

2019 Nurture and Retention Summit

Discipling, Nurturing,
and Reclaiming

The Spiritually Vibrant Adventist Home: Center for Discipling, Nurturing, and Reclaiming

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Most Important Mission Field

“Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home...There is no missionary field more important than this...”

EGW, The Adventist Home p. 35.



Types of Households

- *Nuclear Family*
- *Single Parent*
- *Extended Family*
- *Multi-generational*
- *Empty Nest*
- *Single Adult/Living Alone or with Housemates*
- *Cohabiting Couples*
- *Same-Sex Couples*
- *And more*



Trends in 21st Century Households

- *Boomerang Kids*
- *Millennials Delaying Marriage and Family*
- *"Urban" Family*
- *Post-Christian Culture*
- *Declining Church Attendance*
- *DIY Faith Formation*



4 Distinct Profiles of Spiritual Vibrancy*

- **Dormant:** These households do not talk about God or faith together, do not pray together, do not read the Bible together regularly and do not welcome non-family visitors regularly.
- **Hospitable:** These households welcome non-family visitors several times a month. They might participate in some spiritual activities, but not all of them regularly.
- **Devotional:** Talk about God or faith together, pray together, read the Bible together regularly. They do NOT welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month.
- **Vibrant:** Talk about God or faith together, pray together, read the Bible together regularly. They welcome non-family visitors several times a month.

*Barna Group, Household of Faith Study, 2018

Key Findings of Barna Group–Households of Faith Study

- Presence of children/minors served as a catalyst for vibrancy*
- Faith formation is connected to and increases with hospitality*
- Spiritually vibrant homes are characterized by fun and quality time*
- Faith heritage impacts Christian beliefs and practices for the long-term.*



*Barna Group, Household of Faith Study, 2018



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The Spiritually Vibrant Home:

- Has meaningful, fun, and quality time with family members or housemates in addition to people from outside of the household.*
- Differs from devotional and hospitable households in that they combine both devotional and hospitable attributes.*
- Is intentional about sharing faith activities, feelings, and spiritual conversations .*
- Engages in spiritual coaching.*



What Does a Spiritually Vibrant Home Look Like?

“The atmosphere surrounding the souls of the fathers and mothers [guardians] fills the whole house, and is felt in every department of the home.”

EGW, The Adventist Home, p. 16.

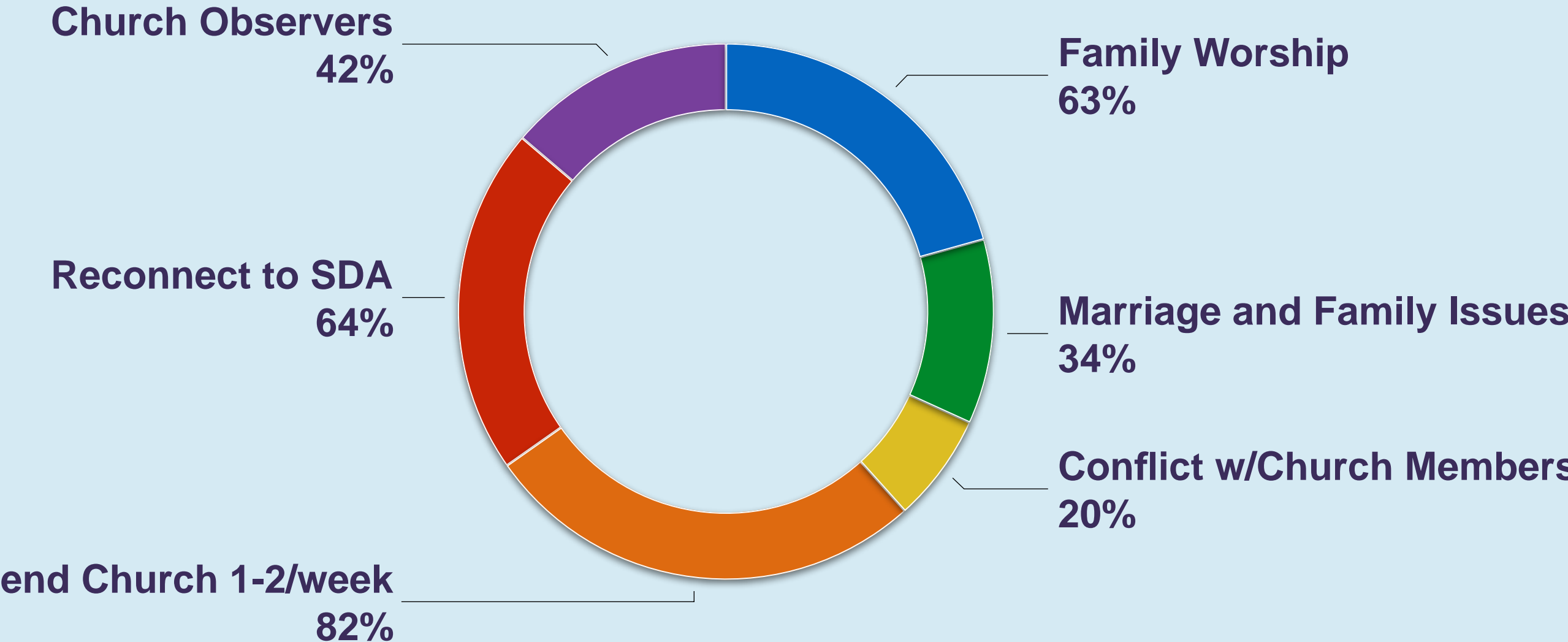


How Does a Spiritually Vibrant Home Contribute to Discipling, Nurturing, and Reclaiming?

- ✦ *Faith formation and development*
- ✦ *Faith and spiritual legacy*
- ✦ *Hospitality*



Profile of Members Who Left SDA Church



* Leaving the Church Study, SDA Archives and Statistics, 2014.



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Implications of Research

- *Our family is our first mission field.*
- *People inside our congregations are longing for intimate connections.*
- *There is a vast opportunity for us to reach people through our own family life.*
- *We must make our homes spiritually vibrant.*



Discussion

- What practical tips or insights can you share with your church family or your own family to set your home up for greater Spiritual Vibrancy?*
- Write down the names of three persons that you know personally who have left the church or are struggling, and commit to praying for them each day and inviting them to your home for a meal and fellowship.*



Recommendations:

- ✦ *Create meaningful rituals and relationships.*
 - ✦ *family dinner*
 - ✦ *games and singing*
- ✦ *Equip parents and other guardians to be spiritual coaches*
- ✦ *Engage in spiritual activities regularly*
- ✦ *Hospitality is Key!*
 - ✦ *Find ways to include new converts in spiritual practices not learned in their families of origin*
 - ✦ *Adopt a visitor, neighbor, co-worker and regularly invite them into your home just for fellowship (Bible Studies can come later).*

Building a Spiritually Vibrant Home

*"By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is
established; by knowledge
the rooms are filled with all
precious and pleasant
riches."*

Proverbs 24:3,4 ESV



The Promise of Success



"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)