

# Global Church Member Research and Adventist Young People



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Huntsville, AL

# Acknowledgements

## The 2018 GCMS Meta-Analysis Team:

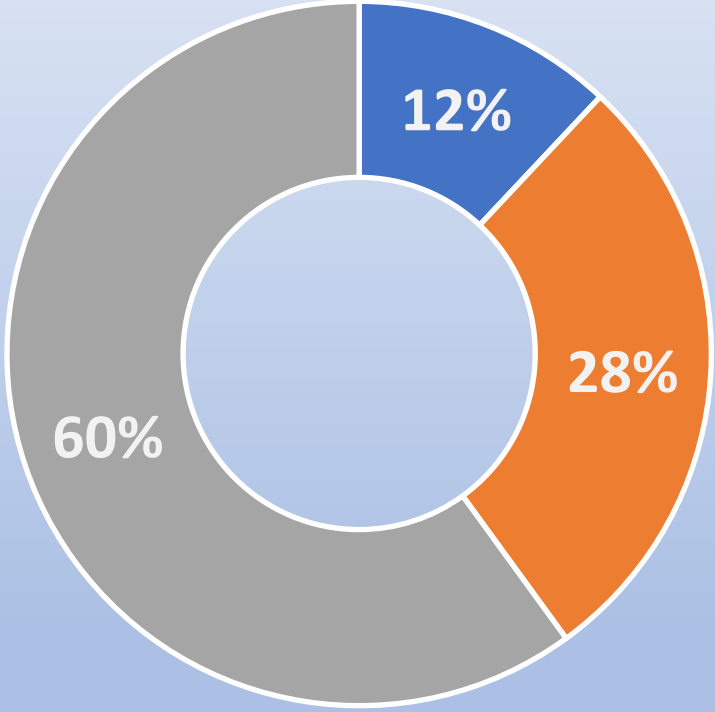
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\*Special “Thank you” to Dr. Bailey for additional correlations and analysis of young people data in different cultural contexts

# 2018 Global Church Member Survey Samples & Young People Subsamples



■ Youth up to 20

■ Young people 21-35

■ Members 36+

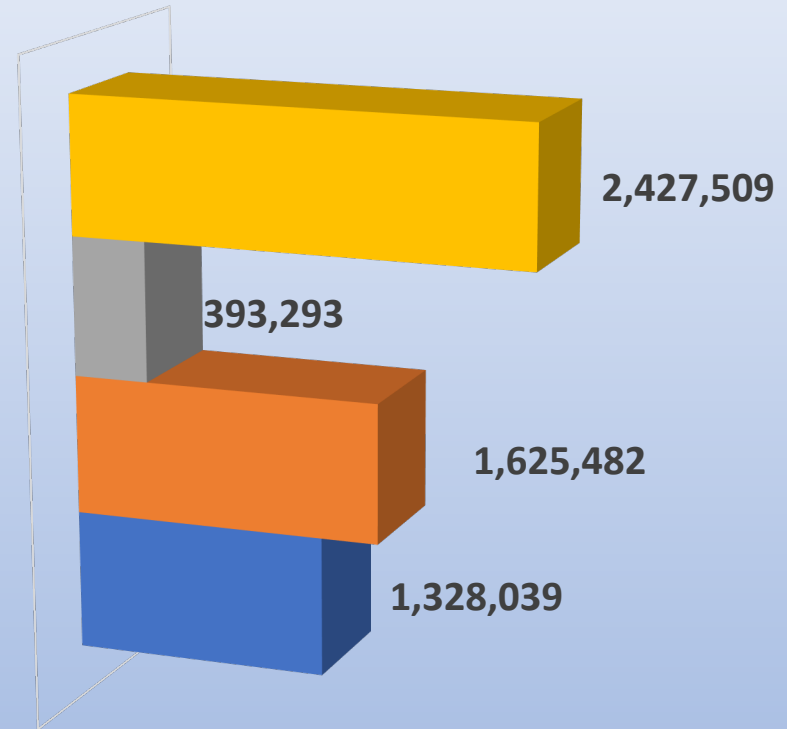
Total sample:  
N=63,756

21-35 years of age:  
N=17,970

Up to 20 years old:  
N= 7,490

# Adventist Kids, Youth, & Young Adults around the World ( as of 2017)

Adventurers – ages 4-9  
Pathfinders – 10-15  
Ambassadors – 16-21  
Young adults – 21-30+



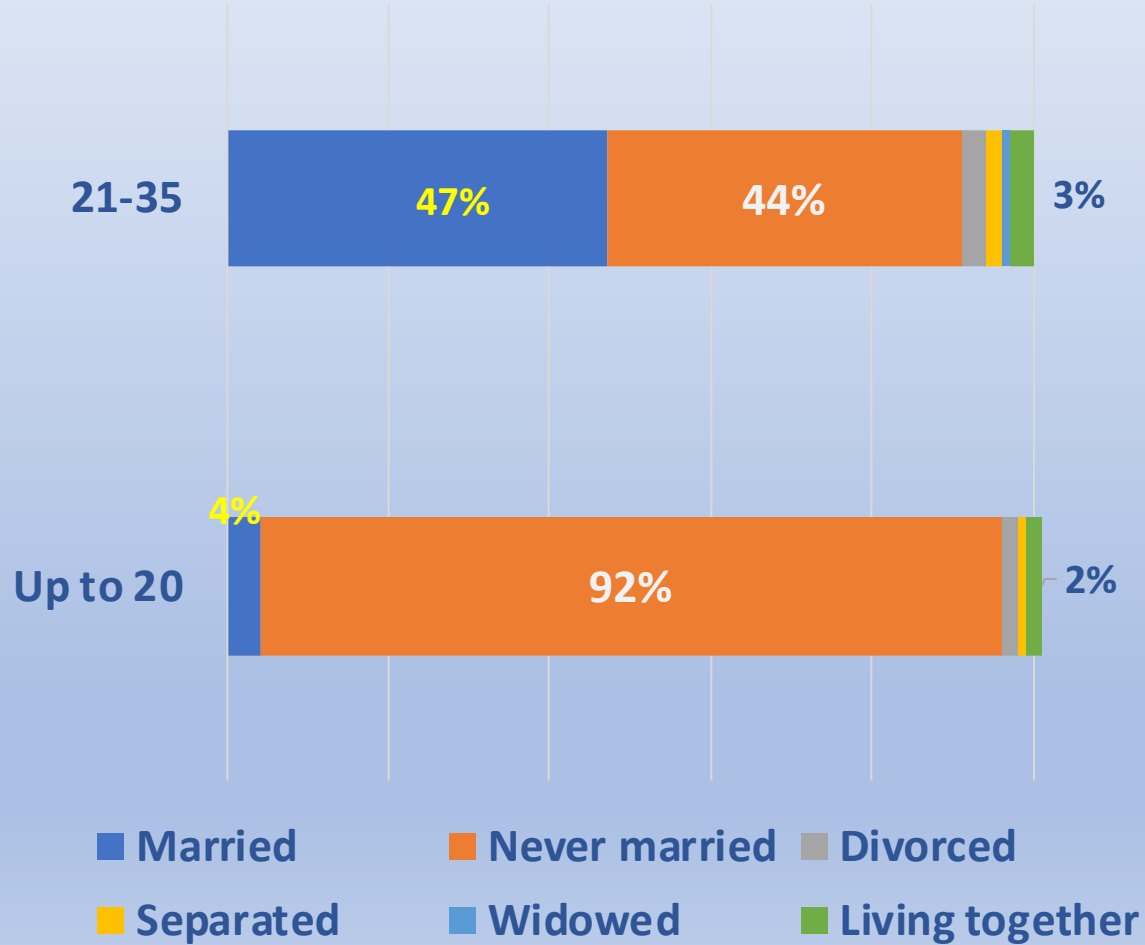
- Adventist Young People
- Ambassadors
- Pathfinders
- Adventurers

# Outline

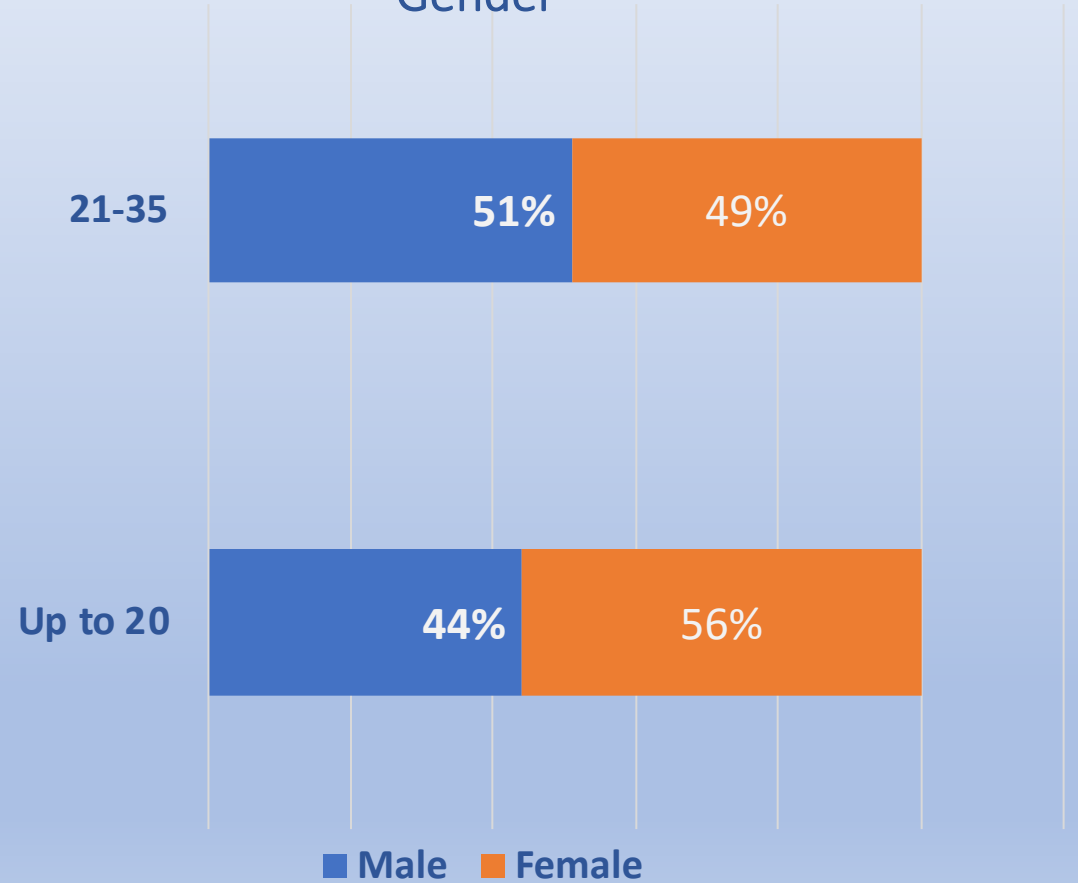
- Some demographics
- Devotional life
- Church attendance, location, & climate
- Involvement in church life and community outreach
- Views on some doctrines
- Commitment
- Conclusions
- Potential future research

# Gender, Marital Status & Relationships with the Adventist Church

## Marital Status

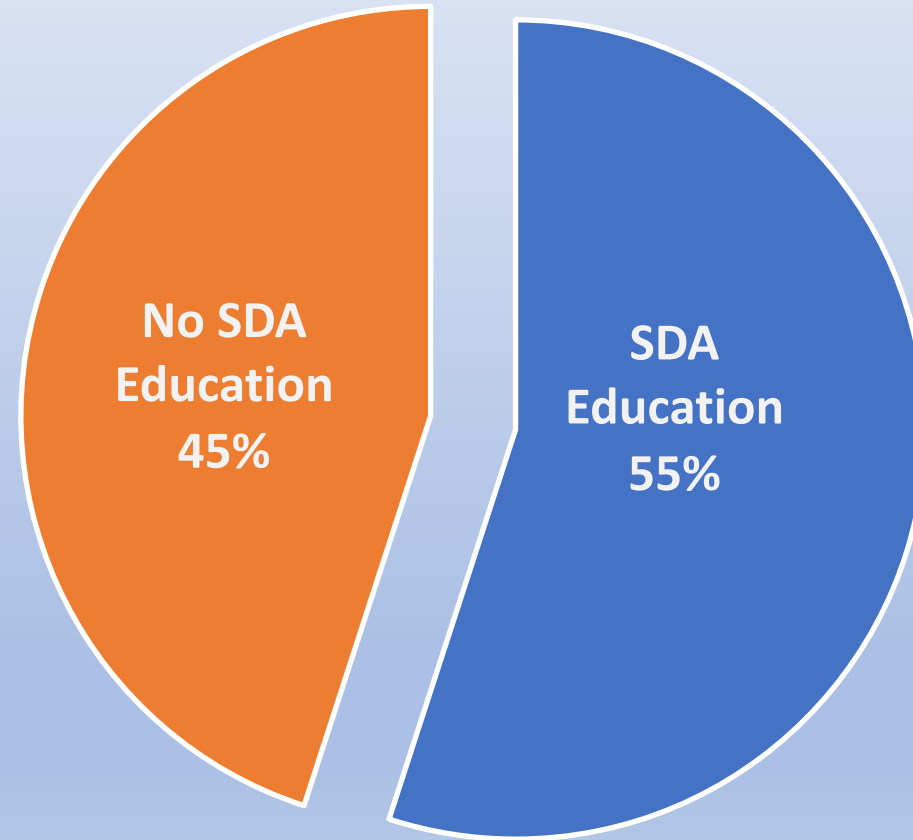


## Gender

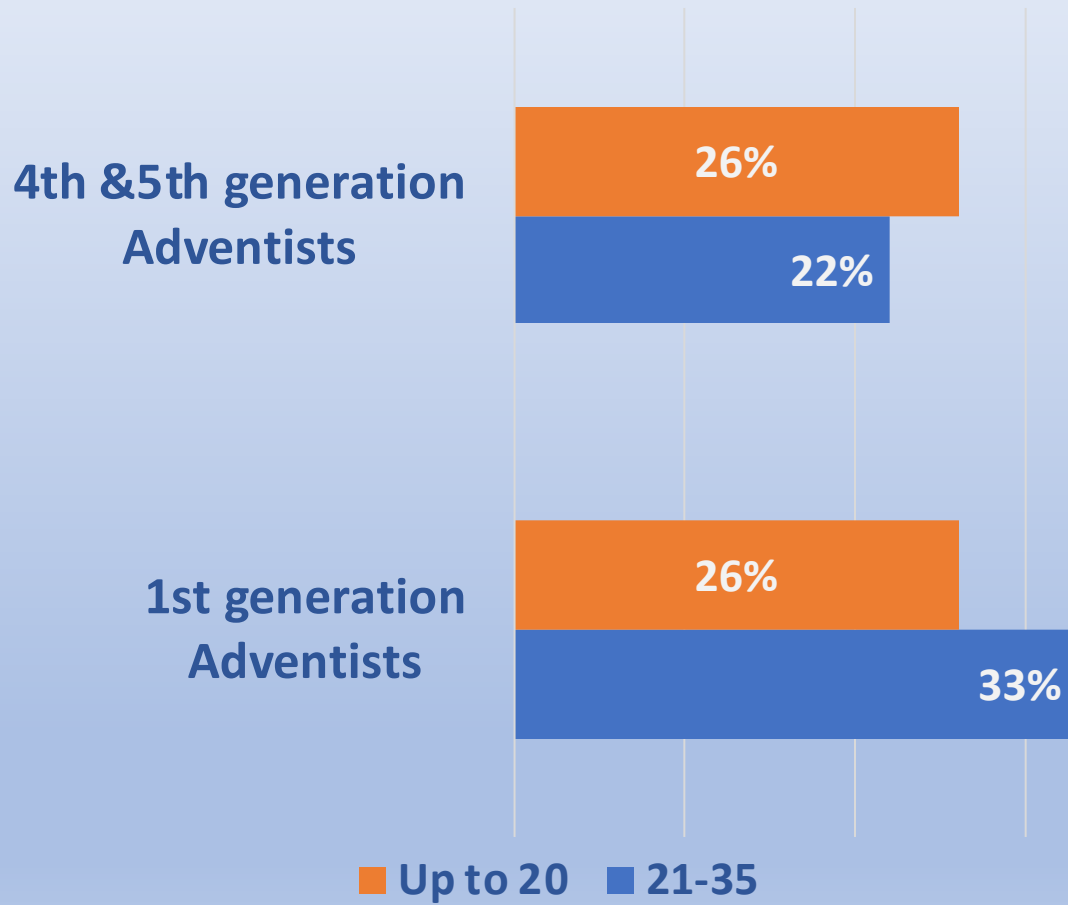


SDA Education  
Age Group: 21-35

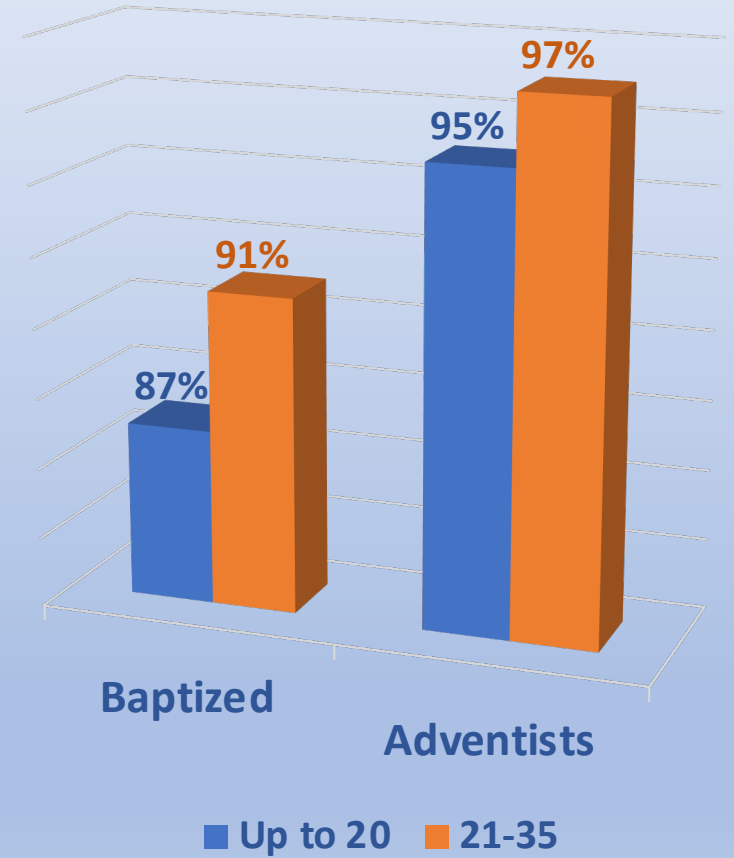
**A significant number of young people around the world have not had Adventist education**



## Generations of Adventists



## Relationship with the Adventist Church





# Devotional Life

How Often do you Engage in these Activities?  
[Daily or more often than once a day]

Daily or more often +  
more than once a week:  
**Sabbath School:**

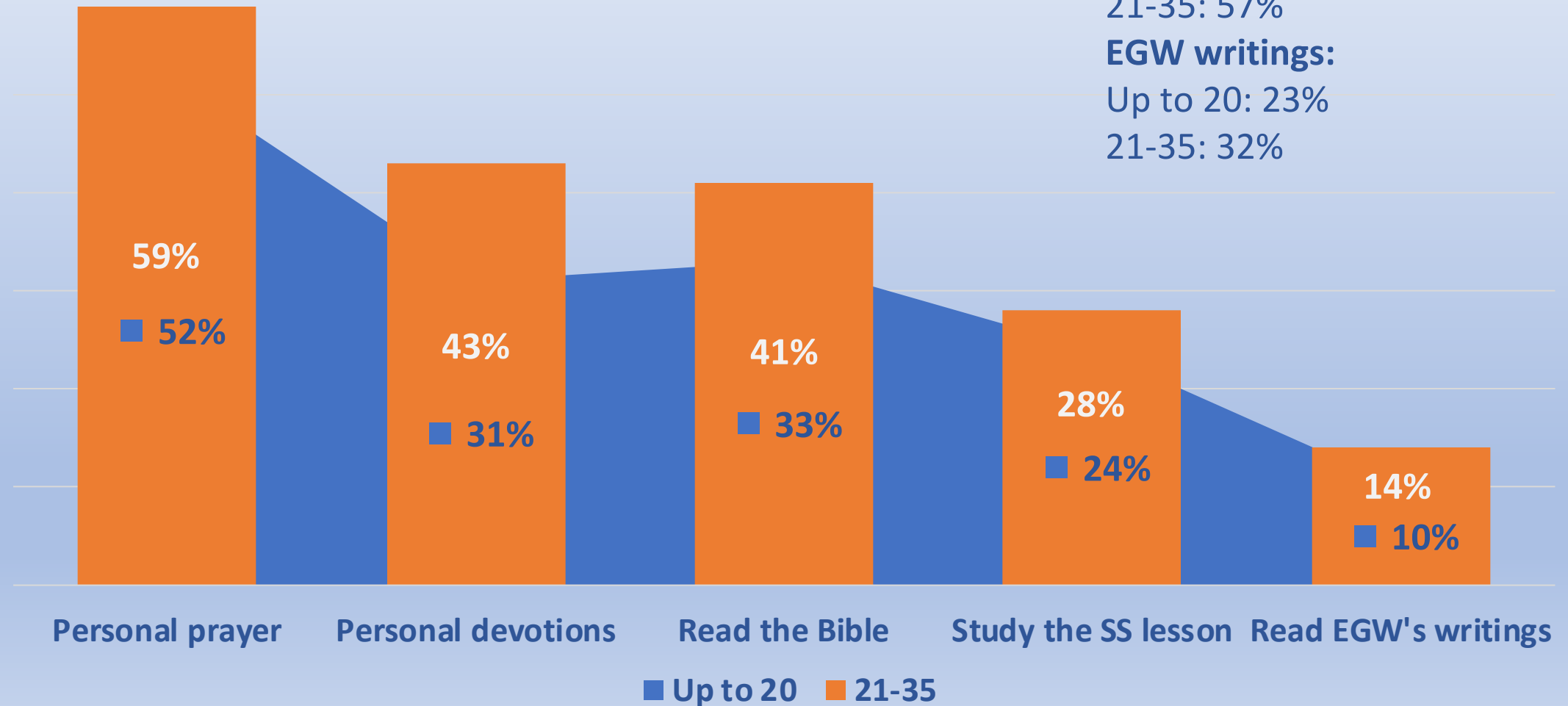
Up to 21: 46%

21-35: 57%

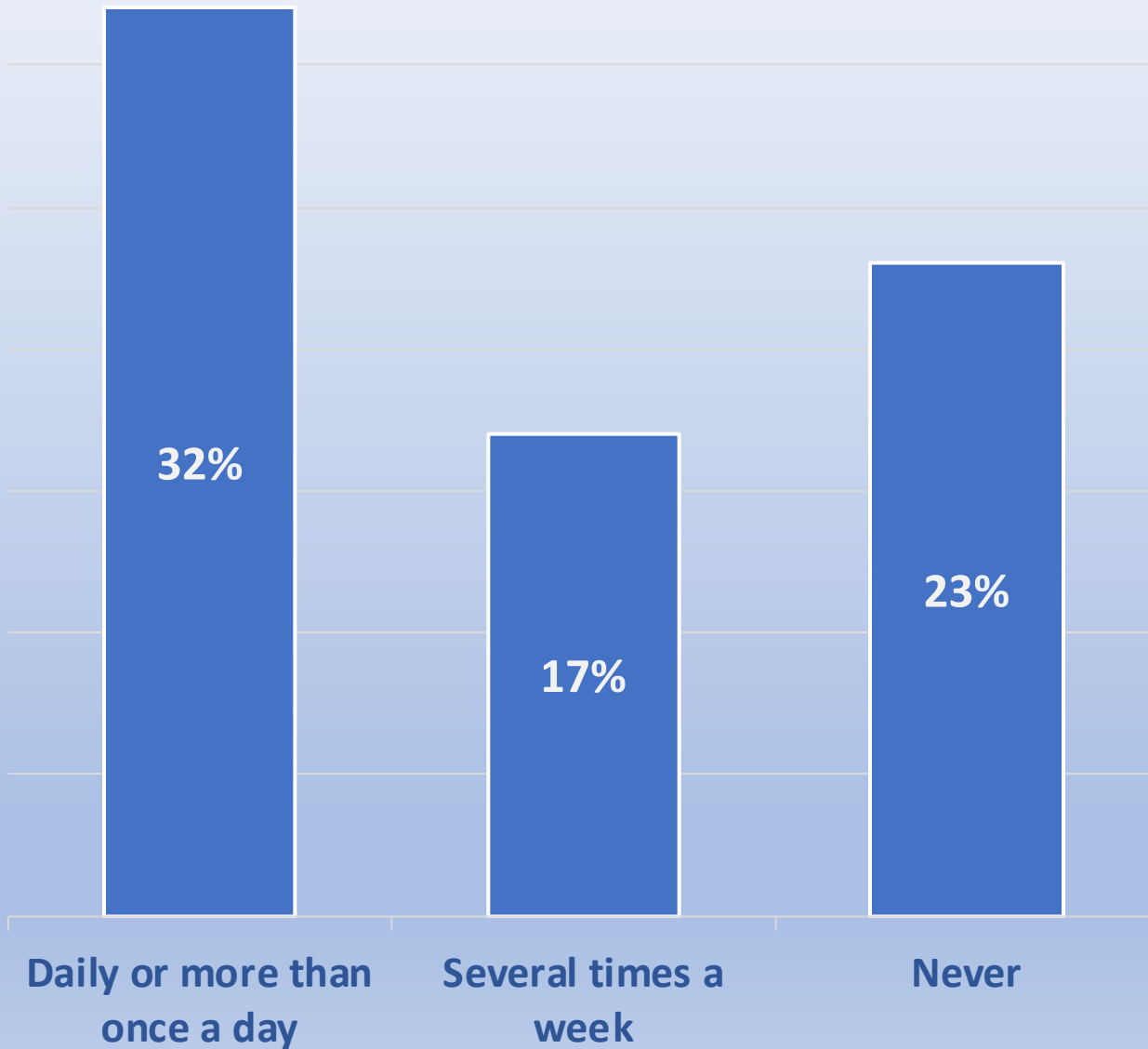
**EGW writings:**

Up to 20: 23%

21-35: 32%



## Family Worship

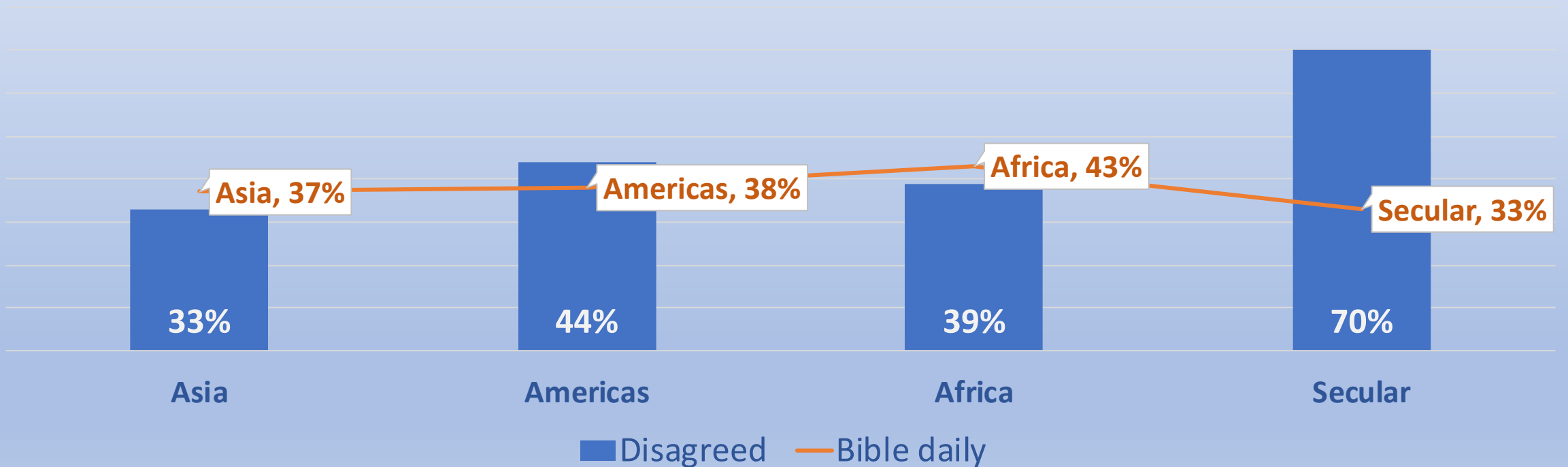


## Young Adults:

- 47% are married
- 44% have children
- 42% have at least one child or teenager living at home
- **86% whose children are all Adventists, and 14% whose children are not all Adventist**
- 4% of youth have children living with them at home

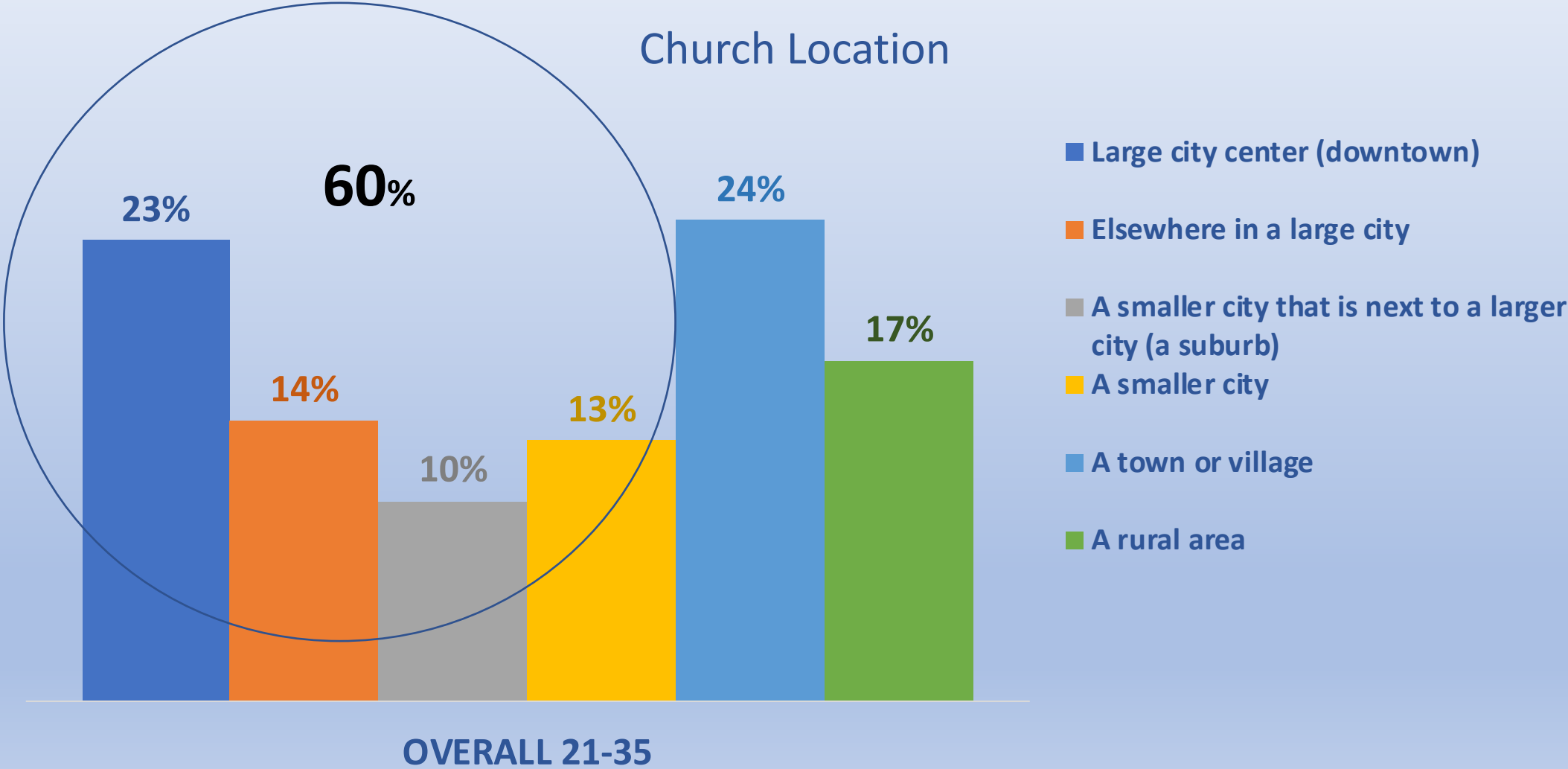
# Differences in Responses in Different Cultural Contexts

Responses on reading the Bible daily and  
Disagree or strongly disagree with  
“Although I am religious, it does not affect my daily life”  
Ages: 15-35

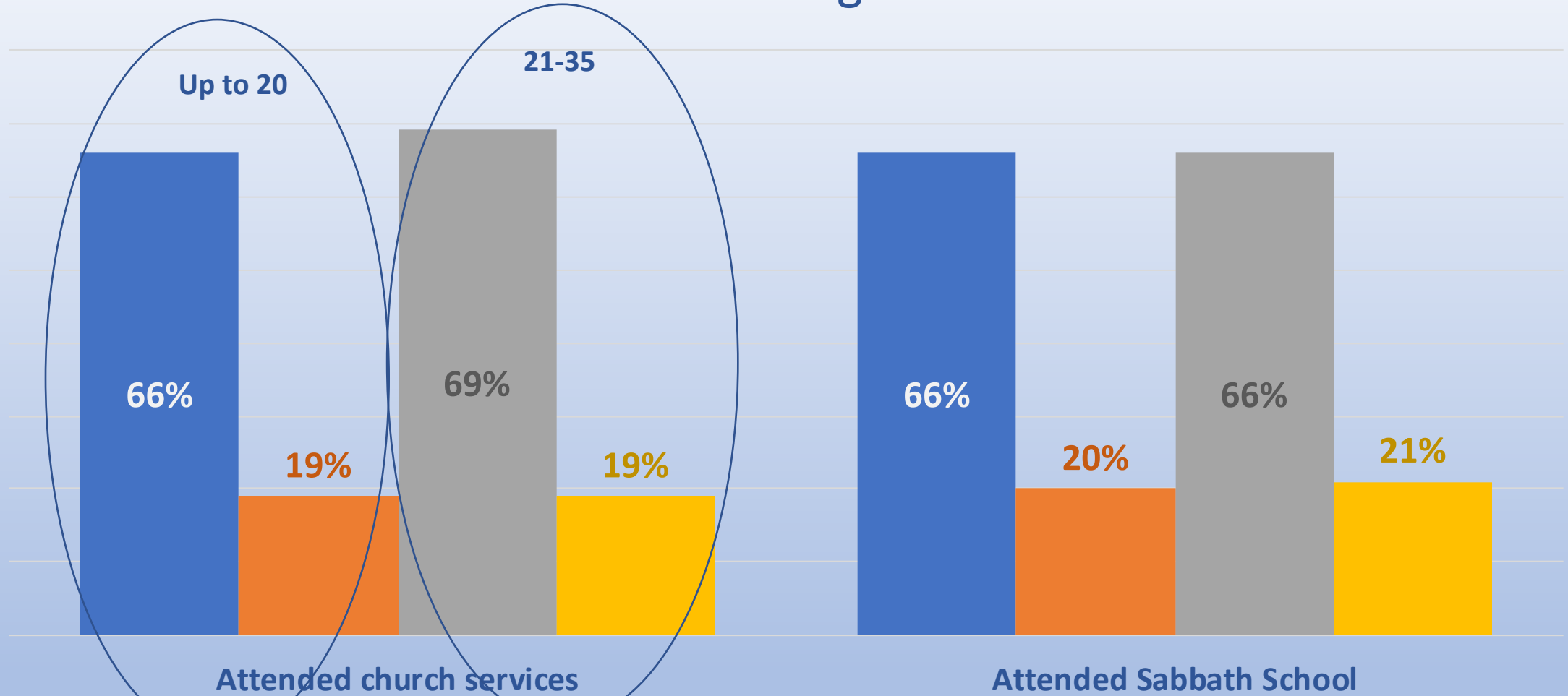


\* “Americas” include Inter and South America; “Secular” context includes North America, Europe, and part of Australia

# Church Attendance, Location, & Climate

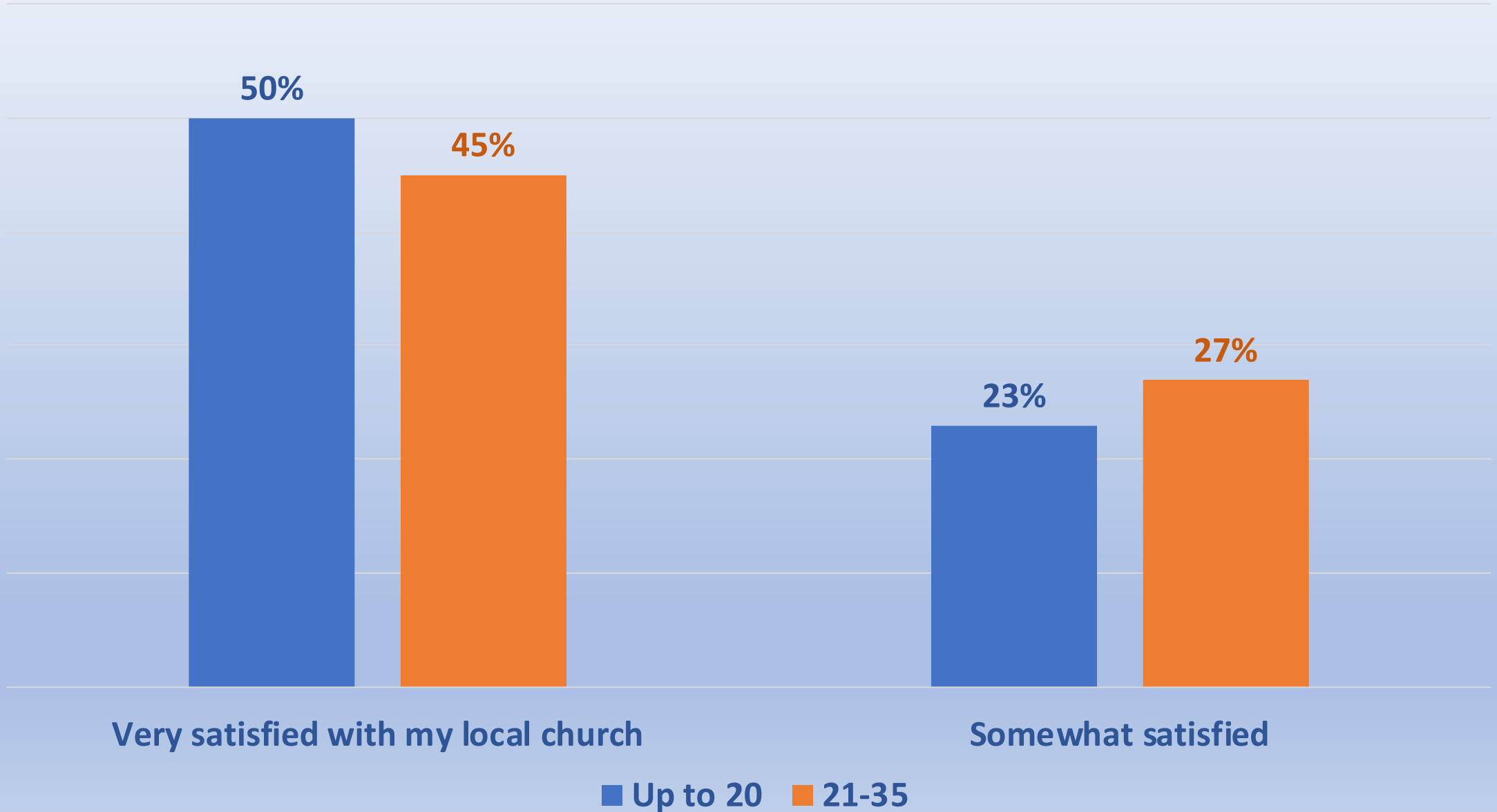


# Church attendance during the Last 12 Months



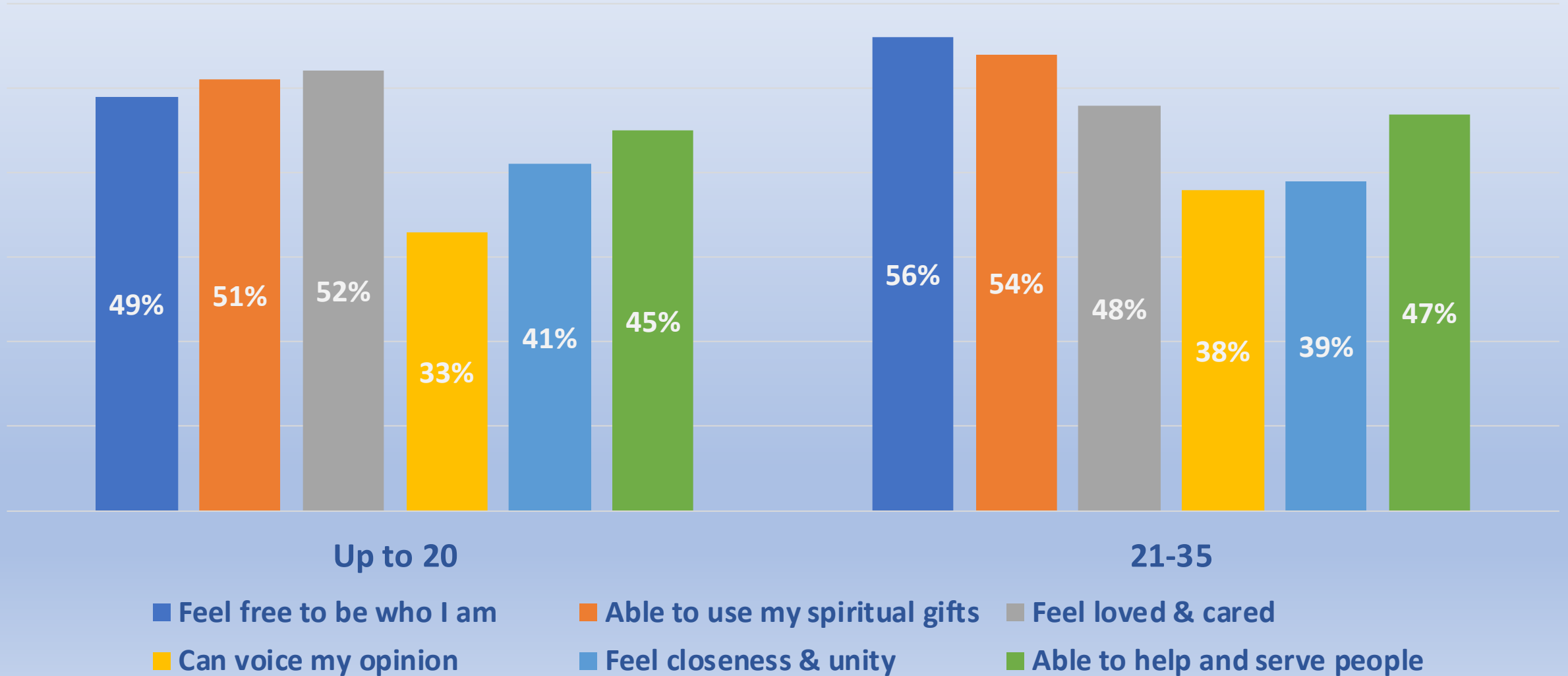
- Every week or more than once a week: up to 20
- Almost every week: up to 20
- Every week or more than once a week: 21-35
- Almost every week: 21-35

# How Satisfied are you with your Local Church?



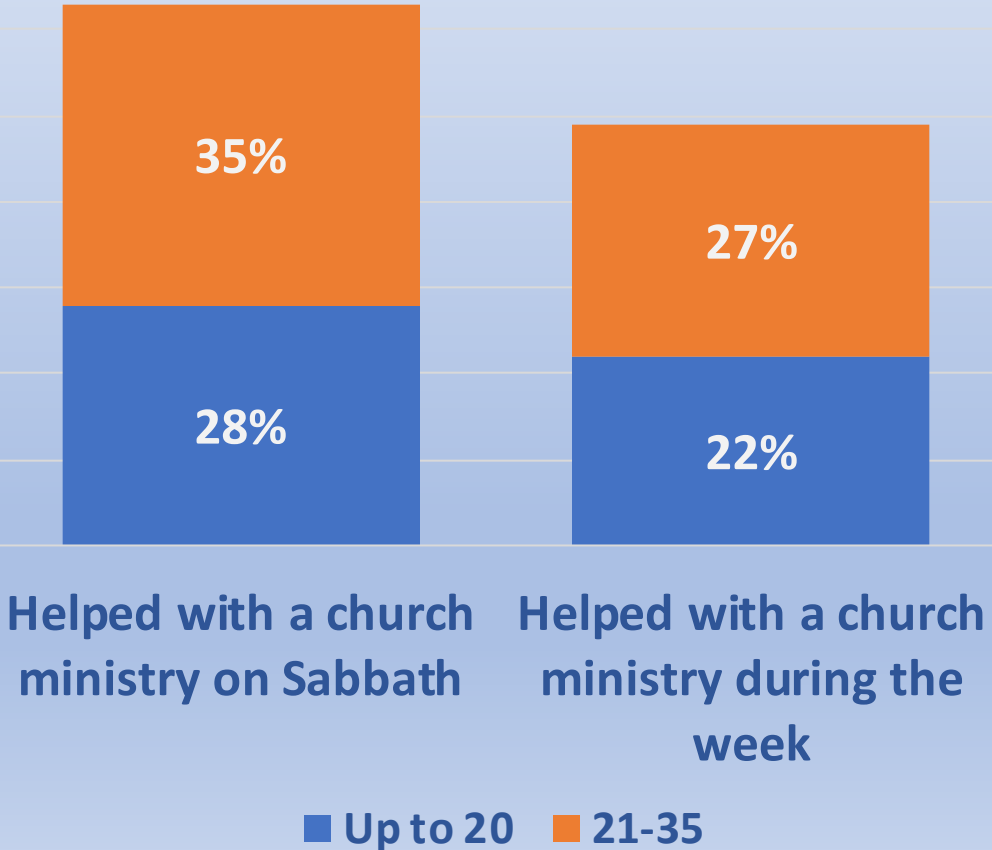
# When I am at Church, I ...

At Church I ... (responses for "Very true")

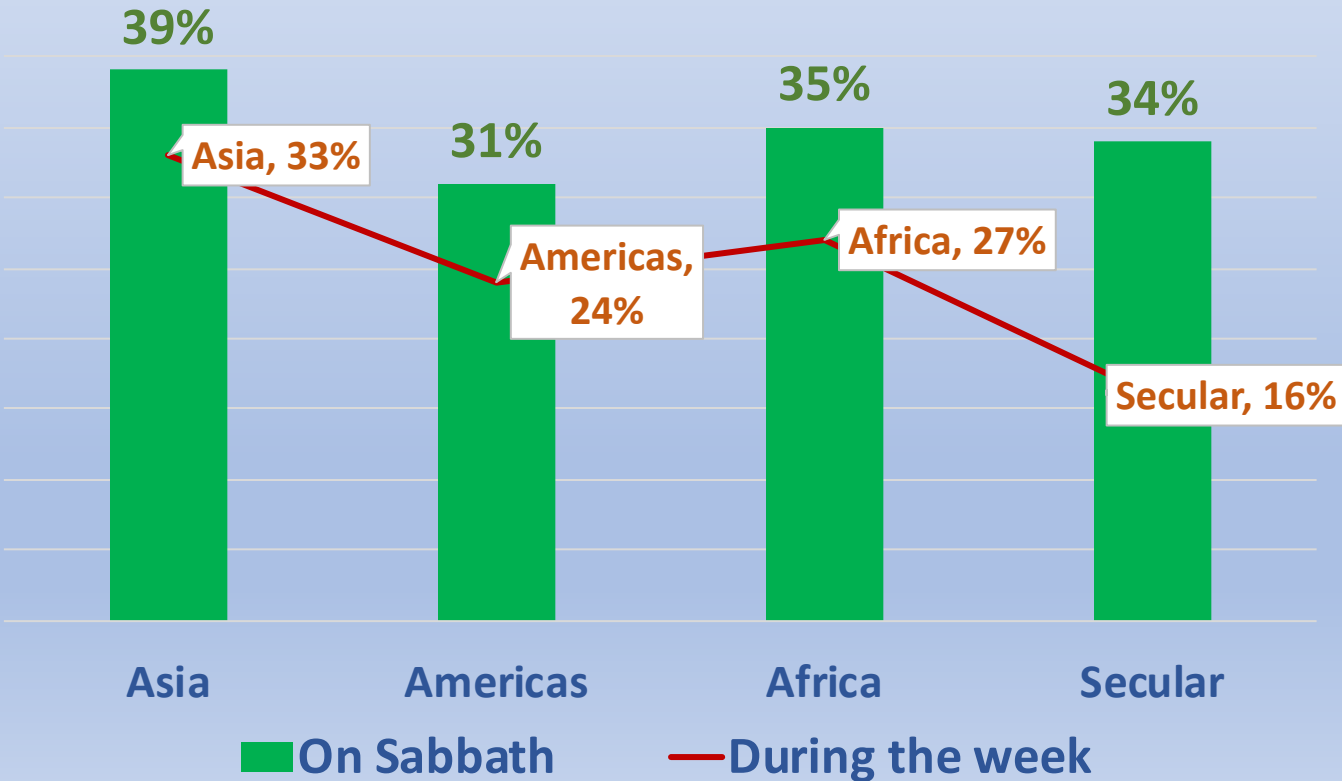


# Involvement

Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months  
(Every week or more than once a week)

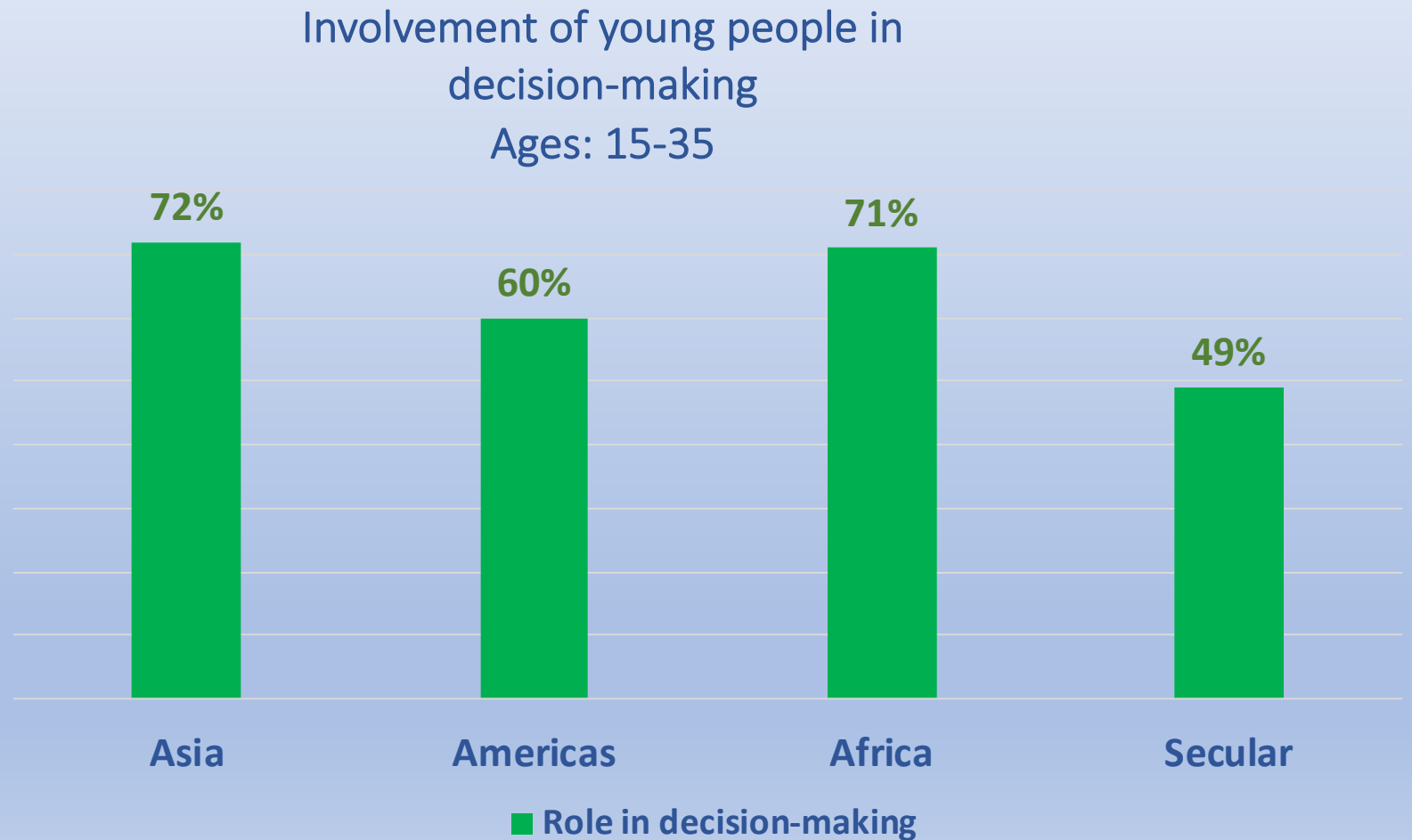
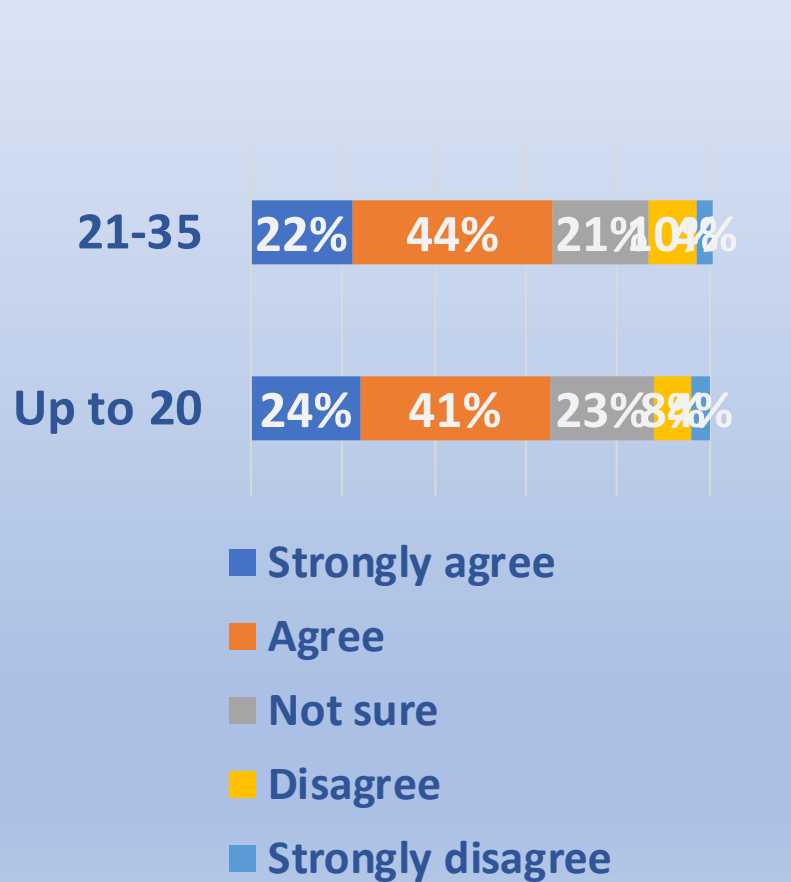


Involvement in Church Ministry during the Last 12 Months  
(Every week or more than once a week)  
Ages: 15-35

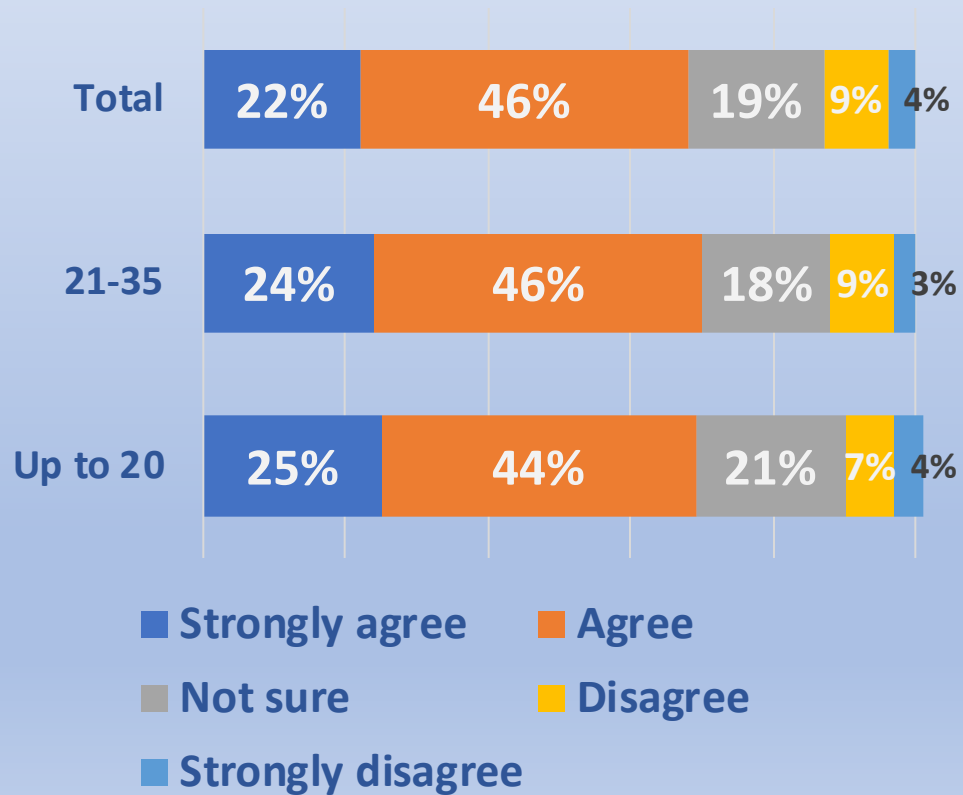




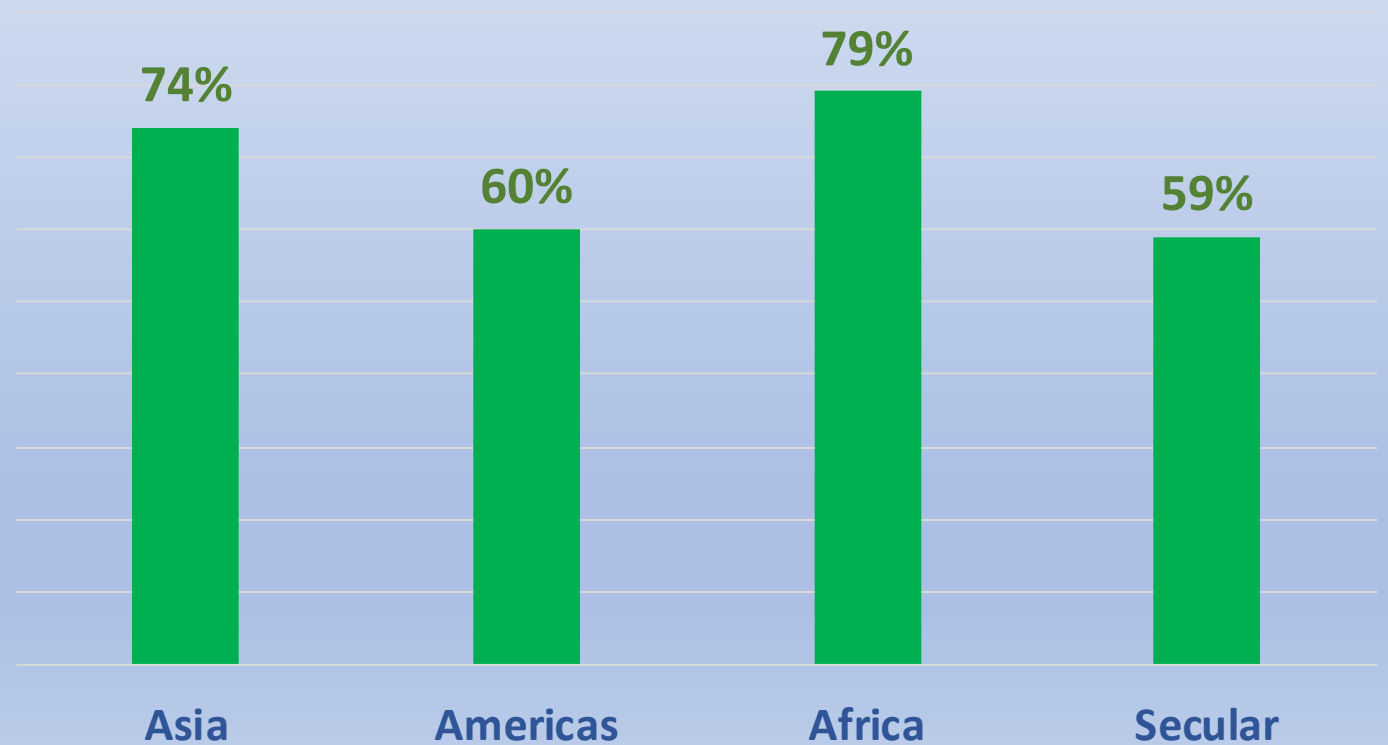
# Youth and Young Adults Play an Important Role in Decision-Making in My Local Church



# Youth and Young Adults are Actively Involved in Carrying out the Mission of my Local Church (cultural context)

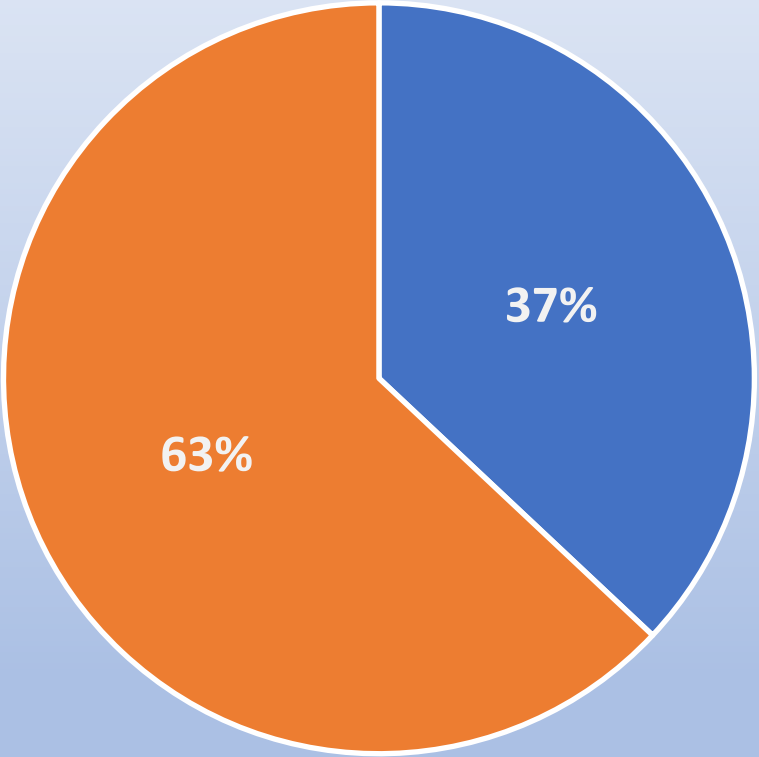


## Involvement of Young People in Local Church Mission Ages: 15-35



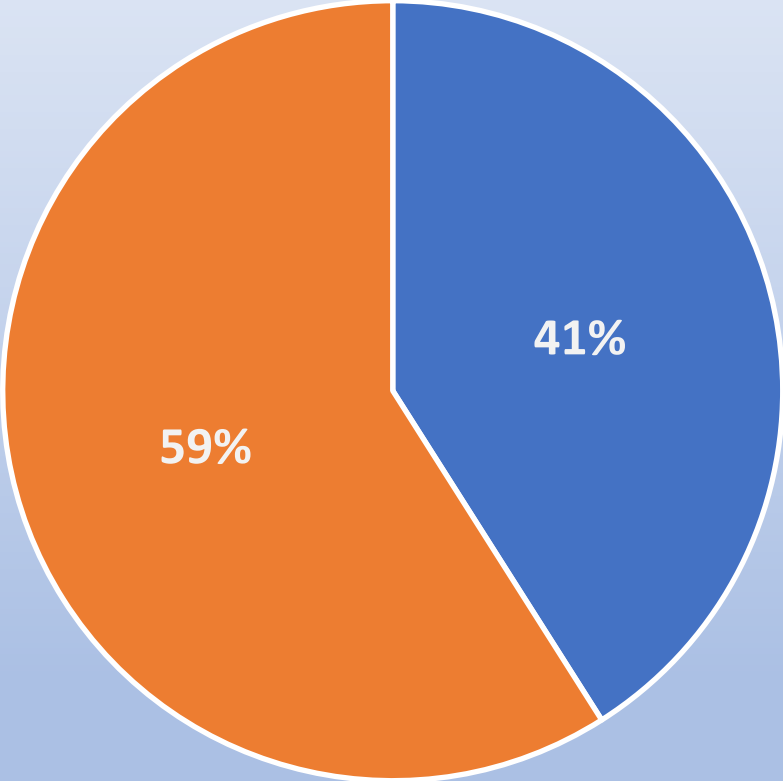
# Do you Hold a Church Office at your Local Church?

Up to 20



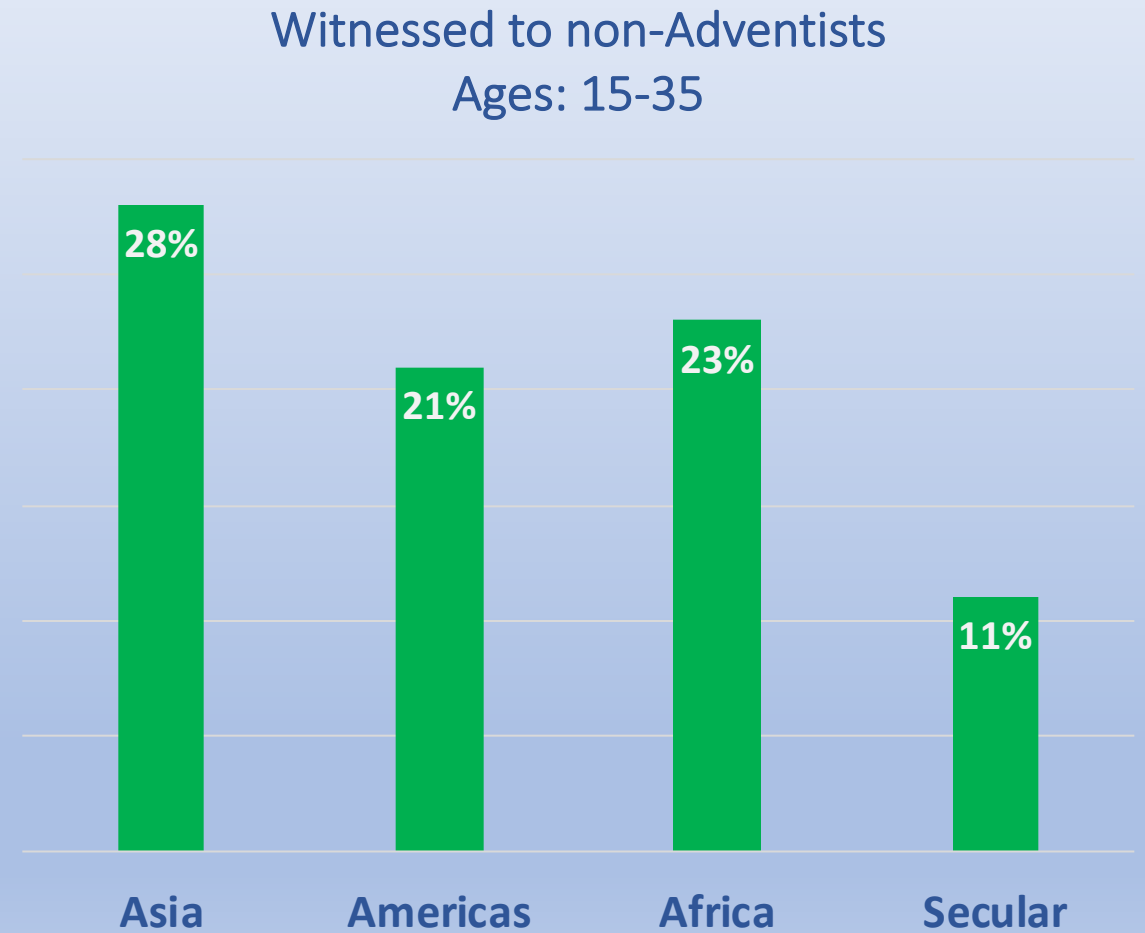
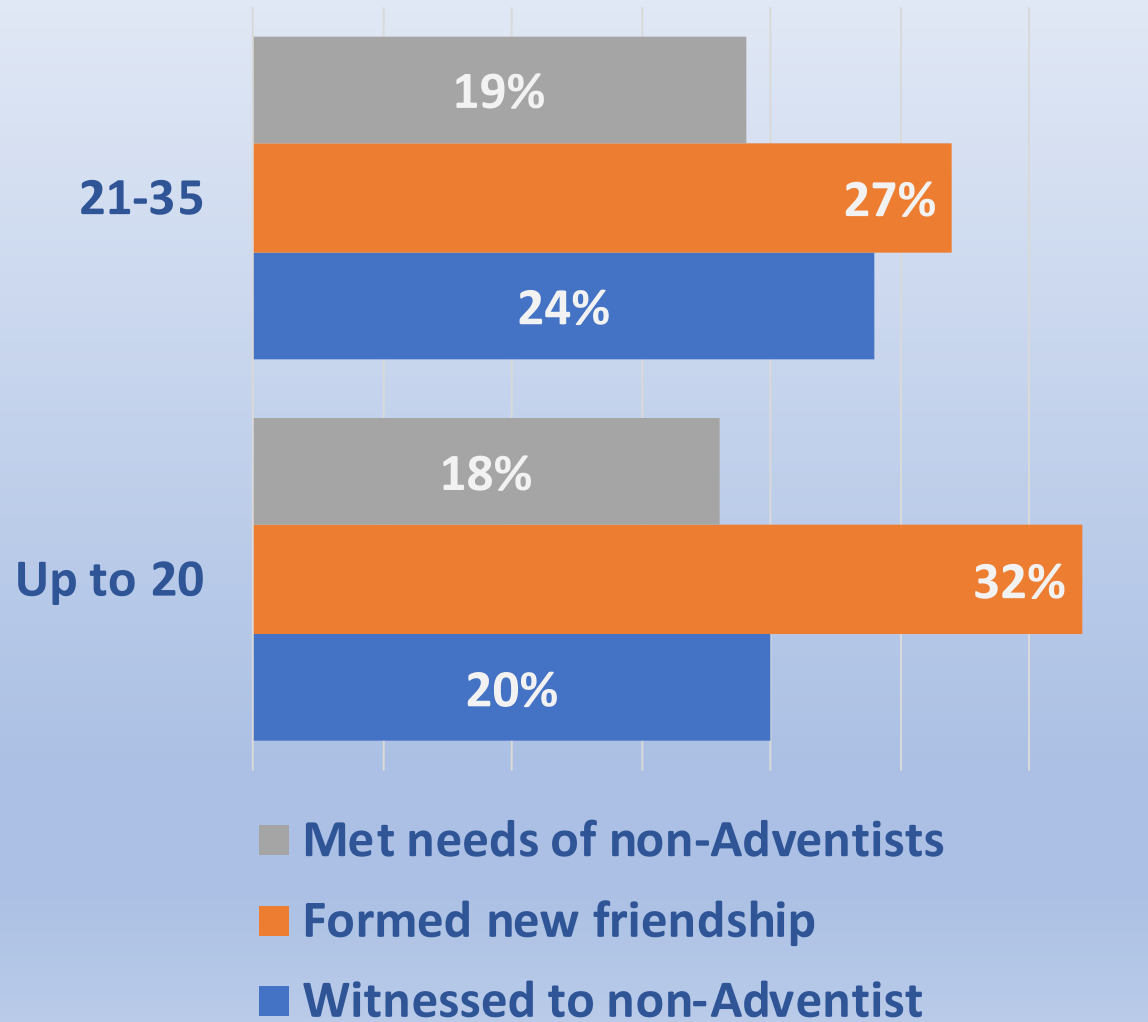
■ Yes ■ No

21-35

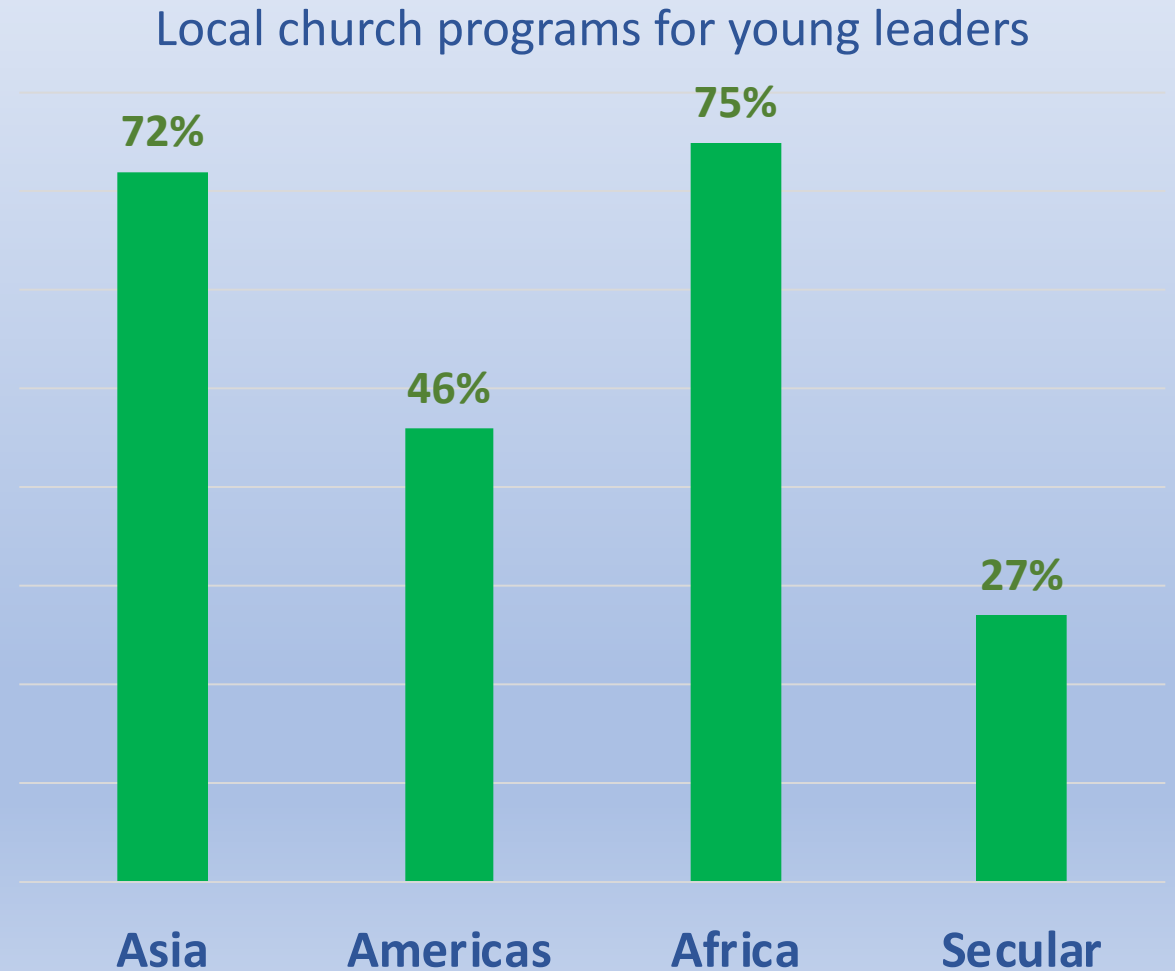
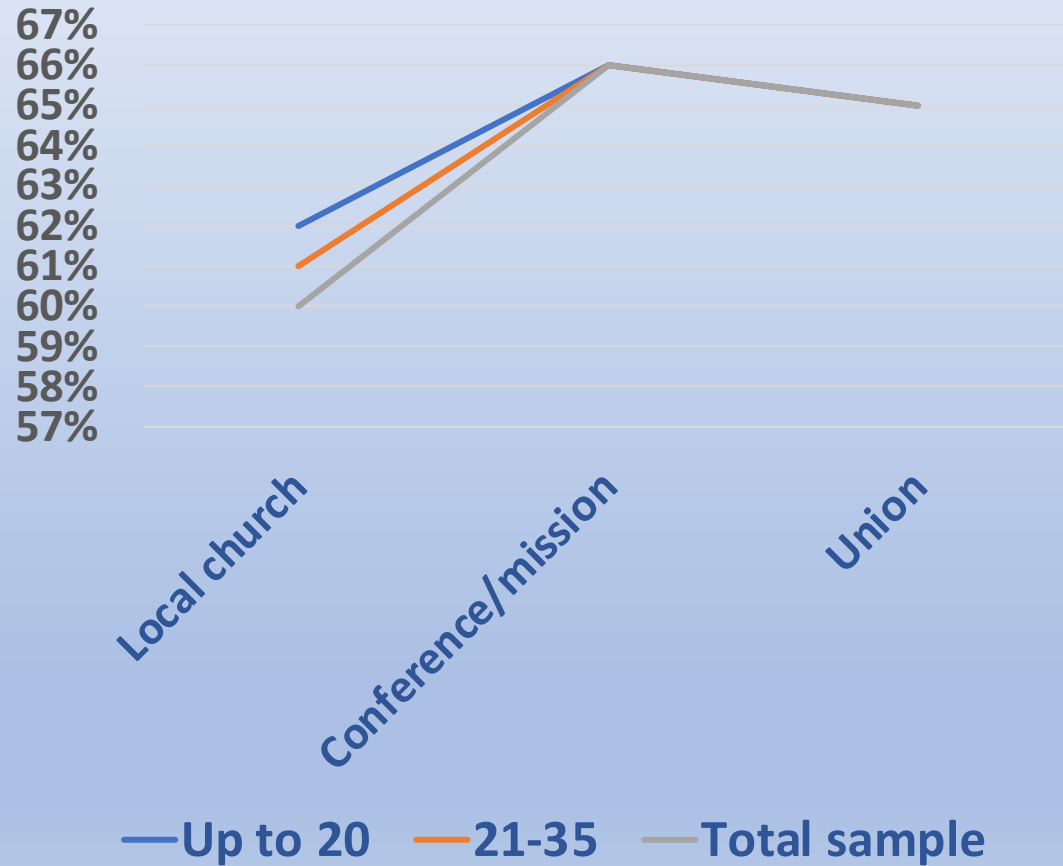


■ Yes ■ No

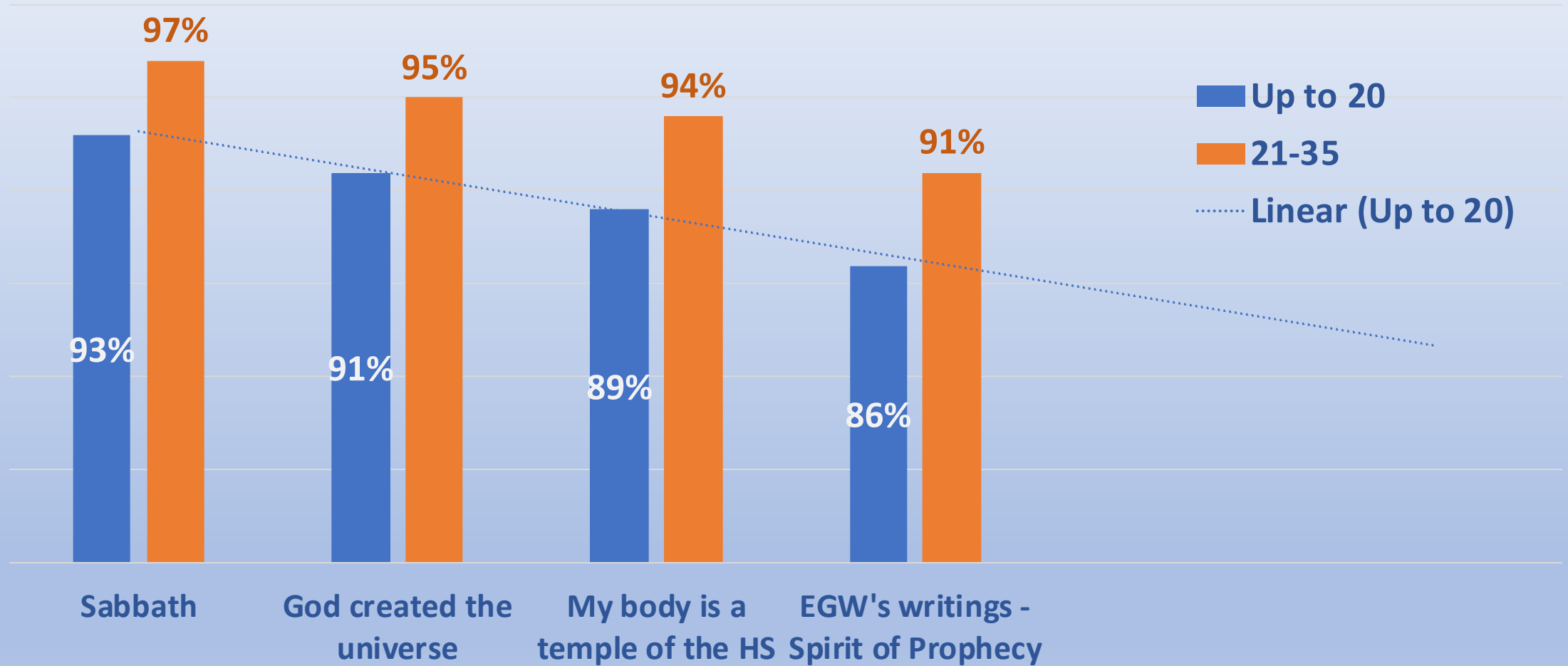
# Evangelism [once a week or more often]



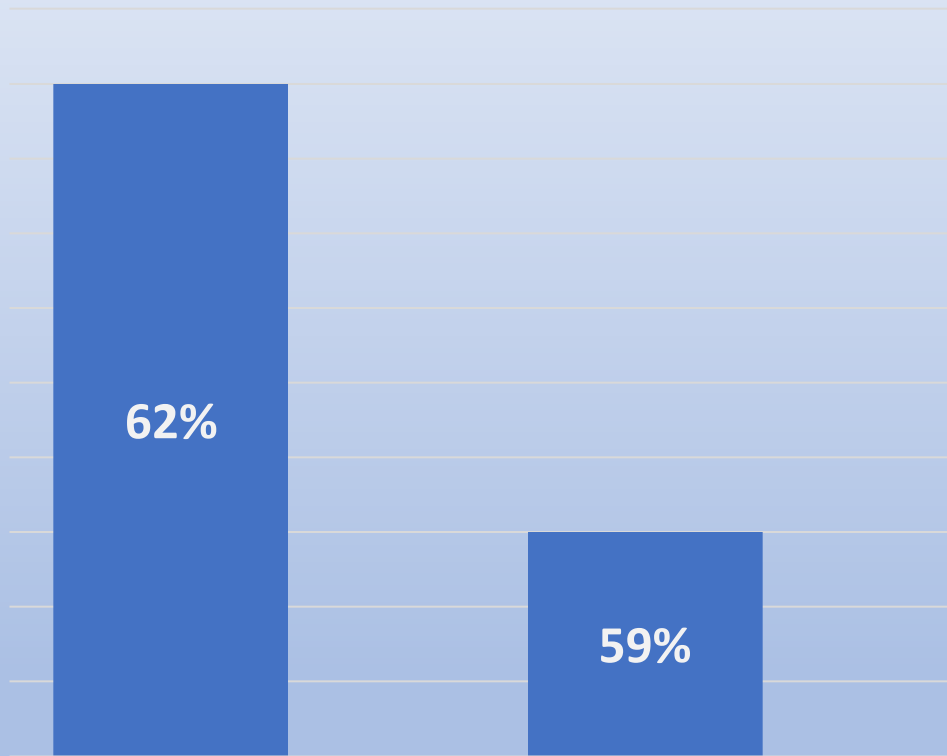
# My Church Has a Program for Preparing Young People to Become Leaders (strongly agree or agree)



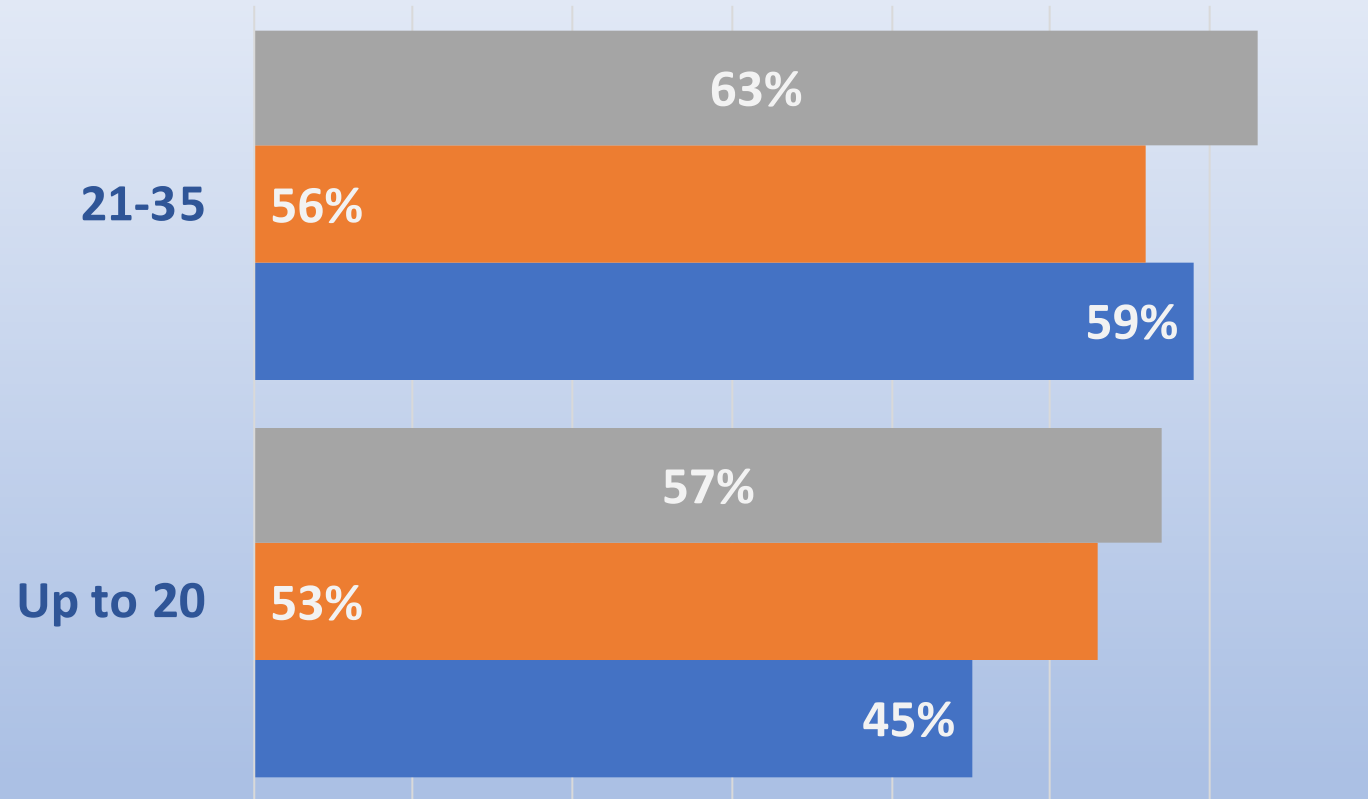
# Church Doctrines—Support



## Some More Results on Doctrines

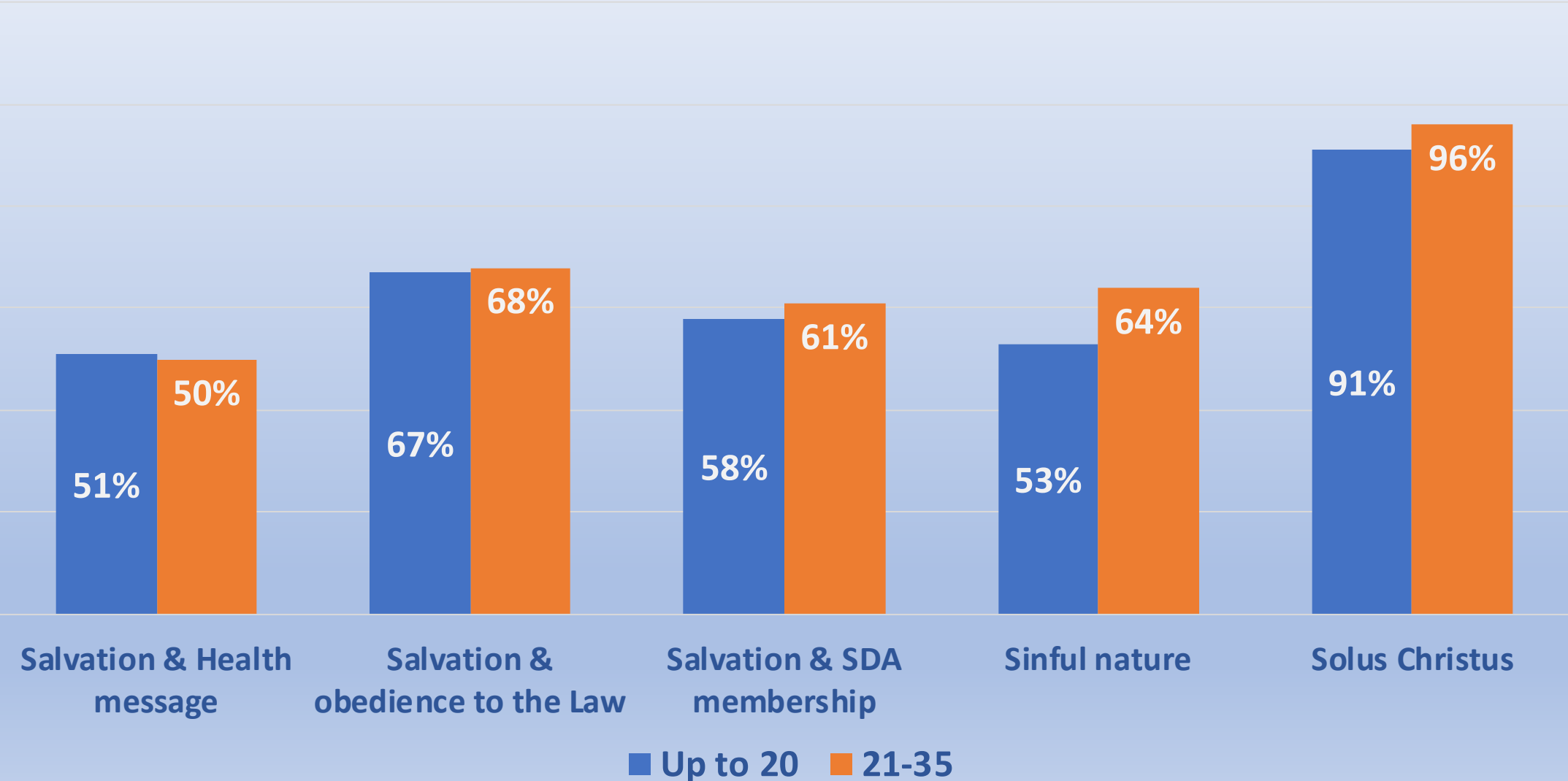


■ Jesus will return in my life time ■ ■



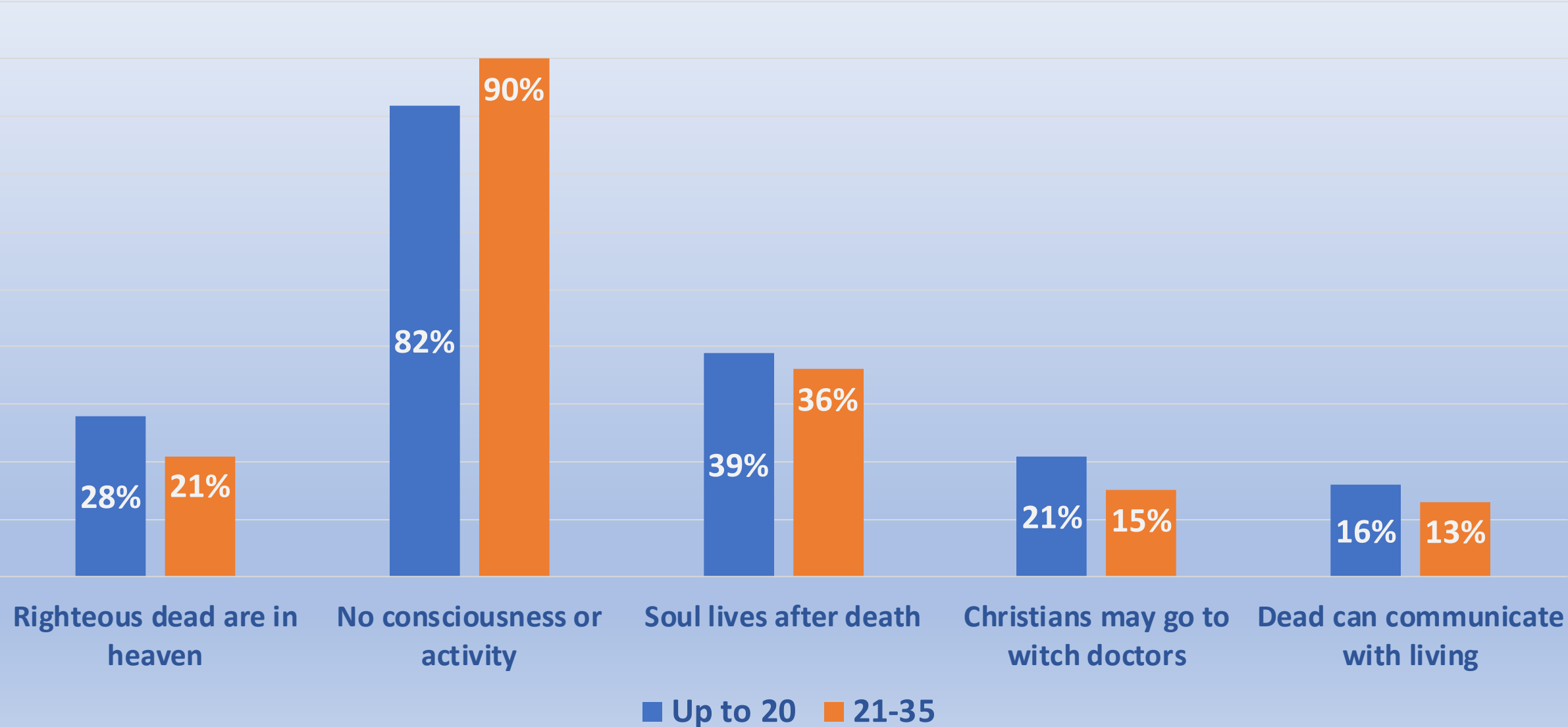
■ Church interpretation of end-time prophecies  
■ Before Christ returns, God will decide who is saved & lost  
■ Pre-Advent judgment began in 1844

# Doctrines: Salvation



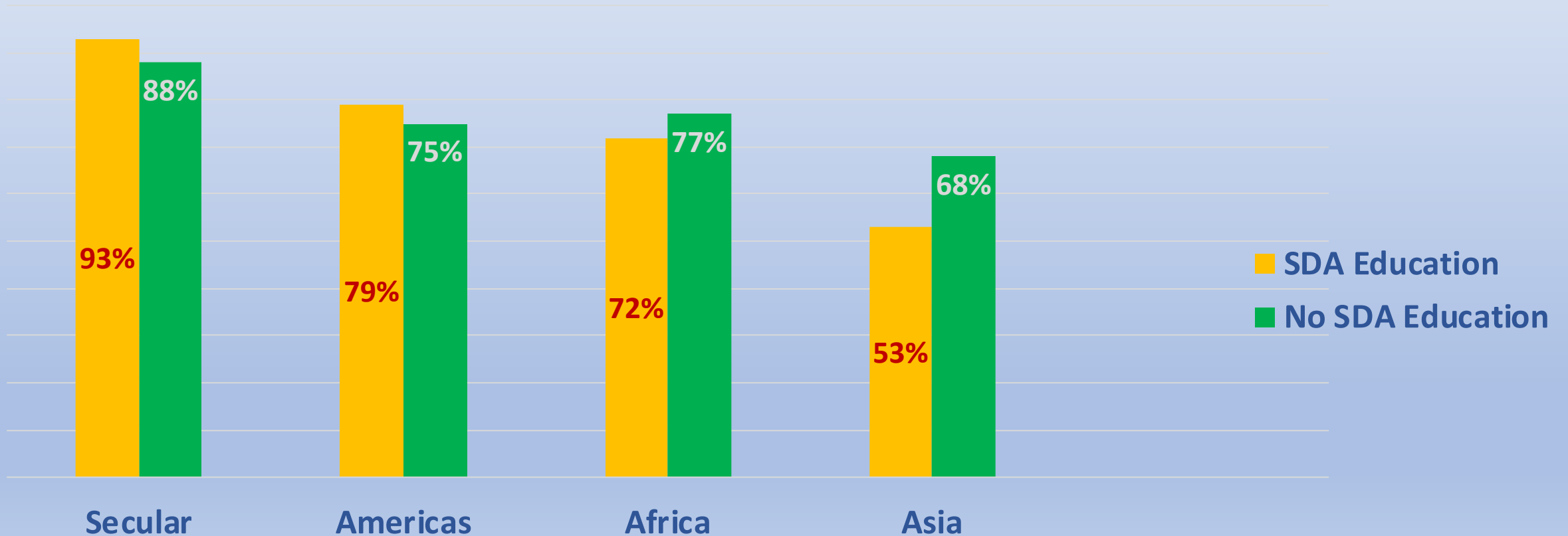


# Doctrines: State of the Dead

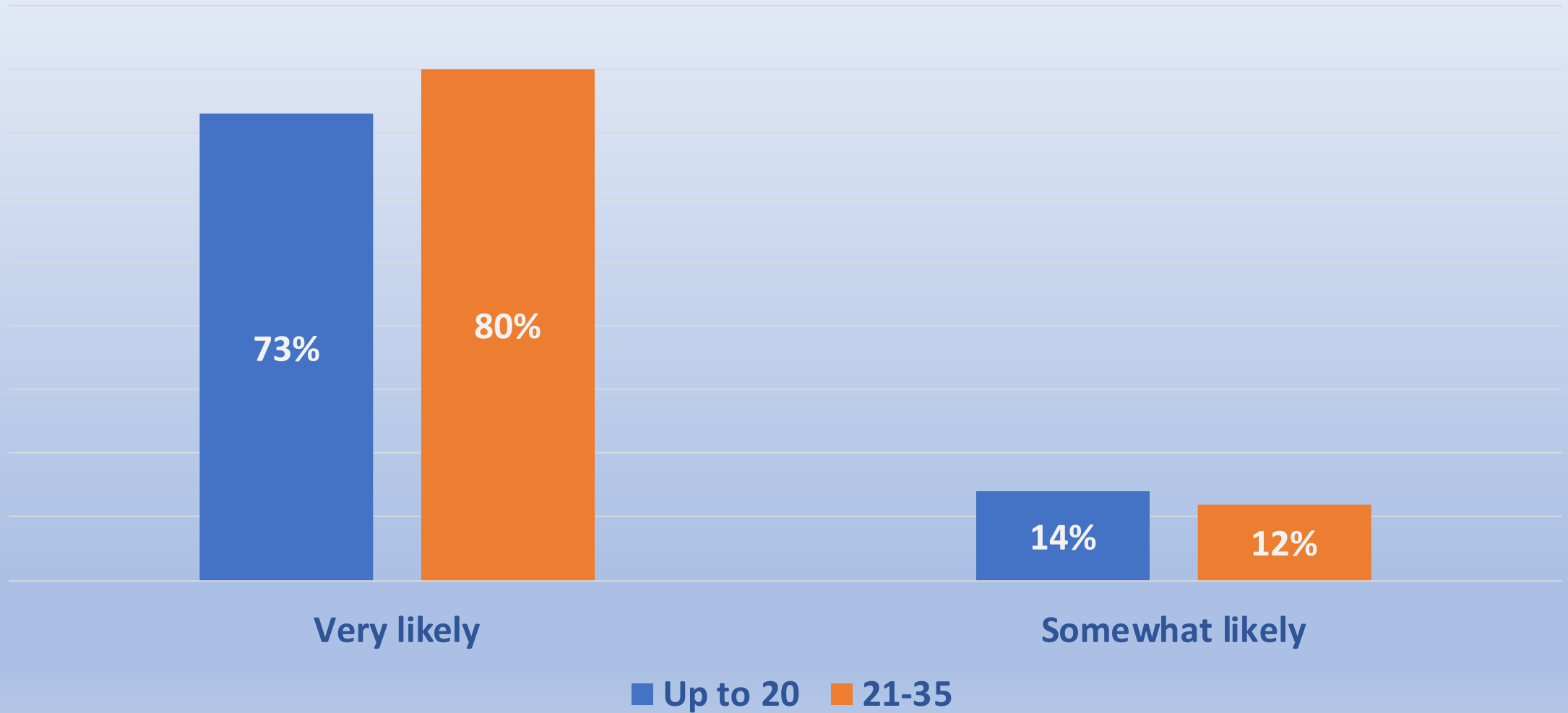


# Is there a difference between cultural contexts and SDA education in acceptance of non-Adventist beliefs on the state of the dead?

(Results for strongly disagree or disagree)  
Ages 15-35



# How Likely is it that you will Be Attending a Seventh-day Adventist Church for the Rest of your Life?



# Conclusions

**Faith development happens in the context of home, church, school, and culture; each plays its role. What role?**

## **Room for Improvement:**

1. Home: Personal and family devotional life
2. Local churches: young people's satisfaction, safe and friendly climate, young leaders' training especially in Inter and South Americas and secular context, young people's involved in decision making process especially in Inter and South Americas and secular context
3. Local churches: in all contexts intentional involvement of 21-35 age group (Millennials) in ministry with their spiritual gifts on Sabbath and during the week
4. Intentional discipleship of high school and college students in all aspects of their spiritual life, involvement, and service
5. Adventist education: is not available everywhere; not only its presence is important but the content addressing cultural beliefs in local context and doctrinal issues young people are struggling with
6. Special attention to such doctrines as the state of the dead, salvation by grace, sinful nature, pre-advent judgment
7. Application of religious principles by young people to their daily life especially in cultural contexts in Asia, Inter and South America, and Africa

**HOW?**

# Potential Future Research

- Young people attitudes and spiritual practices in different divisions & different cultural contexts

