or radio every week.
- 44% of respondents never heard of these GC initiatives via a website; another 19% did so once or twice in the last year. Fourteen percent of respondents did so at least once a quarter, 12% once a month, and 7% almost every week. Three percent heard of these programs via a website on a weekly basis.

- 41% of respondents never heard about GC programs via social media, while 22% did so once or twice. Fourteen percent did so at least once a quarter, 11% did once a month, and 8% did almost every week. Four 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

Half (49%) of respondents report that in the last two weeks, they never felt little interest or pleasure in doing things. A third (36%) of respondents admit that they felt this way for several days, and 5% felt this way for more than seven days. Ten percent share that they felt this way every day.

Fifty percent of respondents share that in the last few weeks, they never felt down, depressed, or hopeless. Thirty-nine 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 symptoms of depression.

Seven percent of respondents admit that in the last 12 months, they had suicidal thoughts; a small percentage of respondents share that in the last year, they harmed themselves (2%).

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 (28%) of respondents report that this is true for them a great deal, and for another 38%, this is mostly true. For 21%, this is somewhat true, 8% a little true, and 4% not true for them at all. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 say that it is true a great deal that they have grown spiritually, while more respondents say that the statement is mostly true (GCMS 2017–18: mostly true 28%; true a great deal 44%).

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.” Thirty percent of respondents feel that this is true for them a great deal, while over a third (36%) feel that this is mostly true for them. Twenty-two percent report that this is somewhat true for them, 8% a little true, and 4% not true for them at all.

Sixty-two 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 21%, this statement is a little true,

and for 12%, it is somewhat true. This statement is mostly true for 3% of respondents, while for 2%, it is true a great deal. Compared to older respondents, younger respondents tend to think in this way more often.

Most (87%) 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 2% share that it is somewhat true. Three percent admit that this is mostly or a great deal true for them.

Cultivating the Heart

Half (50%) 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 32% of respondents, this is mostly true, 13% somewhat true, and 4% a little true. Older respondents seem to agree with this statement more than those who are younger.

Twenty-eight 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 36% report that this is mostly true for them, 23% somewhat true, and 9% a little true. For 4%, 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.” Two-thirds (67%) of respondents share that this is not at all true for them. Seventeen percent share that this is a little true, and 9% feel that this is somewhat true. For 5% of respondents, this is mostly true, and it is a great deal true for 2%. This feeling of losing spiritual meaning is more prevalent among younger respondents than the older ones. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022–23 say that it is not true at all for them to feel that they have lost some important spiritual meaning that they had before, while more respondents say that the statement is a little true for them.

Purpose in Life

Eighty-four percent of members report that they often (59%) or usually (25%) feel that their “life is filled with meaning and purpose.” Twelve percent feel this way about half the time, and 4% seldom feel this way. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents often feel that their life is filled with meaning and purpose (GCMS 2017–18: often 65%).

A third (33%) of respondents share that they often (12%) or usually (21%) “give a significant amount of time to help other people.” Thirty-six percent do so about half the time, and 27% seldom do so. Four percent of respondents never give a significant amount of time to help other people.

A third (33%) of respondents often (18%) or usually (18%) “give a significant amount of money to help other people.” Thirty-six percent do so about half the time, 27% seldom do so. Four percent of members admit that they never give a significant amount of money to help other people. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022 –23 say that they often give a significant amount of money to help other people, while more respondents seldom do so (GCMS 2017–18: seldom 22%; often 19%).

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents share that they often (39%) or usually (28%) feel “a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world.” Another 22% feel this way about half the time. However, 8% report that they seldom feel a deep sense of responsibility for reducing pain and suffering in the world, and 3% never feel this way.

Seventeen percent of respondents report that they often (8%) or usually (9%) show that they care a great deal about reducing poverty in society. Twenty-eight percent do so about half the time, while 37% seldom do. Seventeen percent of respondents self-report that they never show that they care a great deal about reducing poverty in society. Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, fewer respondents in the GCMS 2022 –23 often care a great deal about reducing poverty in society, while more respondents never or seldom do so (GCMS 2017–18: never 11%; seldom 28%; often 15%).

Three-fourths (73%) of respondents often (50%) or usually (23%) apply their faith to political and social issues. Sixteen percent do so about half the time, 7% seldom do so, and 4% never do so.

On Healing

Most (94%) 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.

Almost all (99%) of respondents disagree that “Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing.” Compared to the GCMS 2017–18, more respondents strongly disagree with the statement that Christians may go to witch doctors or spiritual healers for protection or healing (GCMS 2017–18: strongly disagree 95%).

Appendix A - UCC Charts

Global Church Member Survey 2023

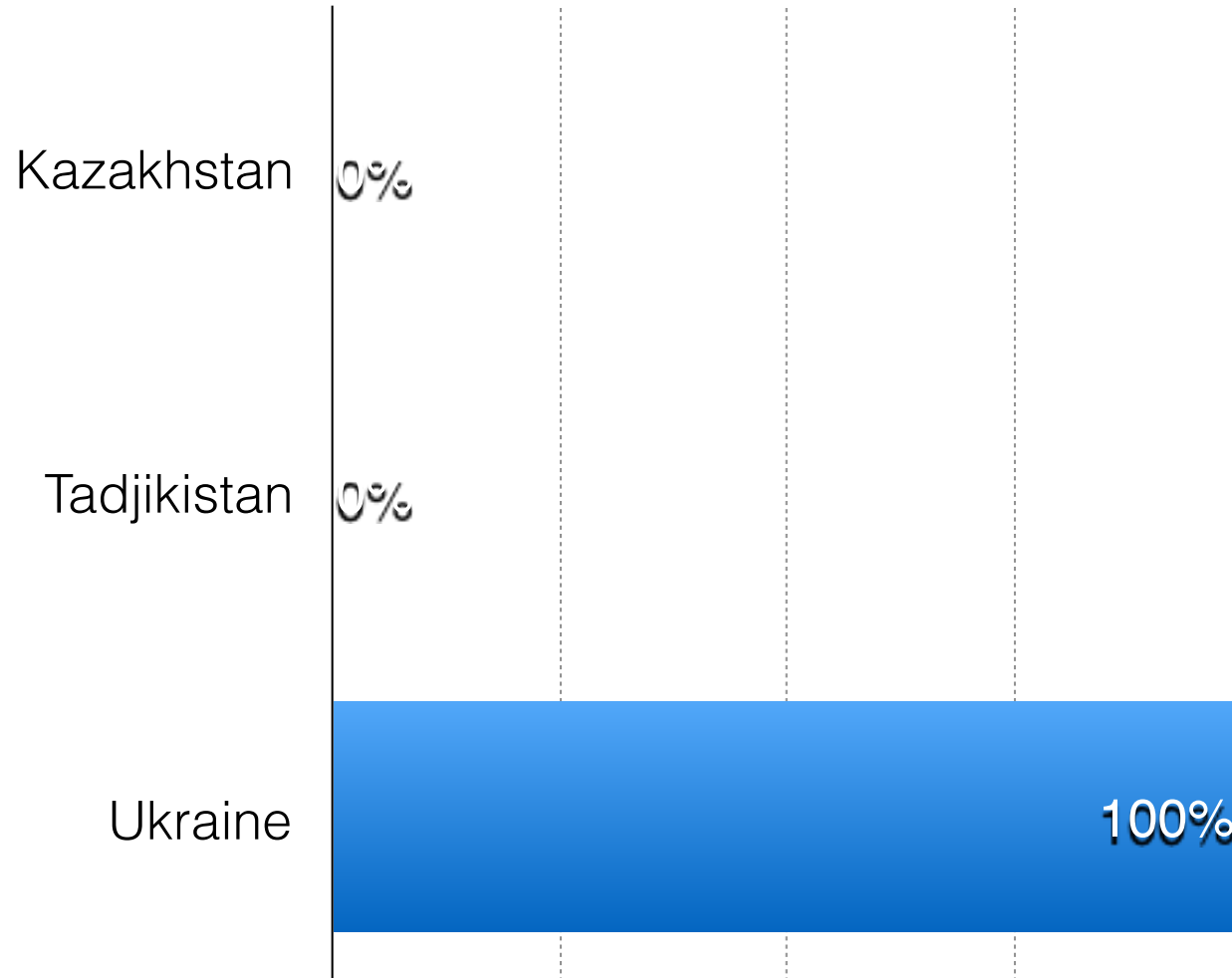
Ukraine Union Conference
Charts (N=534)



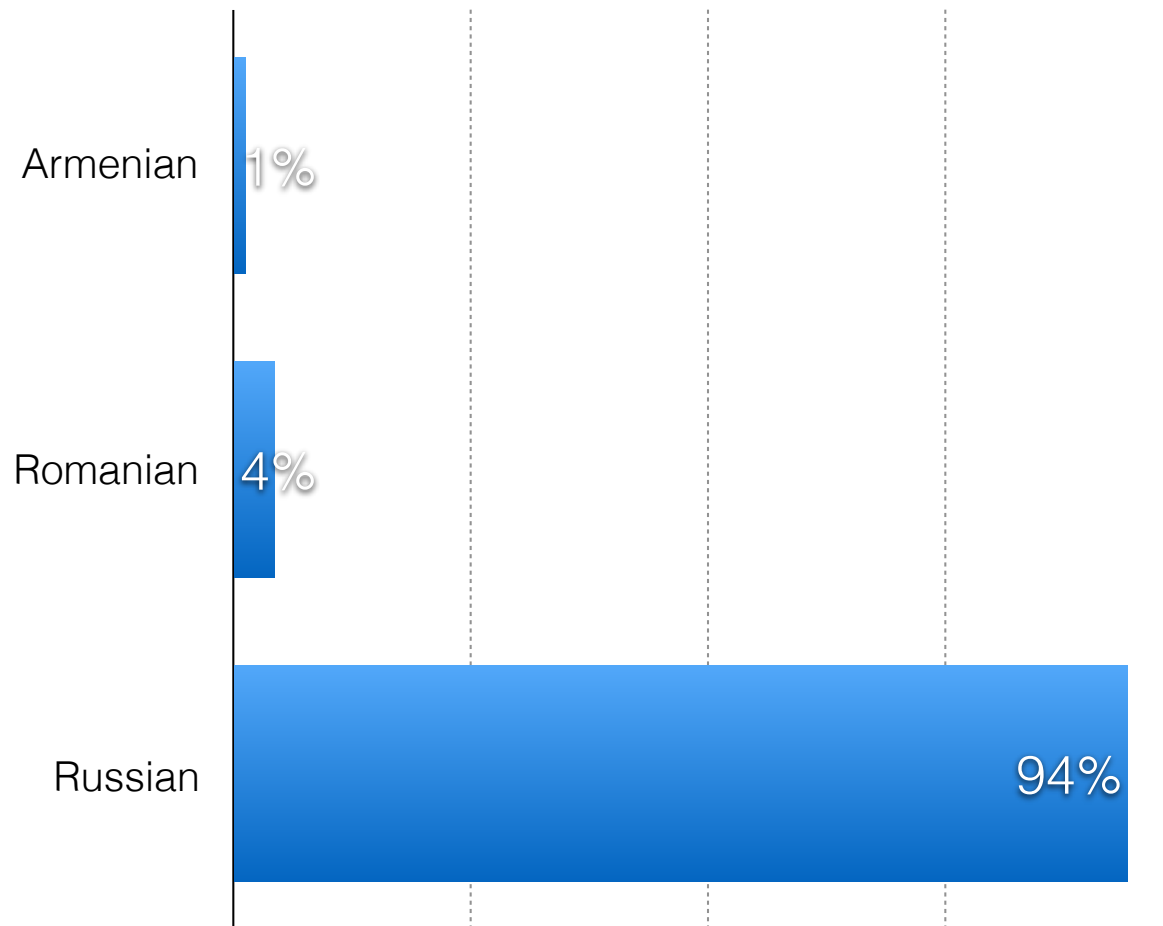
INSTITUTE *of* CHURCH MINISTRY

PERSONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

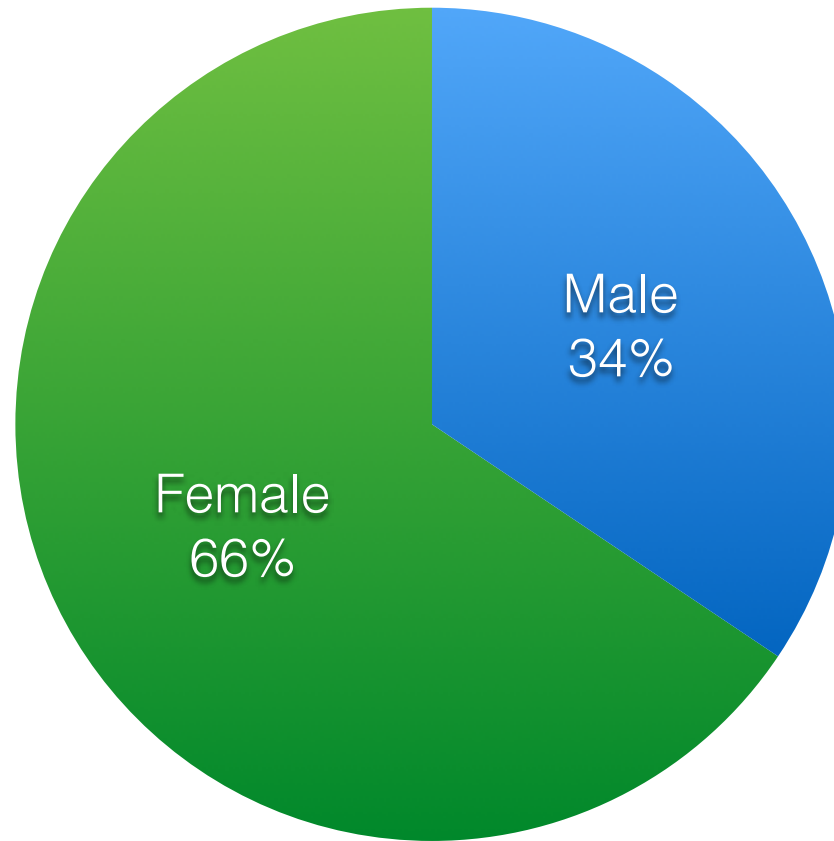
P1. IN WHAT COUNTRY DO YOU LIVE?



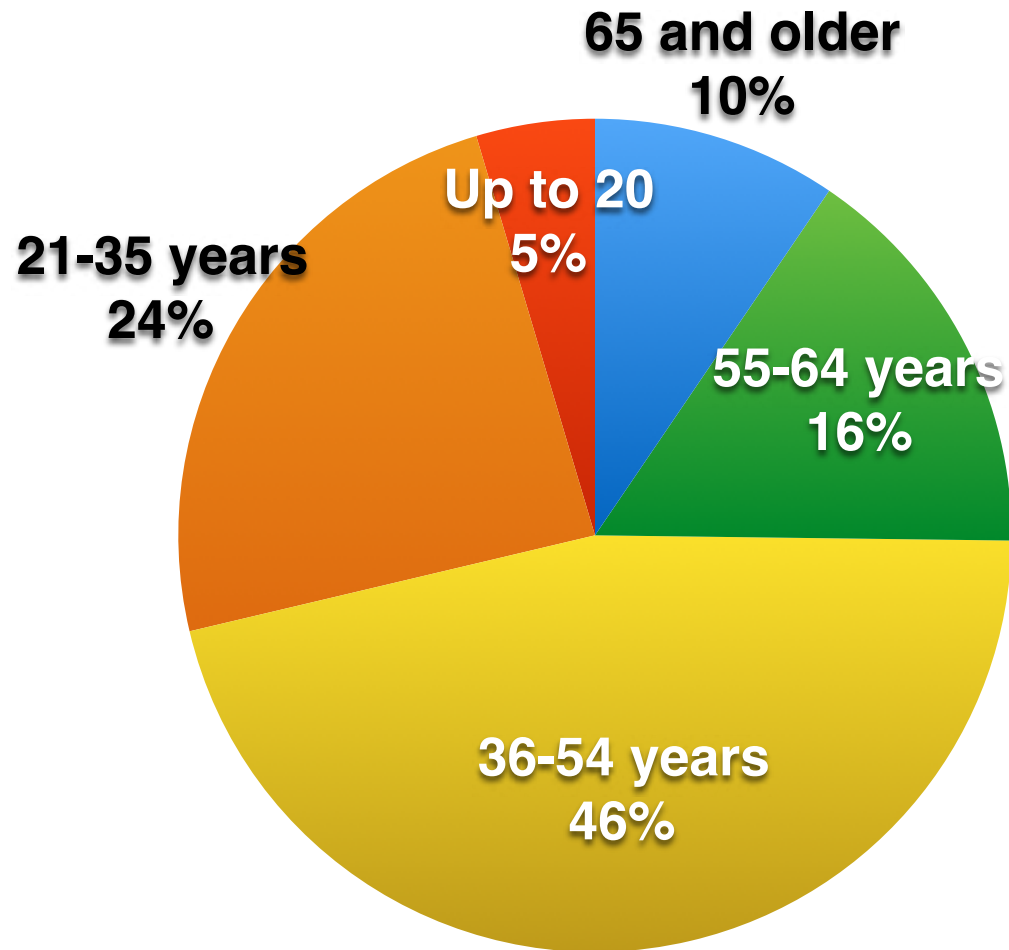
P2. IN WHAT LANGUAGE ARE YOU COMPLETING THIS SURVEY?



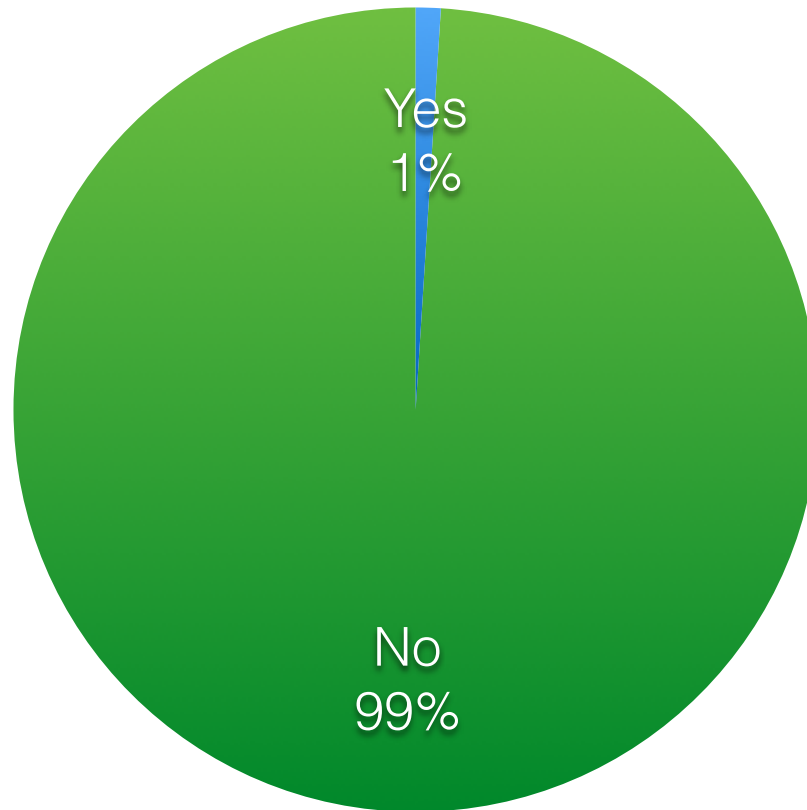
P3. GENDER



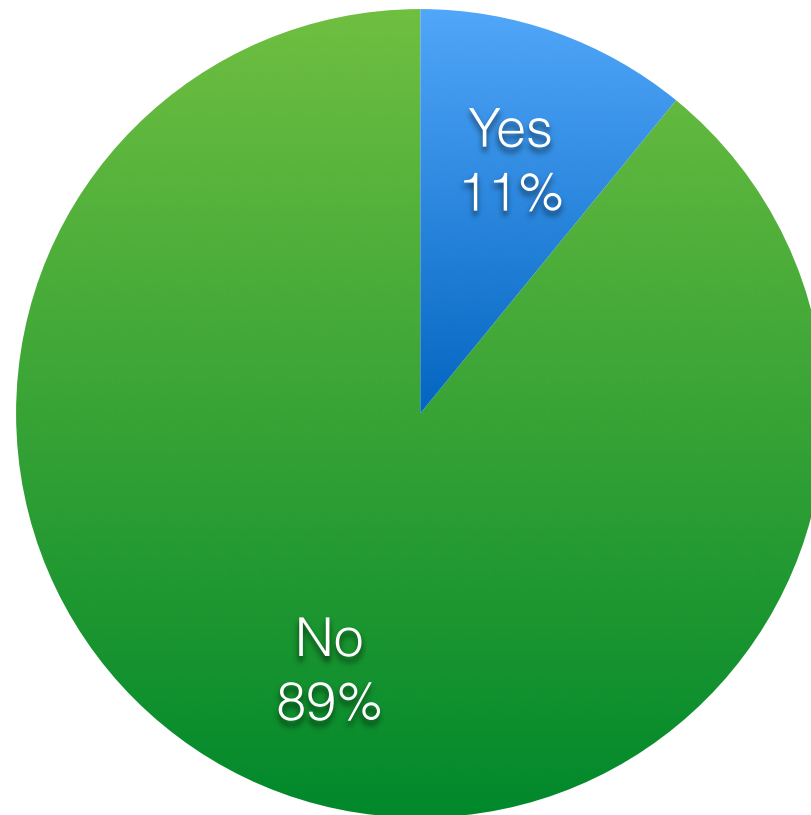
P4. YEARS OF AGE



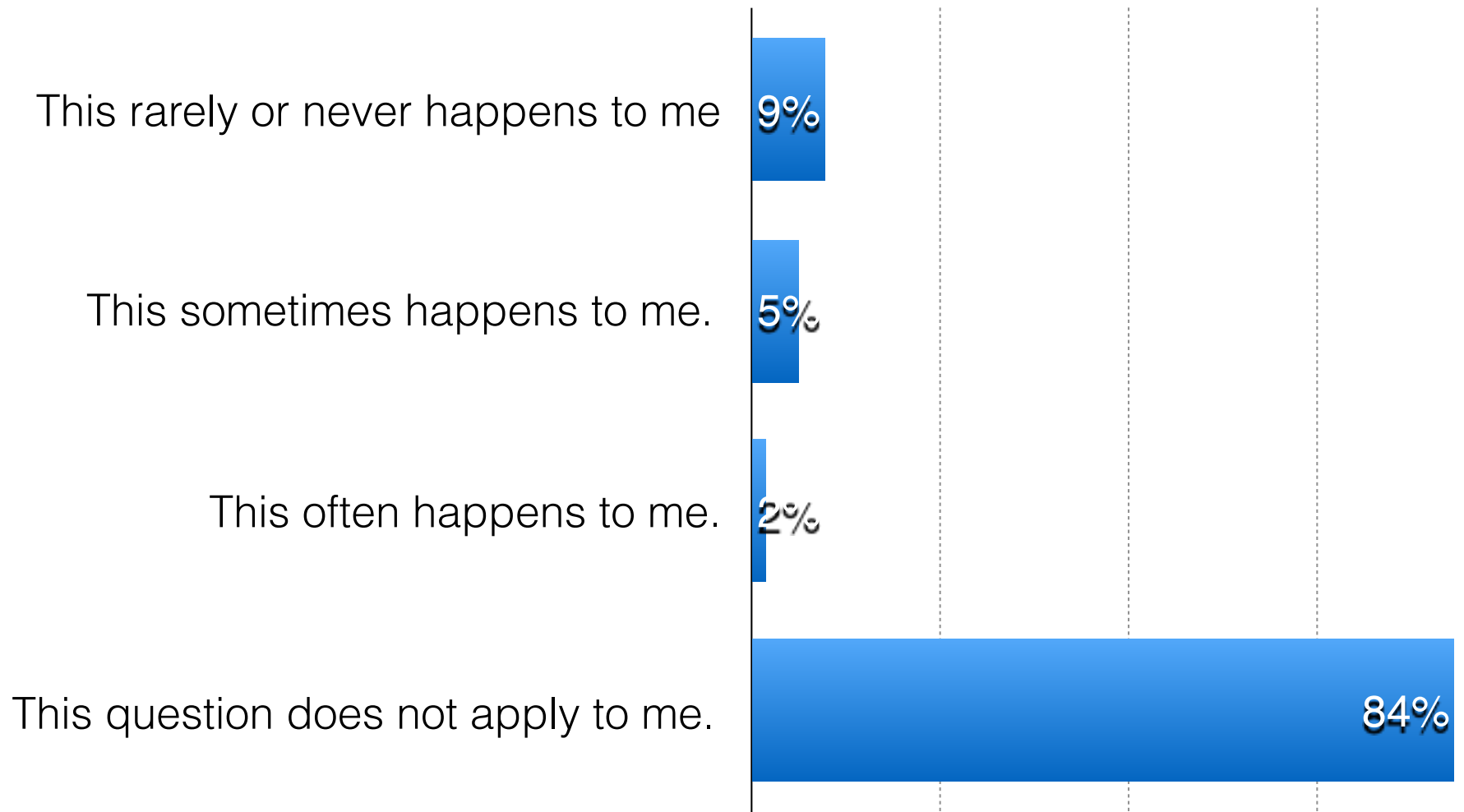
P5. DO YOU IDENTIFY AS A PERSON WHO IS DEAF?



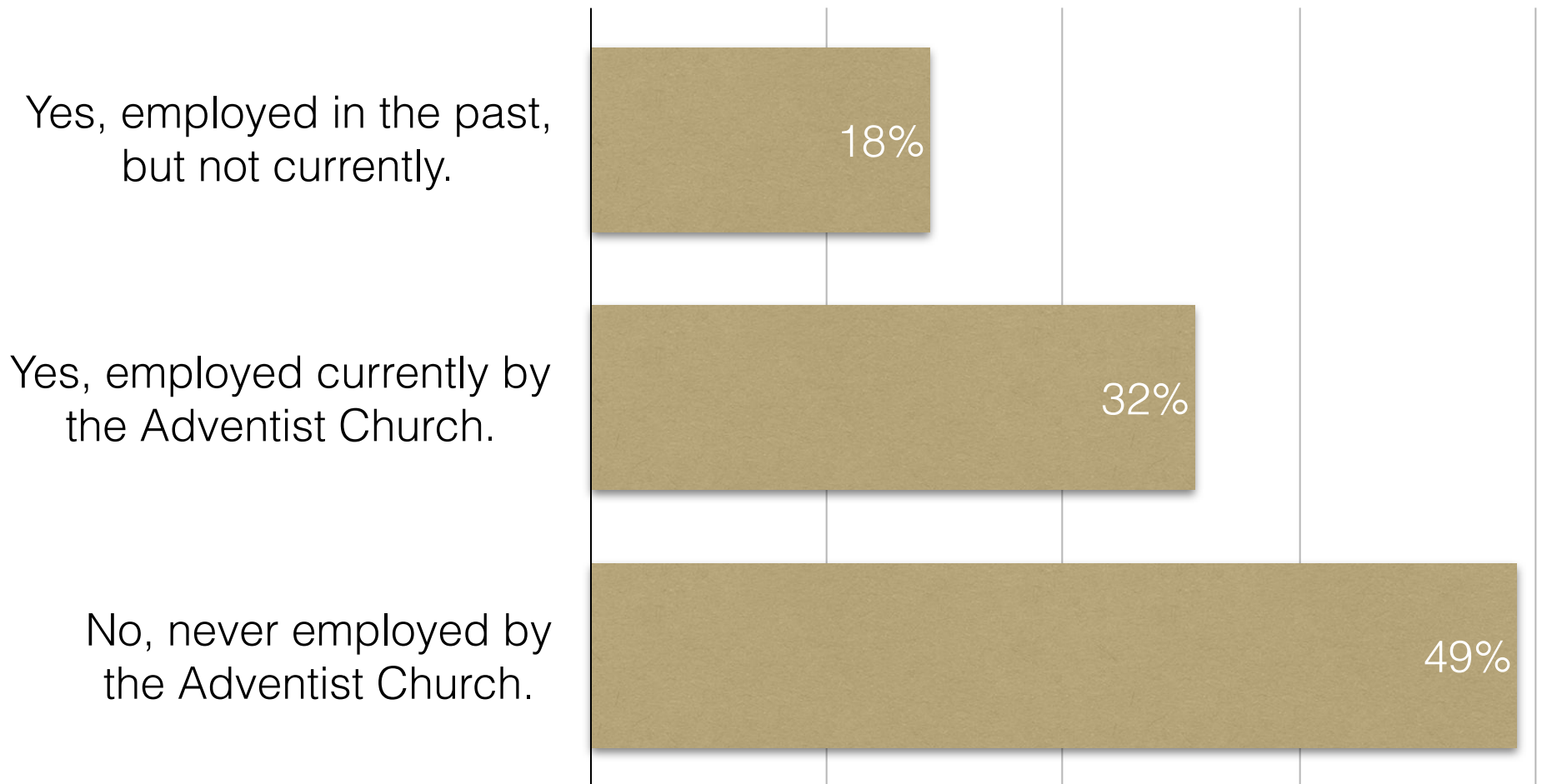
P6. DO YOU HAVE CHALLENGES IN ANY OF THESE AREAS: PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, COGNITIVE, DEVELOPMENTAL, VISUAL, OR HEARING?



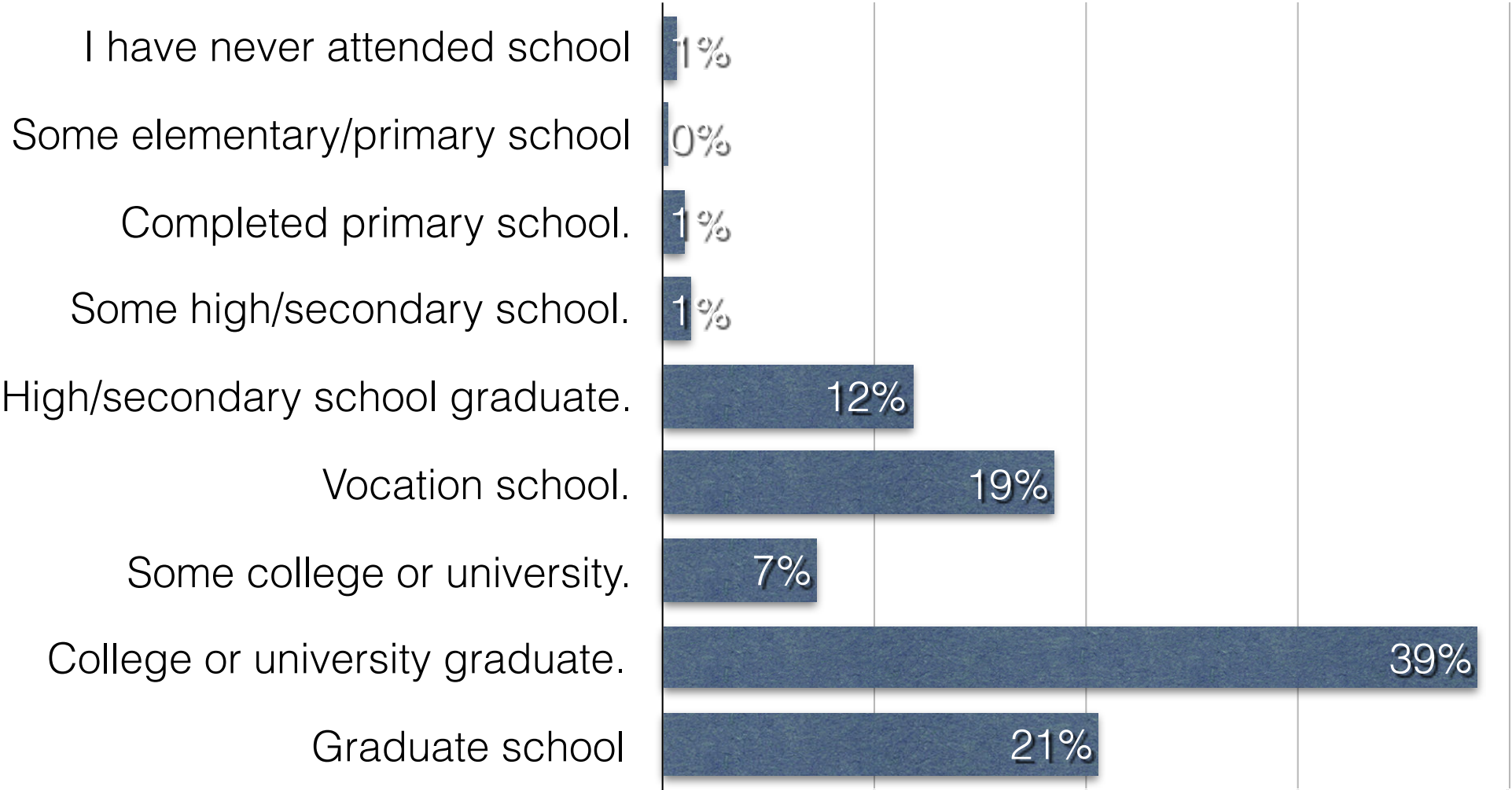
P7. IF YOU REPORTED CHALLENGES OR IMPAIRMENTS HAVE YOU FOUND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO PARTICIPATE IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAN OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR CHURCH?



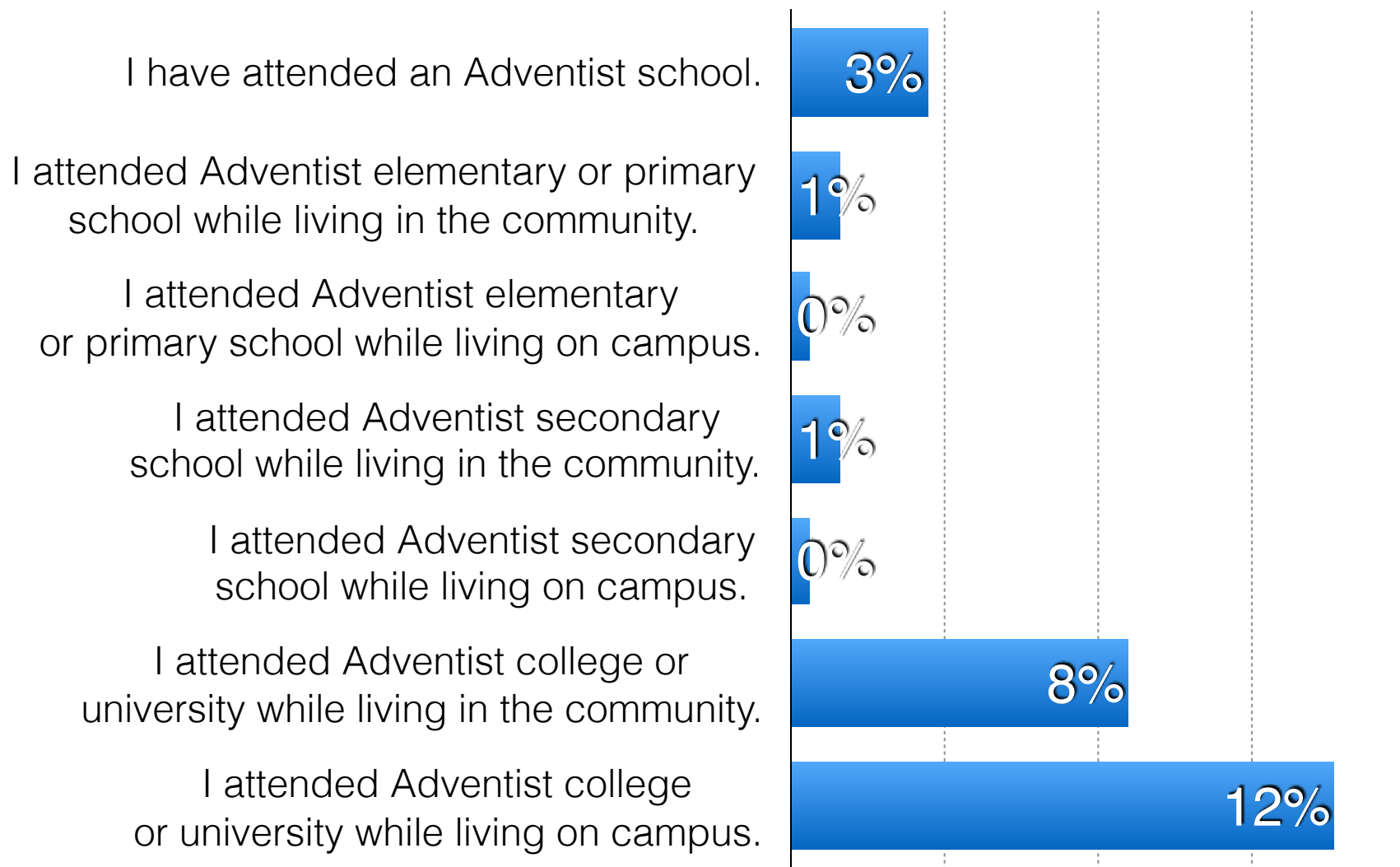
P8. ARE YOU CURRENTLY OR HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE PAST EMPLOYED BY THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



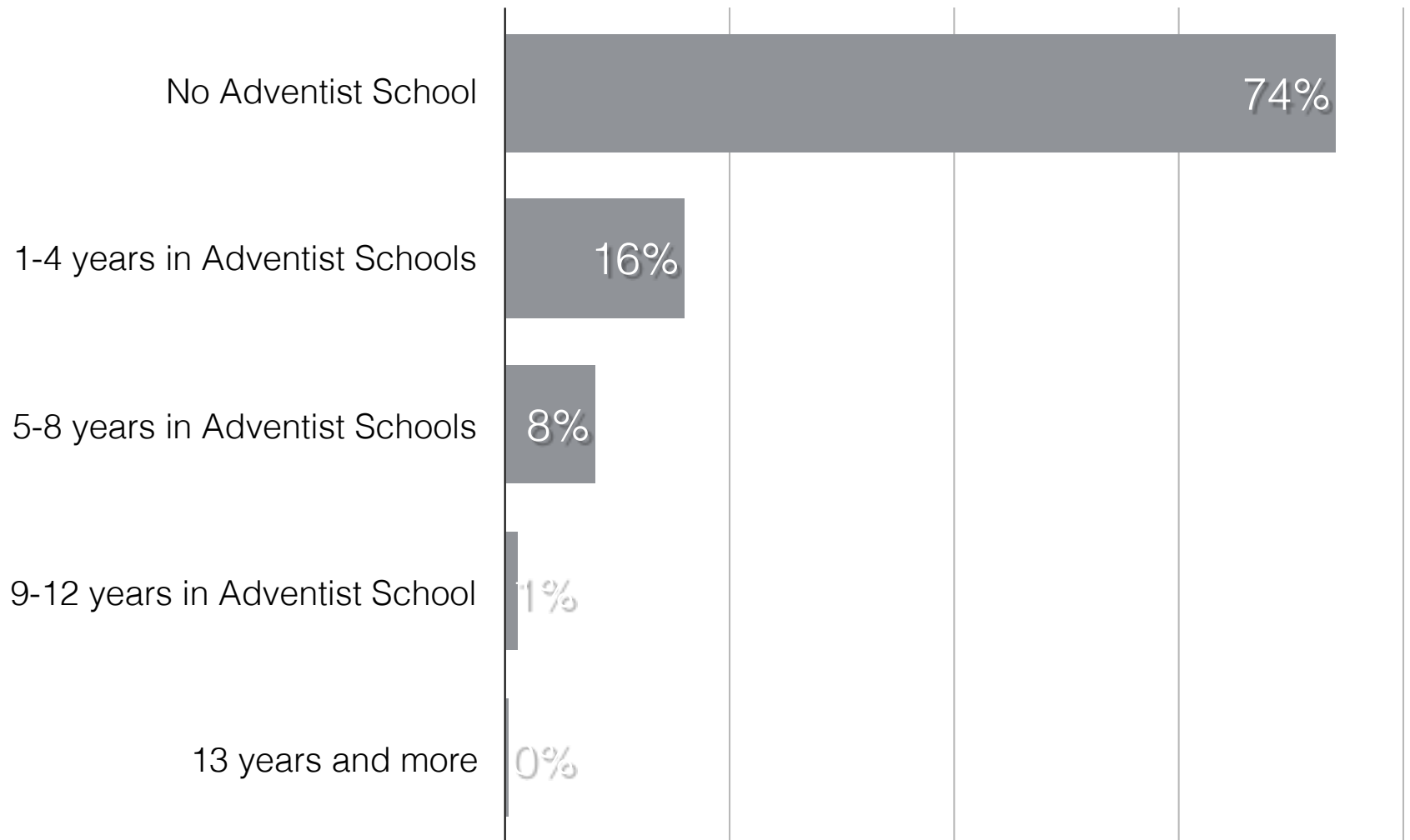
P9. WHAT IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOL YOU HAVE COMPLETED? (MARK ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)



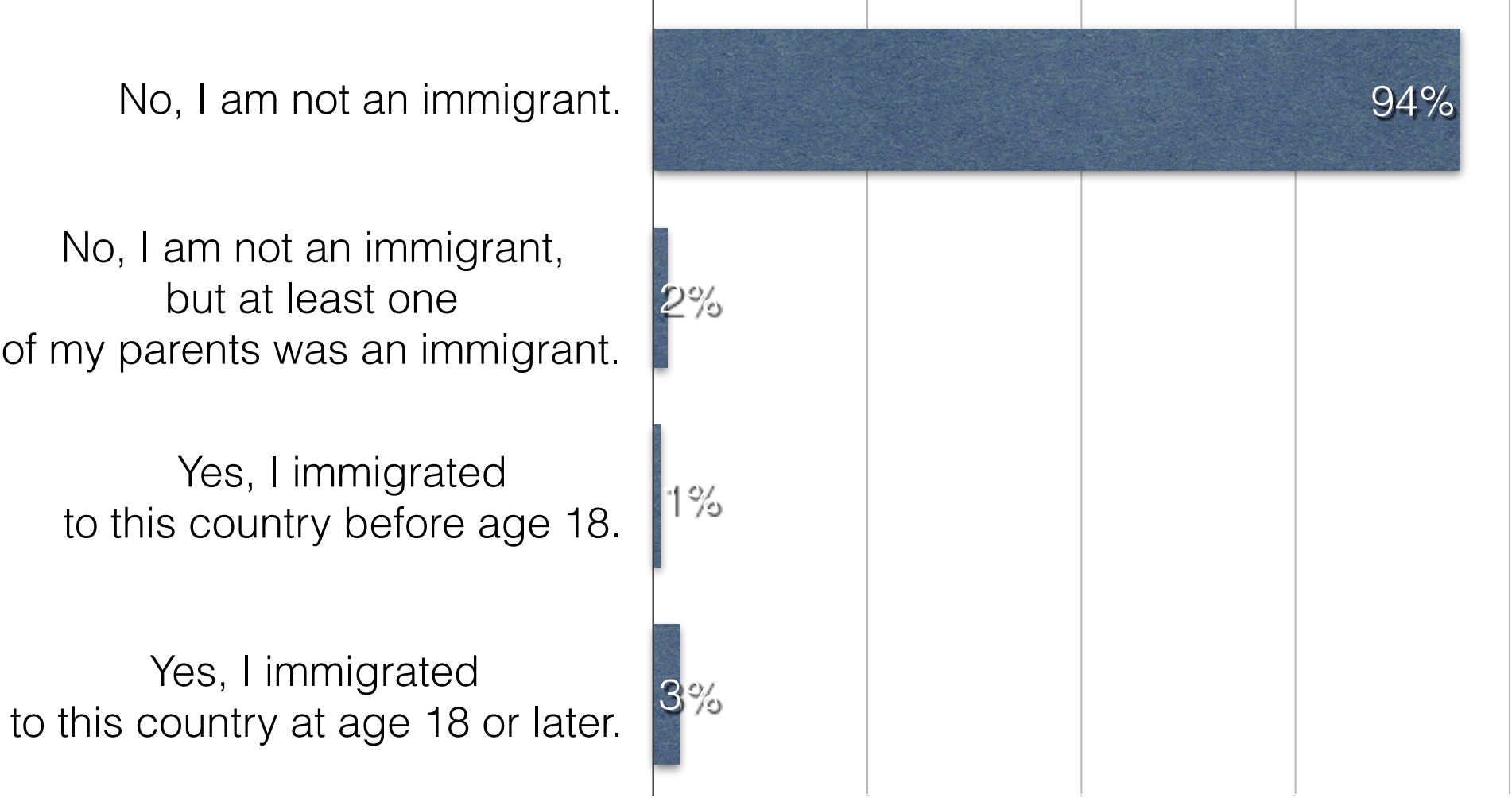
P10. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ADVENTIST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU HAD?



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

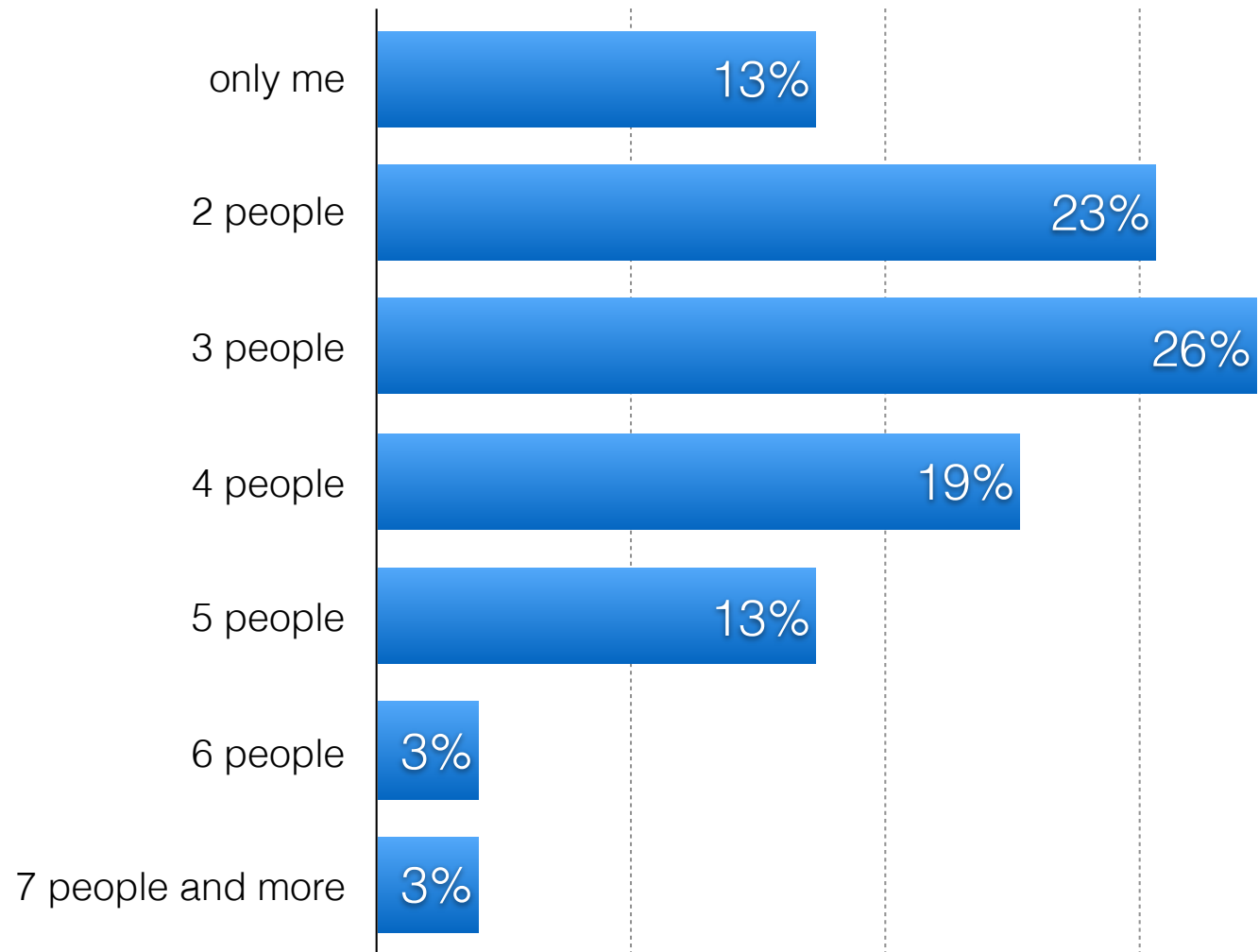


P12. ARE YOU AN IMMIGRANT TO THE COUNTRY WHERE YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?

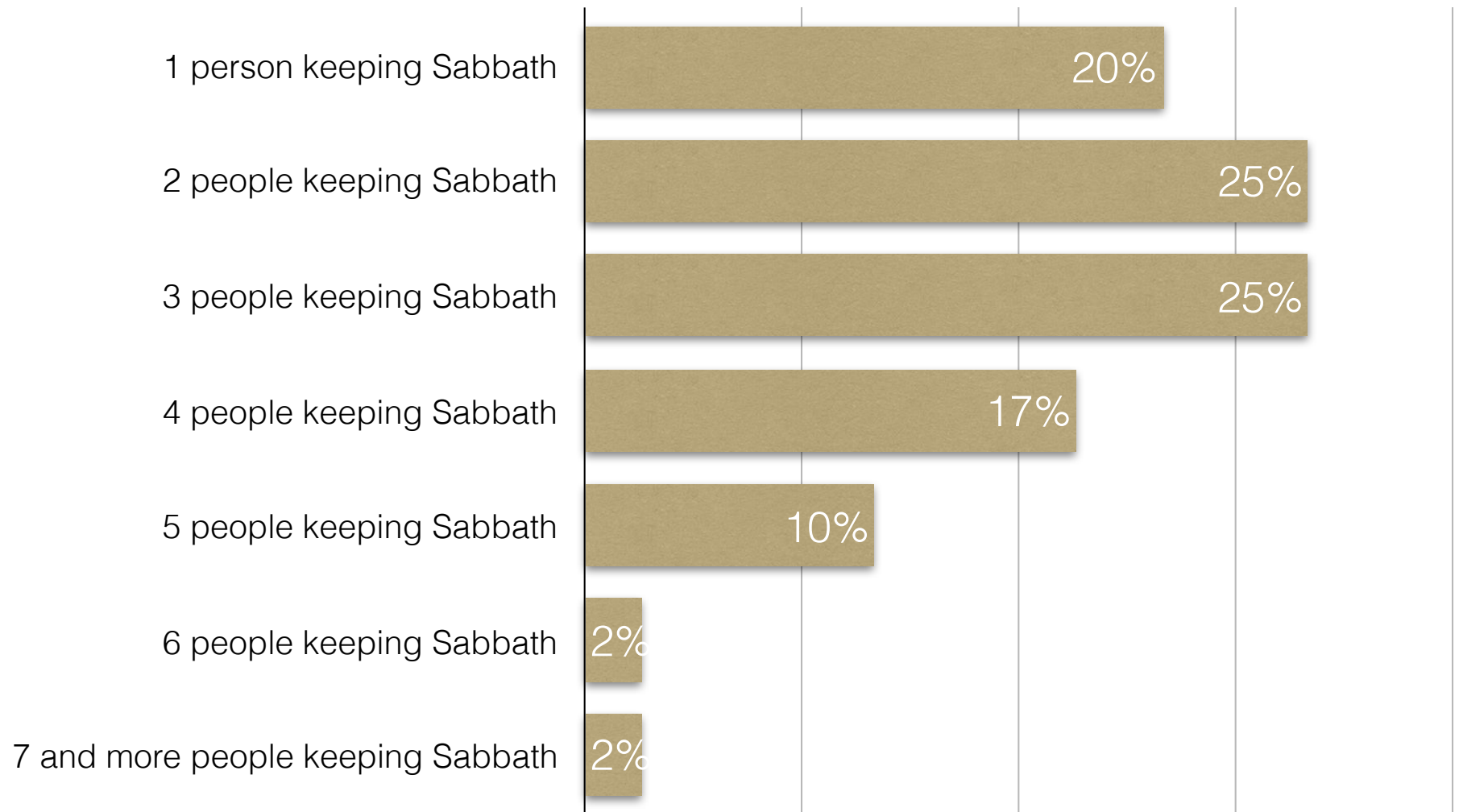


**HOUSEHOLD AND
RELIGIOUS
DEMOGRAPHICS**

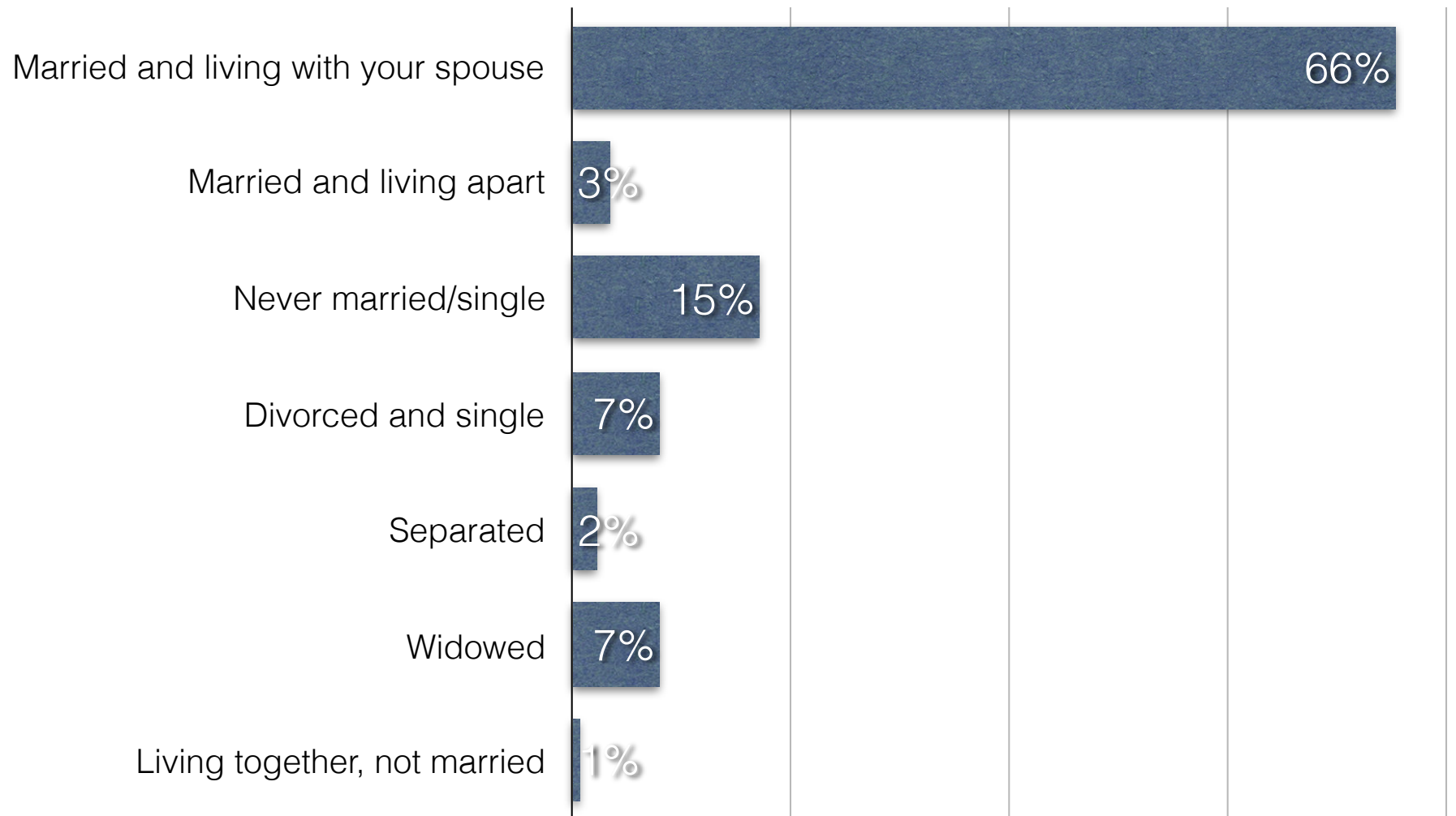
D1. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD (INCLUDING YOURSELF)?



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



D3. MARITAL STATUS



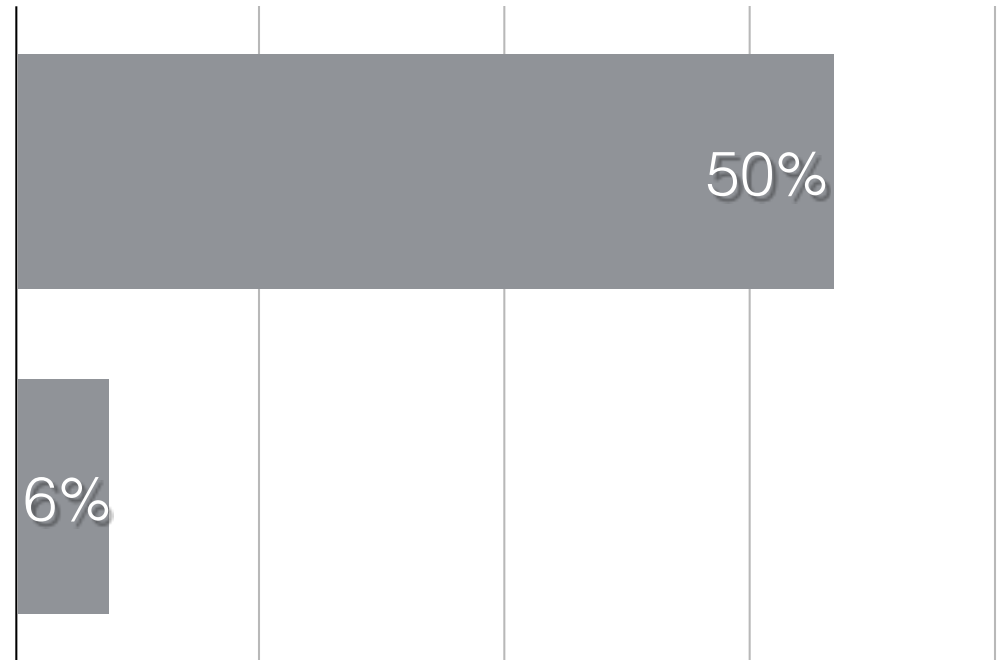
D4. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN LIVING AT YOUR HOME?

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

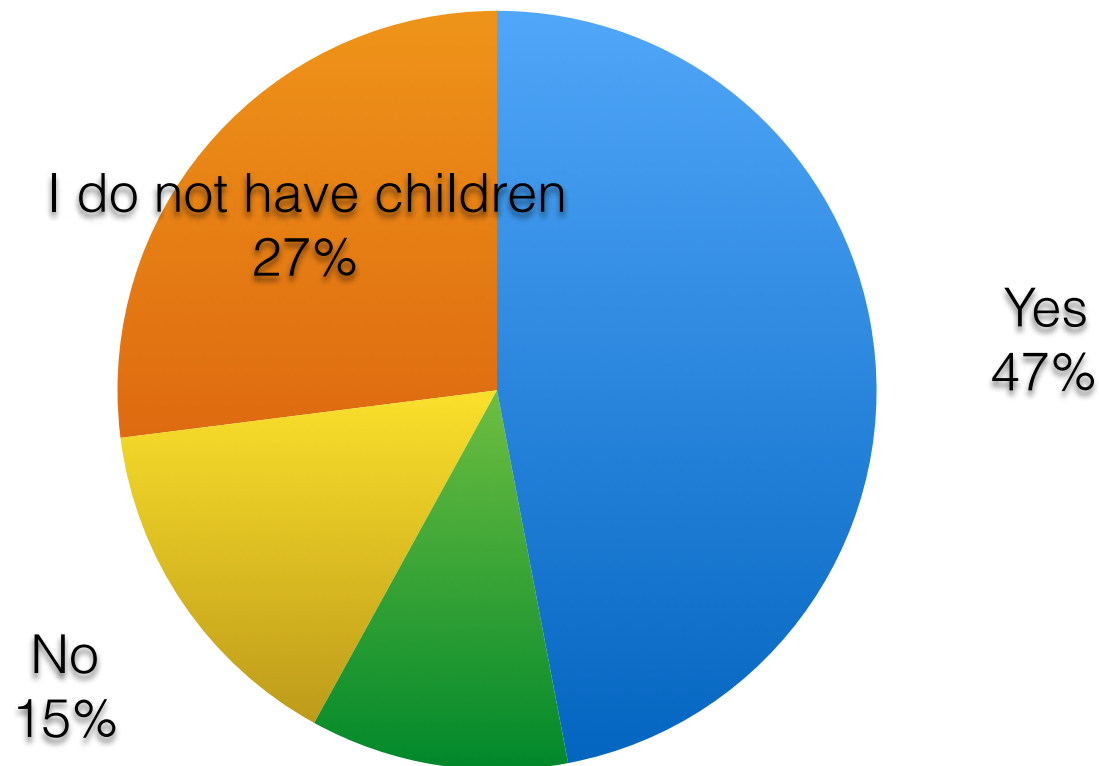
50%

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

6%

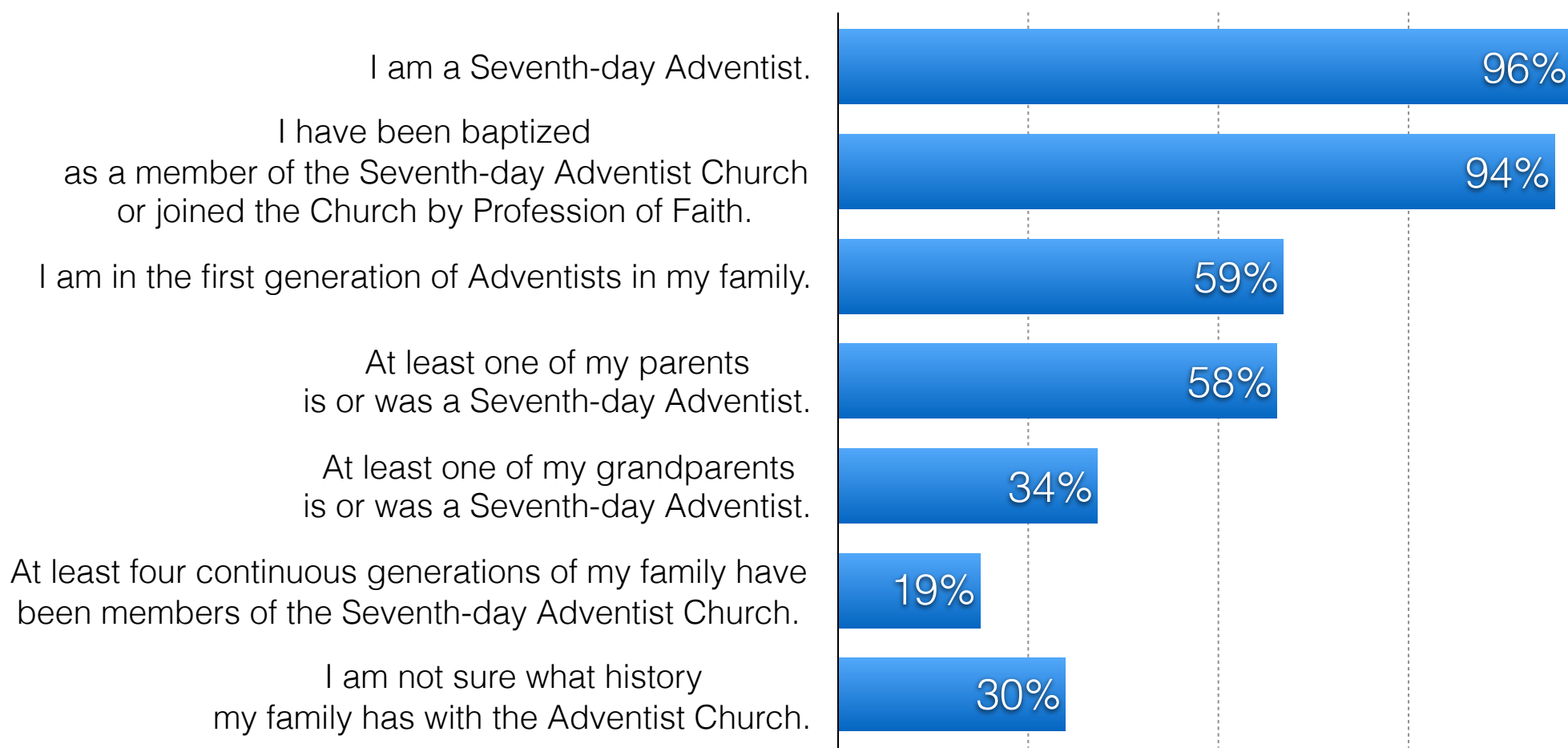


D5. ARE ALL OF YOUR CHILDREN BEING RAISED IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH OR ARE THEY ALL STILL MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?

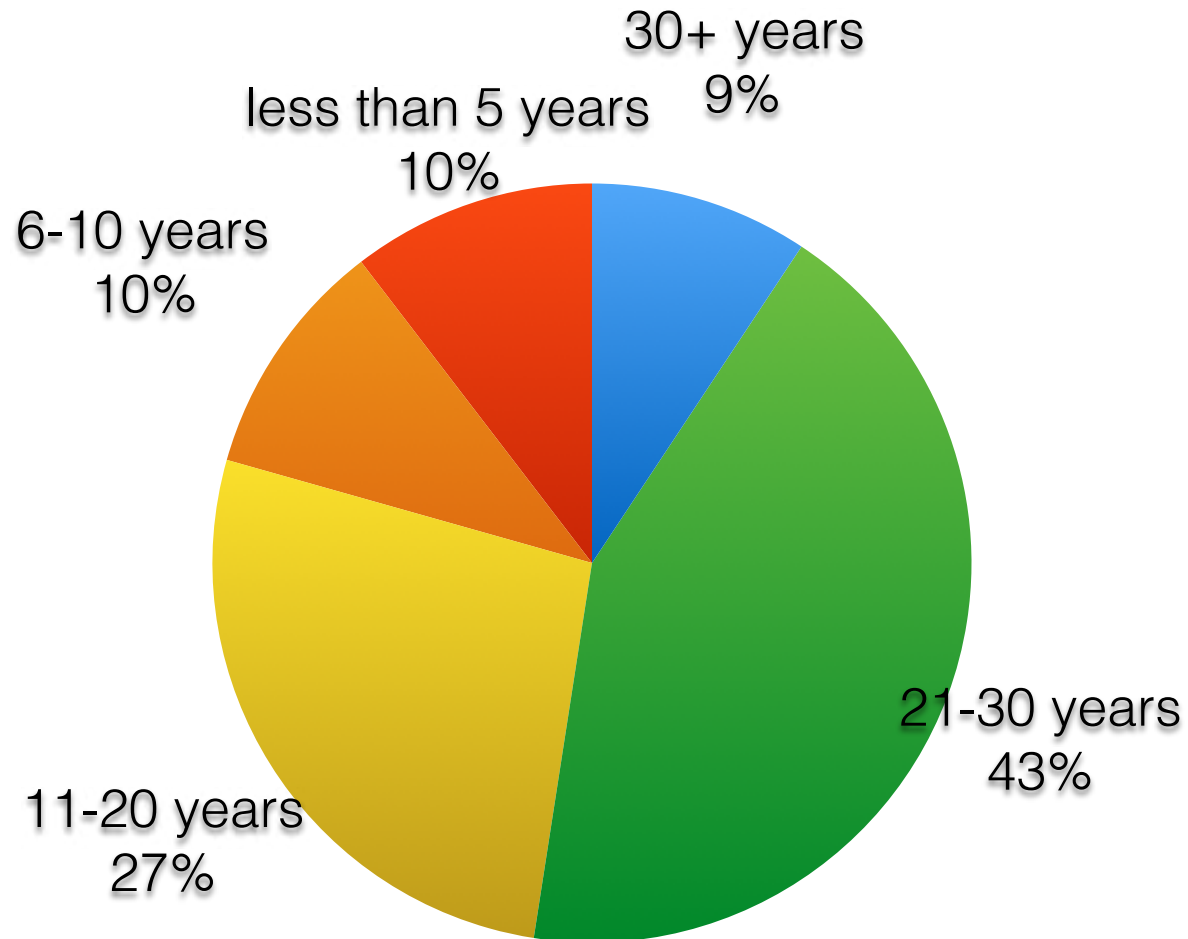


At least one child who is part of church, and at least one who is not
11%

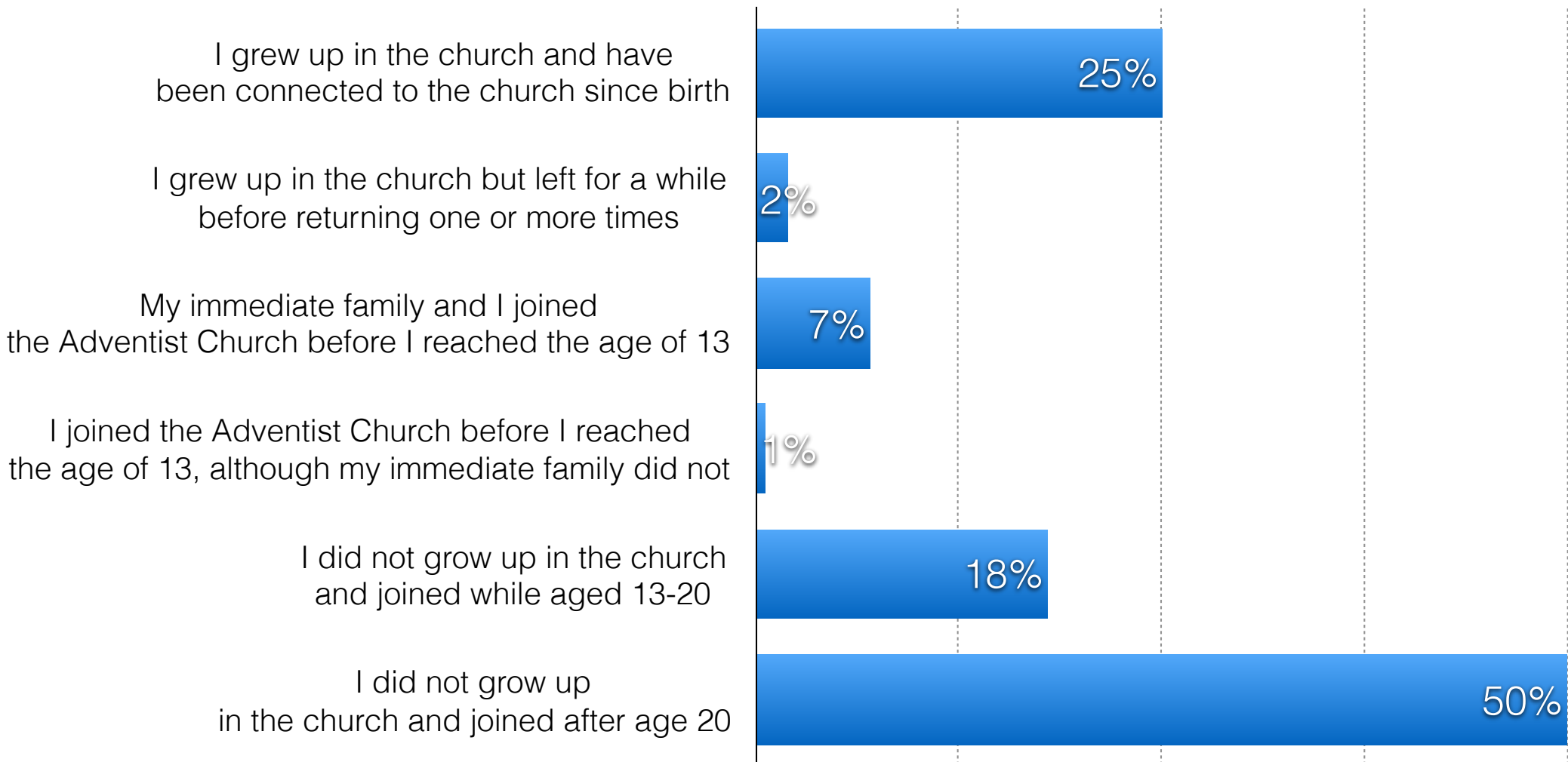
D6. WHAT HISTORY DO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE WITH THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



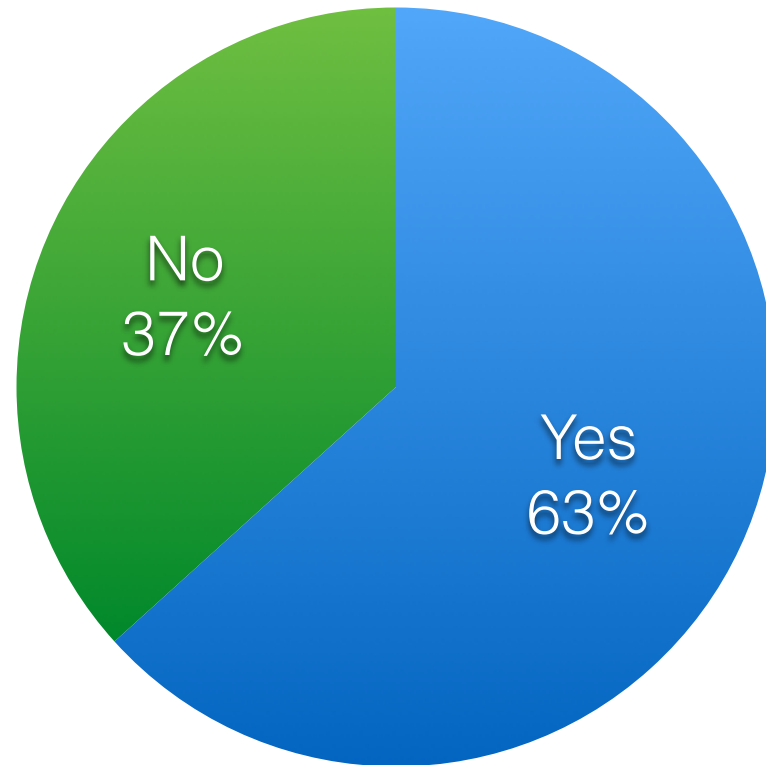
D7. YEARS OF BEING BAPTIZED.



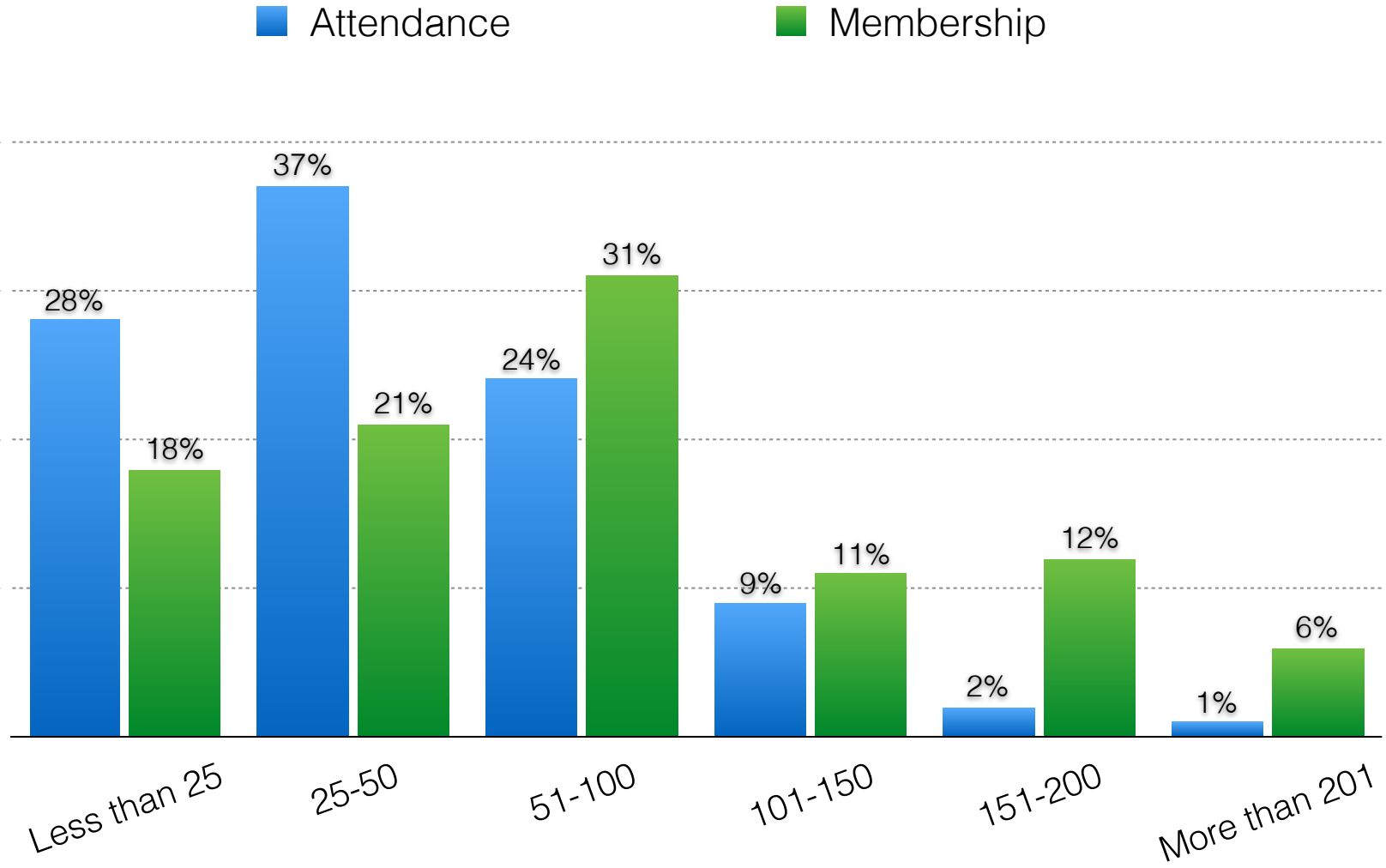
D8. AT WHAT AGE DID YOU JOIN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



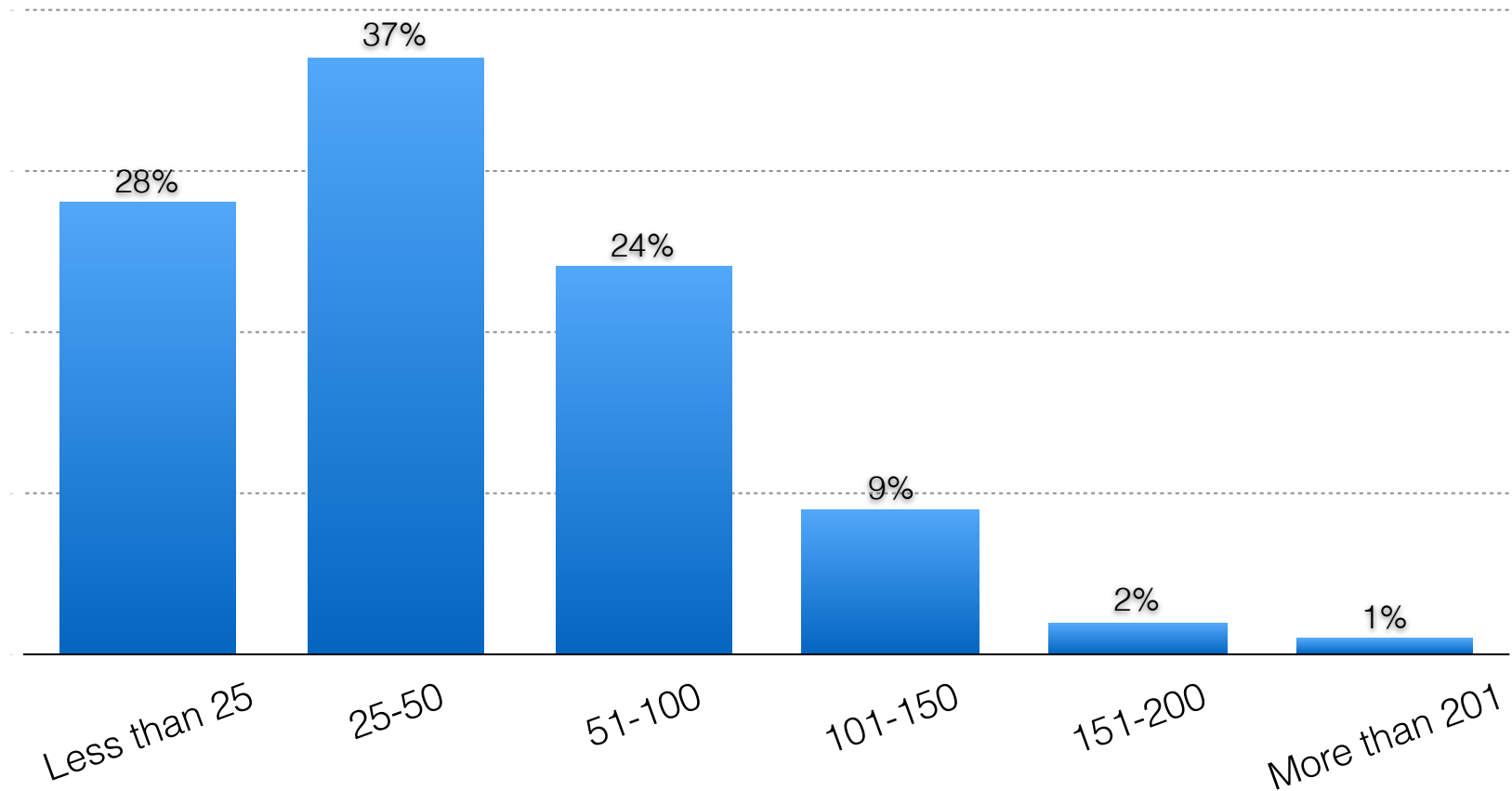
D9. DO YOU HOLD A CHURCH OFFICE AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



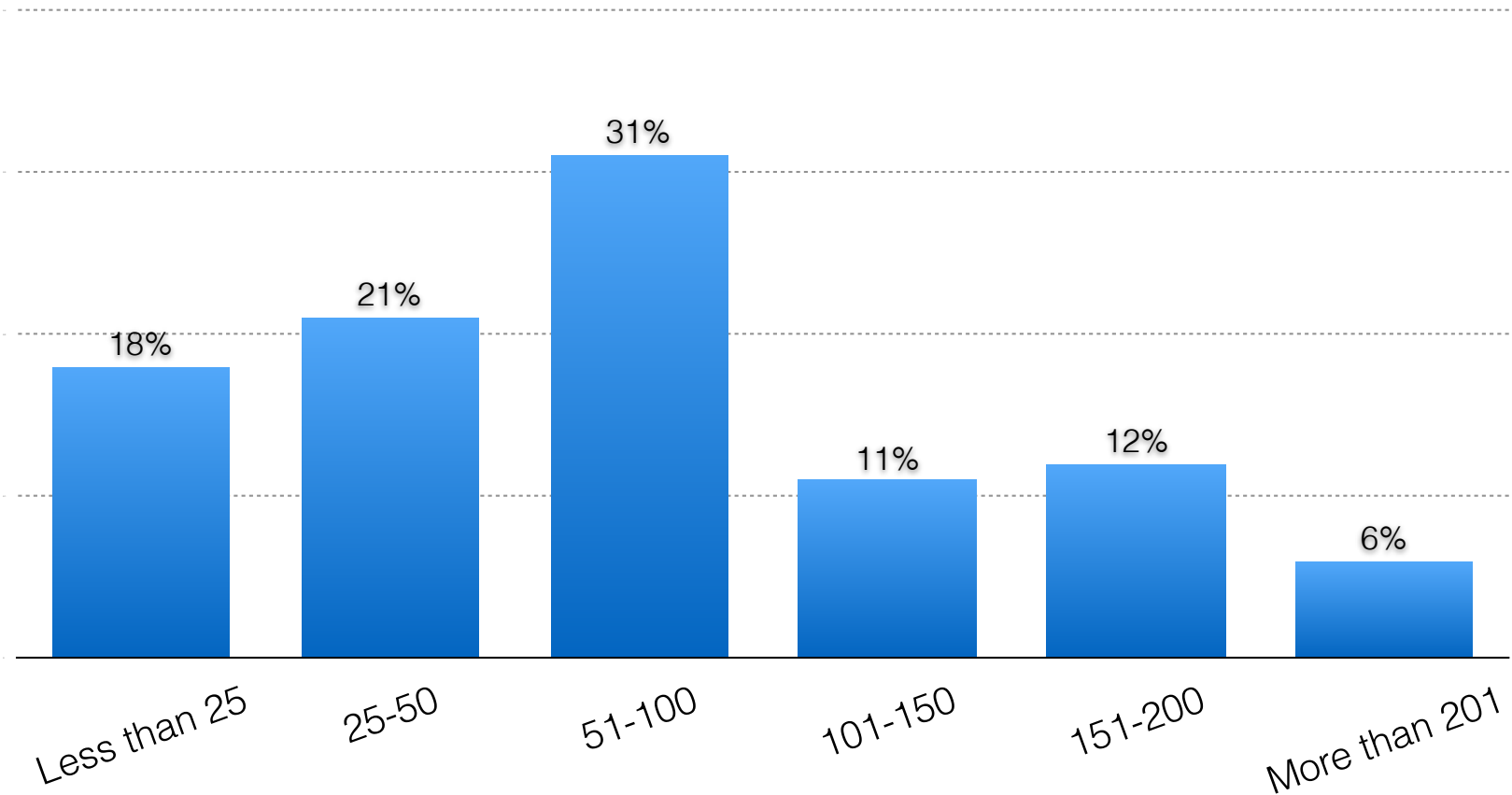
D10 & D11. CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



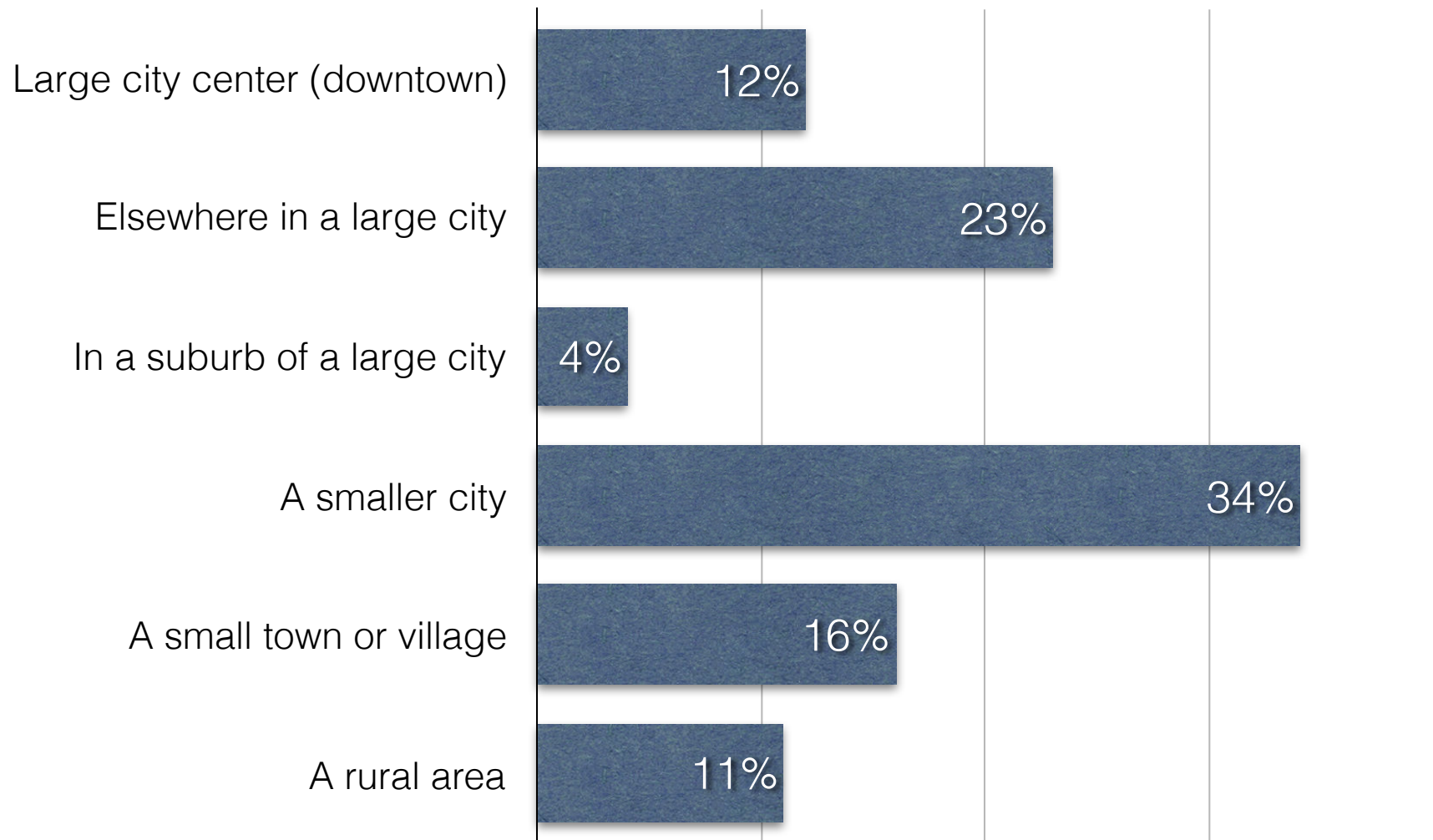
D10. CHURCH ATTENDANCE



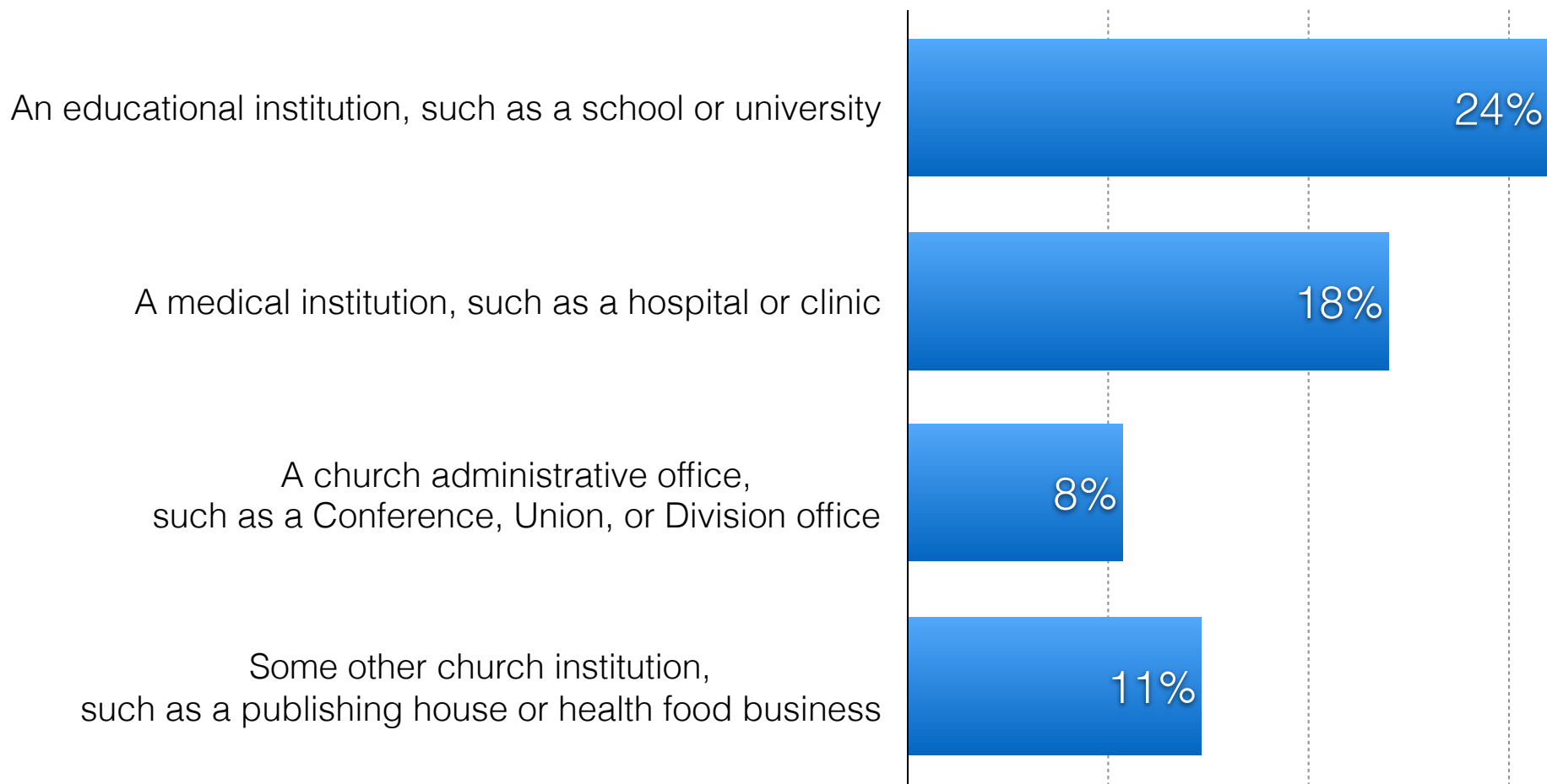
D11. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



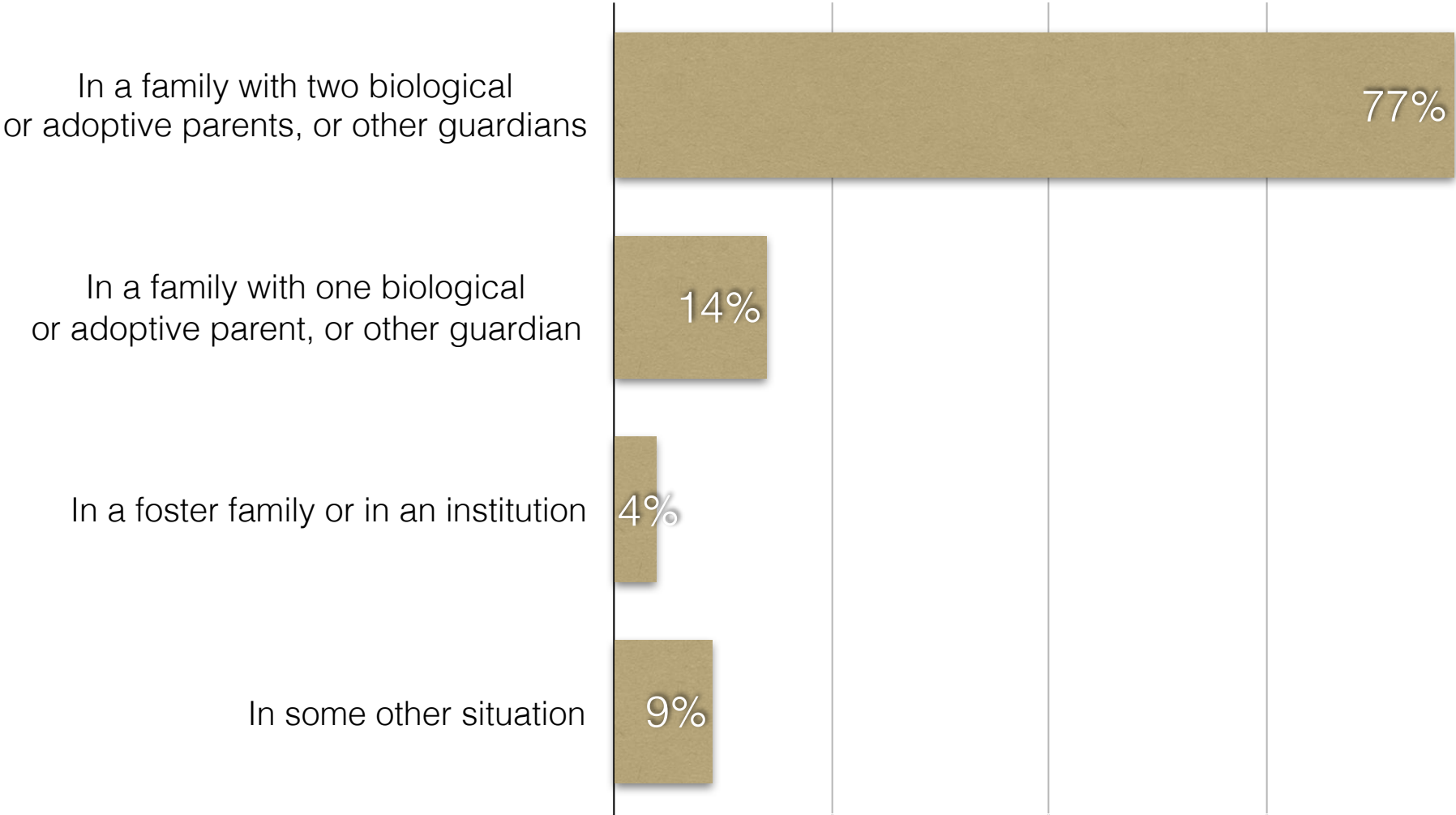
D12. WHAT IS THE SETTING WHERE THE CHURCH IS LOCATED?



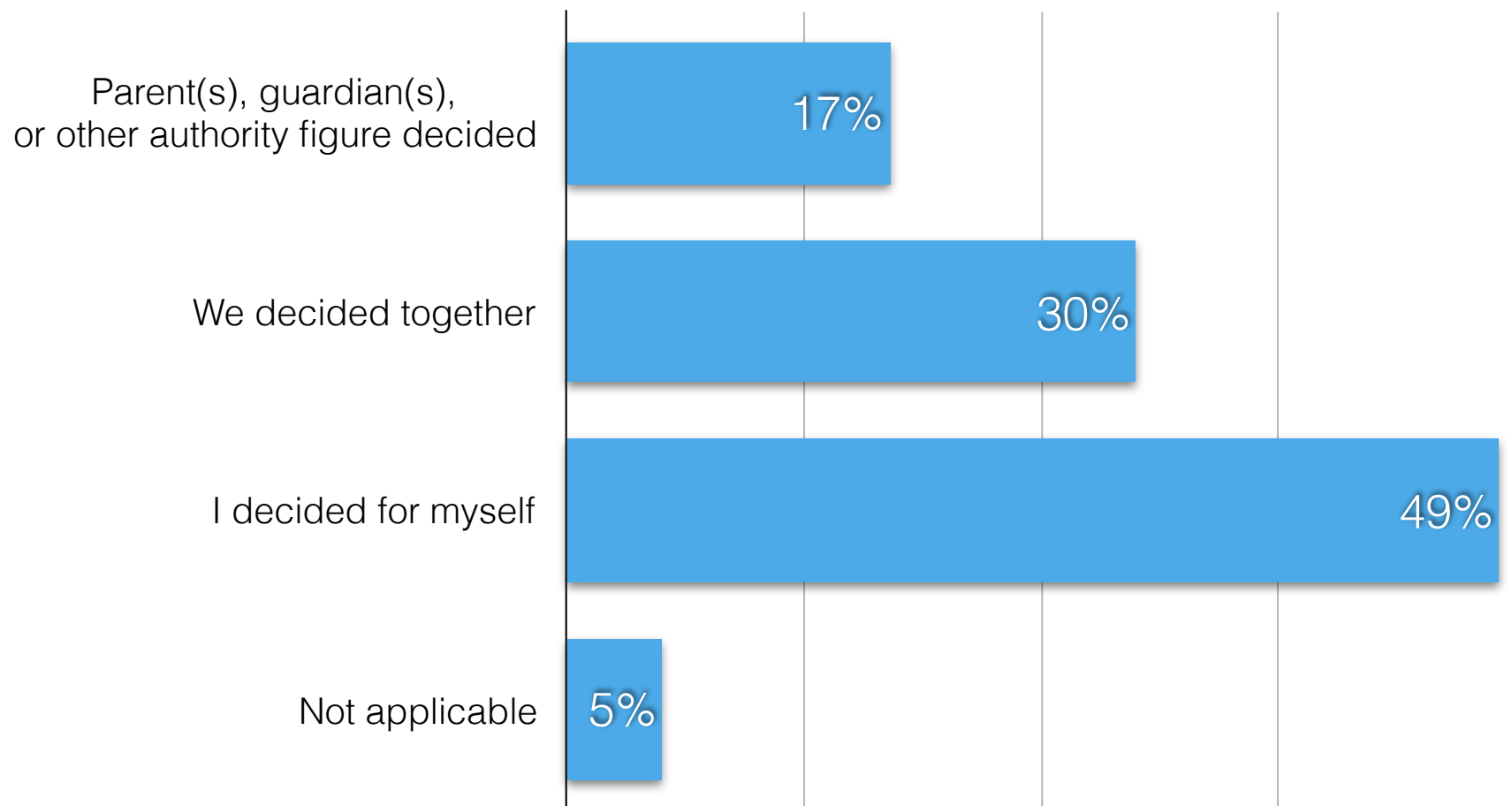
D13. IS YOUR CHURCH LOCATED NEAR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADVENTIST INSTITUTIONS?



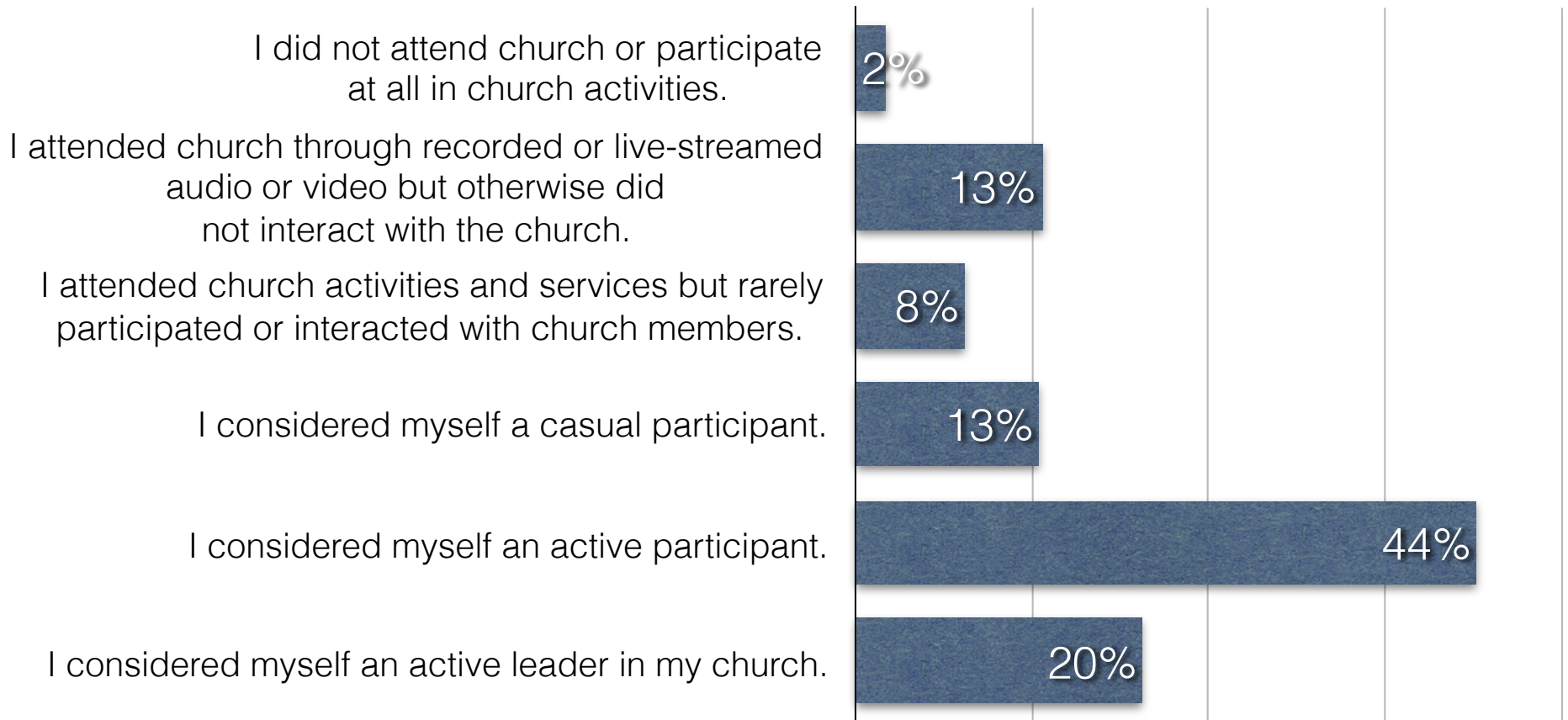
D14. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE FAMILY SITUATION IN WHICH YOU GREW UP?



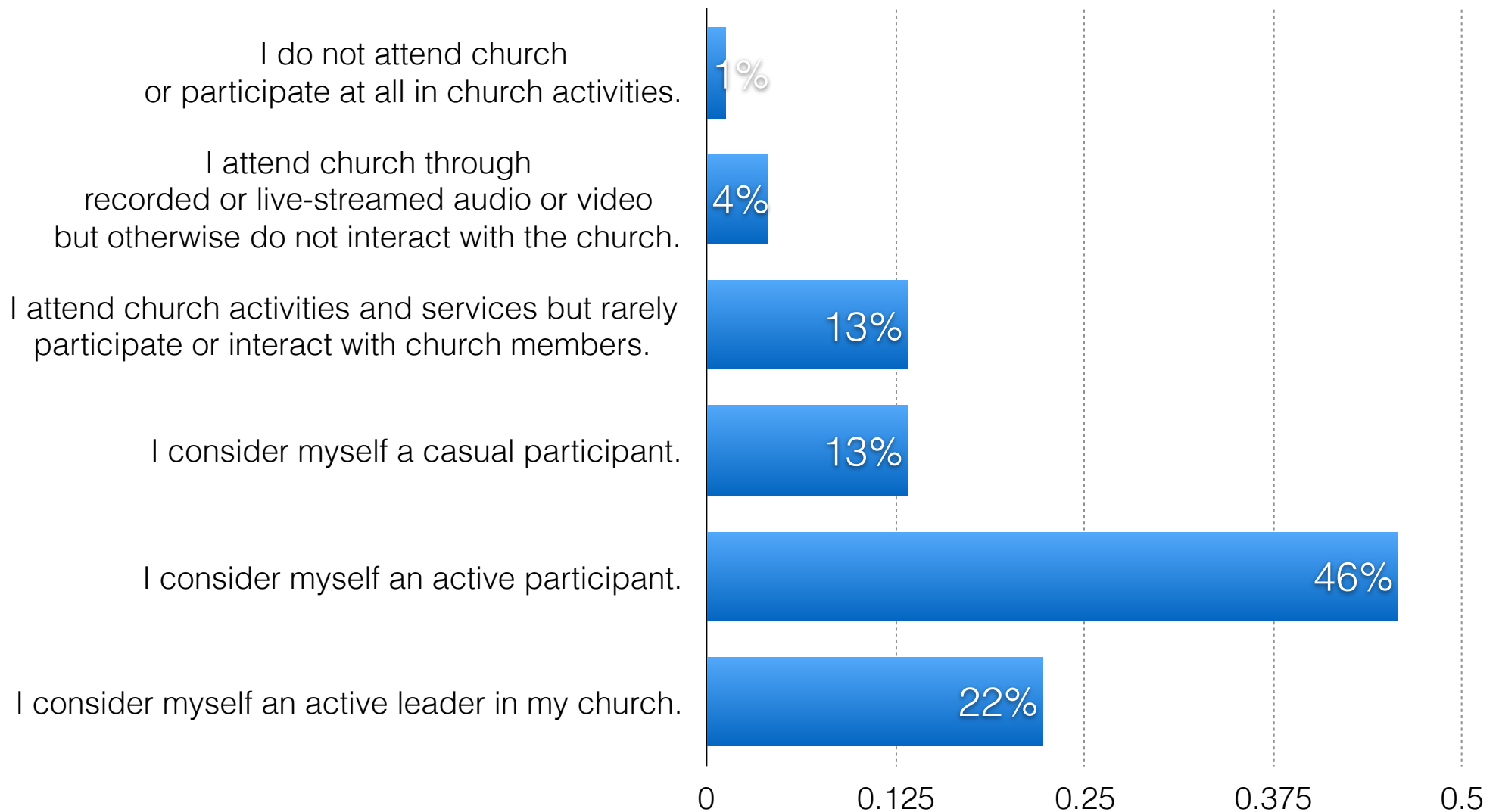
D15. WHEN YOU WERE A TEENAGER, BEFORE YOU LEFT HOME, HOW WERE DECISIONS USUALLY MADE ABOUT THE MUSIC TO WHICH YOU LISTENED, THE MEDIA (TELEVISION, MOVIES, OR WEBSITES) THAT YOU VIEWED, THE TIME THAT YOU WENT TO BED, OR THE FRIENDS WITH WHOM YOU SPENT TIME.



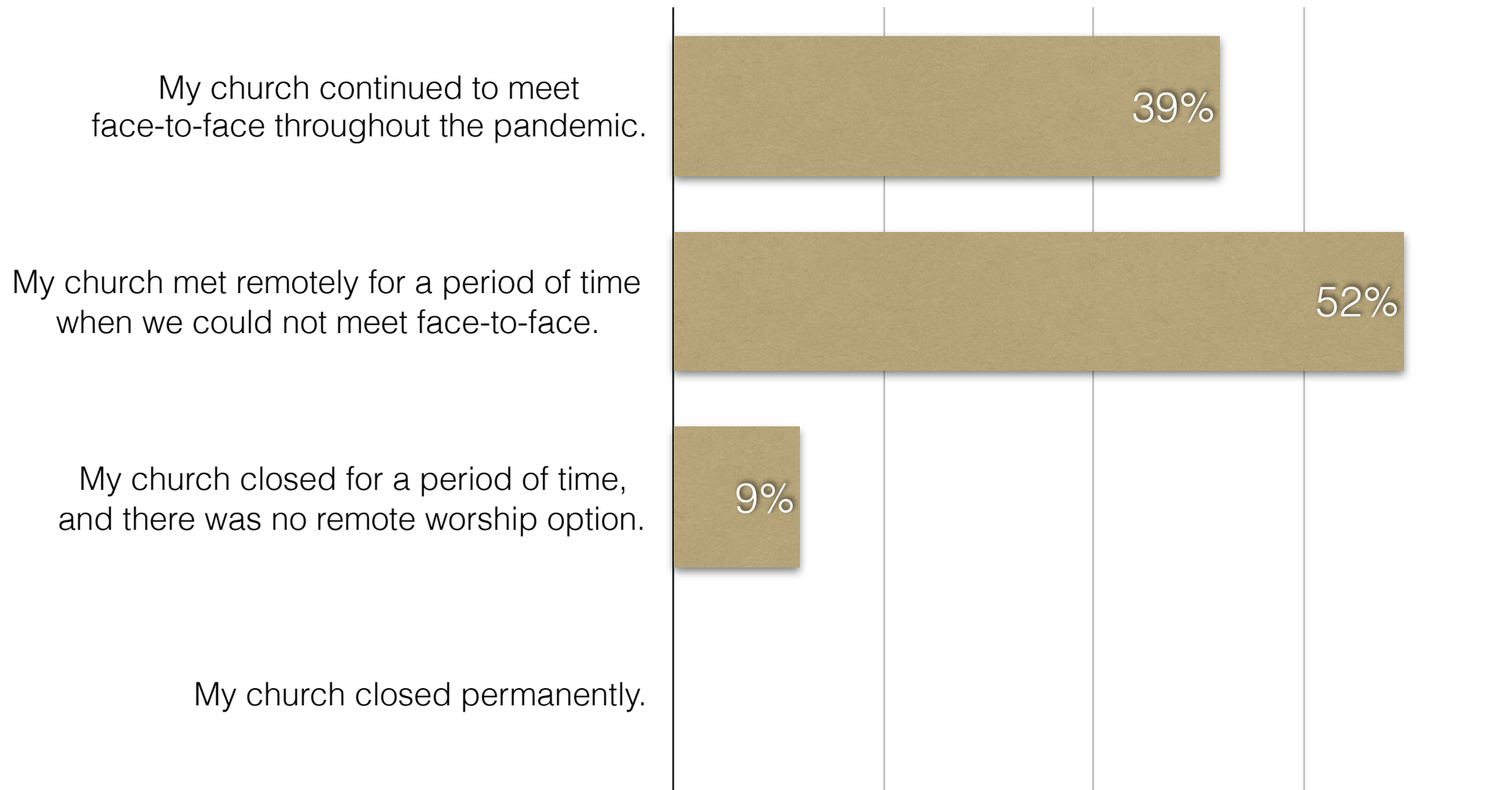
D16. THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WAY THAT SOME PEOPLE PARTICIPATE WITH THEIR CHURCH. THINK BACK TO A TIME JUST BEFORE THE PANDEMIC STARTED IN LATE 2019. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BEFORE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?



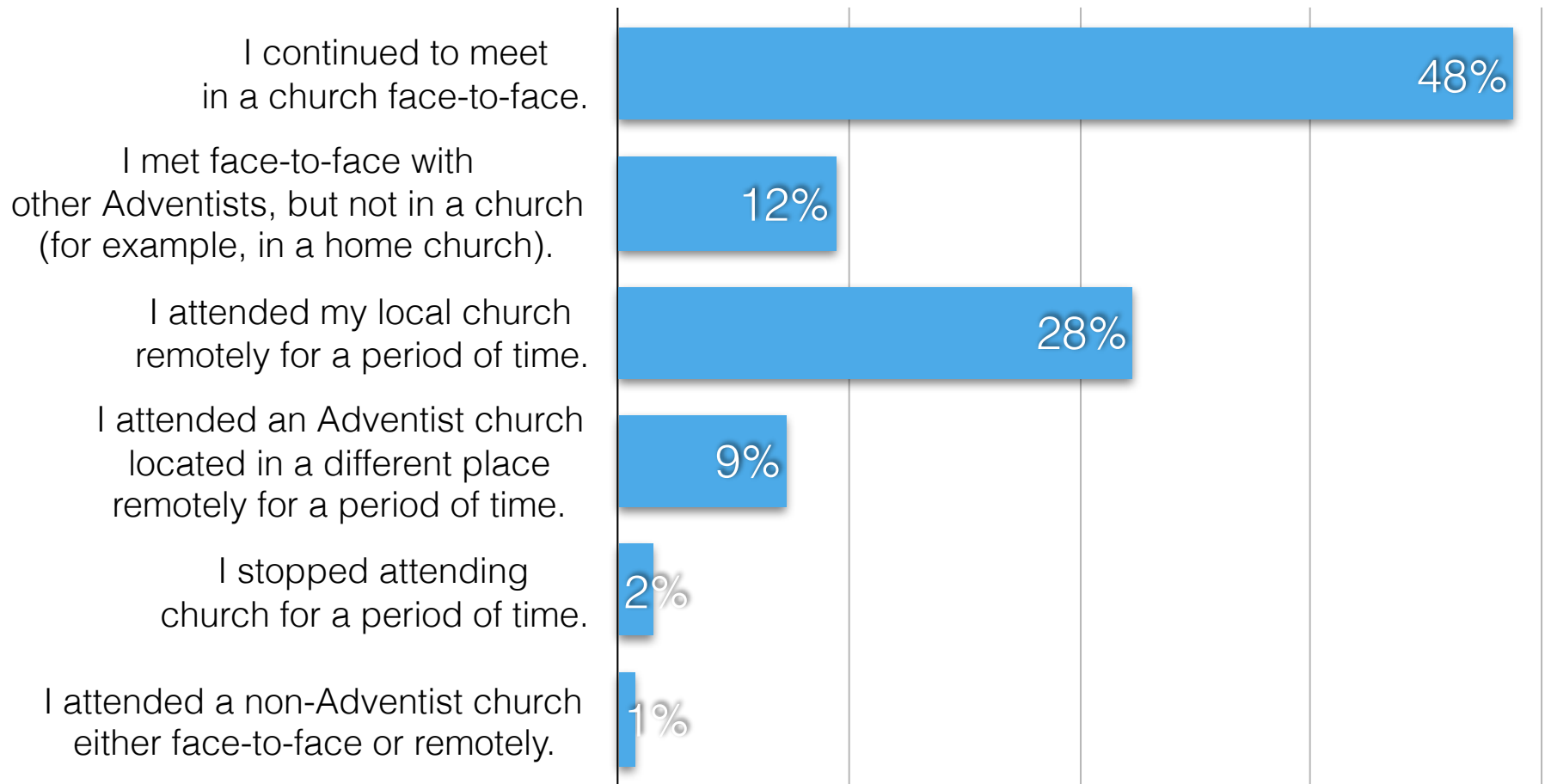
D17. HOW WOULD YOU CURRENTLY DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



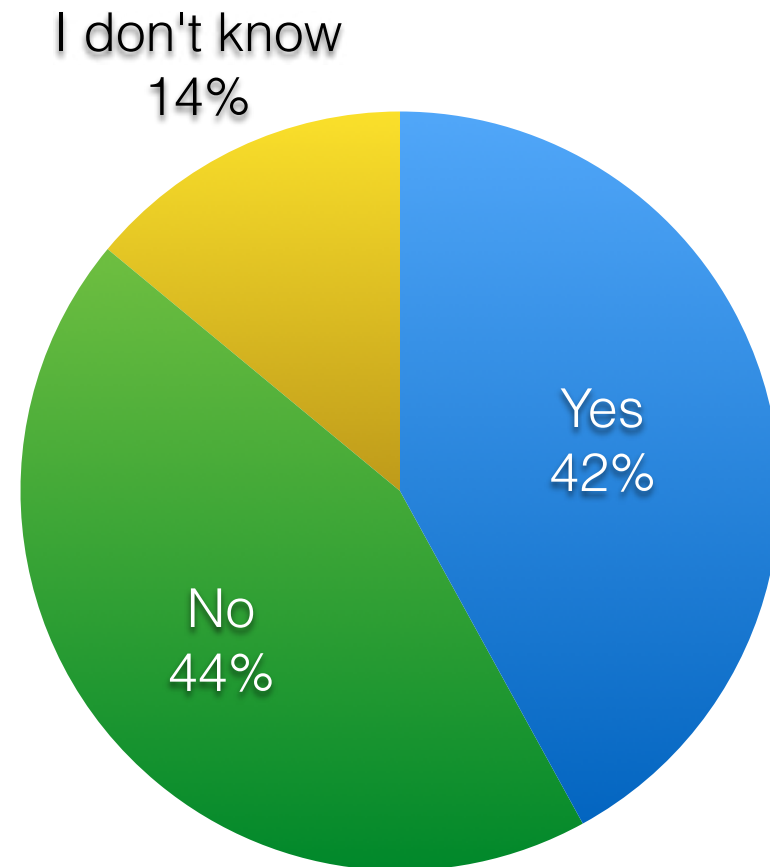
D18. DURING THE PANDEMIC, WHAT HAPPENED TO WORSHIP SERVICES AT THE CHURCH THAT YOU ATTENDED?



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

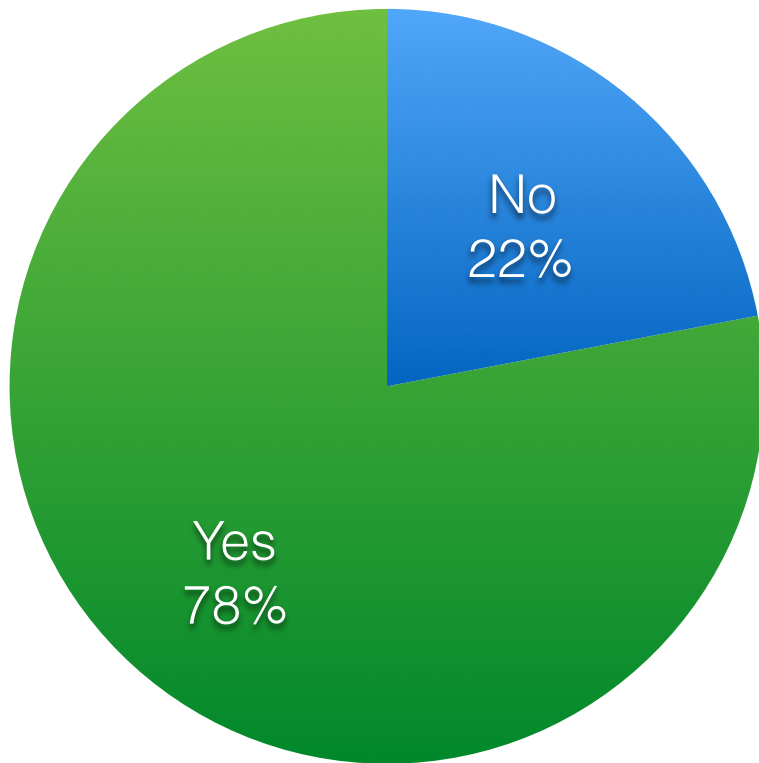


D20. DID YOUR CHURCH DEVELOP ANY NEW MINISTRIES DURING OR AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC?

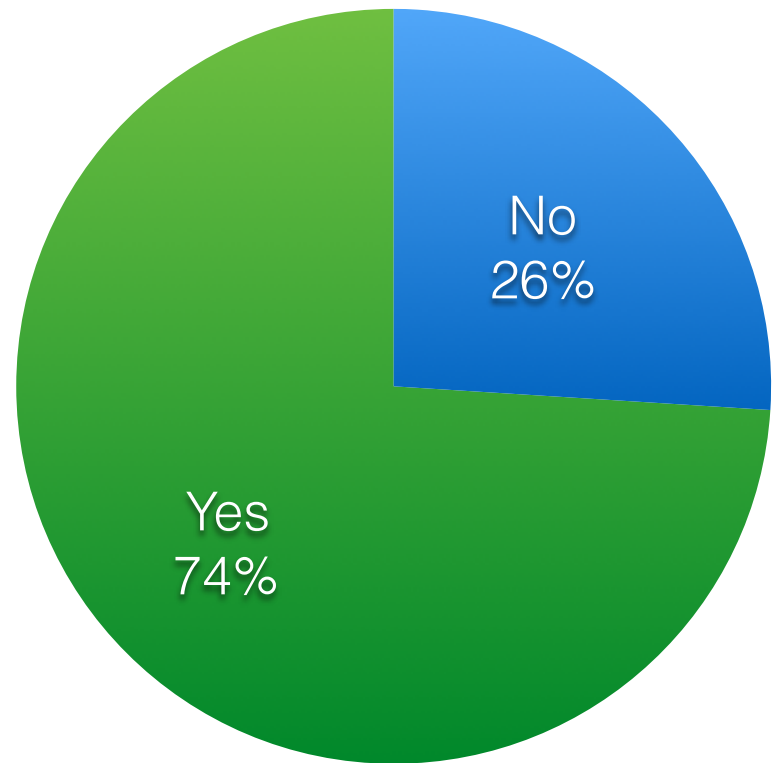


D21.DURING ANY PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH YOU WERE UNABLE TO MEET ON-SITE WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, WERE YOU PROVIDED WITH ONE OR MORE METHODS (ELECTRONIC OR OTHERWISE) THAT ENABLED YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR USUAL PATTERN OF ...

RETURNING TITHE?

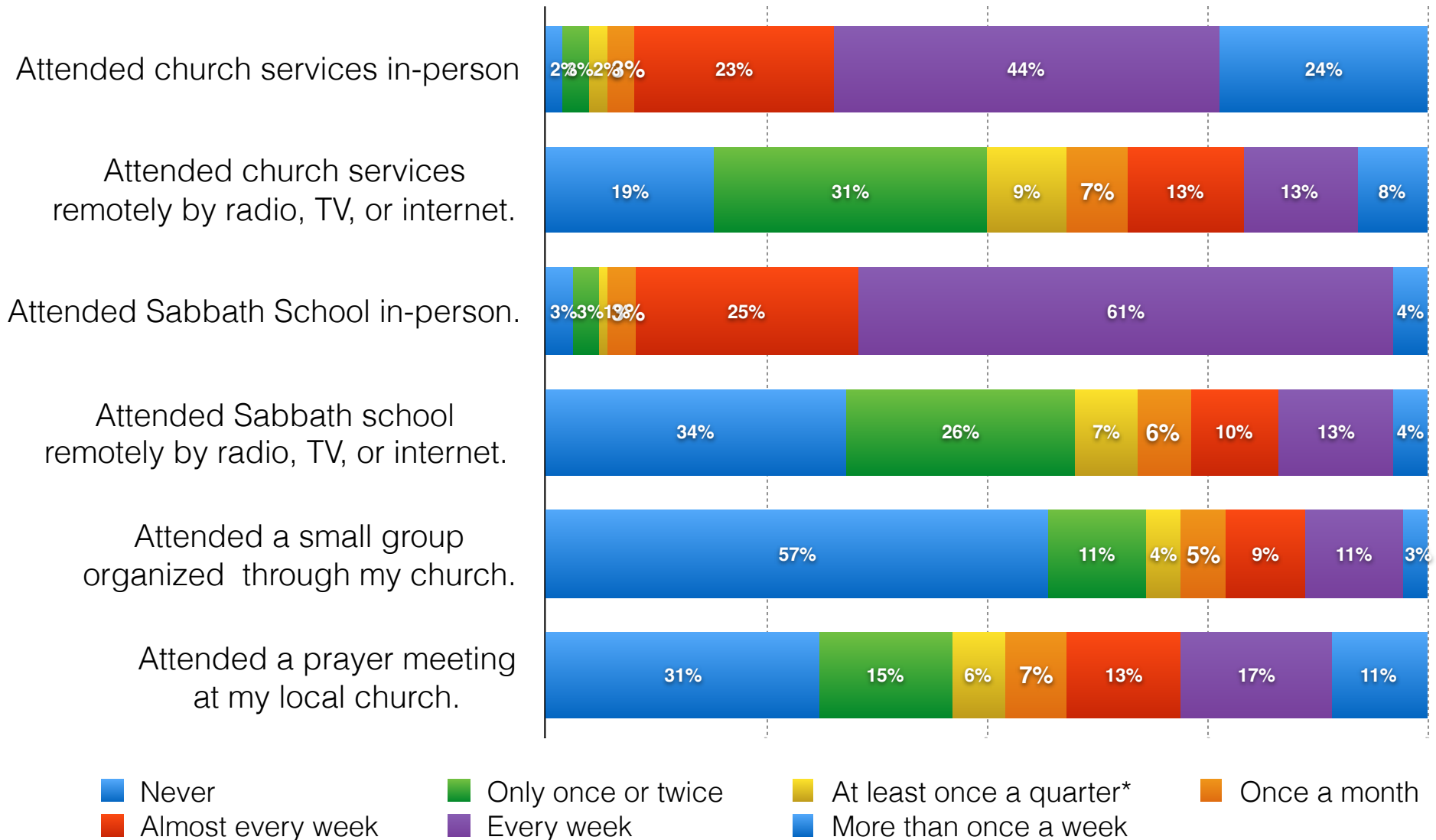


GIVING OFFERINGS?

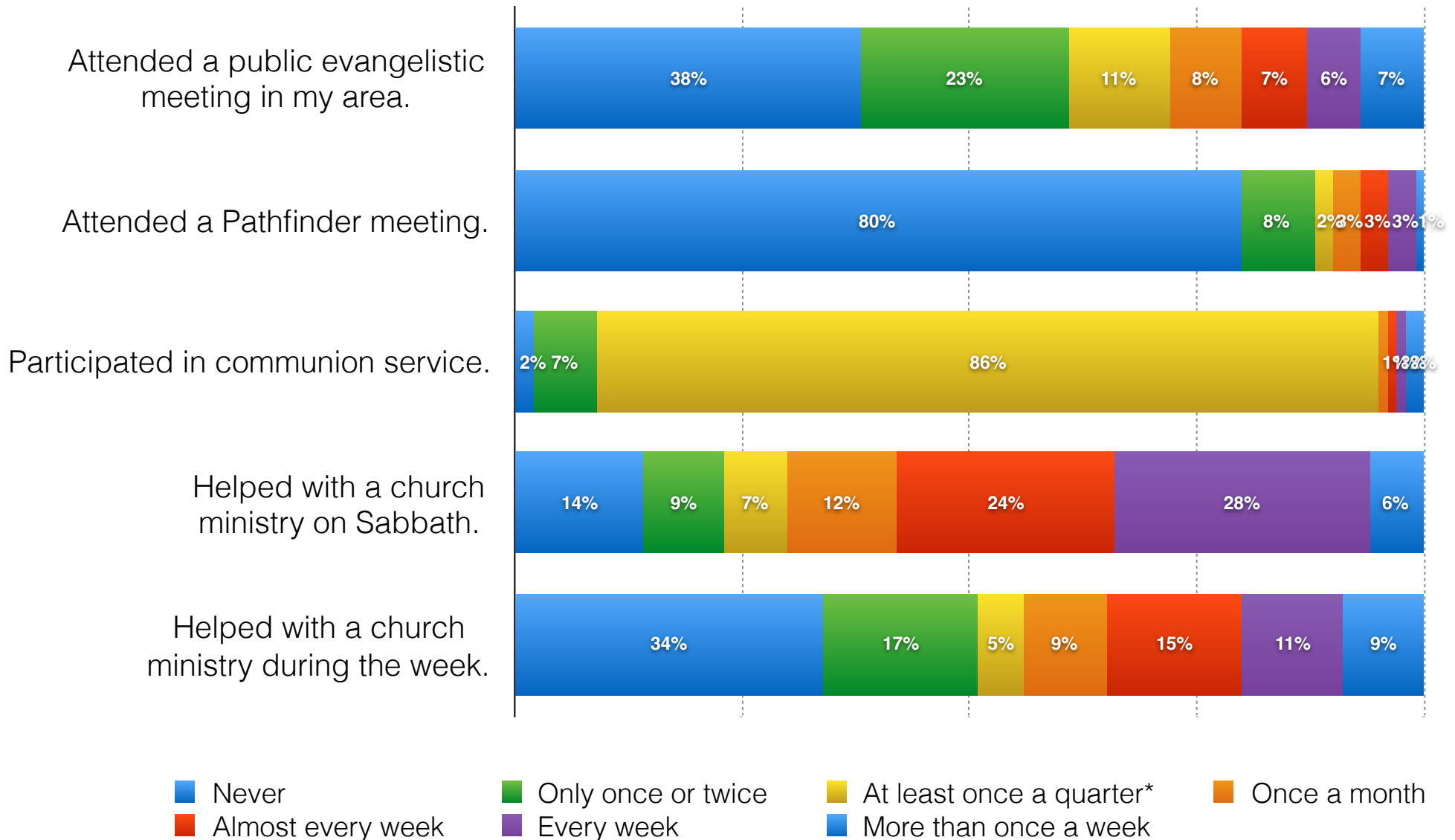


**RELIGIOUS
BEHAVIORS AND
ROLES**

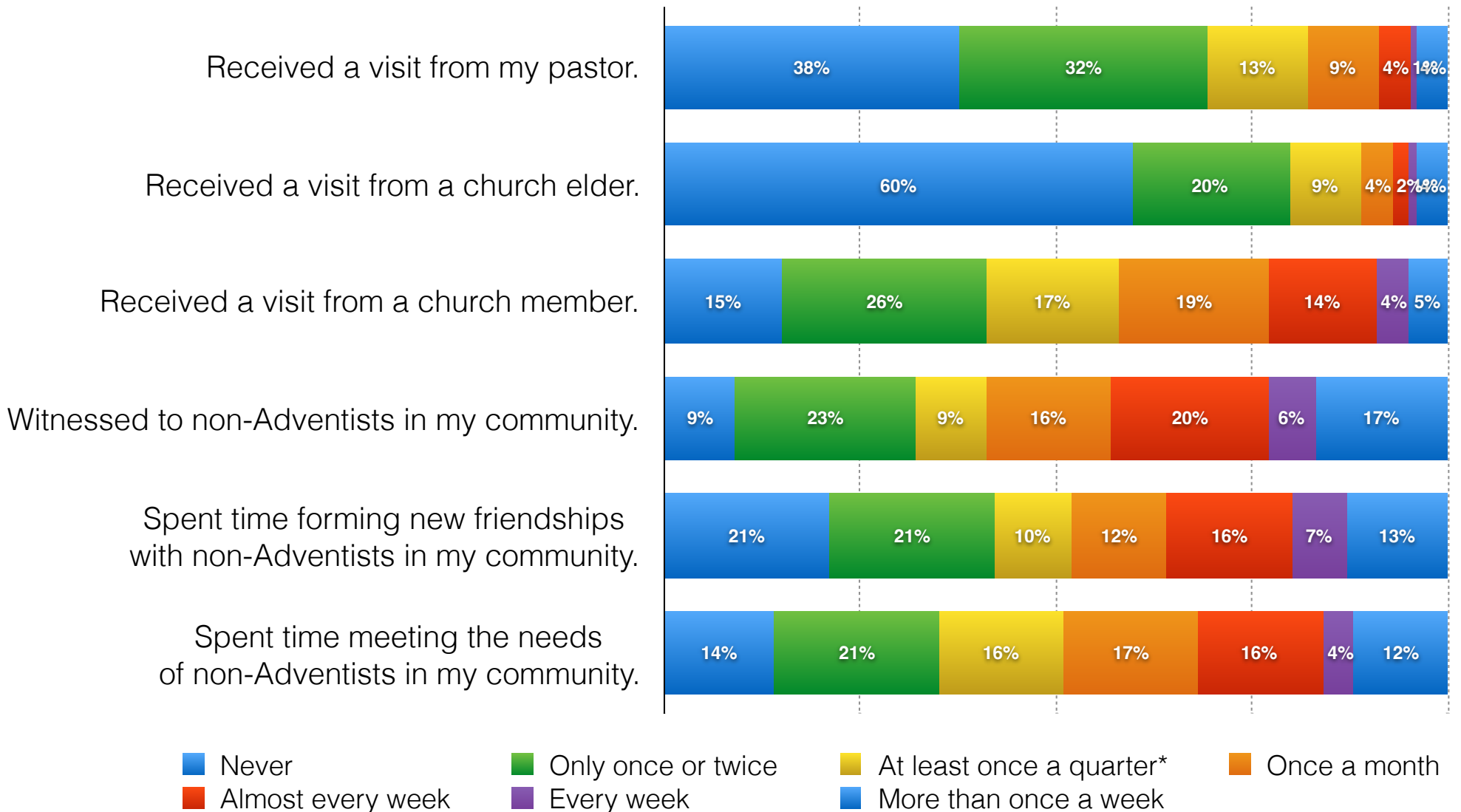
R1A. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



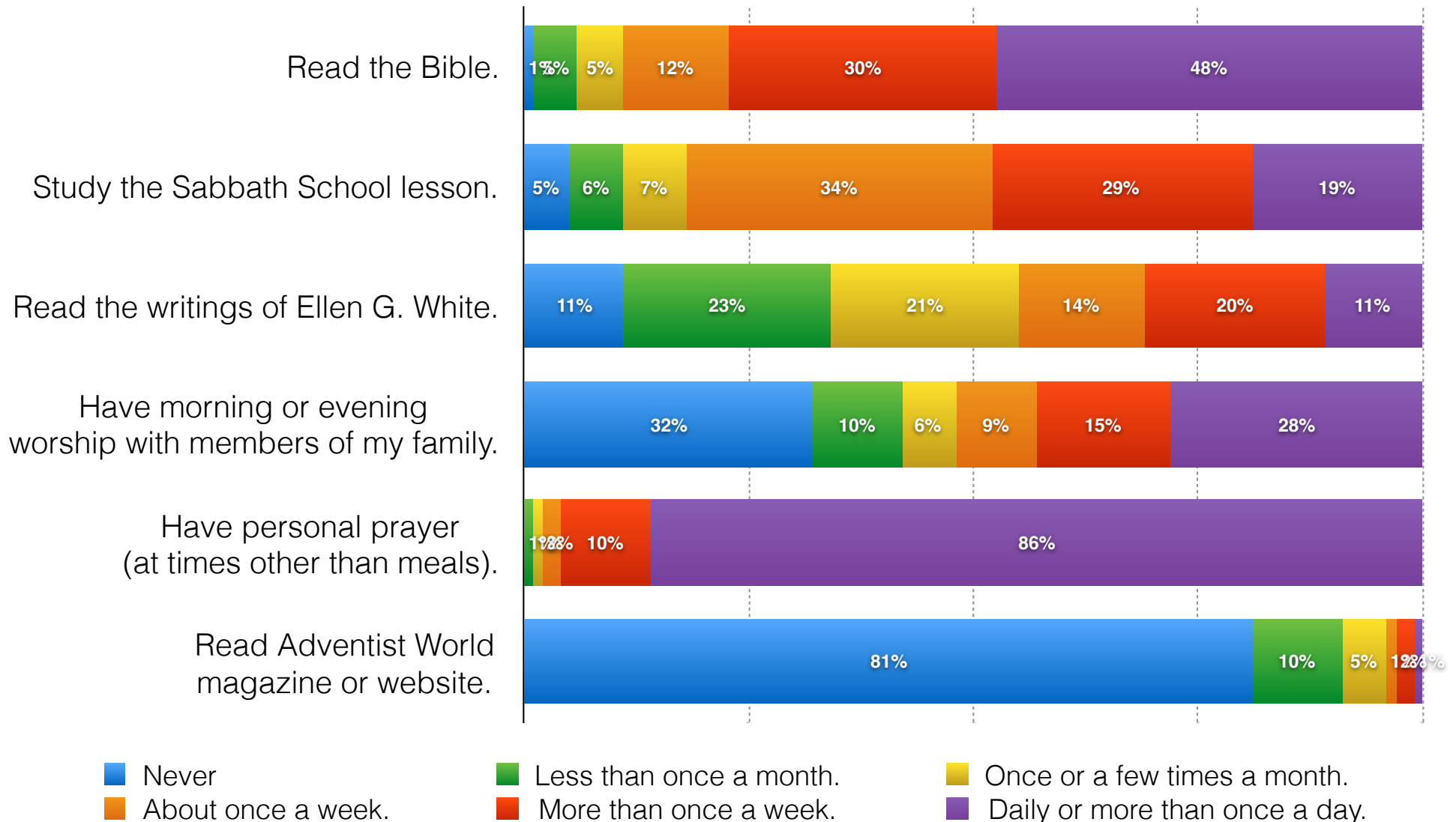
R1B. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



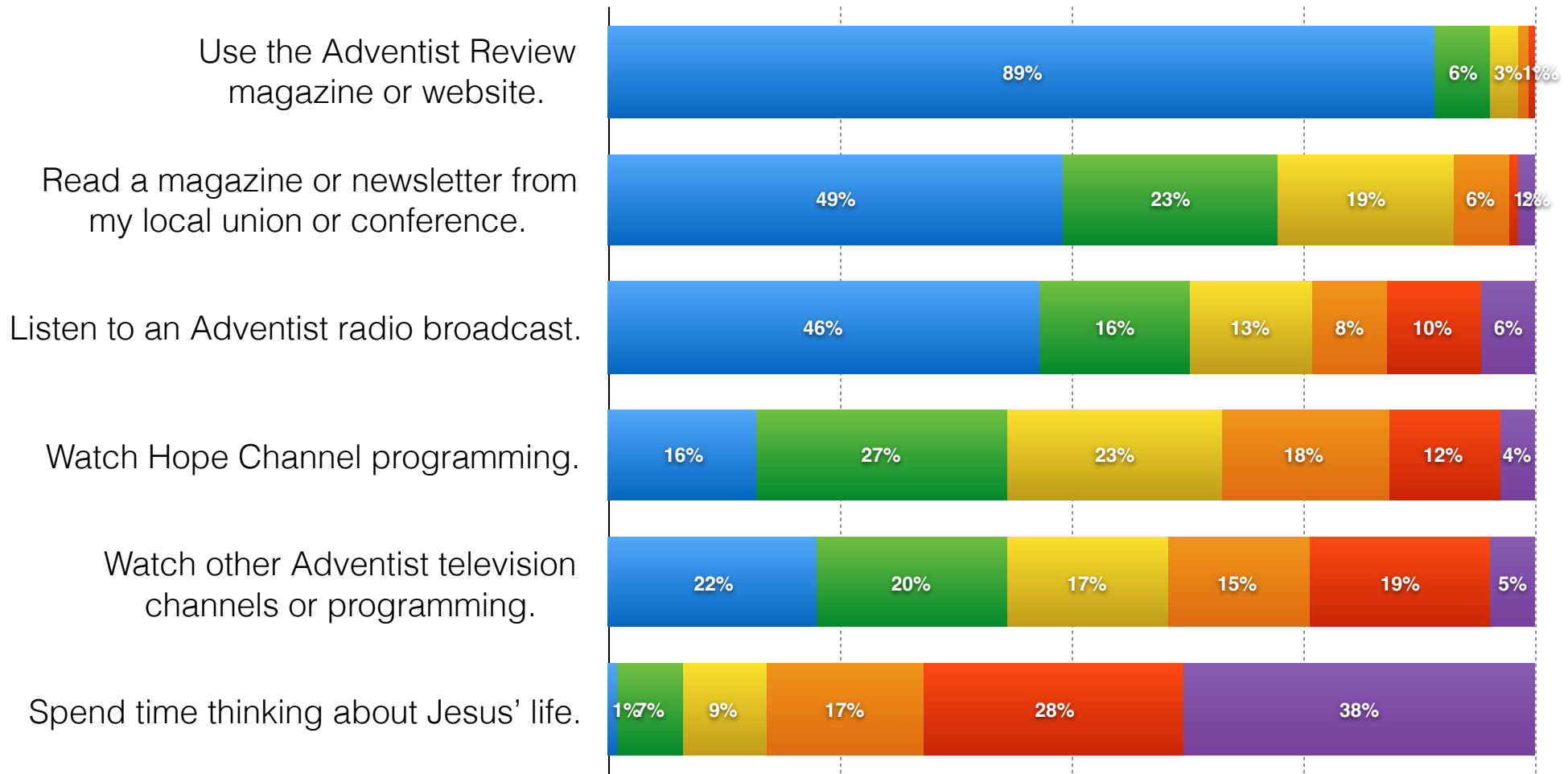
R1c. HOW OFTEN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS DID YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



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

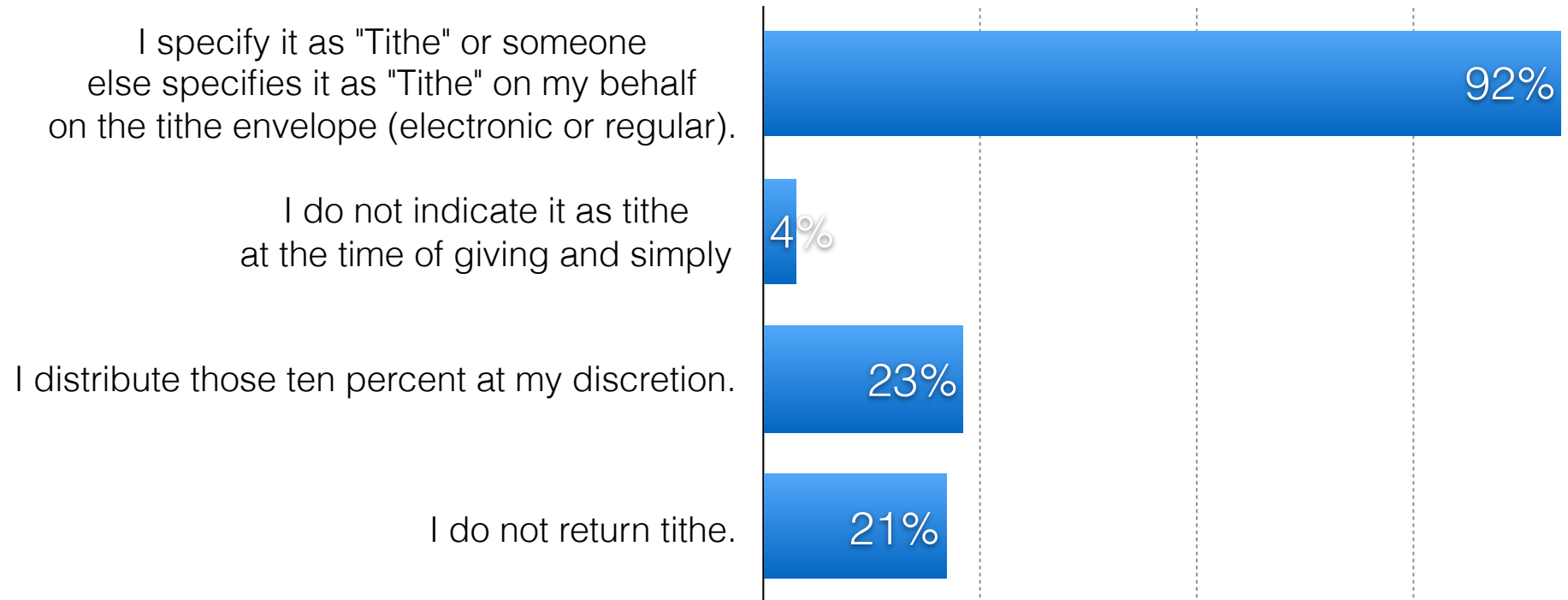


R2B. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?

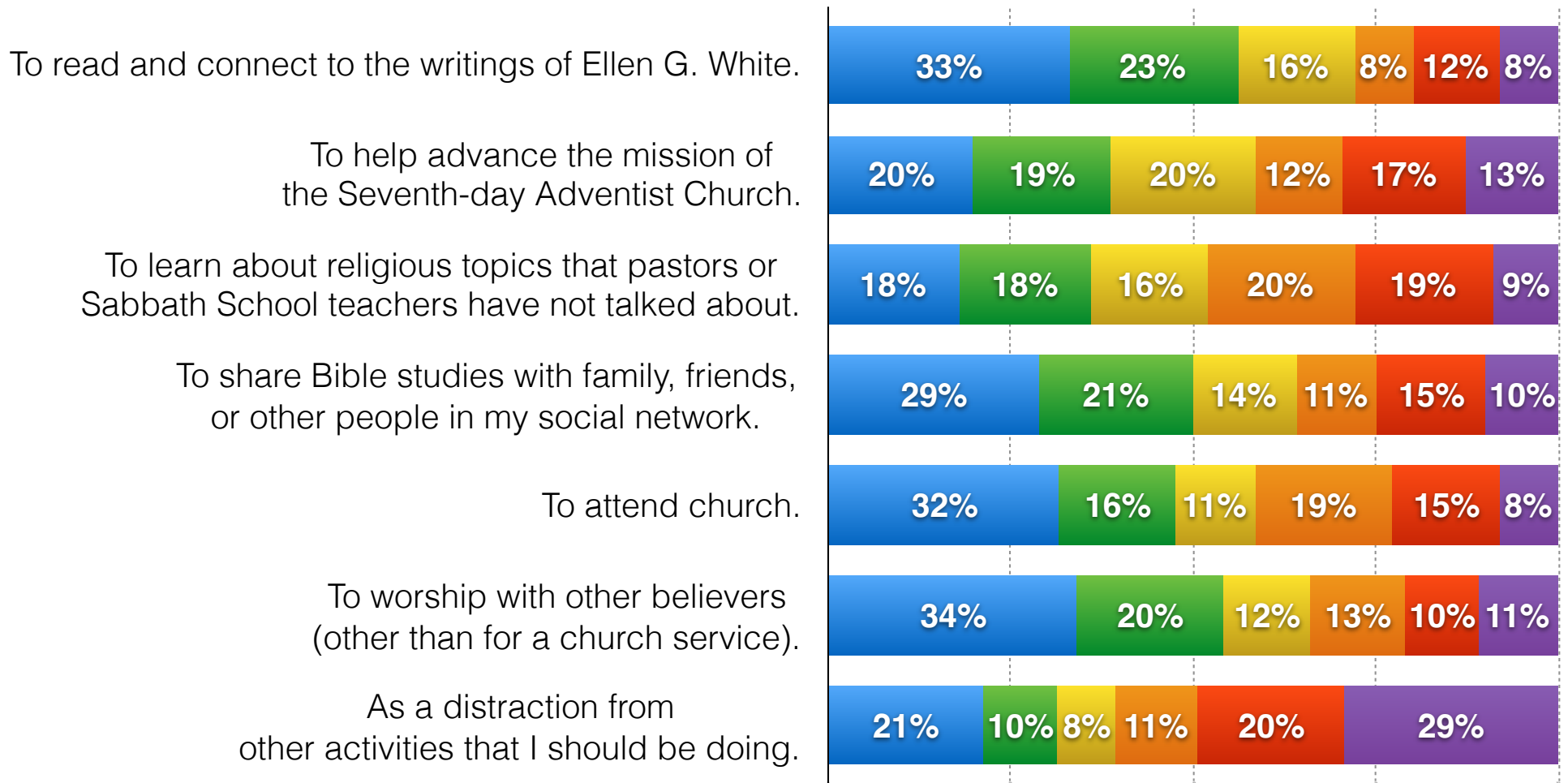


- Never
- Less than once a month.
- Once or a few times a month.
- About once a week.
- More than once a week.
- Daily or more than once a day.

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

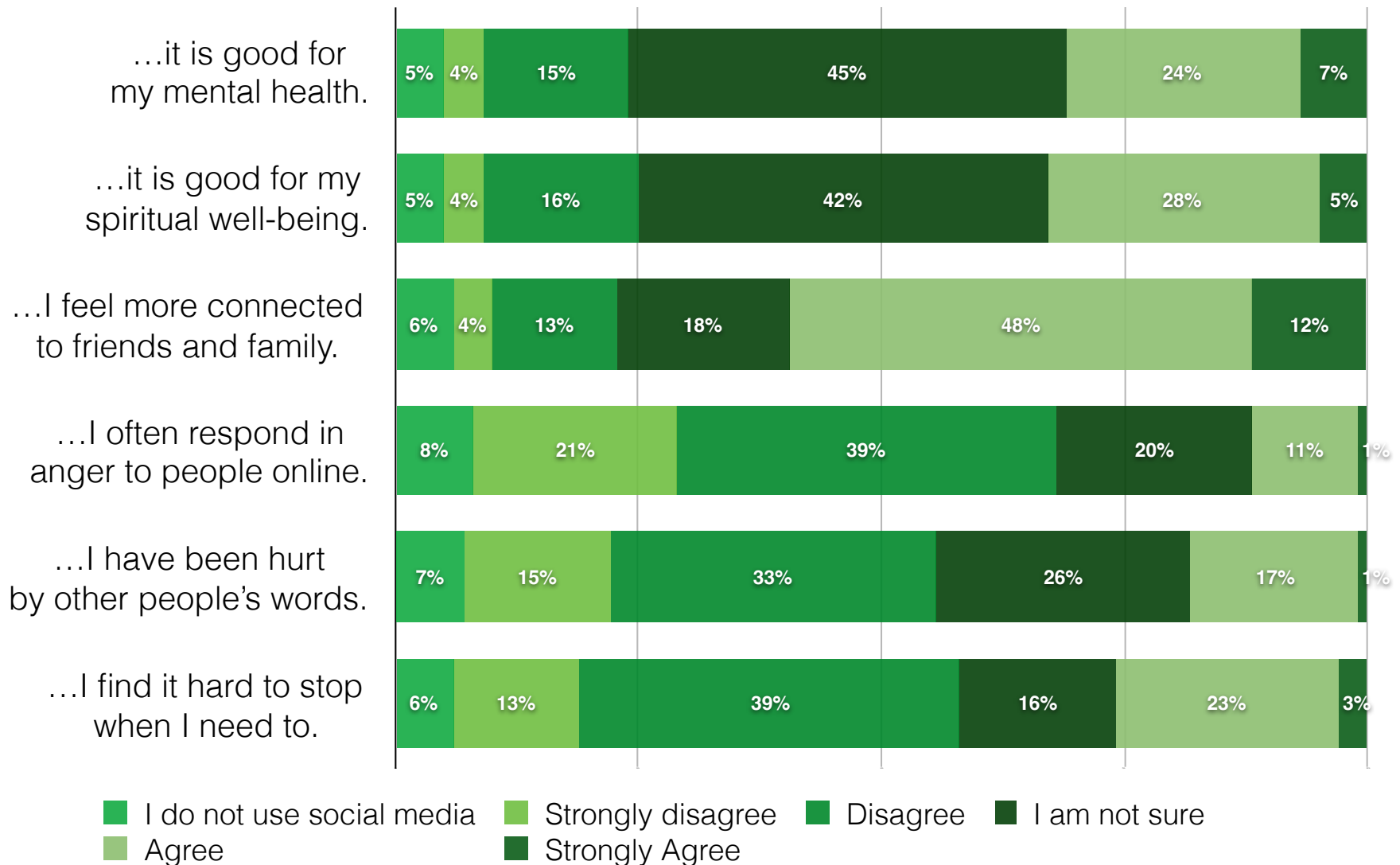


R4B. HOW OFTEN DO YOU ENGAGE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW?



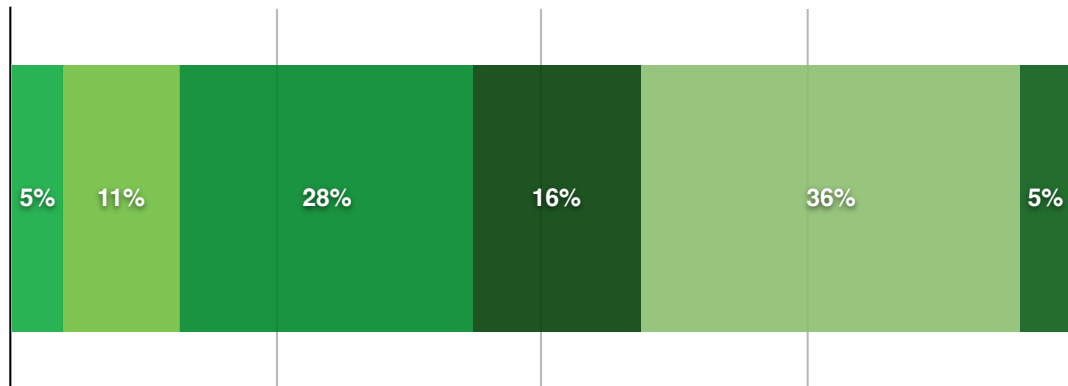
■ Never ■ Less than once a month ■ Once or a few times a week.
■ About once a week. ■ More than once a week. ■ Daily or more than once a day.

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...



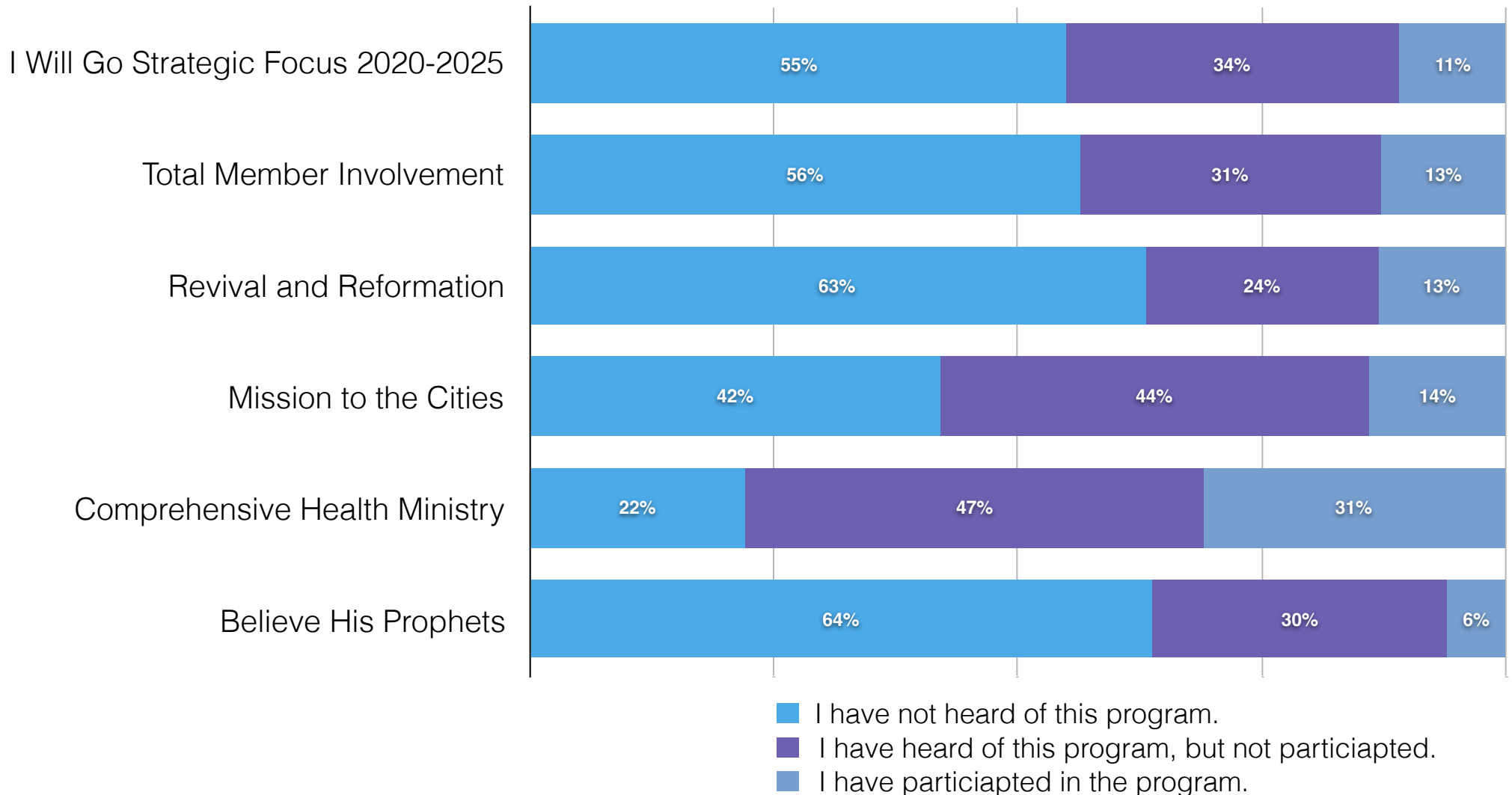
R5. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA USE. WHEN I CANNOT USE SOCIAL MEDIA...

...I feel like I am missing out on what is happening.

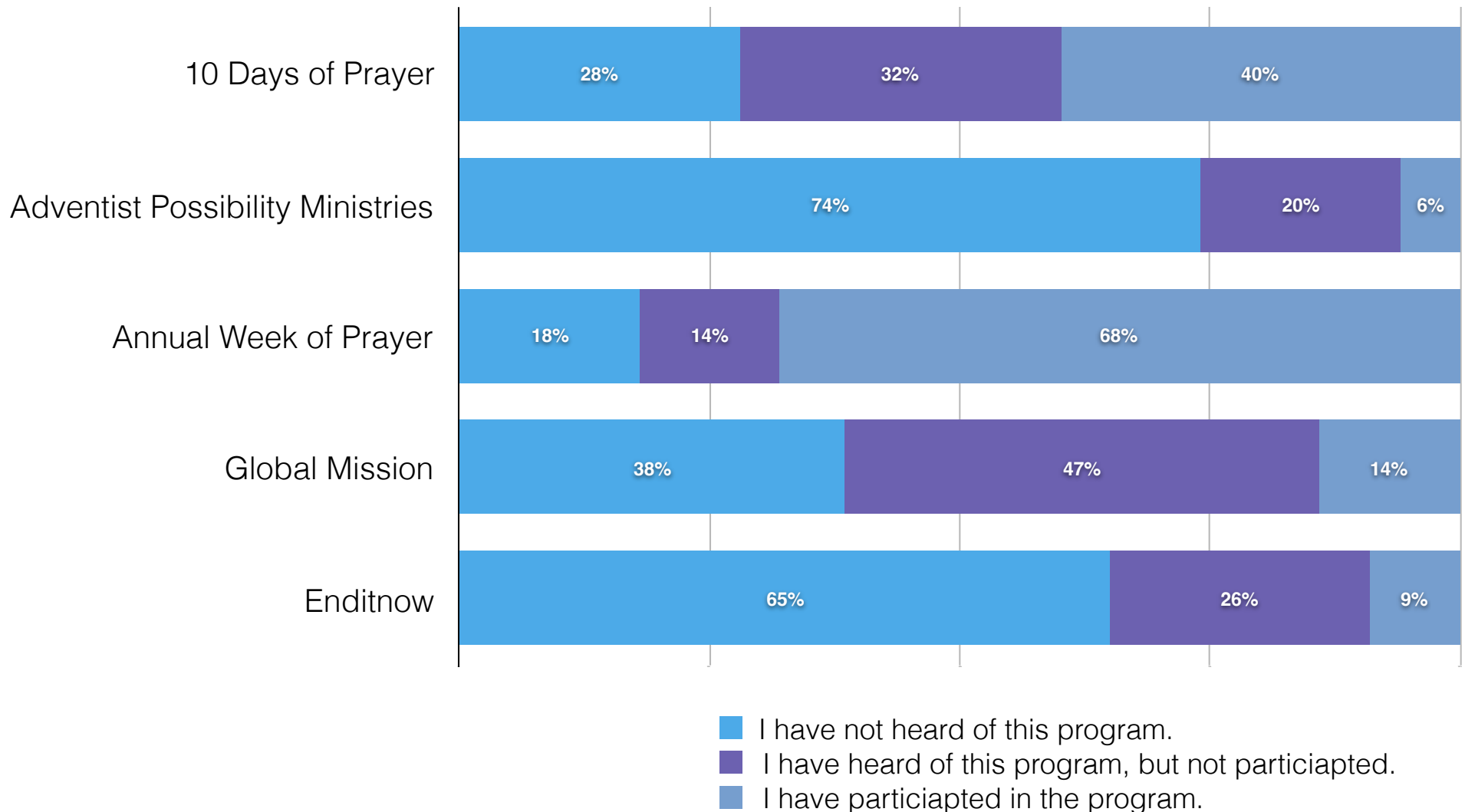


■ I do not use social media ■ Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ I am not sure
■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree

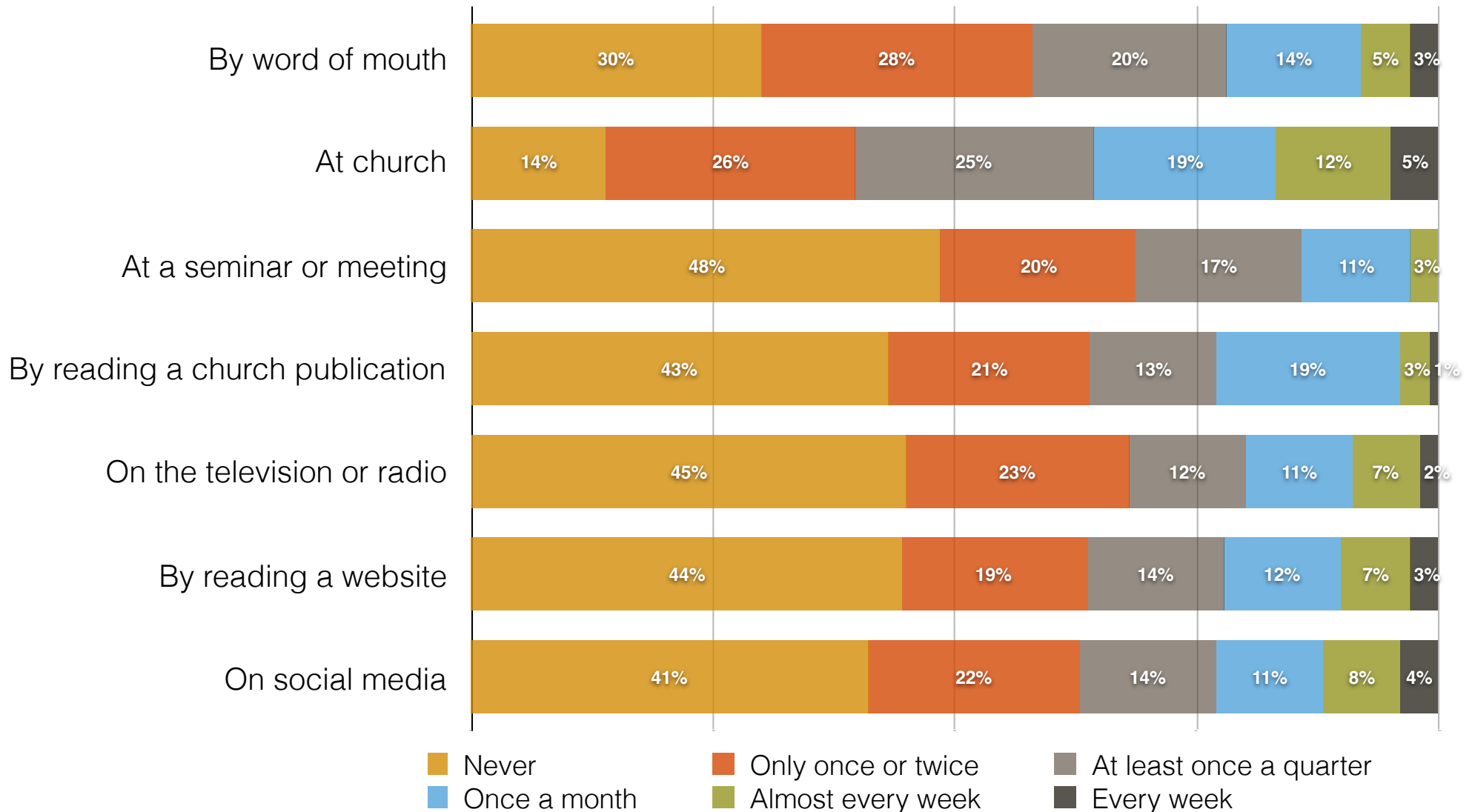
R6A. HOW MANY OF THESE GENERAL CONFERENCE INITIATIVES YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT OR PARTICIPATED IN?



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

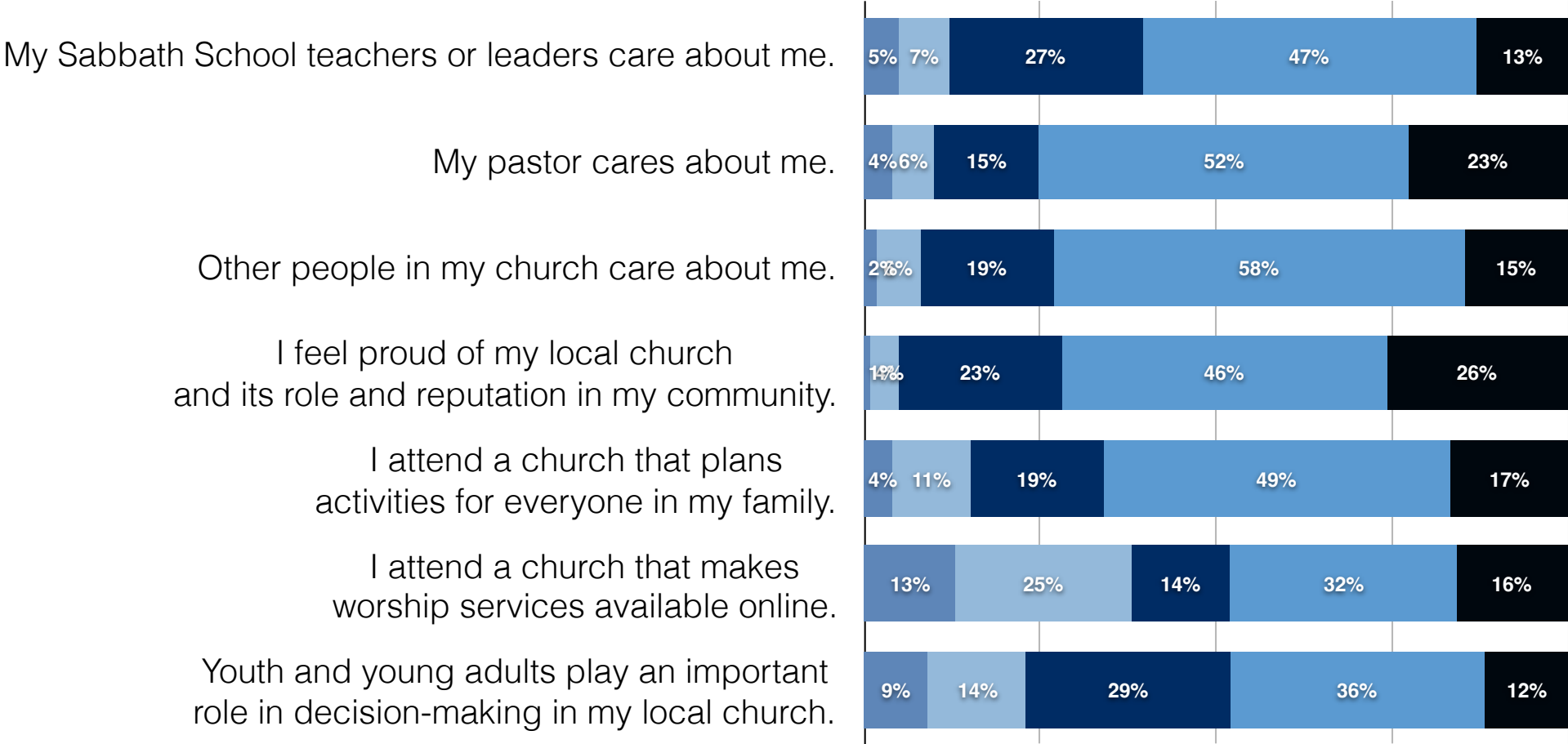


R7. IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, HOW OFTEN DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONE OR MORE OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE INITIATIVES LISTED IN THE LAST QUESTION?



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

A1A. 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.



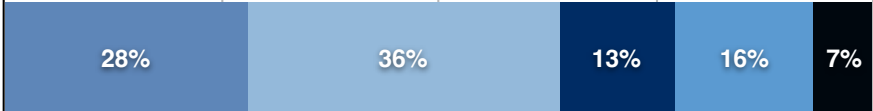
My conference/mission has a program for preparing young people to become leaders.



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.

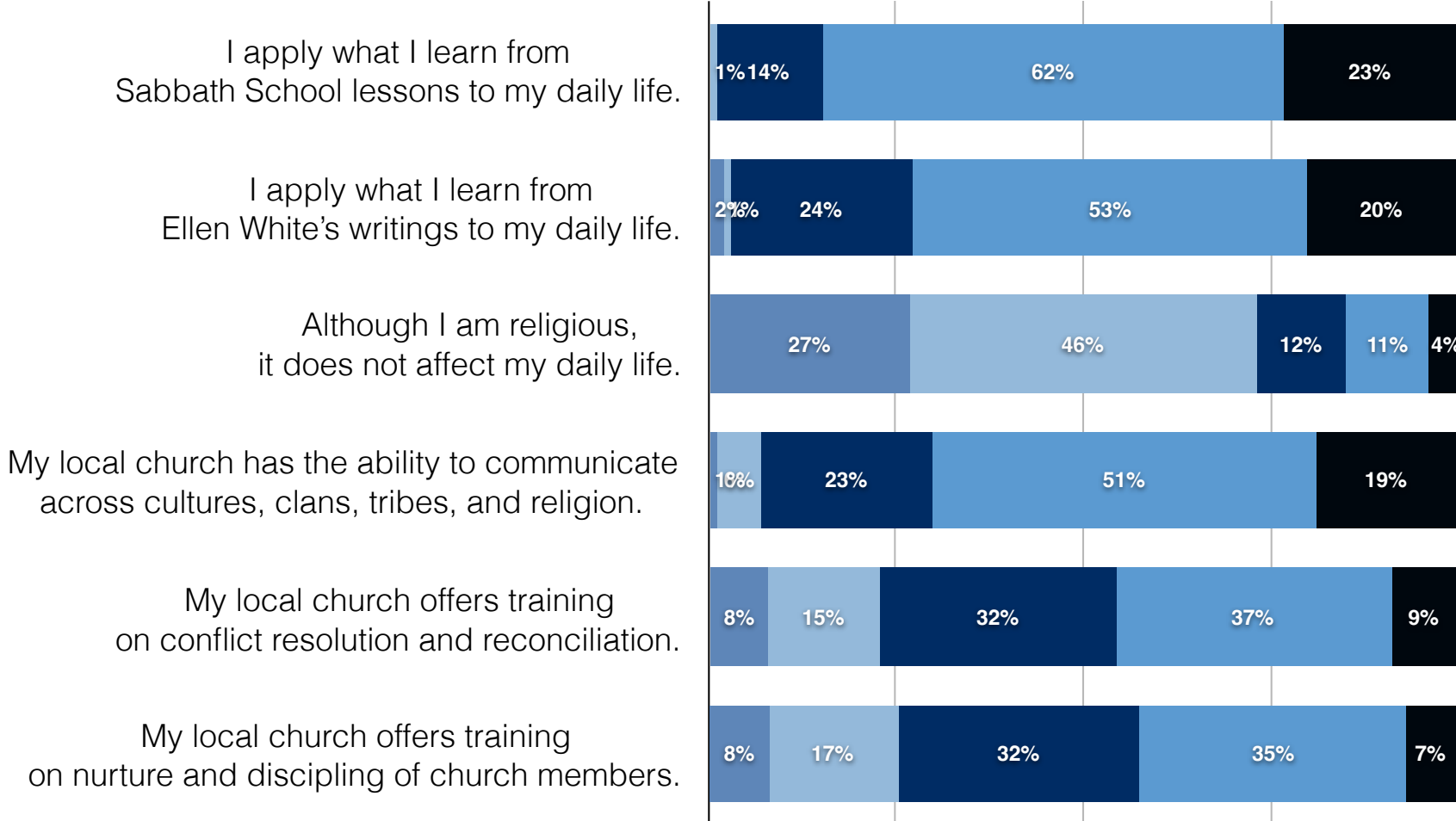


I apply what I learn from the Bible to my daily life.



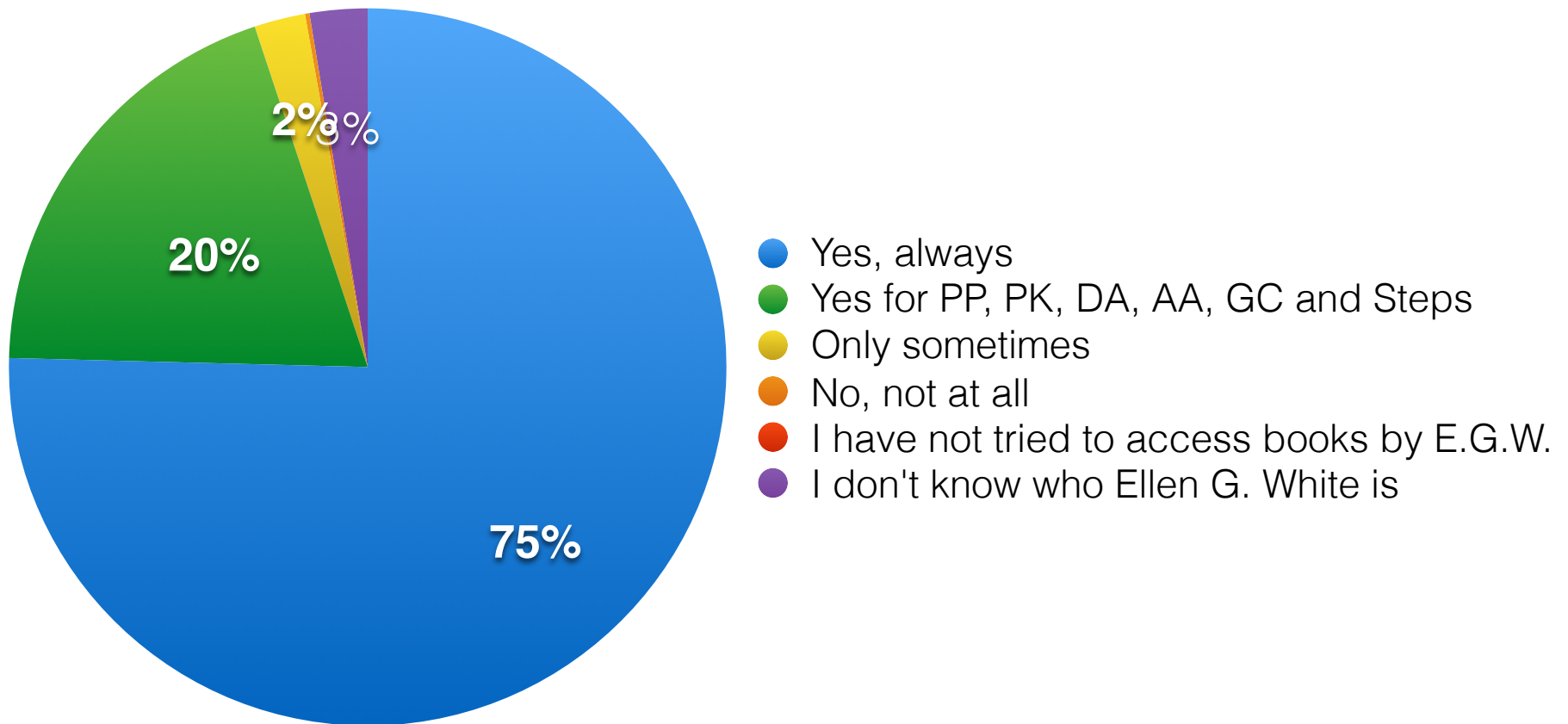
■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

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

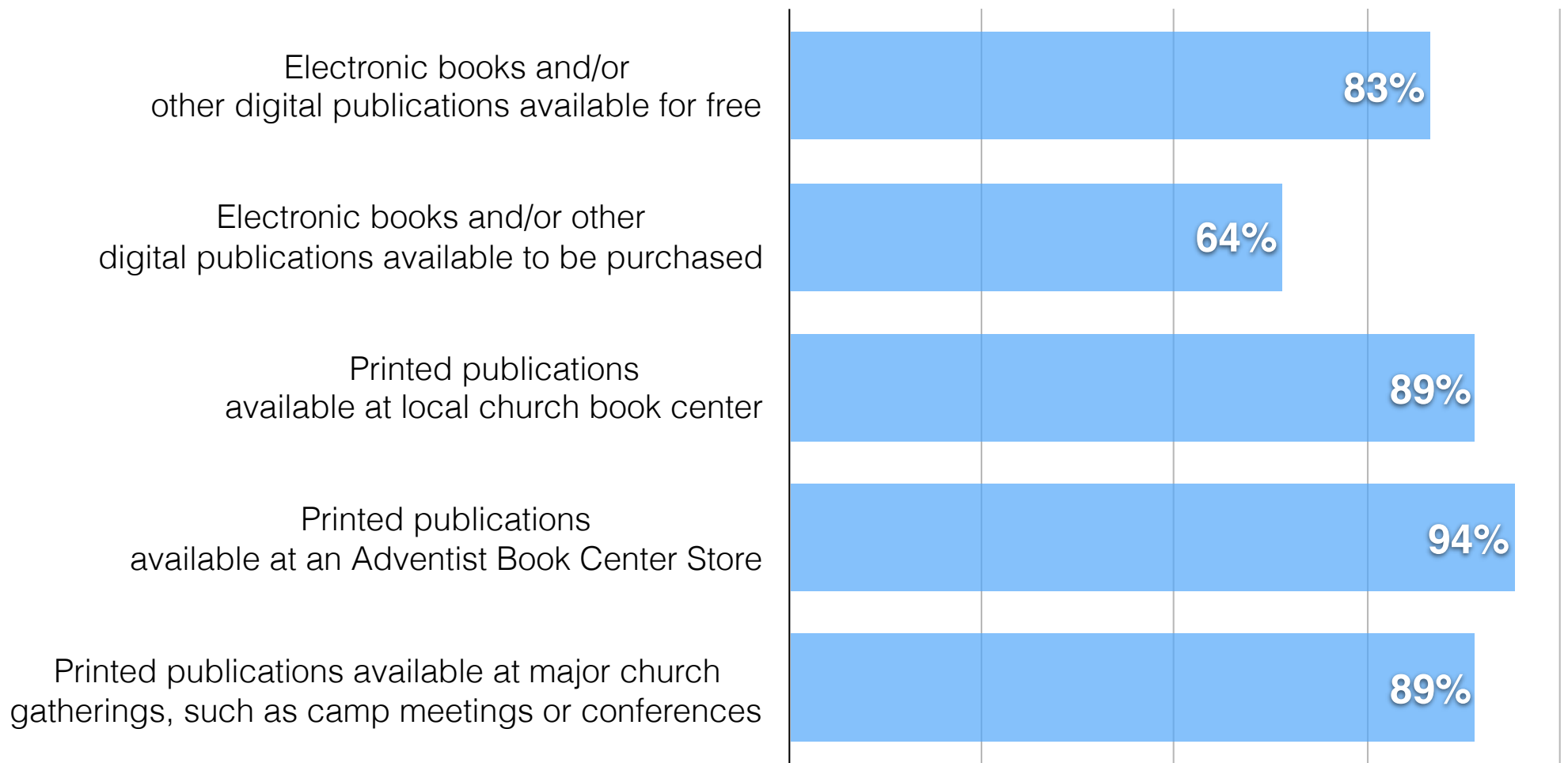


■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ I am not sure
 ■ Agree
 ■ Strongly agree

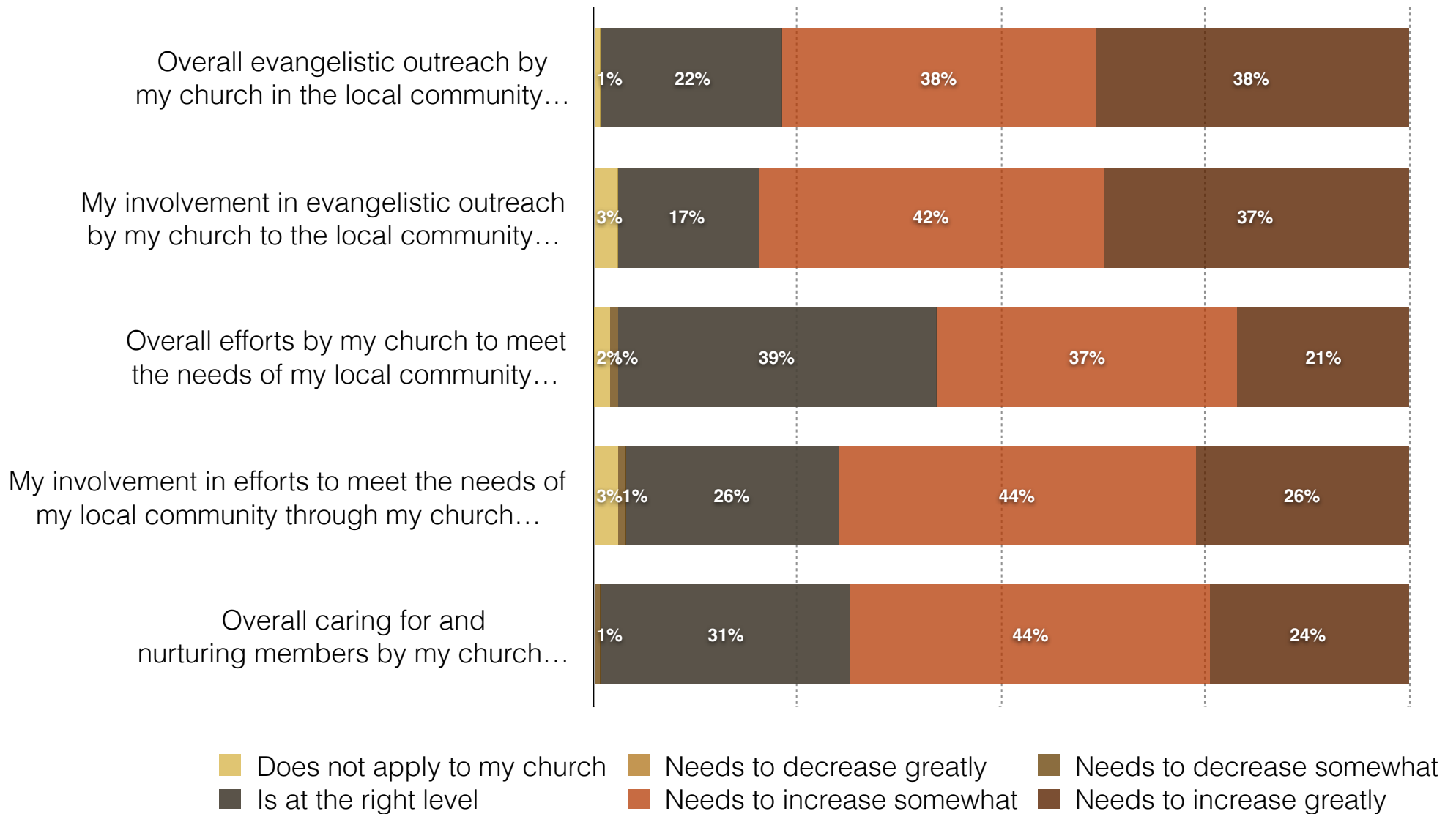
A2. HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS THE BOOKS BY ELLEN G. WHITE IN A LANGUAGE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND?



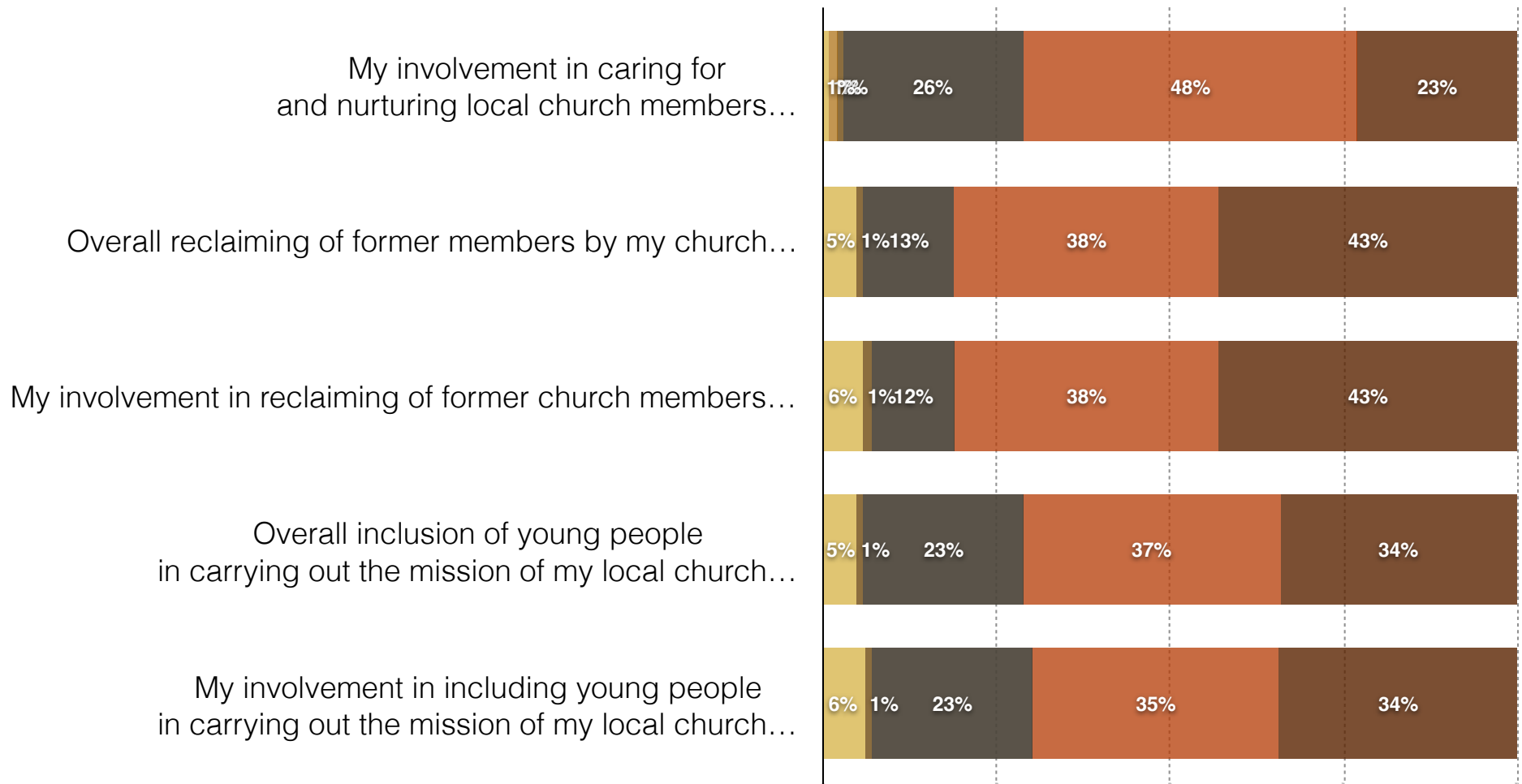
A3. DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO ADVENTIST PUBLICATIONS IN YOUR LANGUAGE THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SOURCES?



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

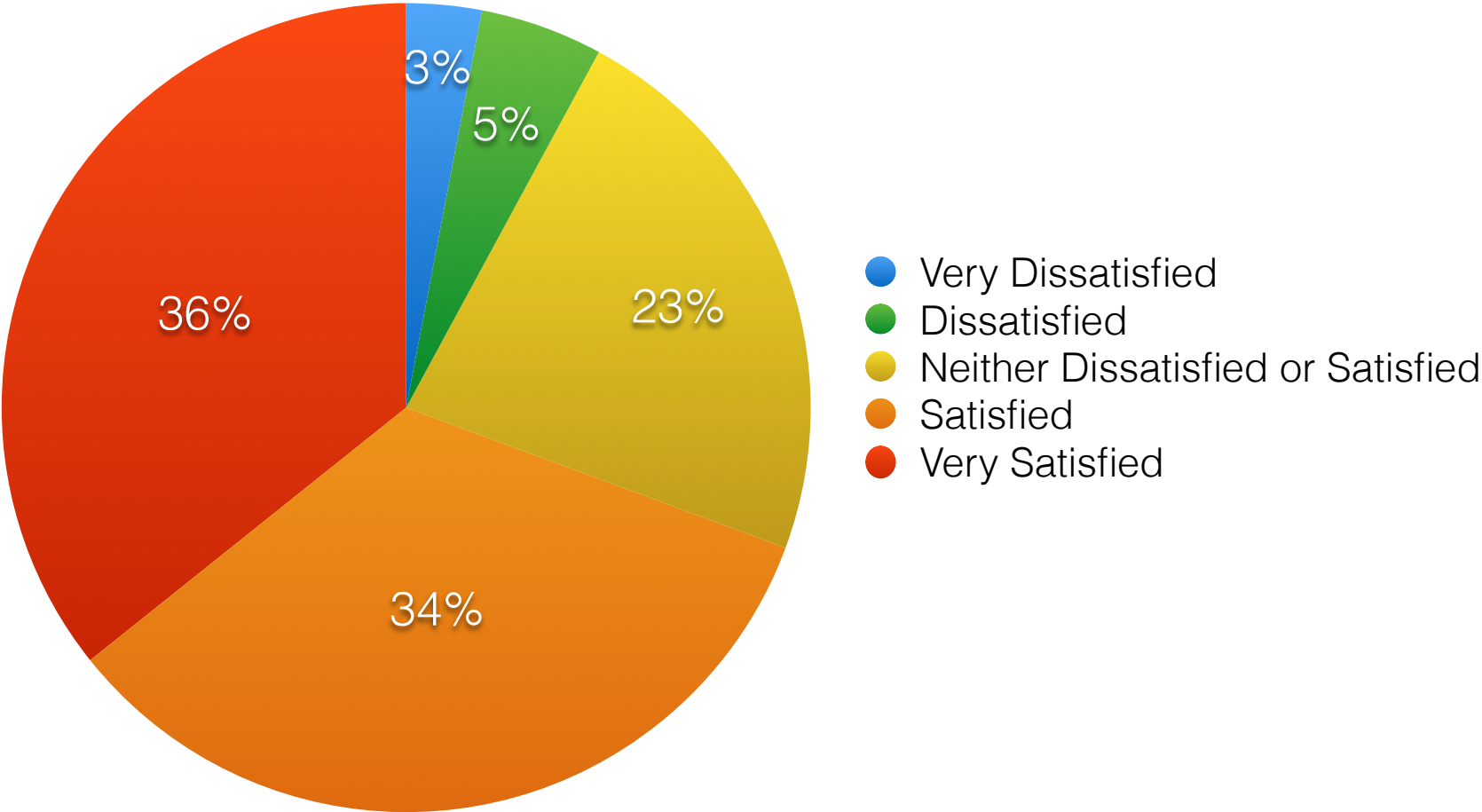


A4B. PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WHETHER THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT NEED TO CHANGE OR STAY THE SAME.

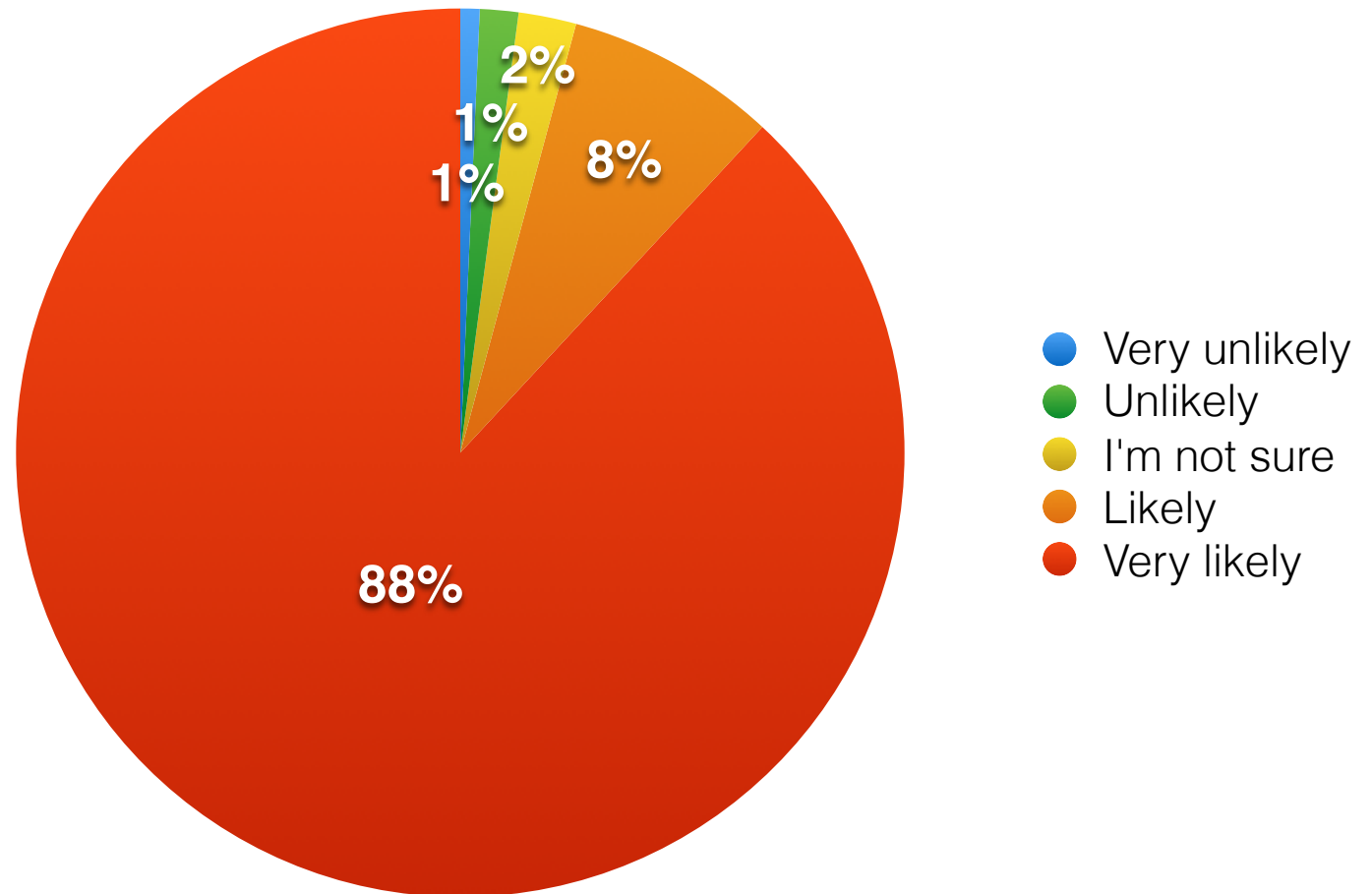


Does not apply to my church
 Is at the right level
 Needs to decrease greatly
 Needs to increase somewhat
 Needs to increase greatly

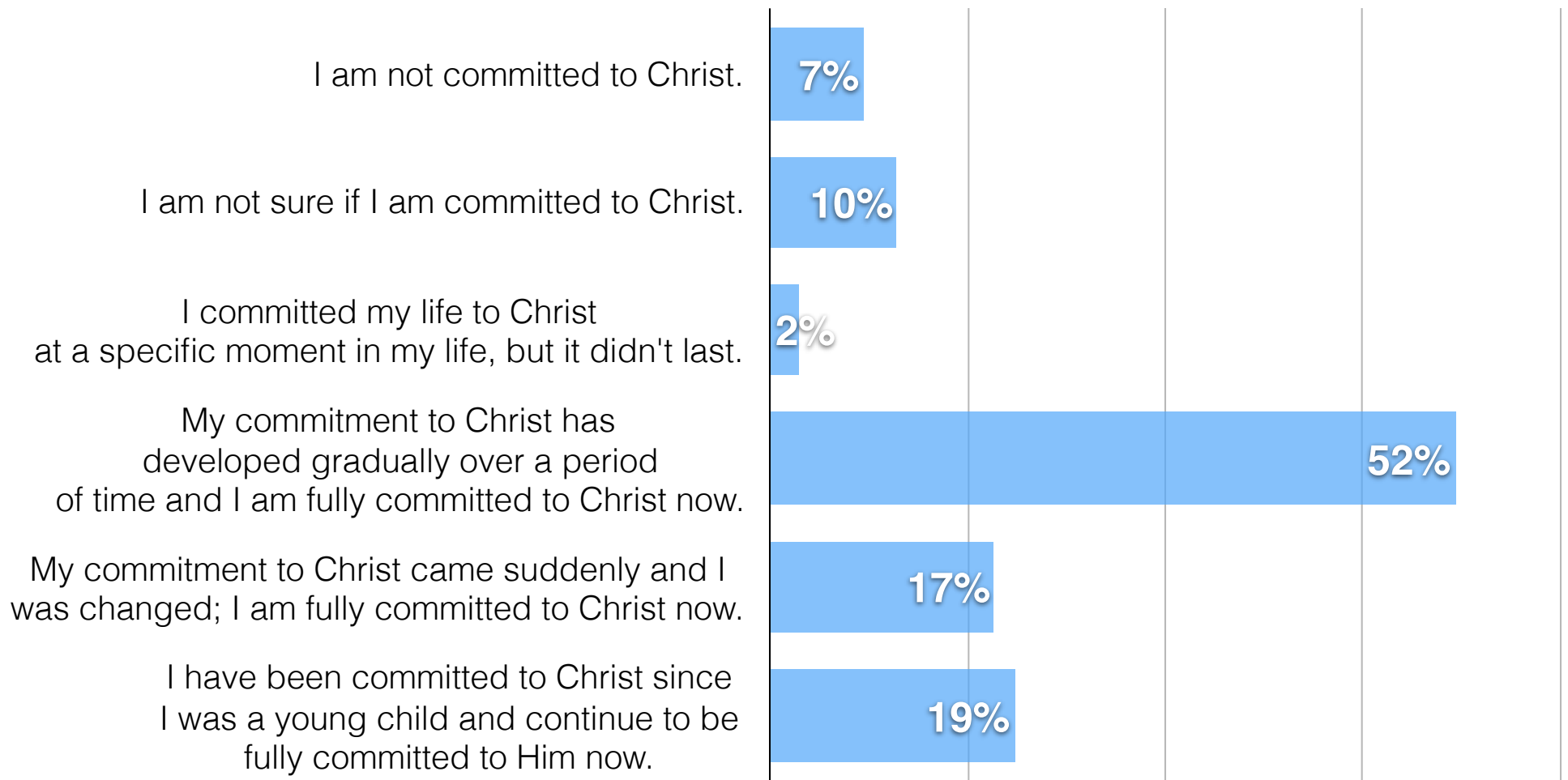
A5. HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH?



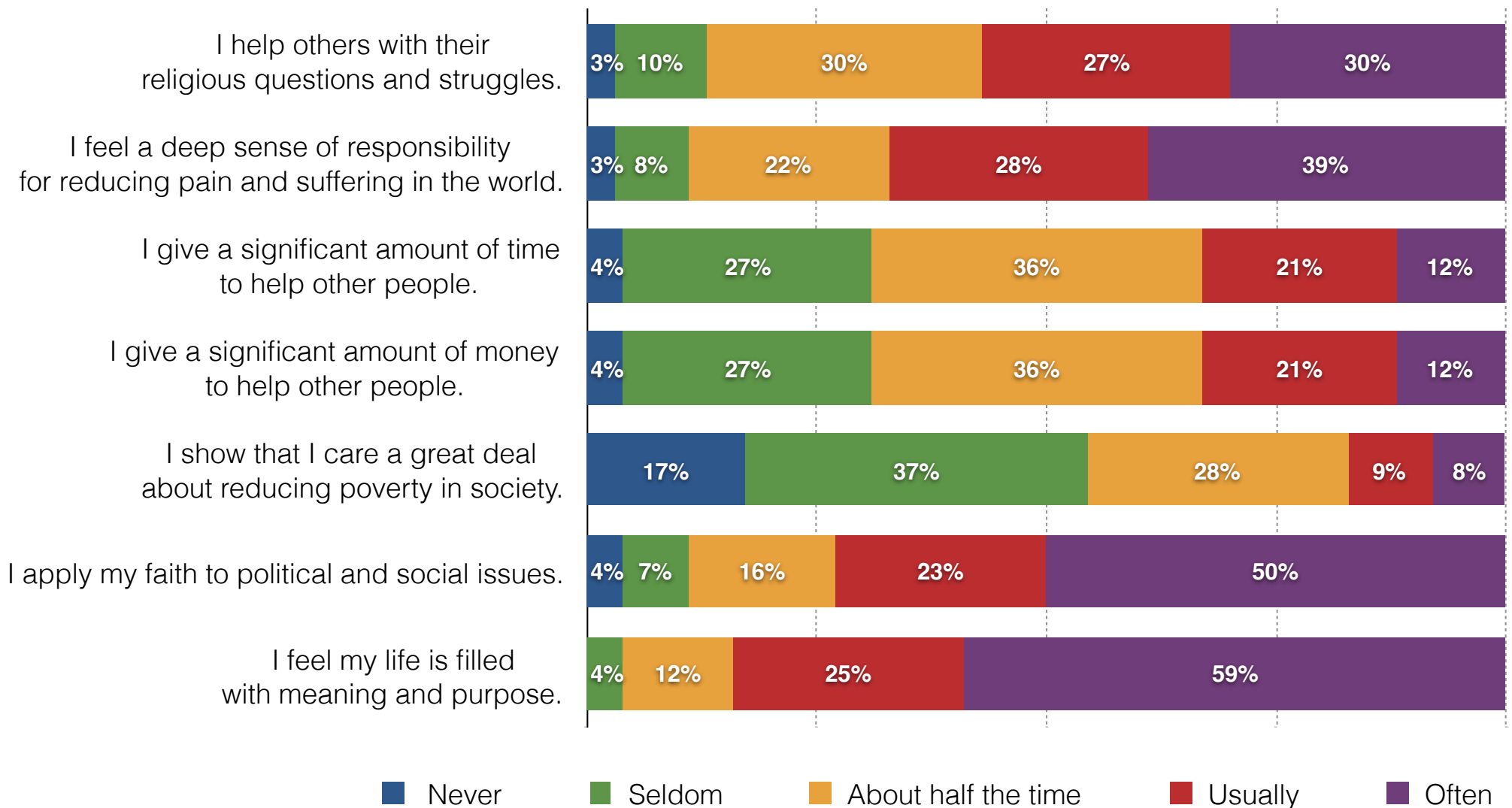
A6. HOW LIKELY IS IT THAT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?



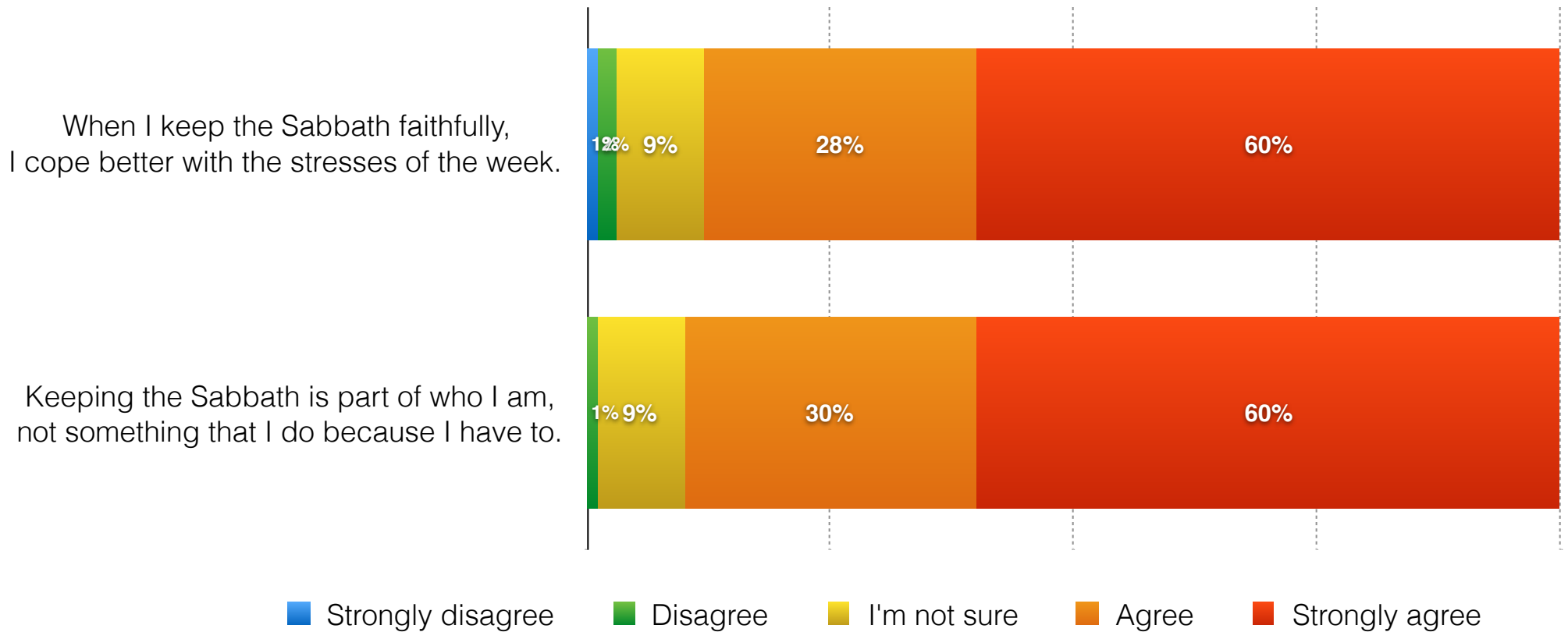
A7 - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES YOUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST?



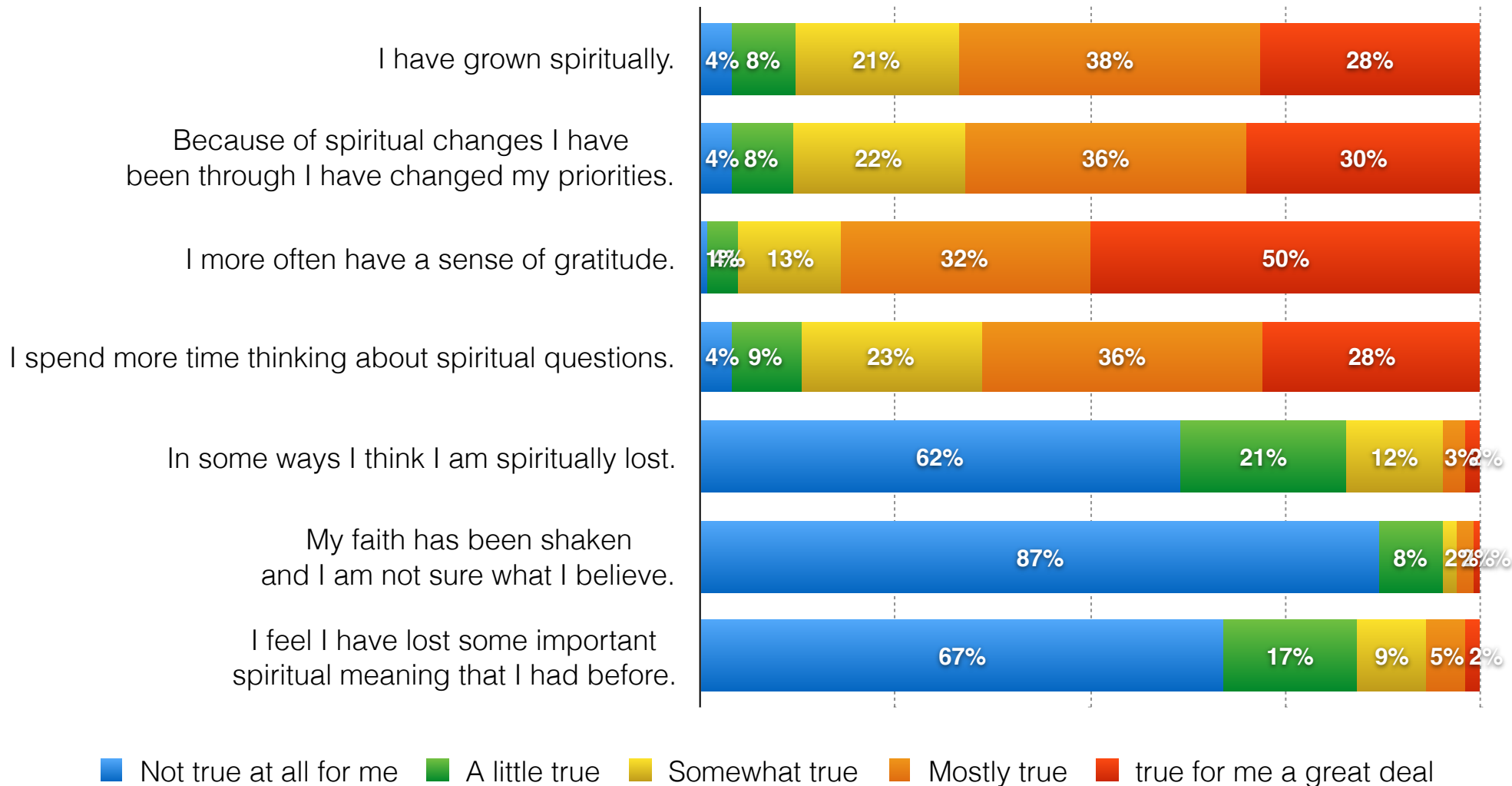
A8. HOW OFTEN IS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS TRUE FOR YOU PERSONALLY?



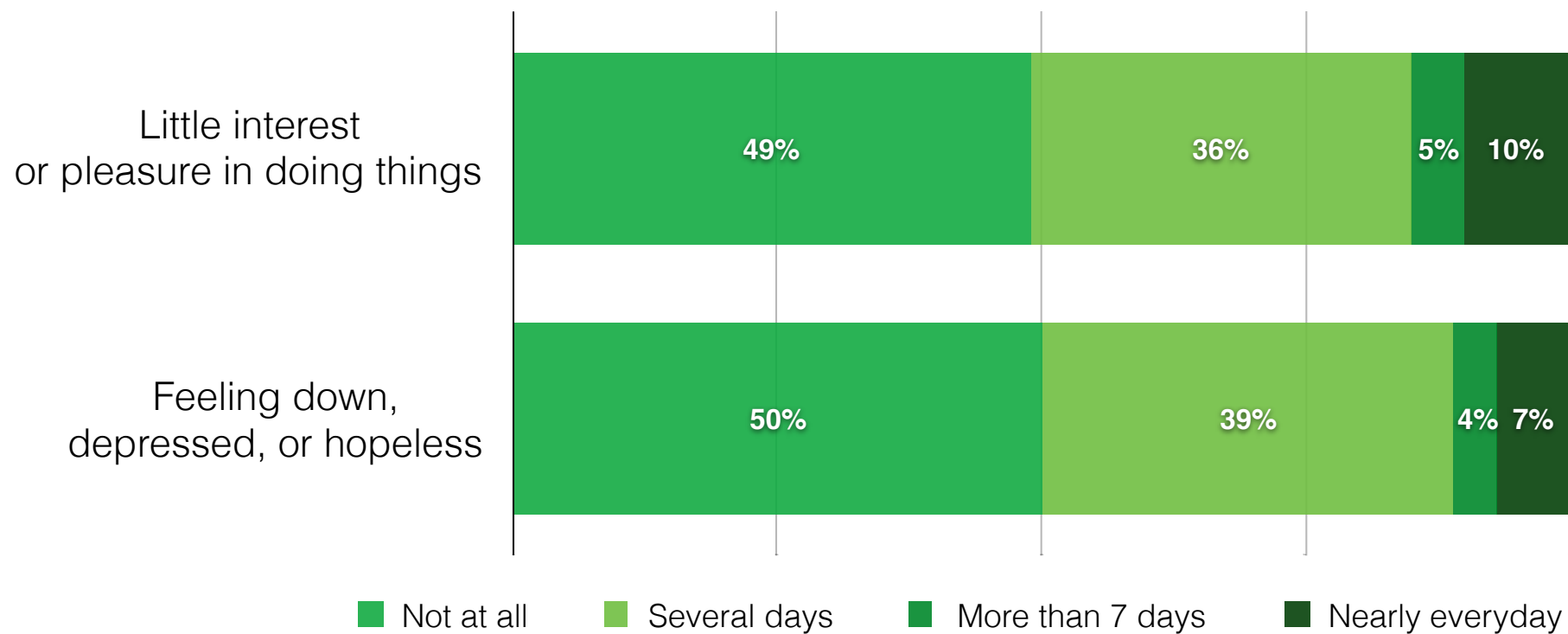
A9. SABBATH-KEEPING IS PART OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH LIFE. BELOW ARE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS ABOUT YOUR SABBATH-KEEPING EXPERIENCE. PLEASE INDICATE HOW MUCH YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH EACH STATEMENT.



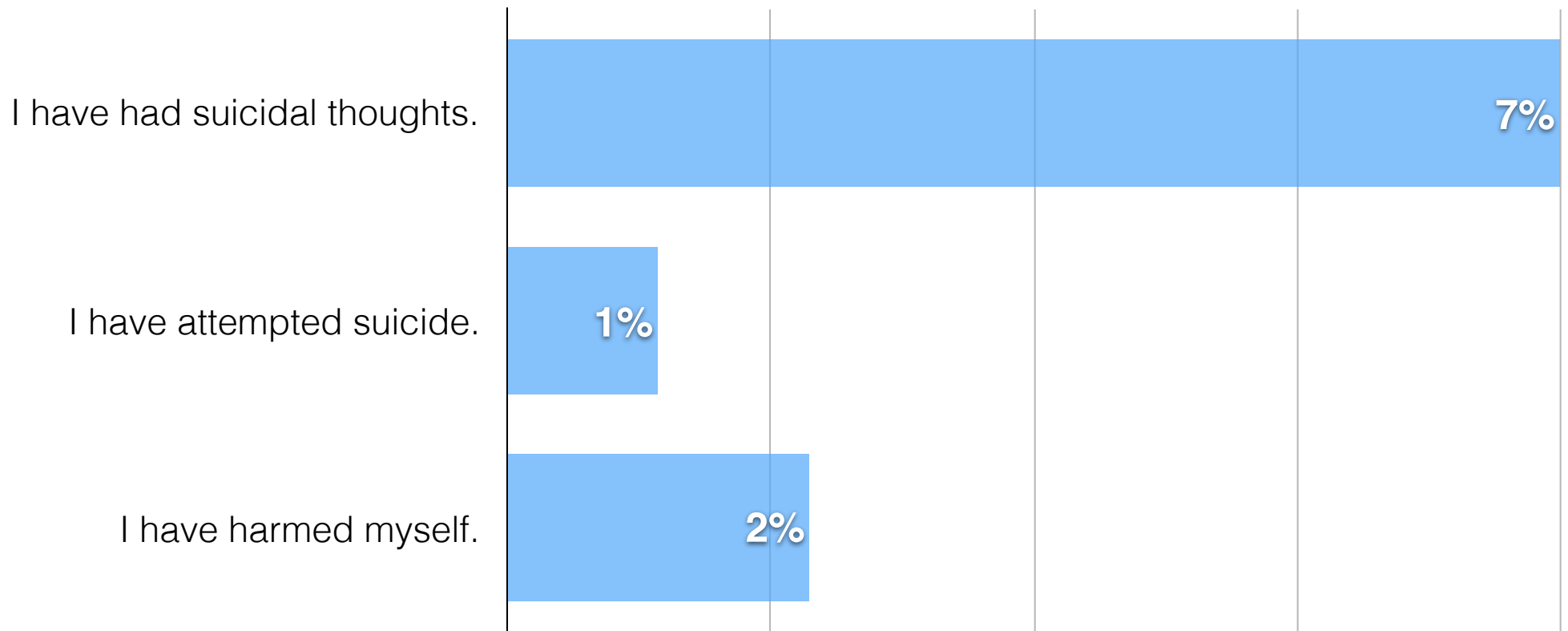
A10. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE TRUE FOR YOU OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS.



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

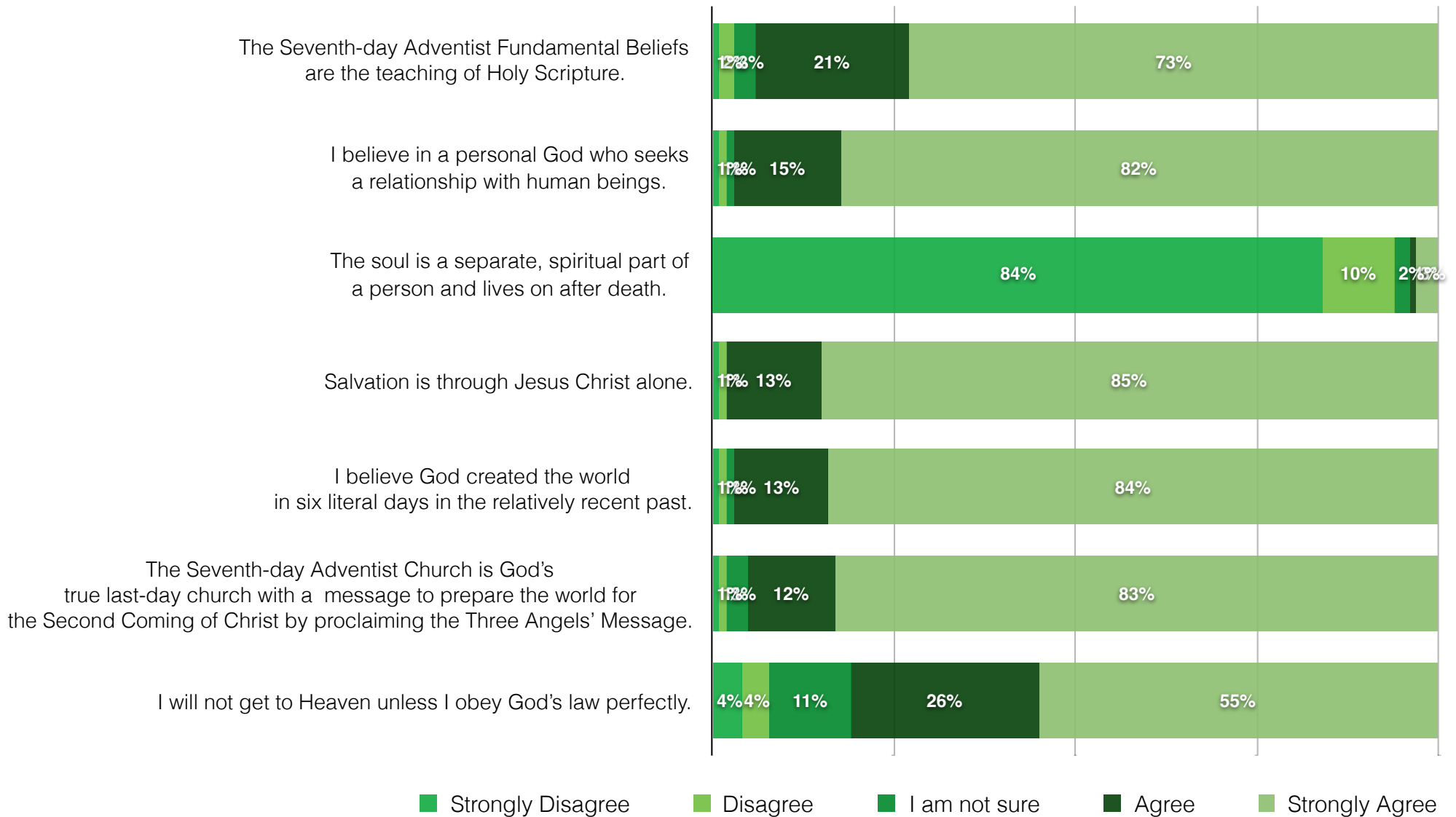


A12. PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FOLLOWING DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

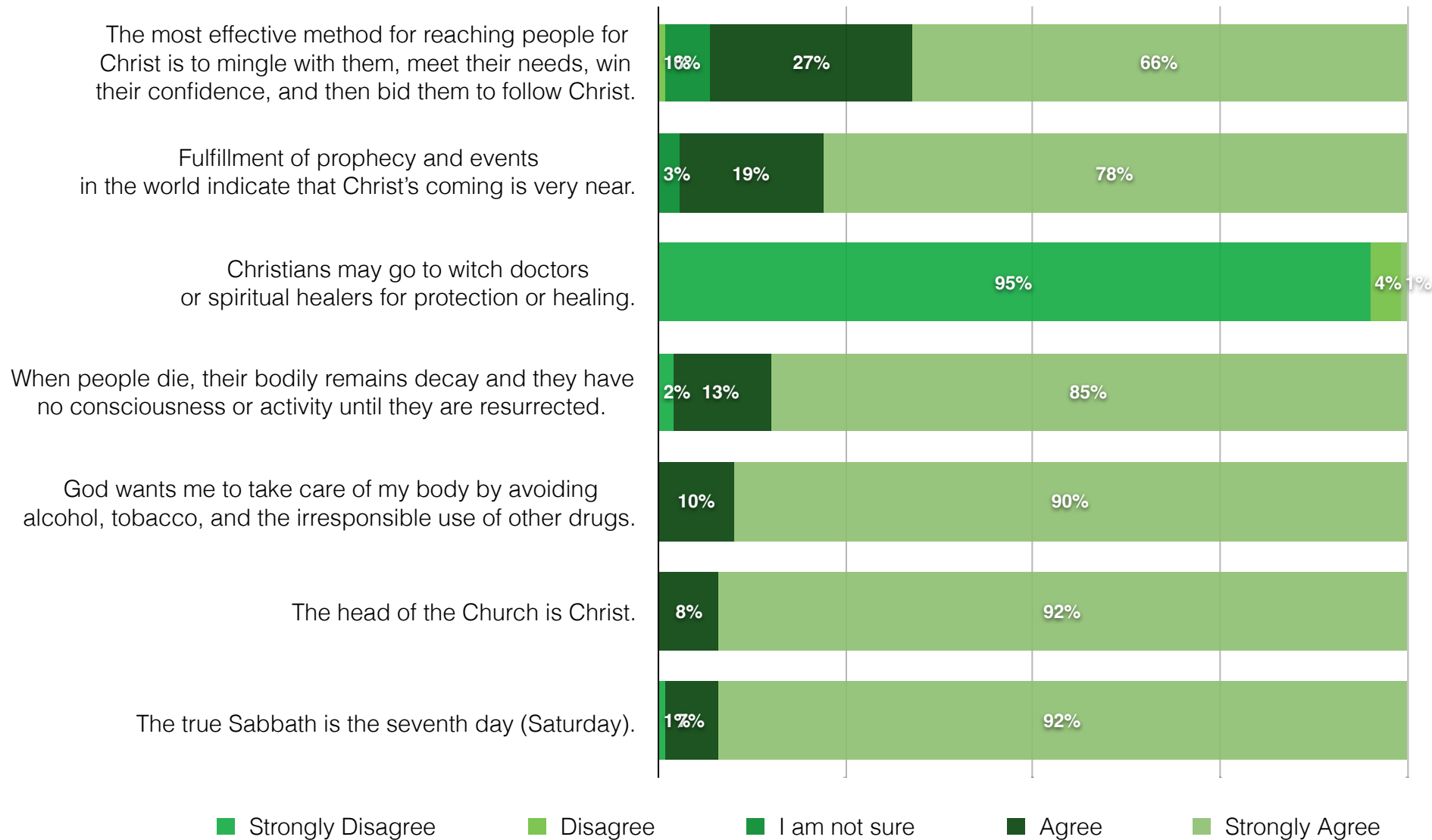


BELIEFS

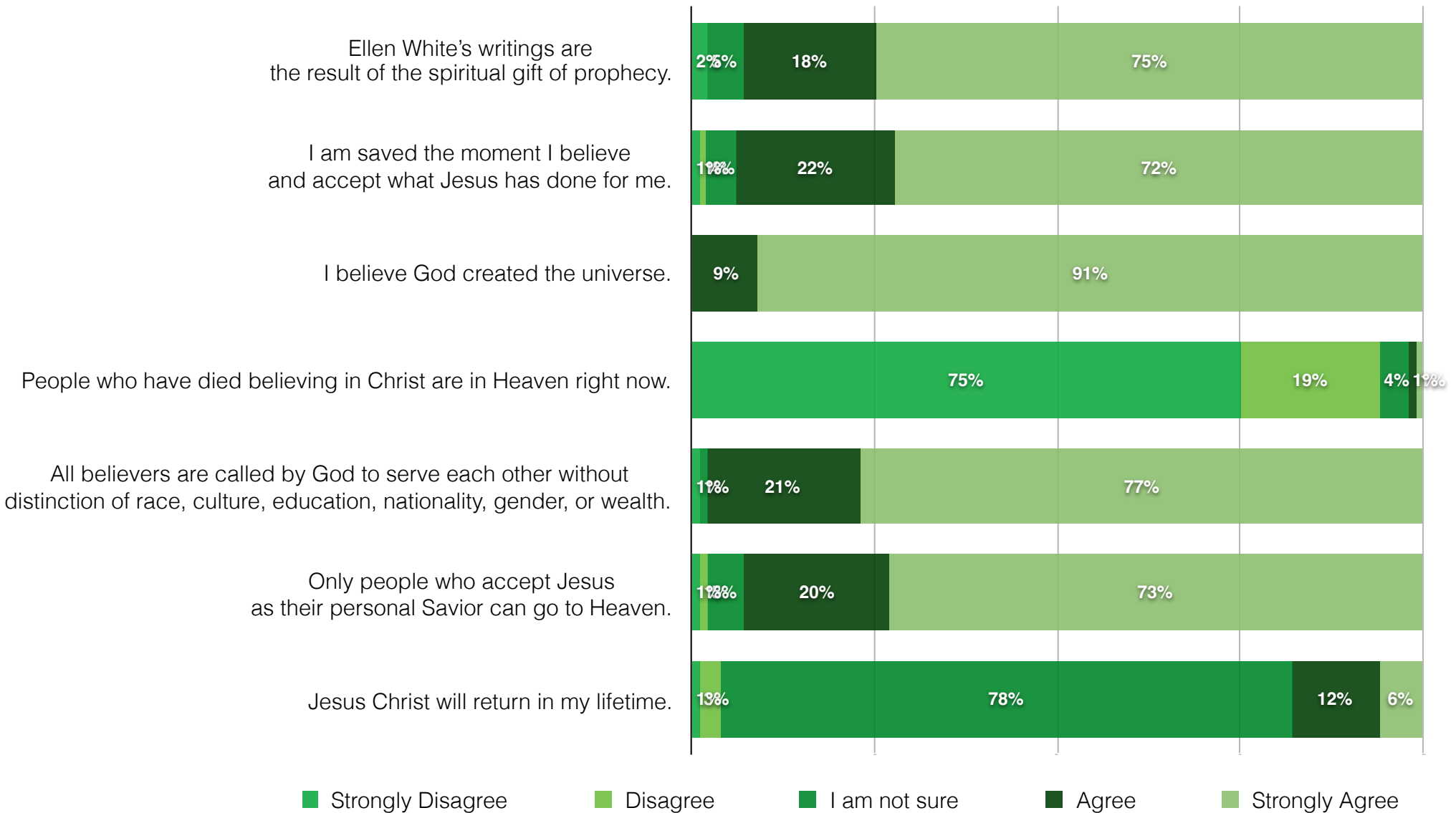
B1A. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



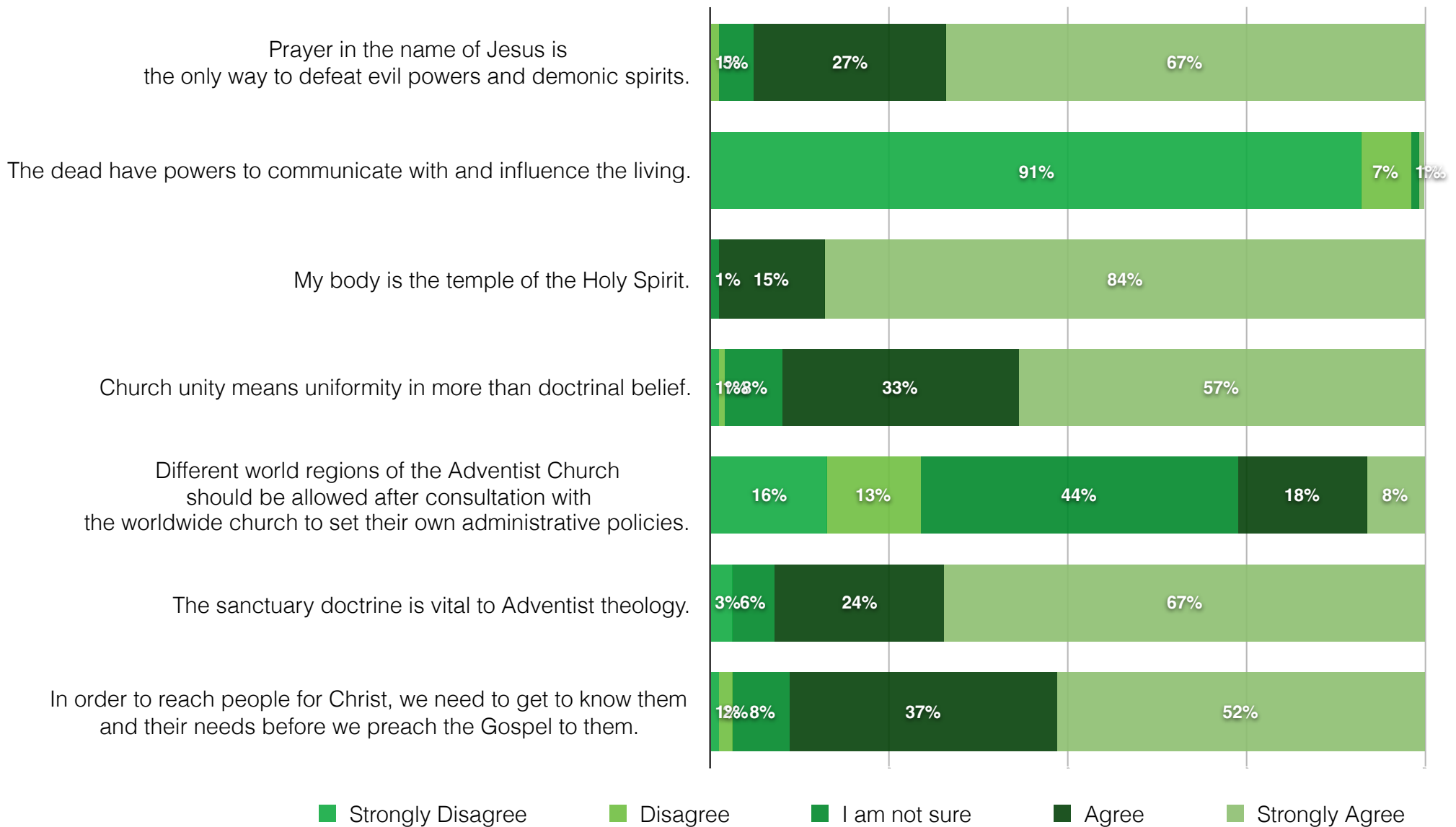
B1B. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



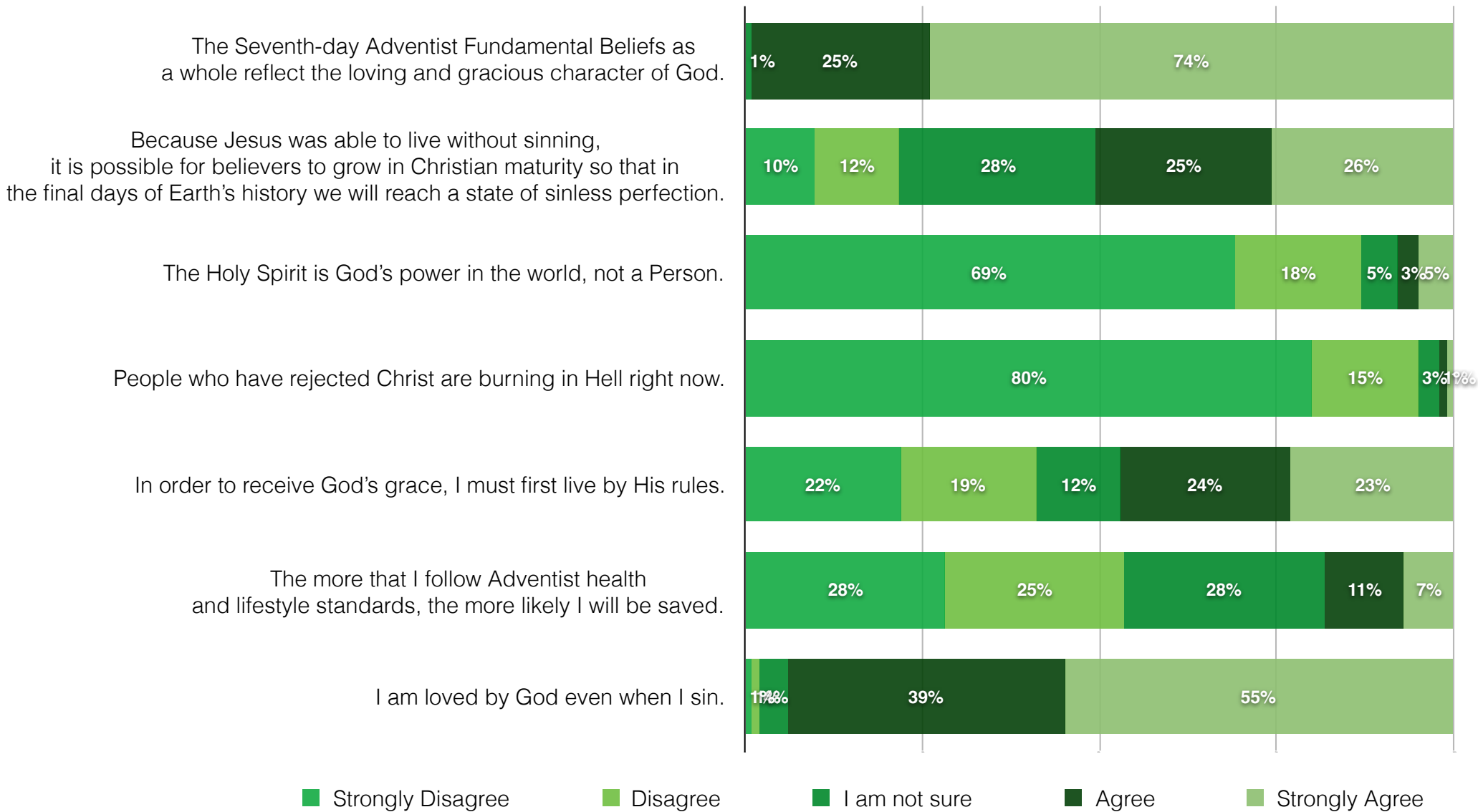
B1c. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



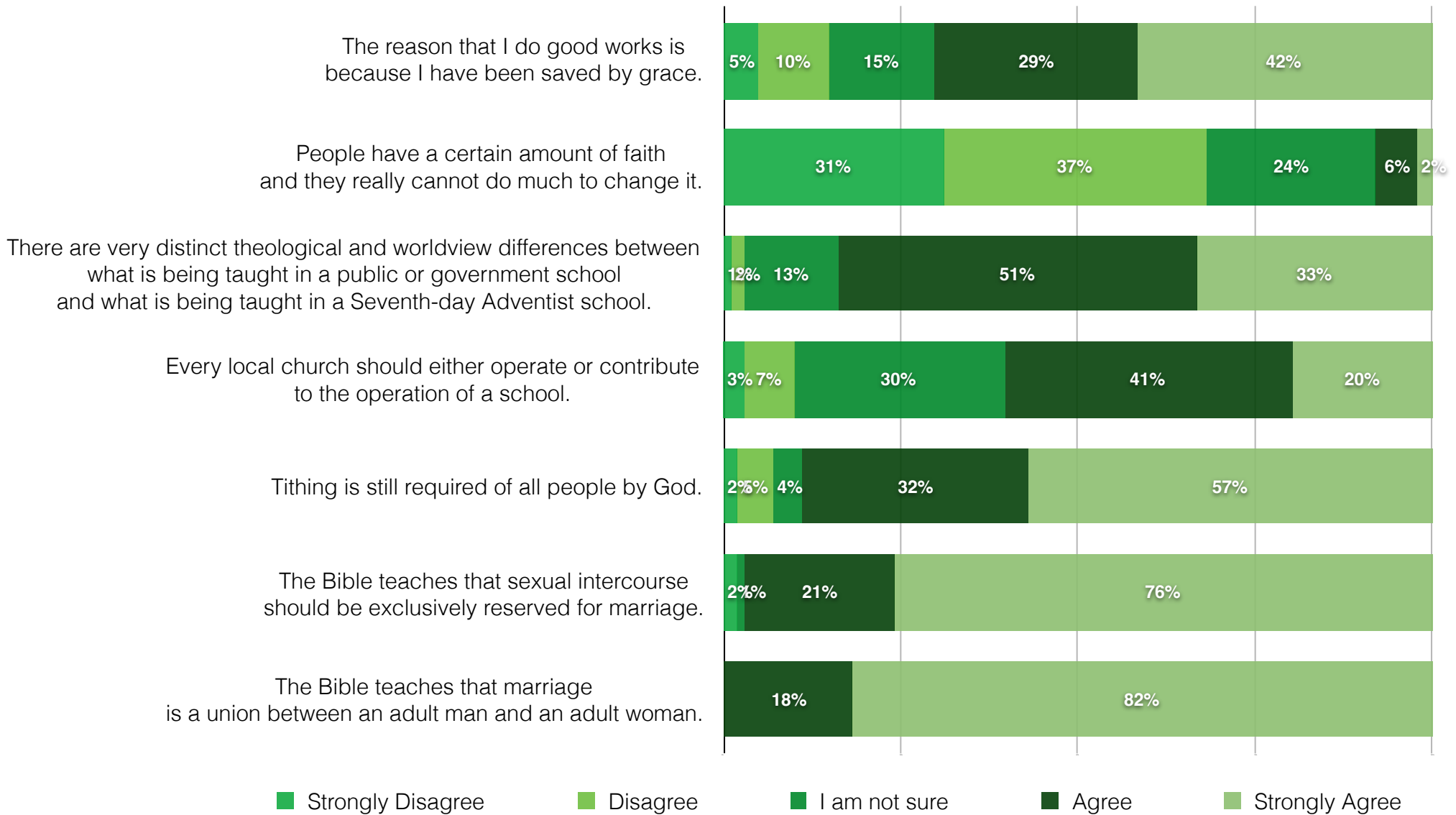
B1D. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



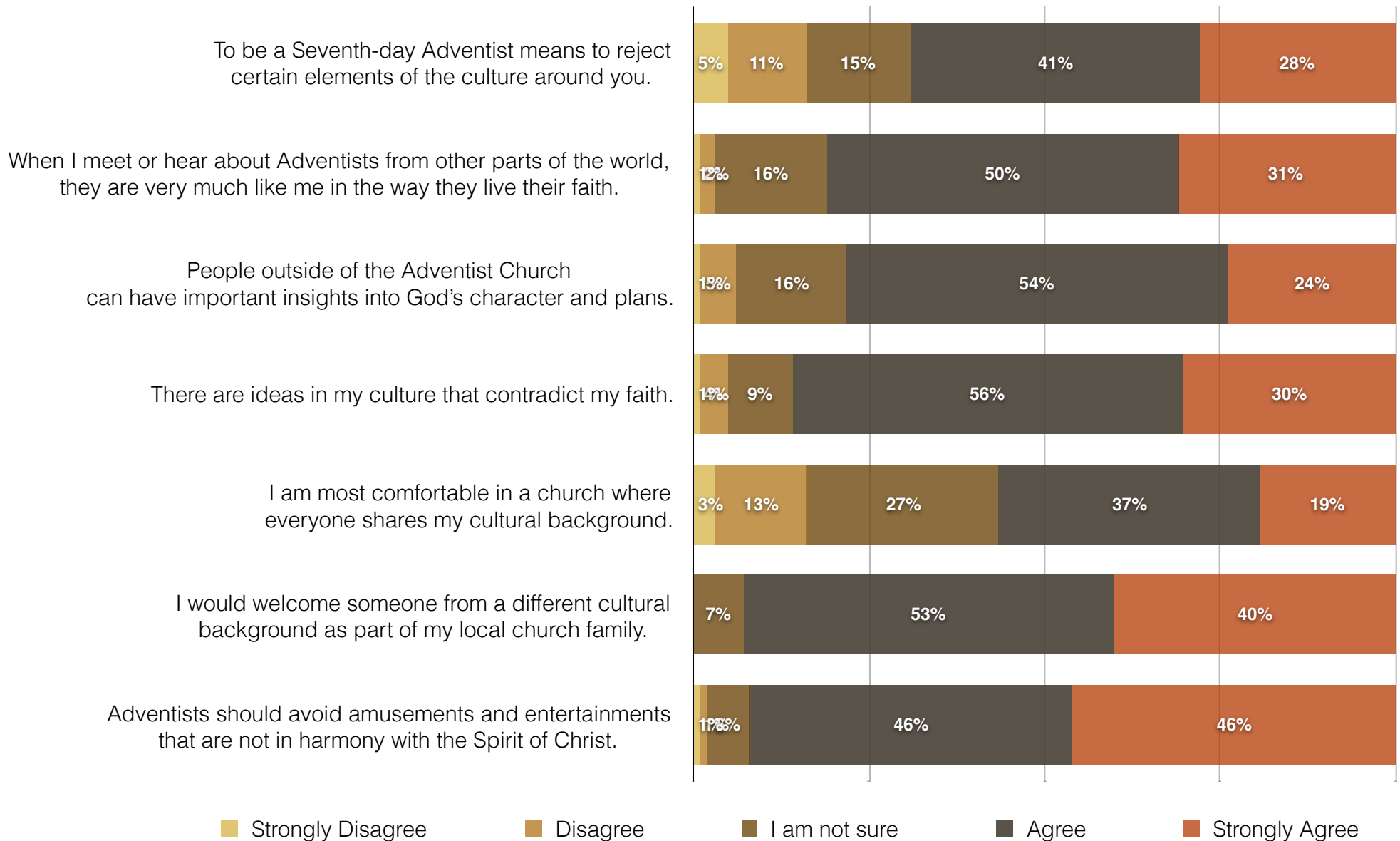
B1E. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



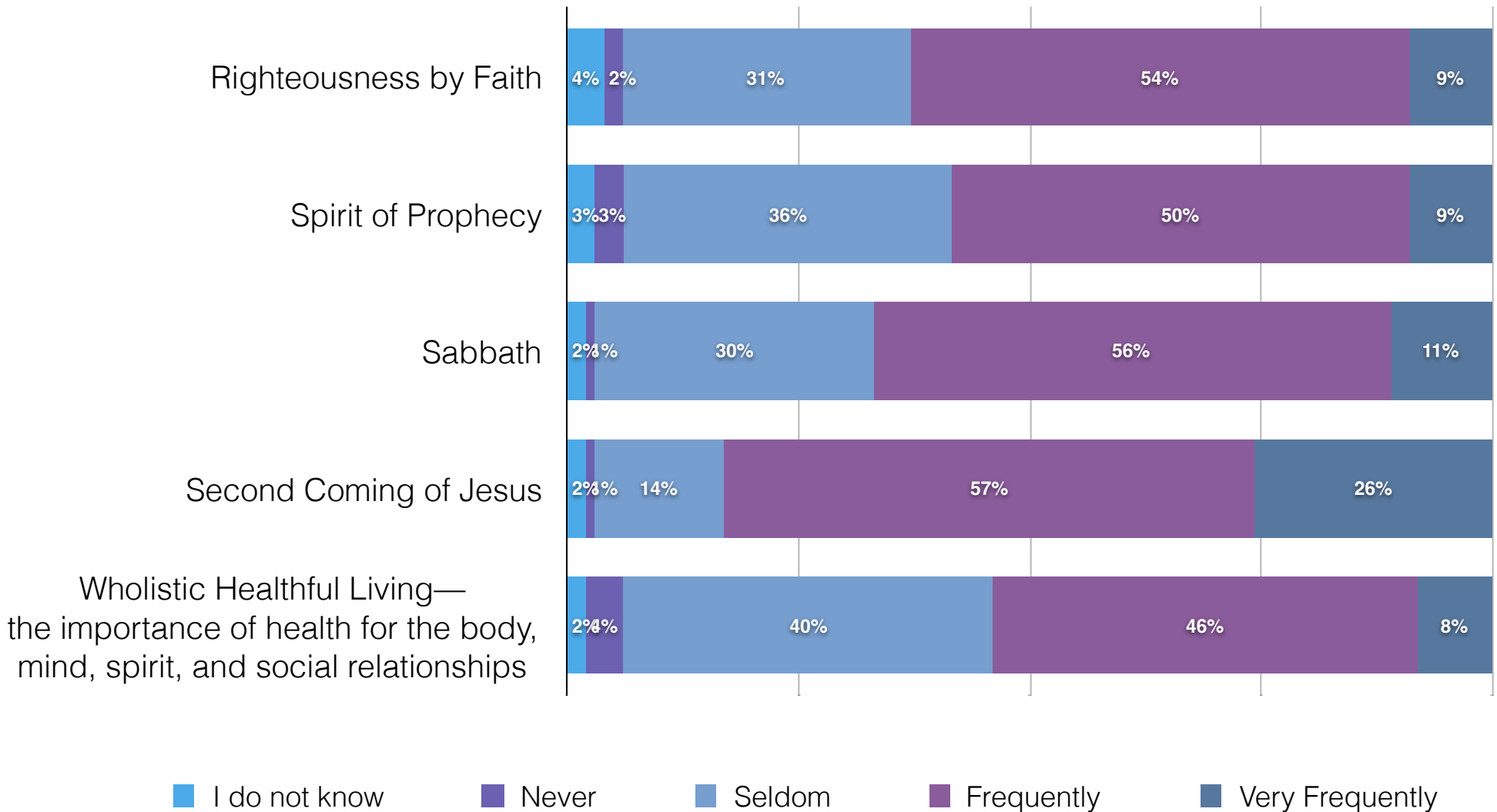
B1F. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE STATEMENTS THAT FOLLOW.



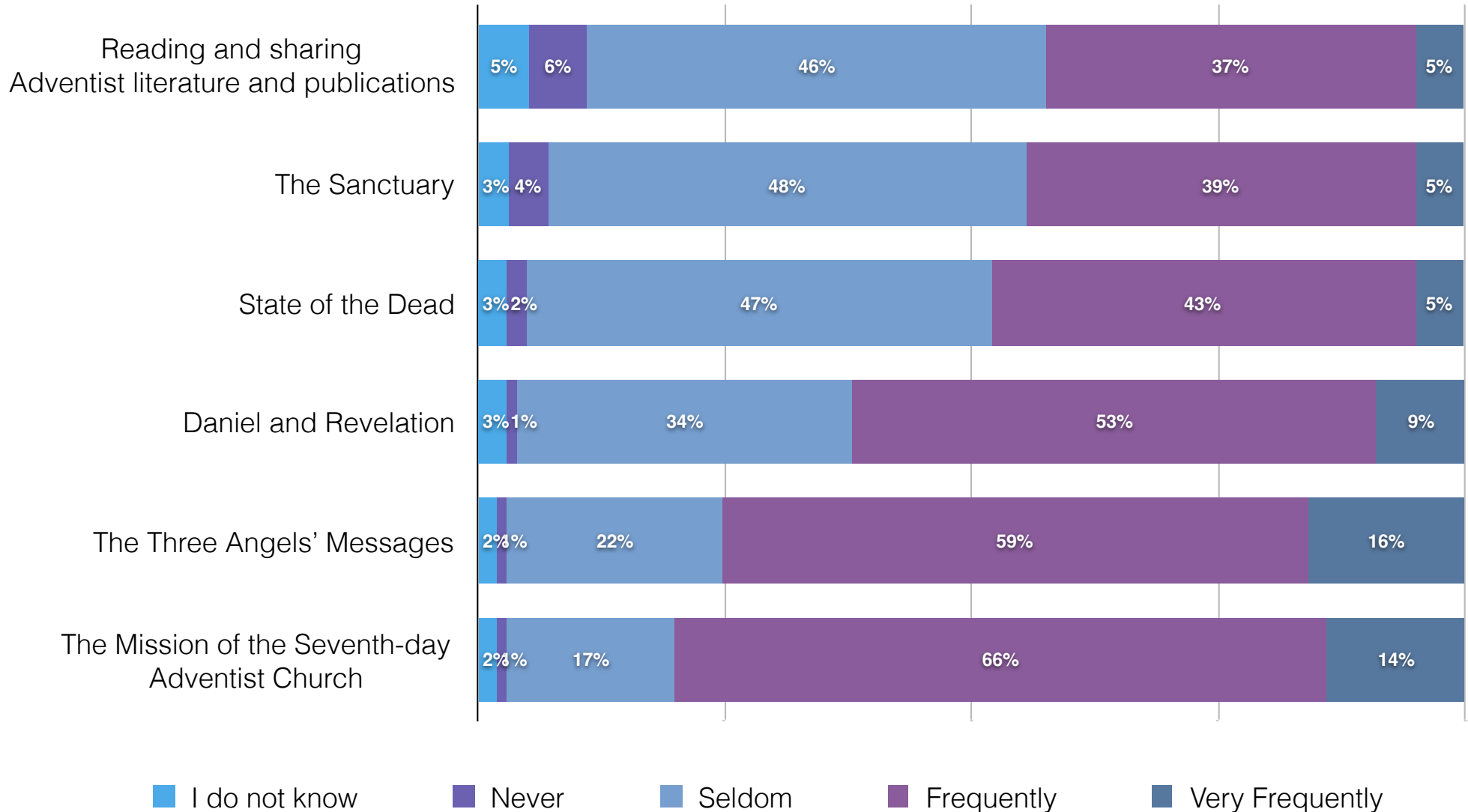
B2. PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT TO WHICH YOU AGREE WITH EACH OF THE BELIEFS LISTED.



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.

1%

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.

0%

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.

2%

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.

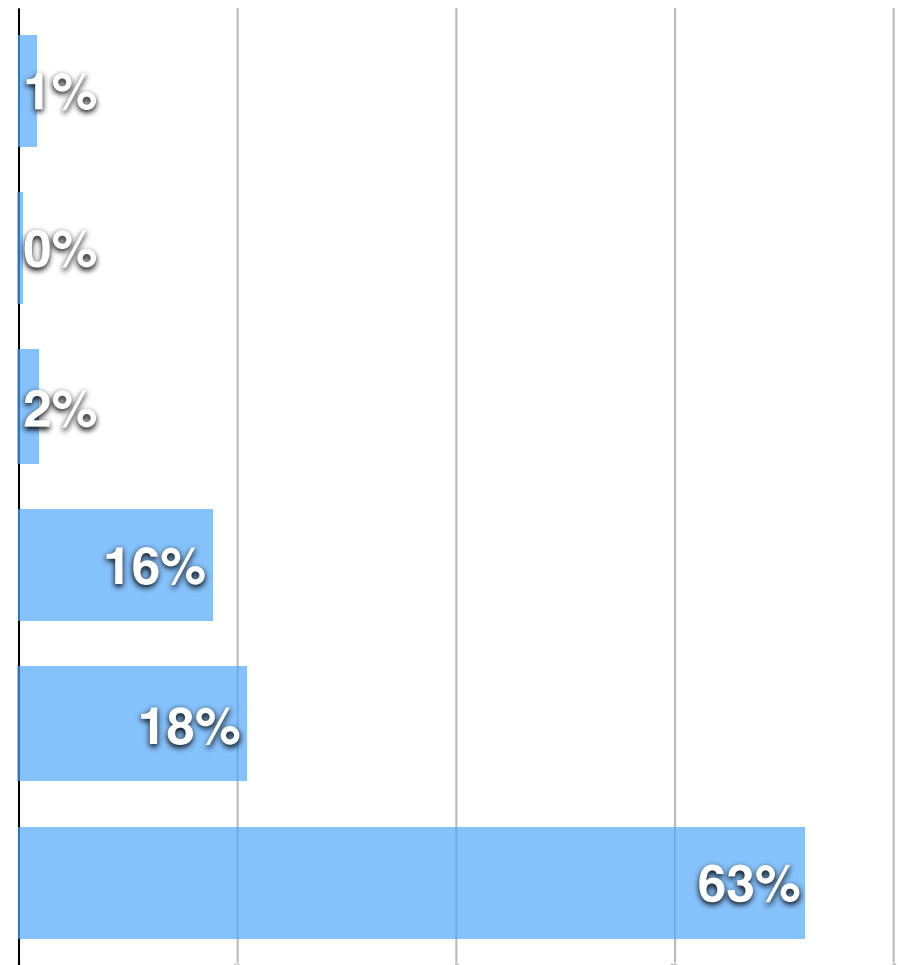
16%

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.

18%

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.

63%



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

I don't know who Ellen G. White is.

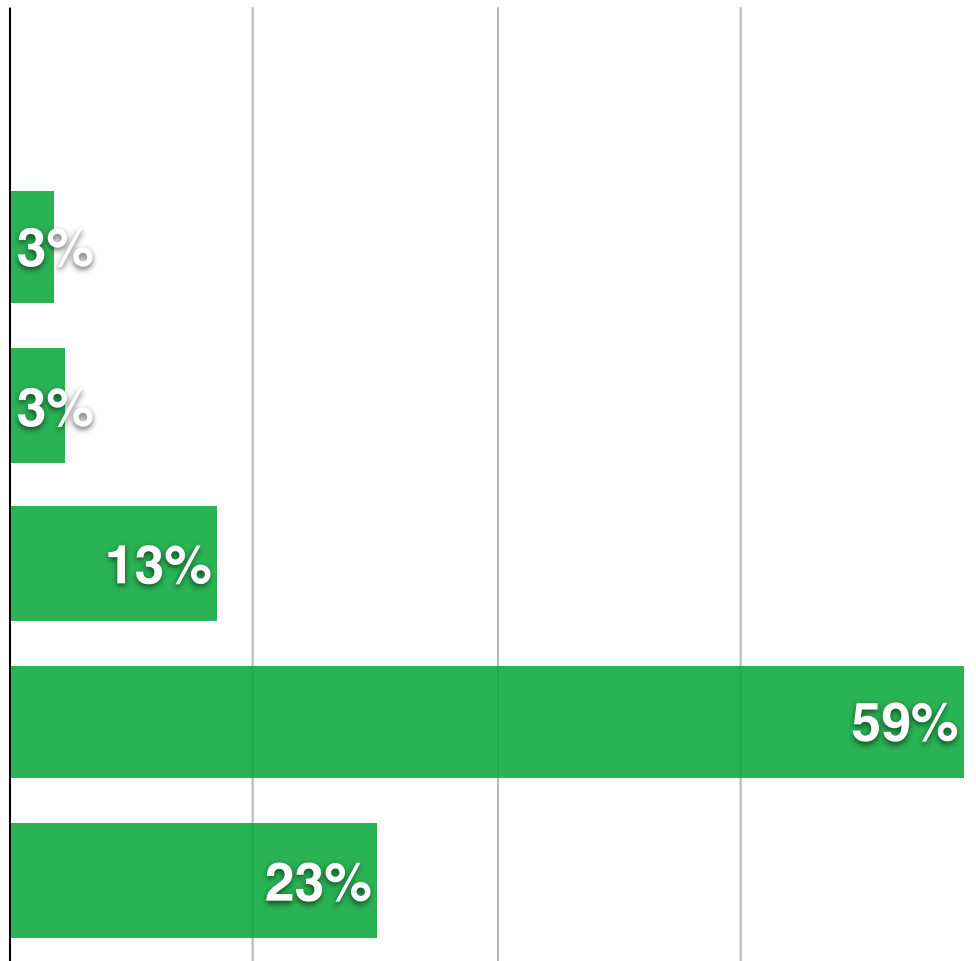
Ellen G. White's writings contain no more truth or wisdom than do the religious works written by leaders of other denominations.

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.

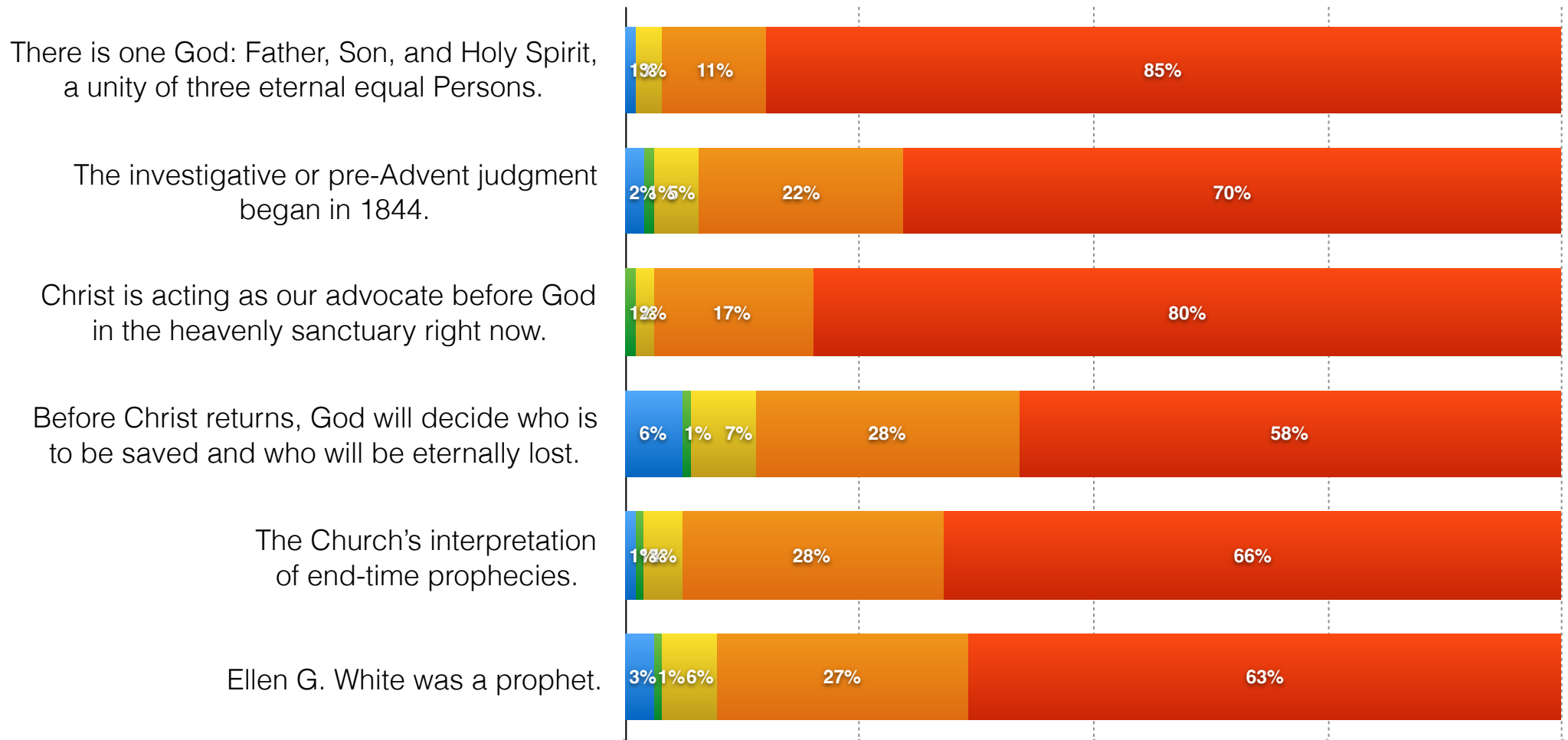
Ellen G. White was inspired by God and presented God's message in terms of her own place and time.

Ellen G. White was inspired by God and though she presented God's message in terms of her own place and time, expressed eternal truths in harmony with and pointing to the Bible.

Ellen G. White copied what God told her word for word, and wrote without being influenced by her own place and time.



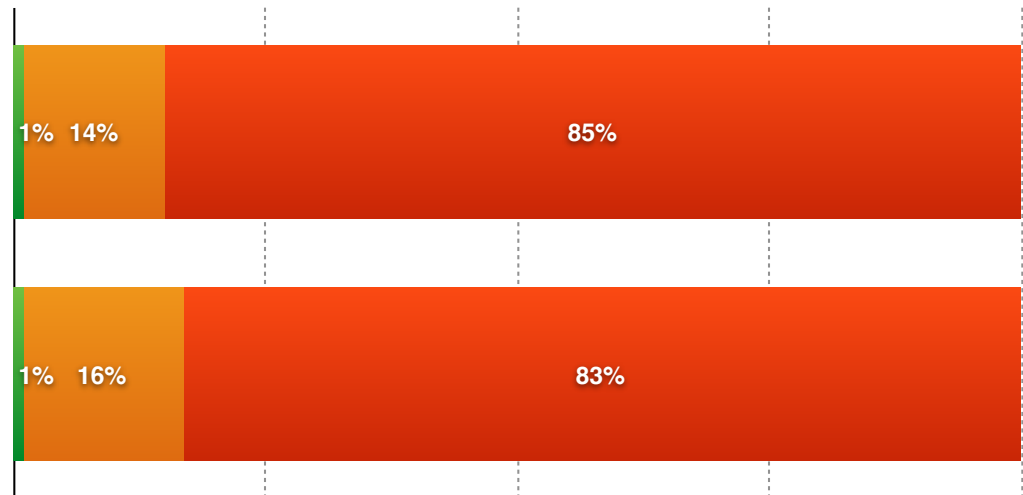
B6A. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL TEACHINGS OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH?



■ I don't accept it
 ■ I have major doubts about it
 ■ I have some questions about it
■ I accept it because the church teaches it
 ■ I embrace it wholeheartedly

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.



■ I don't accept it

■ I have some questions about it

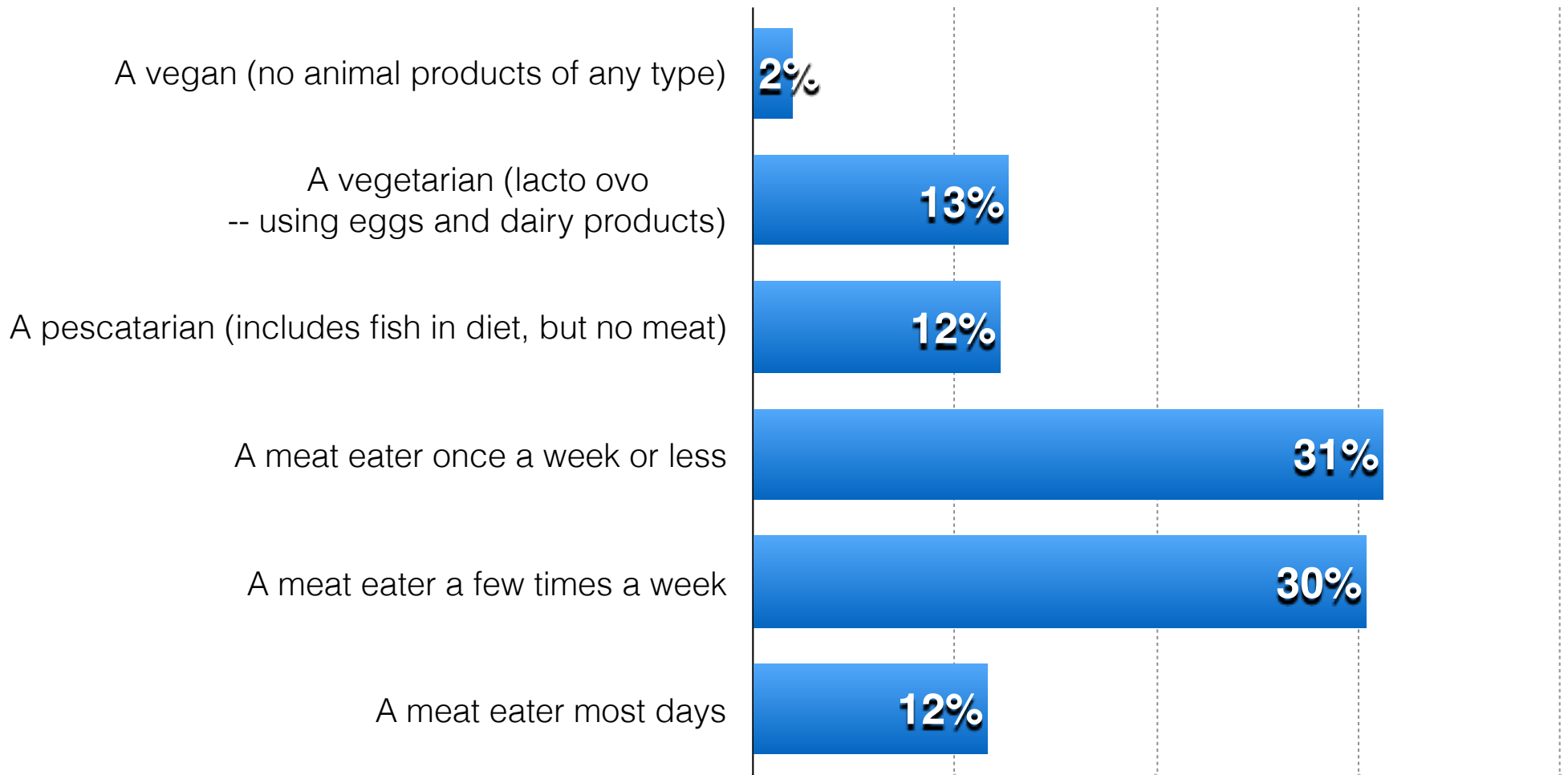
■ I embrace it wholeheartedly

■ I have major doubts about it

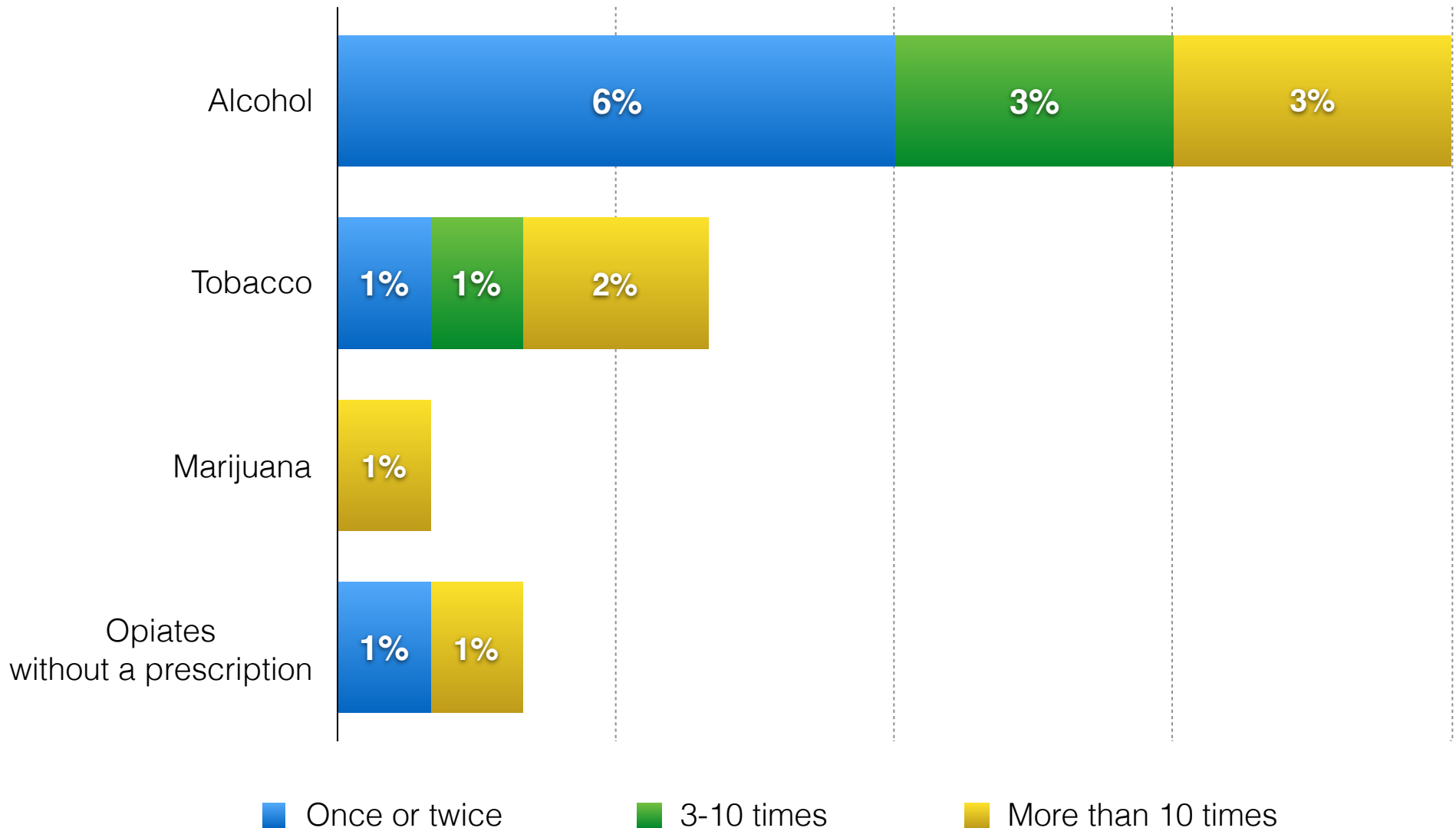
■ I accept it because the church teaches it

HEALTH

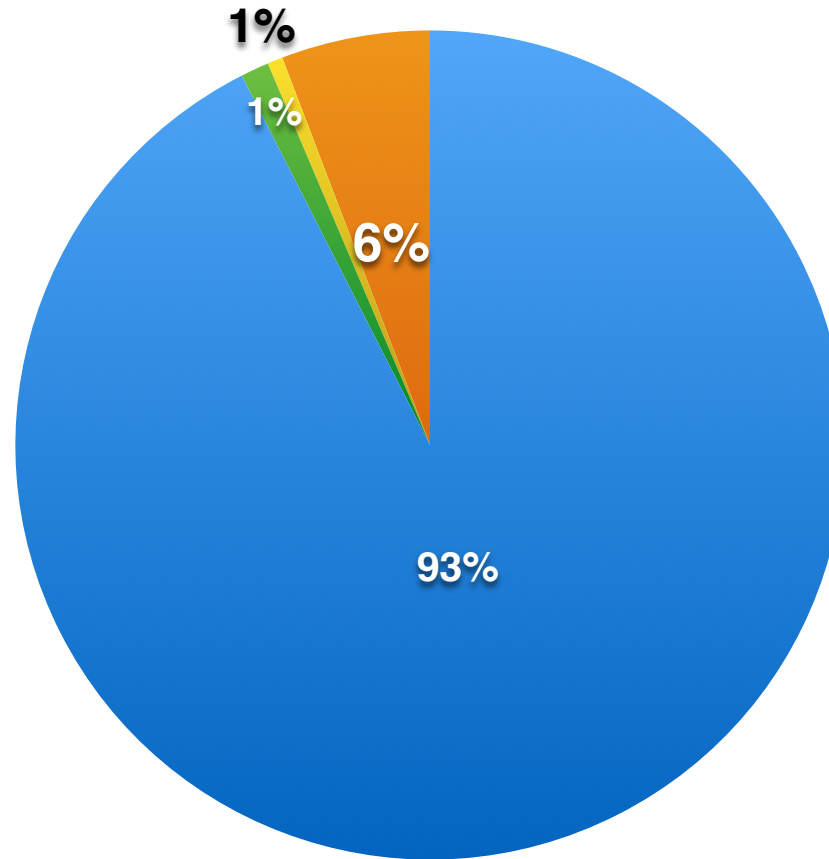
H1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS (CHECK JUST ONE):



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

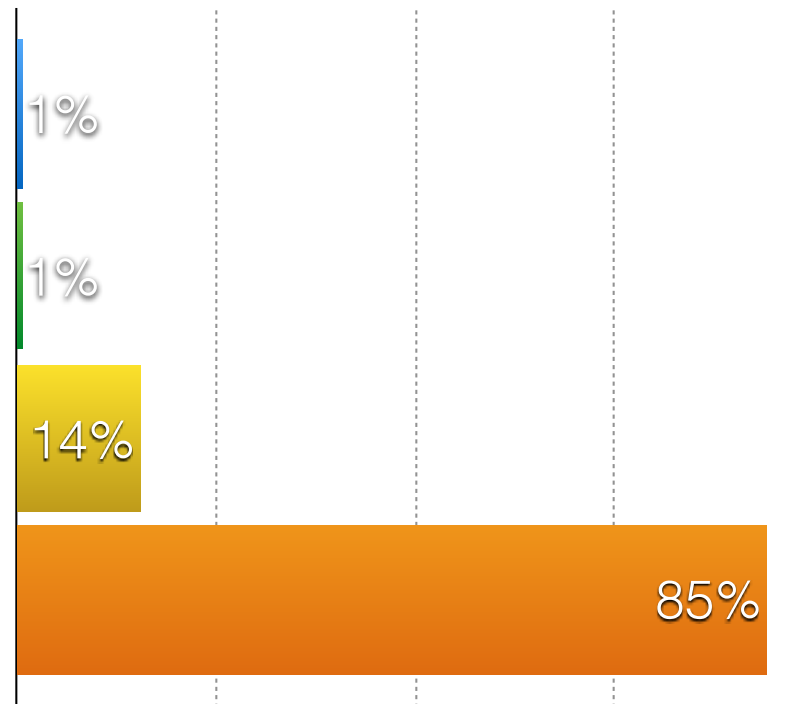


**H3. READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS CAREFULLY;
THEN MARK ONLY ONE STATEMENT THAT IS CLOSEST TO
YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON
ALCOHOL USE.**



- 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.

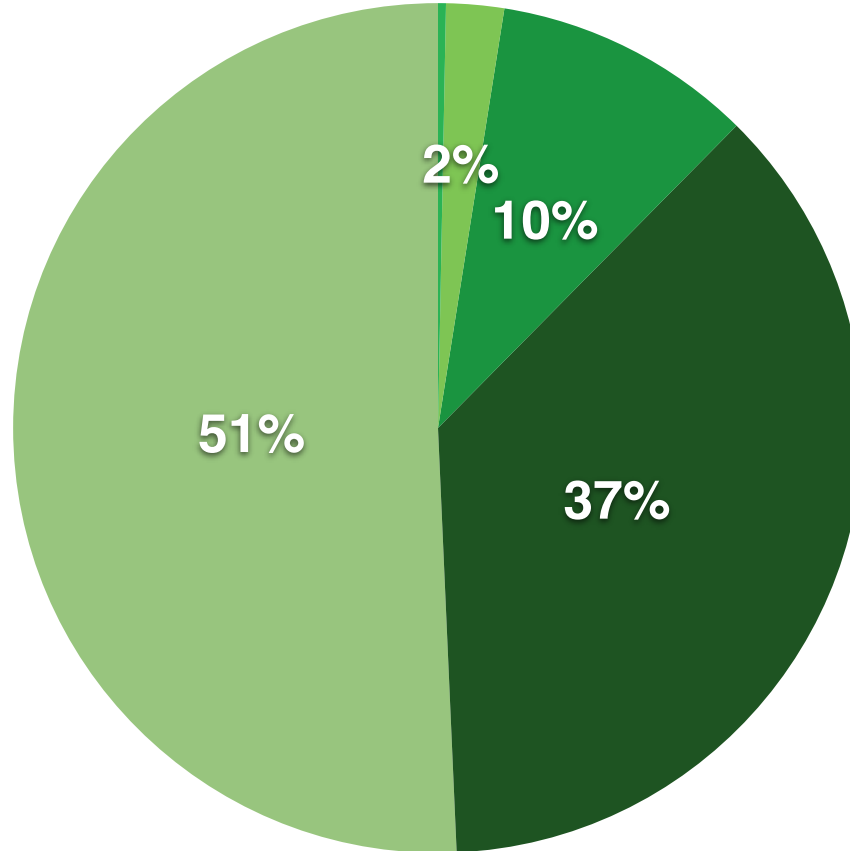
H4 - HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE?



- 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.

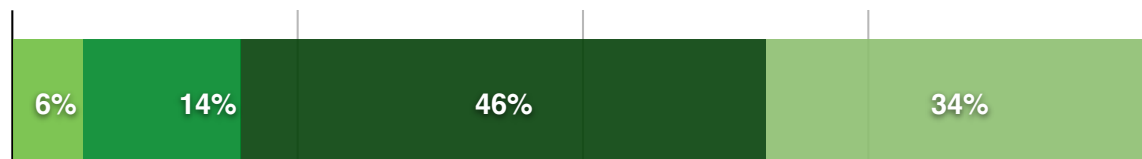
H5. DO YOU FOLLOW THE ADVENTIST HEALTH MESSAGE?

● Never ● Rarely ● Occasionally ● A Moderate Amount ● A Great Deal



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

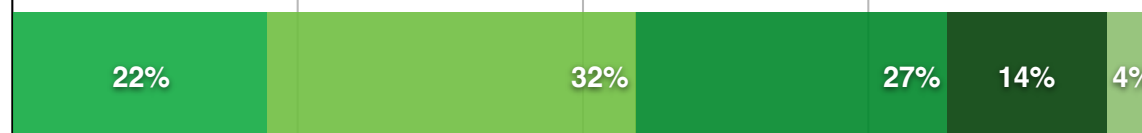
The Health Message is a core part of Seventh-day Adventist belief that cannot be questioned.



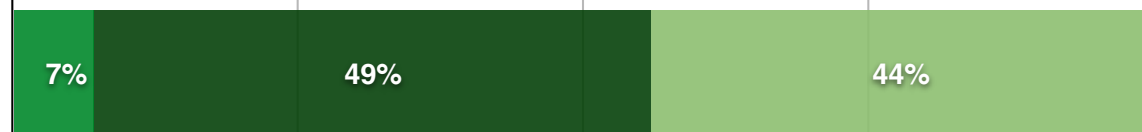
Following the Health Message increases the probability that a person will live longer.



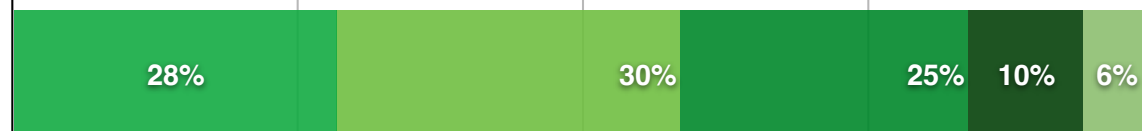
I can choose which parts of the Health Message to follow and which to ignore.



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