2026 NextGen Spiritual Influences at Church and Home

A SURVEY OF 1,318 PROTESTANT YOUNG ADULTS WITH EVANGELICAL BELIEFS

Lifeway Research

Methodology

- The online survey of 1,318 Protestant young adults with Evangelical Beliefs was conducted March 10-April 3, 2026, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those ages 18 to 29 who identified as Protestant/non-denominational with Evangelical Beliefs and attended religious services at least once a month at some point in their lives
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,318 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed ±3.1% This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

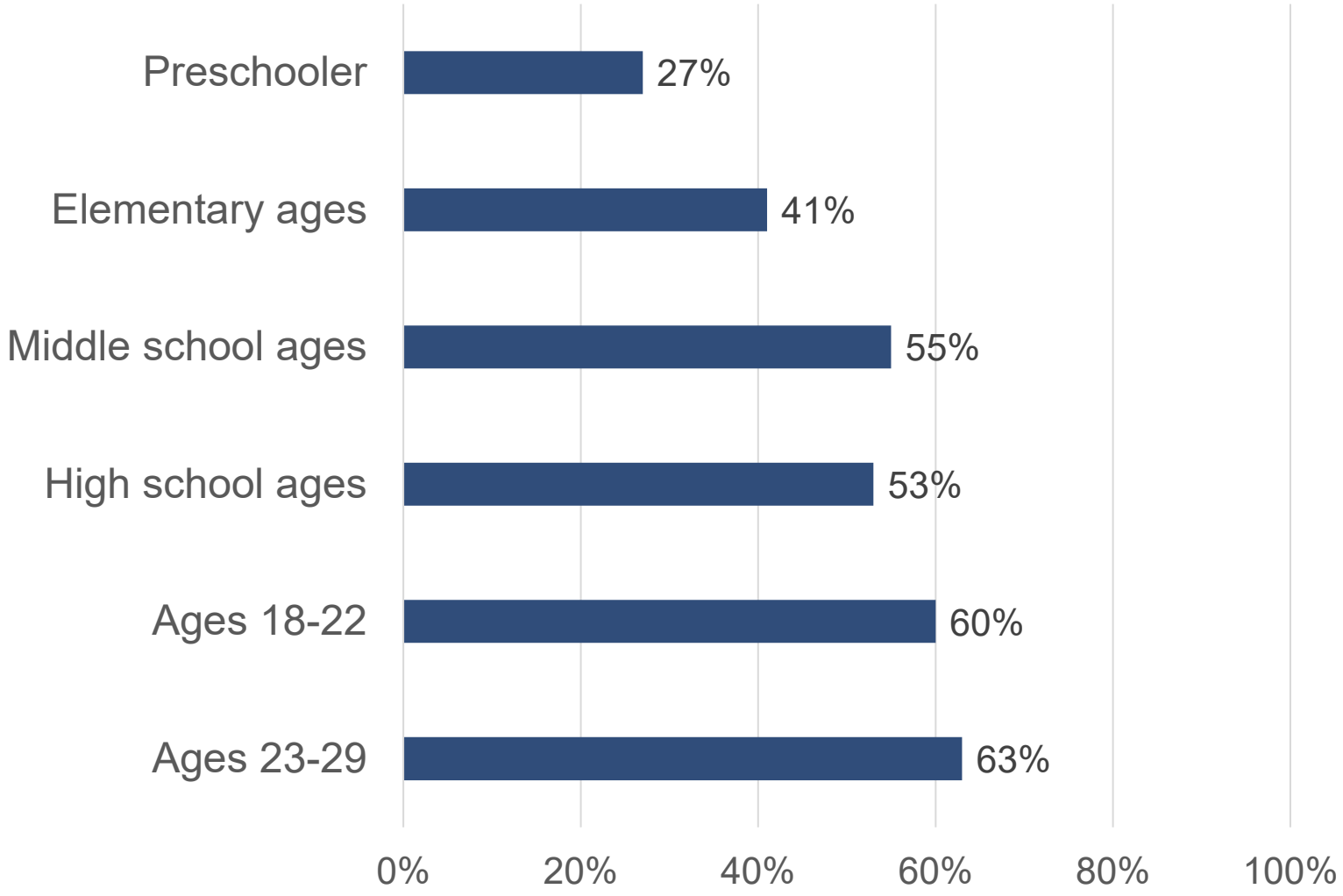
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Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

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“At which of the following ages, if any, have you attended church once a month or more?”

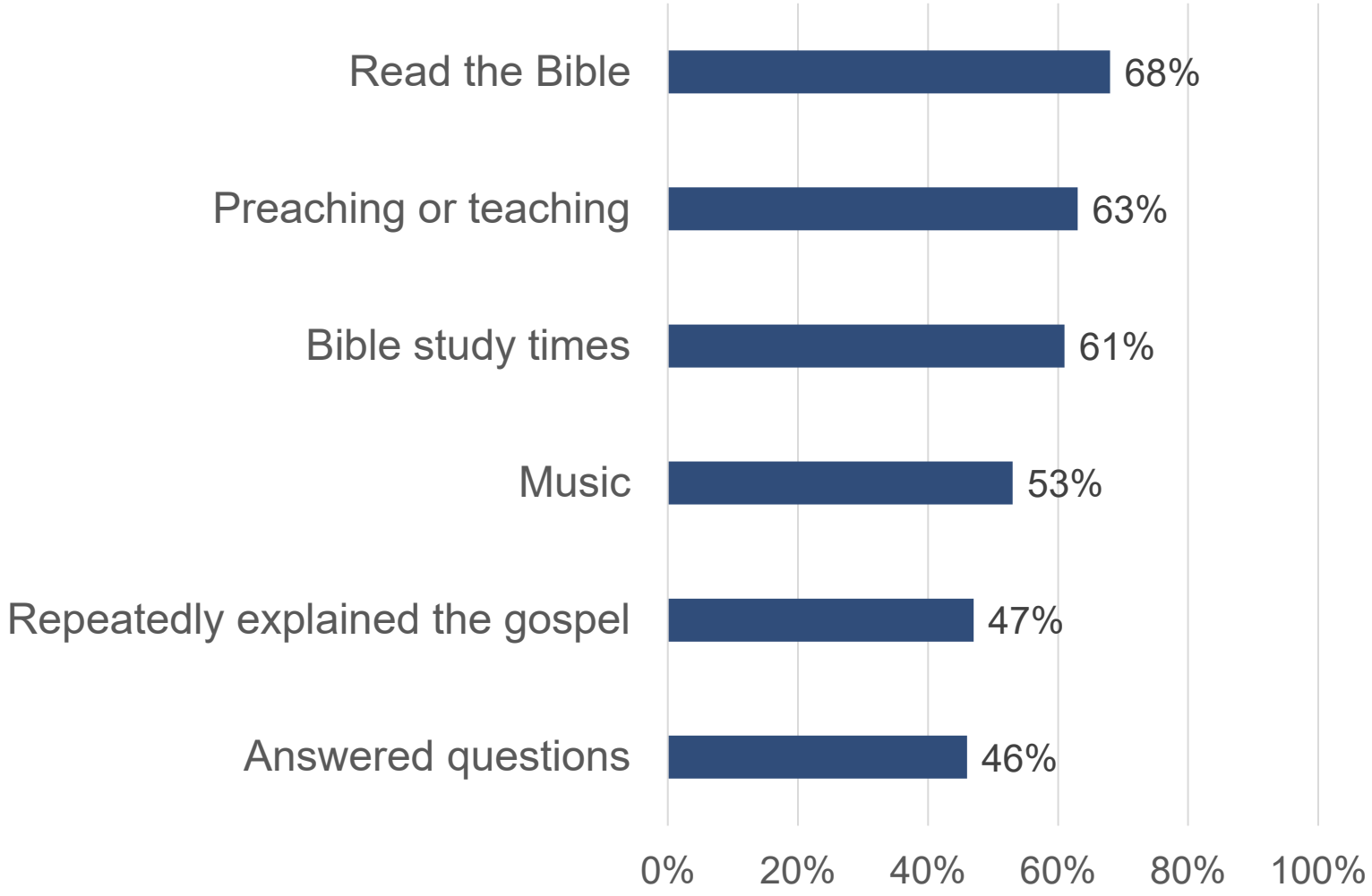


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Q11: “At which of the following ages, if any, have you attended church once a month or more? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318
Respondents did not qualify for the study if they selected None of these or Not sure.

“Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?”

Among those who attended church during high school or earlier

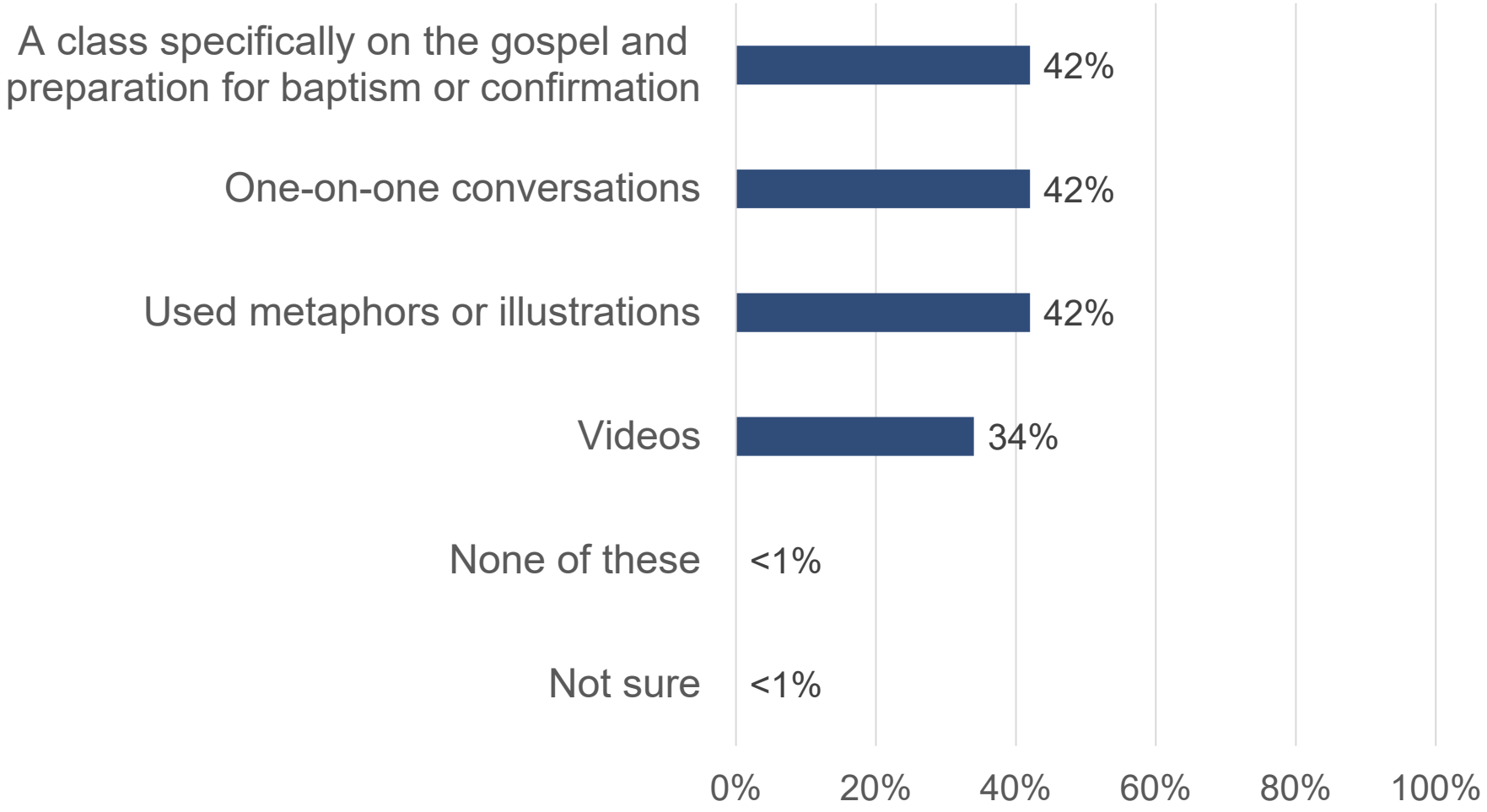


Lifeway Research

Q12: “Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly? (Select all that apply)” n=995

“Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?” *Continued*

Among those who attended church during high school or earlier

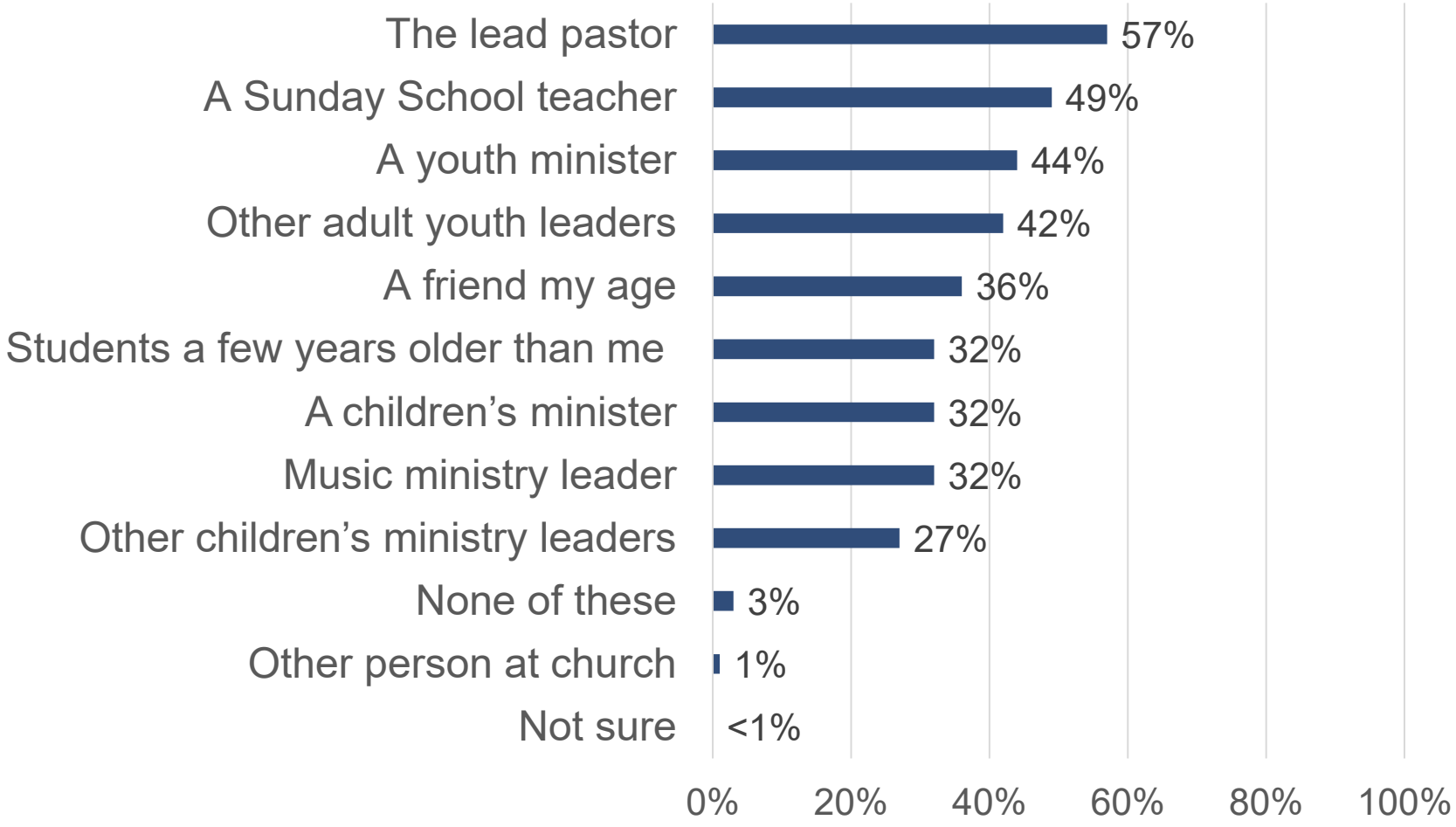


Lifeway Research

Q12: “Growing up, which if any of the following did **your church** do to explain the gospel to you clearly? (Select all that apply)” n=995

“Growing up, who at church was influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Among those who attended church during high school or earlier

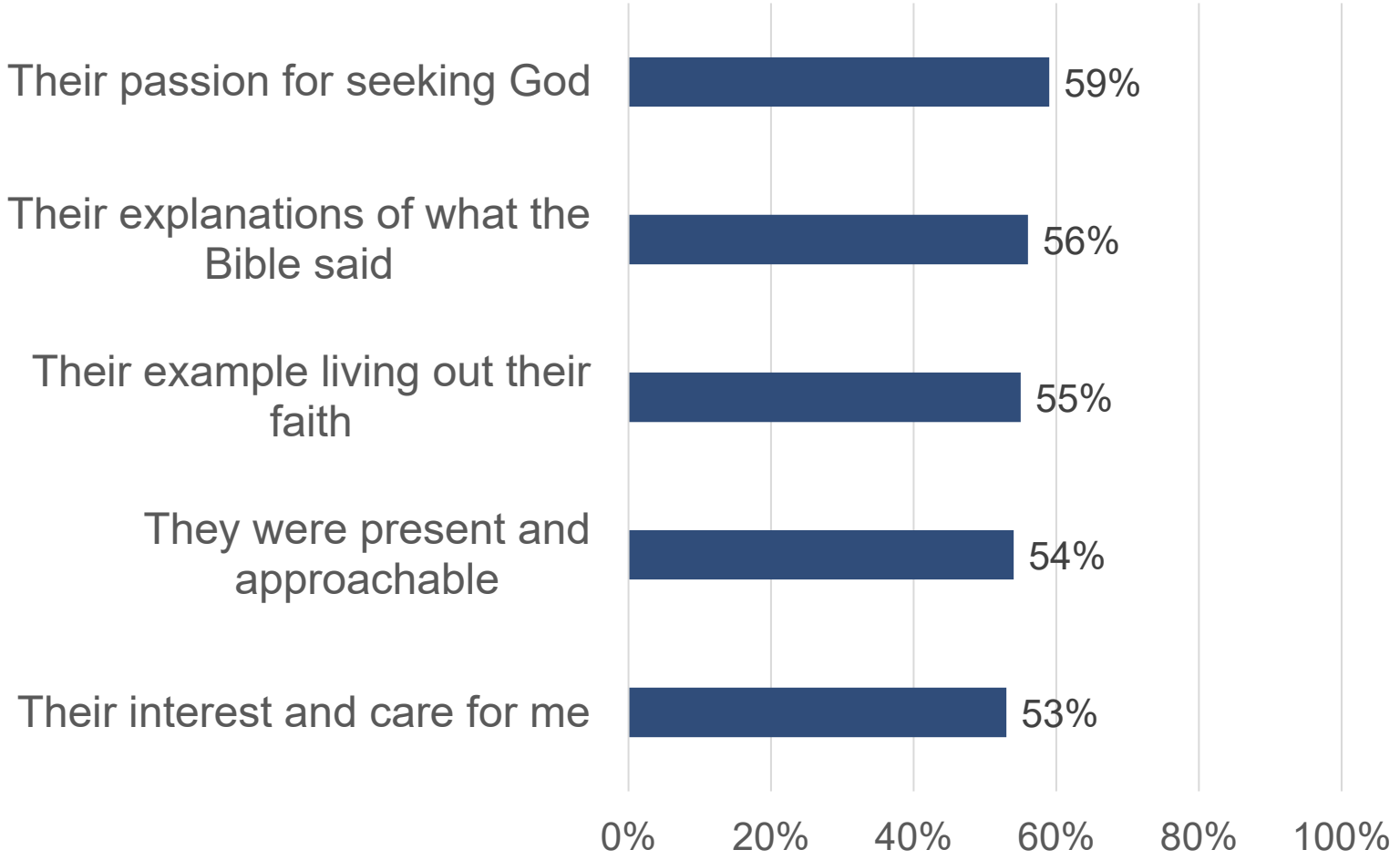


Lifeway Research

Q13: “Growing up, **who at church** was influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=995

“What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Among those who attended church during high school or earlier and someone at church was influential

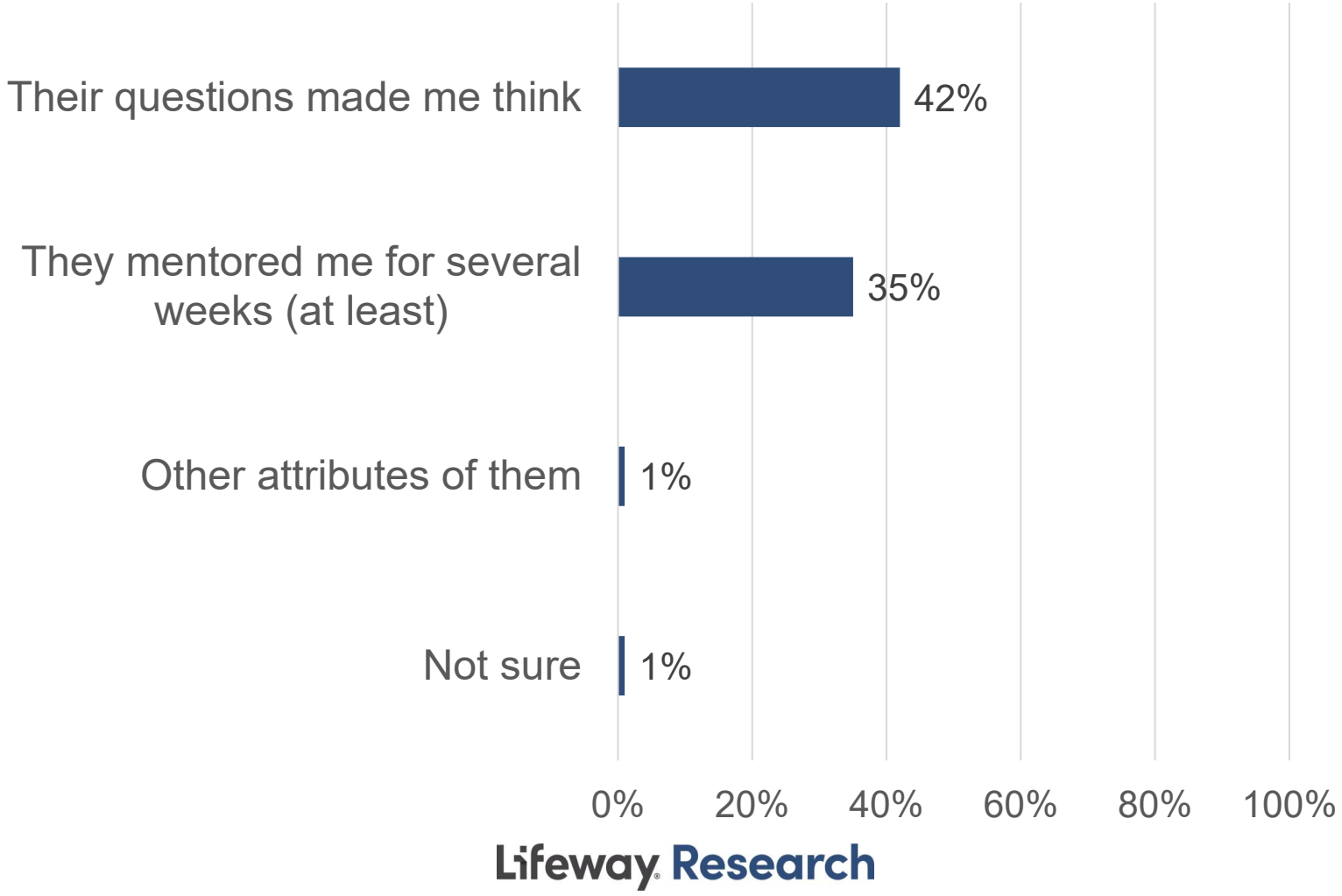


Lifeway Research

Q14: “What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?” n=964

“What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?” *Continued*

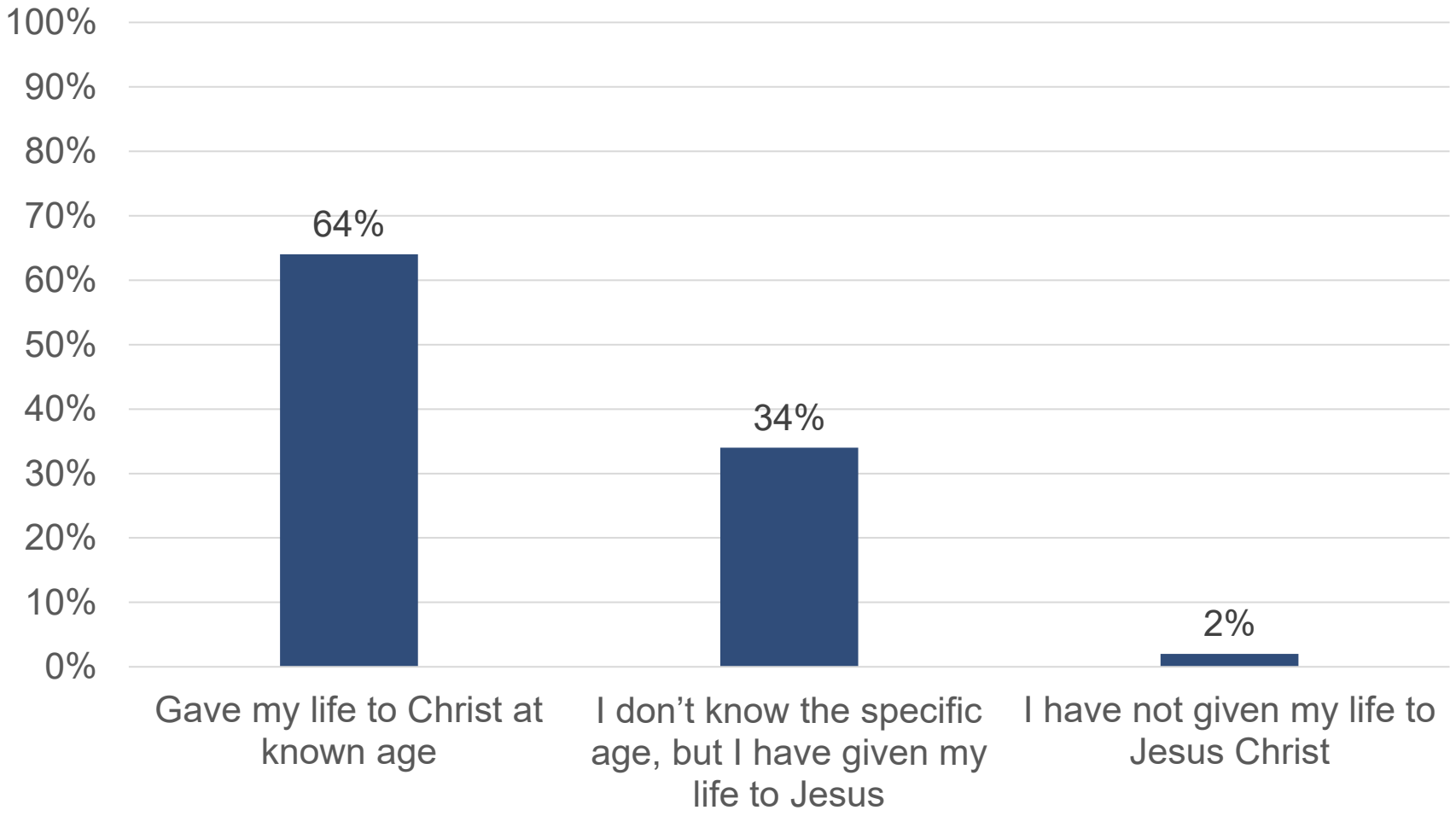
Among those who attended church during high school or earlier and someone at church was influential



Lifeway Research

Q14: “What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?” n=964

98% of young adults with evangelical beliefs have given their life to Jesus Christ

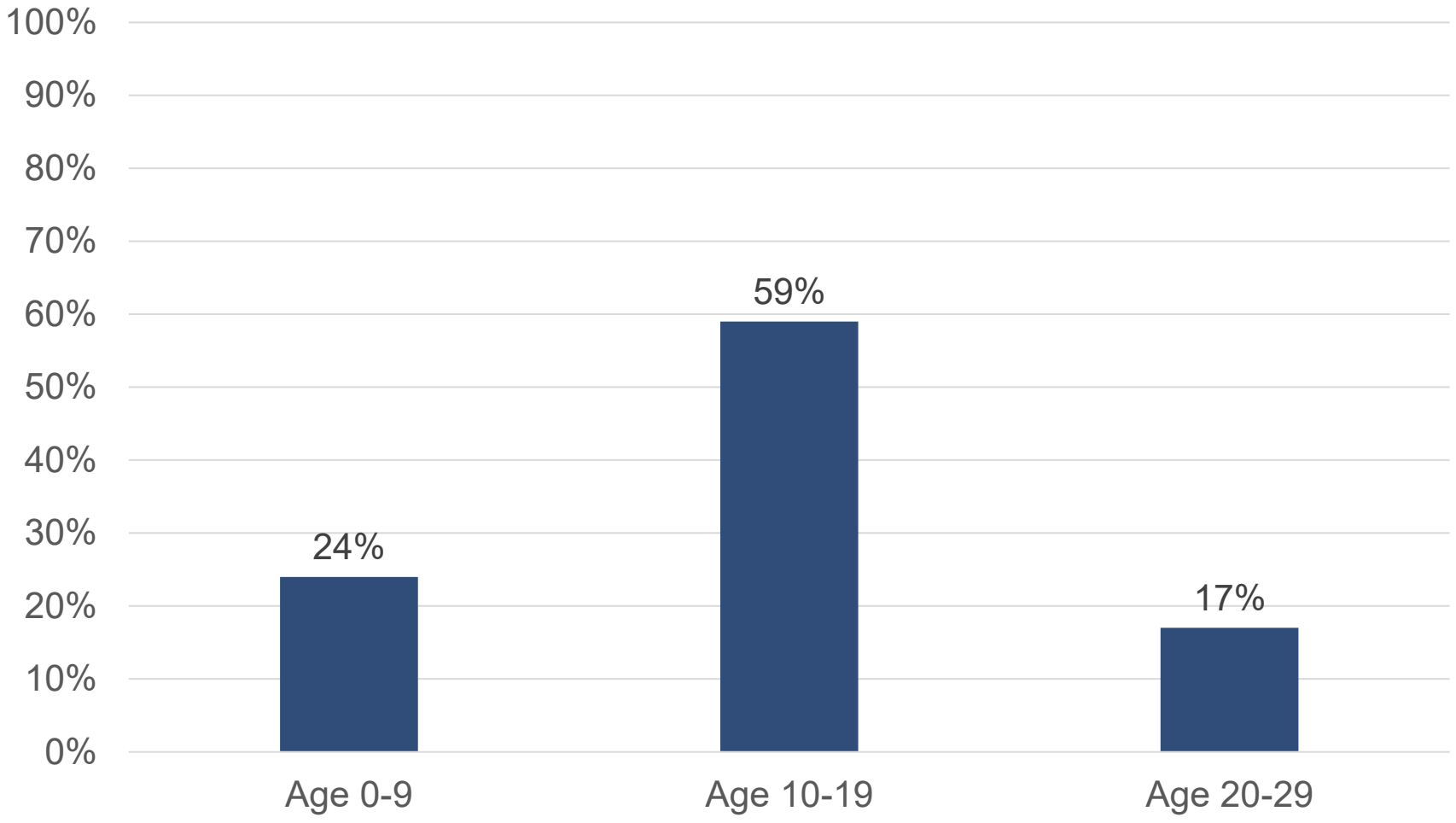


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Q15: "At what age did you give your life to Jesus Christ?" n=1,318

83% gave their life to Christ before age 20

Among those who provided an age for salvation

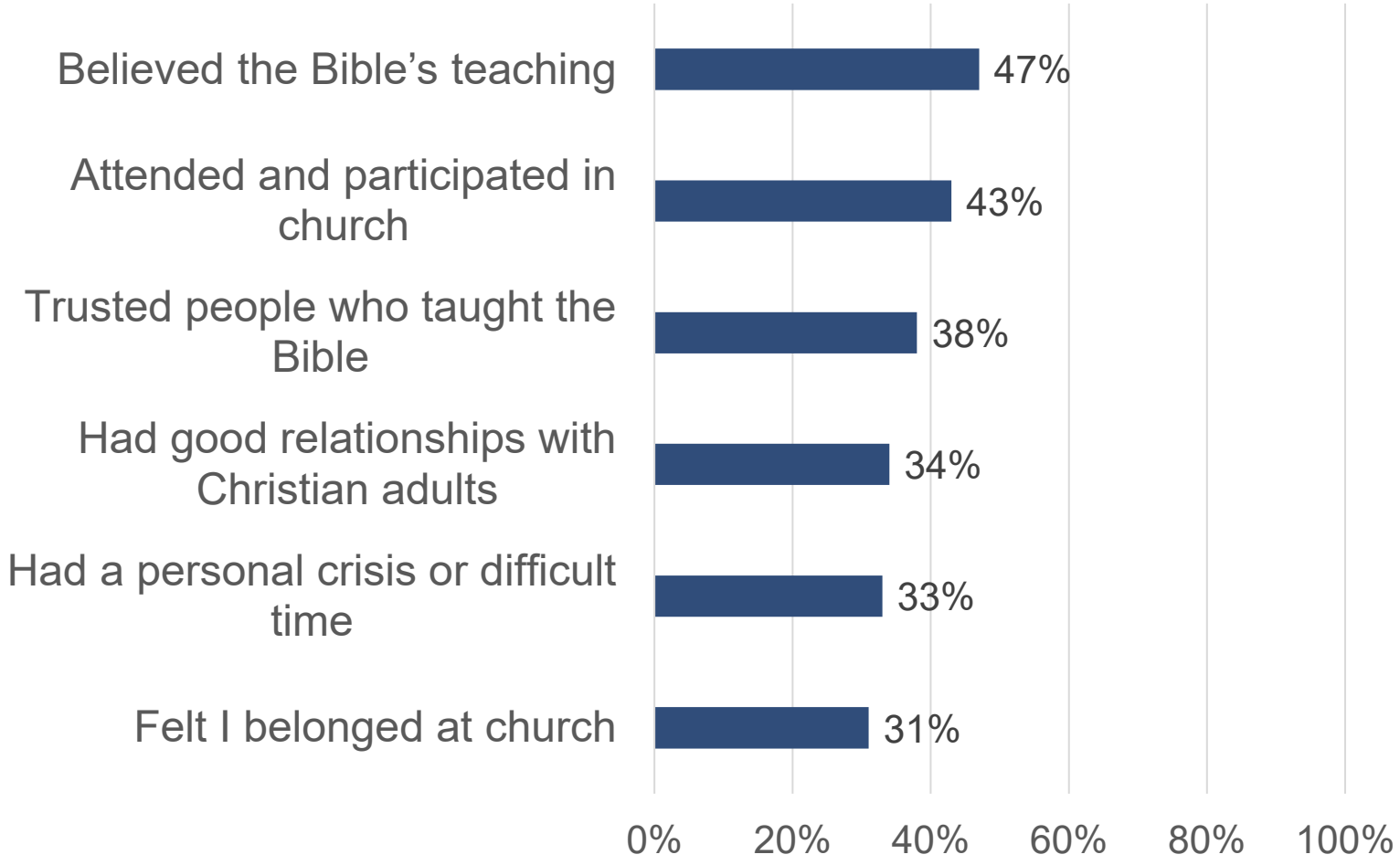


Lifeway Research

Q15: "At what age did you give your life to Jesus Christ?" n=847

Top 3 life-shaping experiences on journey toward following Christ

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ

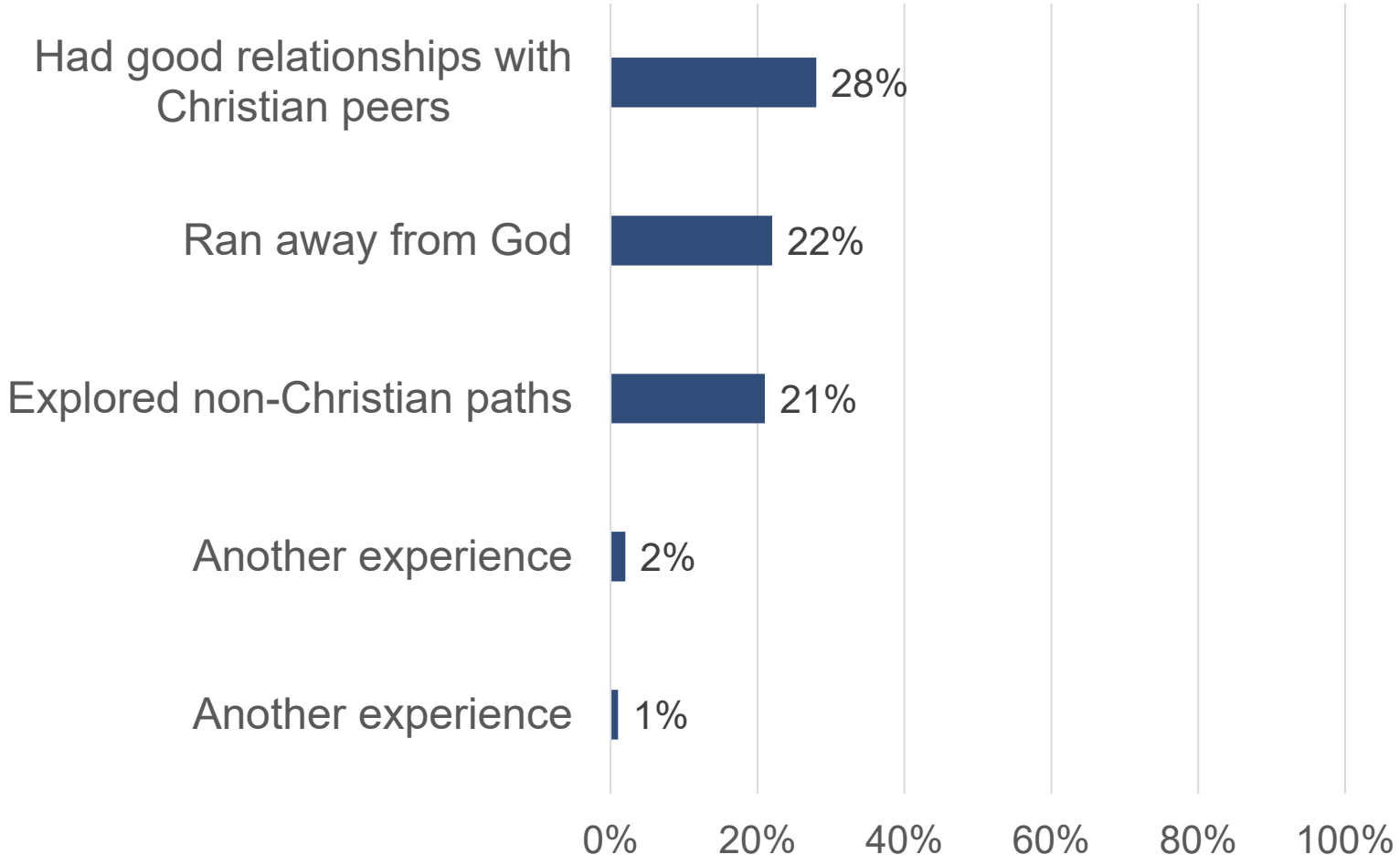


Lifeway Research

Q16: "Which 3 of the following life-shaping experiences best describe your journey toward following Christ? Please type 1, 2, and 3 next to your choices in the order that they happened **before giving your life to Jesus**." n=1,295

Top 3 life-shaping experiences on journey toward following Christ *Continued*

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ

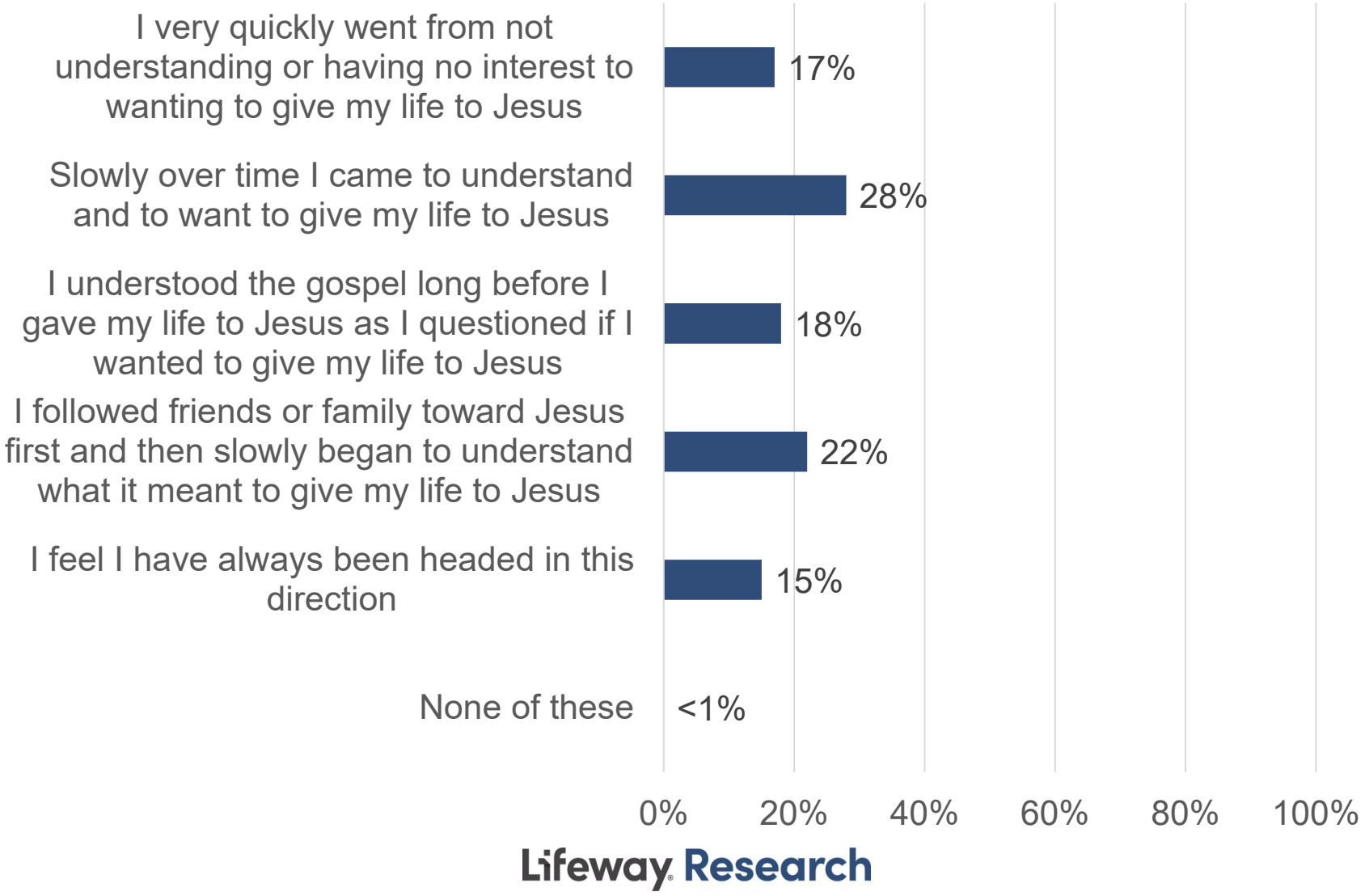


Lifeway Research

Q16: "Which 3 of the following life-shaping experiences best describe your journey toward following Christ? Please type 1, 2, and 3 next to your choices in the order that they happened **before giving your life to Jesus**." n=1,295

28% say it took time to want to give their life to Christ; 17% say it happened quickly

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ



Lifeway Research

Q17: "Which one of these statements best describes your story of how you decided to give your life to Jesus? (Select One)" n=1,295

“In your own words, what did God use to help you decide to give your life to Jesus?”

Difficult situations/Hard times	12%
Friends/People in my life	12%
Family	10%
Scripture	9%
Faith	6%
God’s presence/voice/signs	6%
Salvation/Need for a savior/Understood grace	6%
New purpose in life/direction	6%
God’s love	5%
Prayer	5%
Church/Ministries	5%
Hope/peace	5%
Life experiences	3%
Sermons	3%
Confession/Repentance/Redemption	2%
Worship music/Hymns	2%
Christ’s sacrifice/Person and work of Christ	2%

Lifeway Research

Q18: “In your own words, what did God use to help you decide to give your life to Jesus?” n= 1,295

“In your own words, what did God use to help you decide to give your life to Jesus?” *continued*

Pastor/minister/mentor	2%
Someone’s testimony/Believers’ lives	2%
Freedom through Christ	2%
Mental health/Addiction	1%
God’s blessings/creation	1%
The Holy Spirit	1%
Fearing God	1%
Church camp	1%
Sunday School/Small groups	1%
Not sure/Can not explain	1%

Receiving less than 1%: health issues, mission trip/serving others, baptism, being invited to church

Lifeway Research

Q18: “In your own words, what did God use to help you decide to give your life to Jesus?” n= 1,295

“Why have you not given your life to Jesus Christ?”

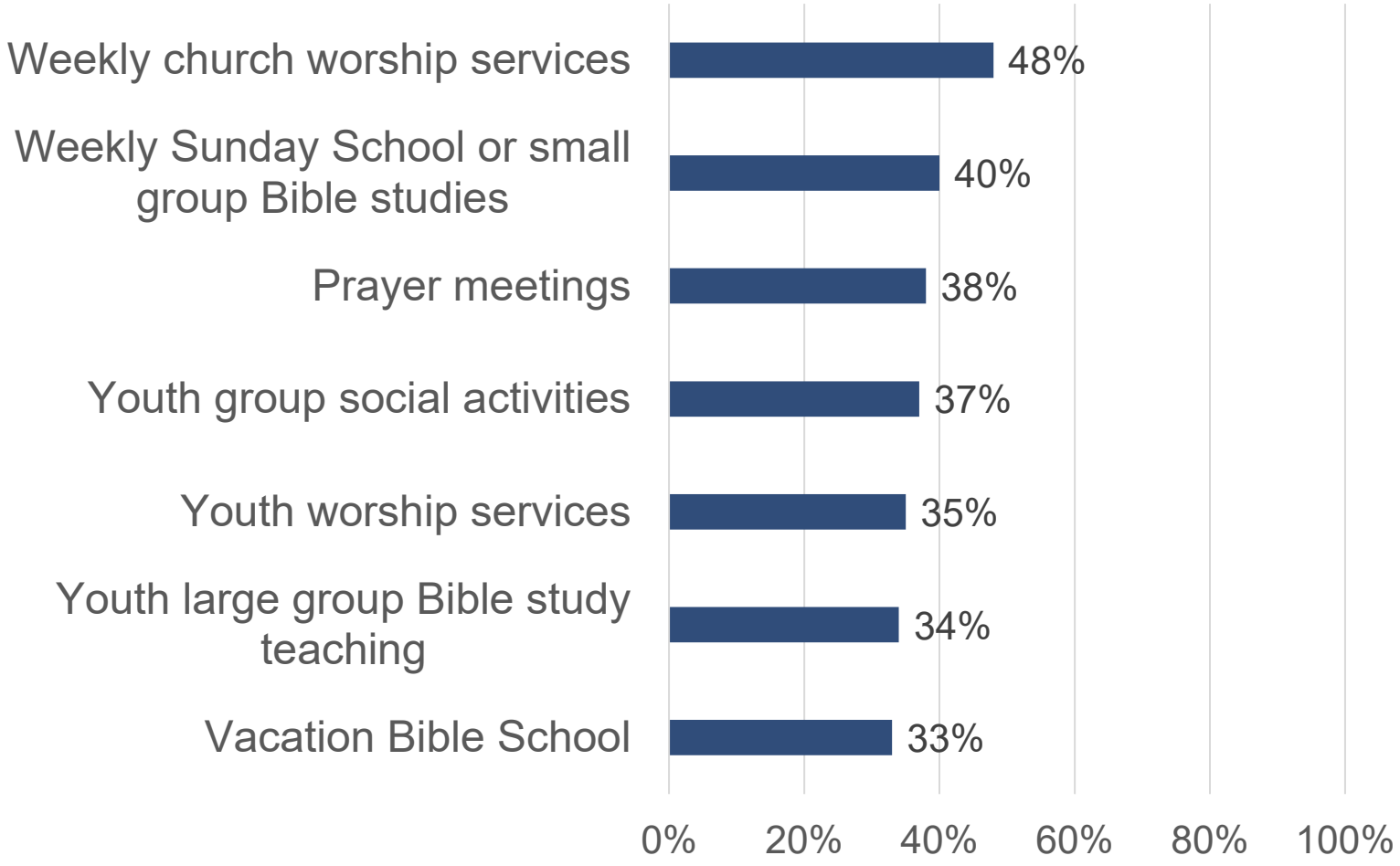
Still exploring and learning about Christ	29%
Not ready/need more time	13%
Waiting for personal experience	11%
Waiting to get baptized	8%
Fear	8%
Personal growth	8%
Past experiences with religion	8%
Have not had time yet	4%
Beliefs still evolving	4%
Not sure	5%

Lifeway Research

Q19: “Why have you not given your life to Jesus Christ?” n=23

“Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ



Lifeway Research

Q20: “Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ **since giving your life to Jesus Christ**? (Select all that apply)” n=1,295

“Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?” *Continued*

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ

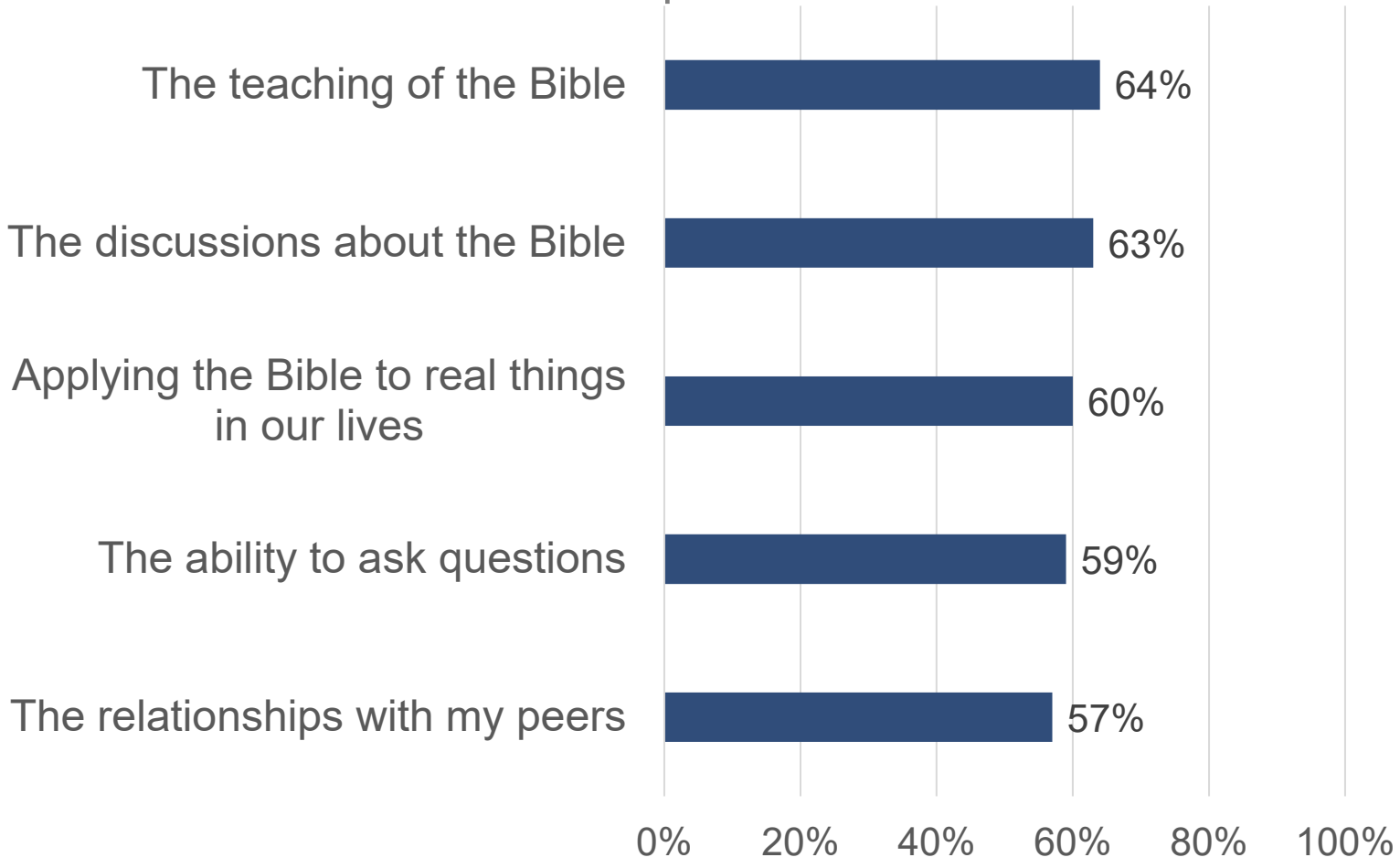


Lifeway Research

Q20: “Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ **since giving your life to Jesus Christ**? (Select all that apply)” n=1,295

“What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?”

Among those who said weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies have been impactful on their walk with Christ

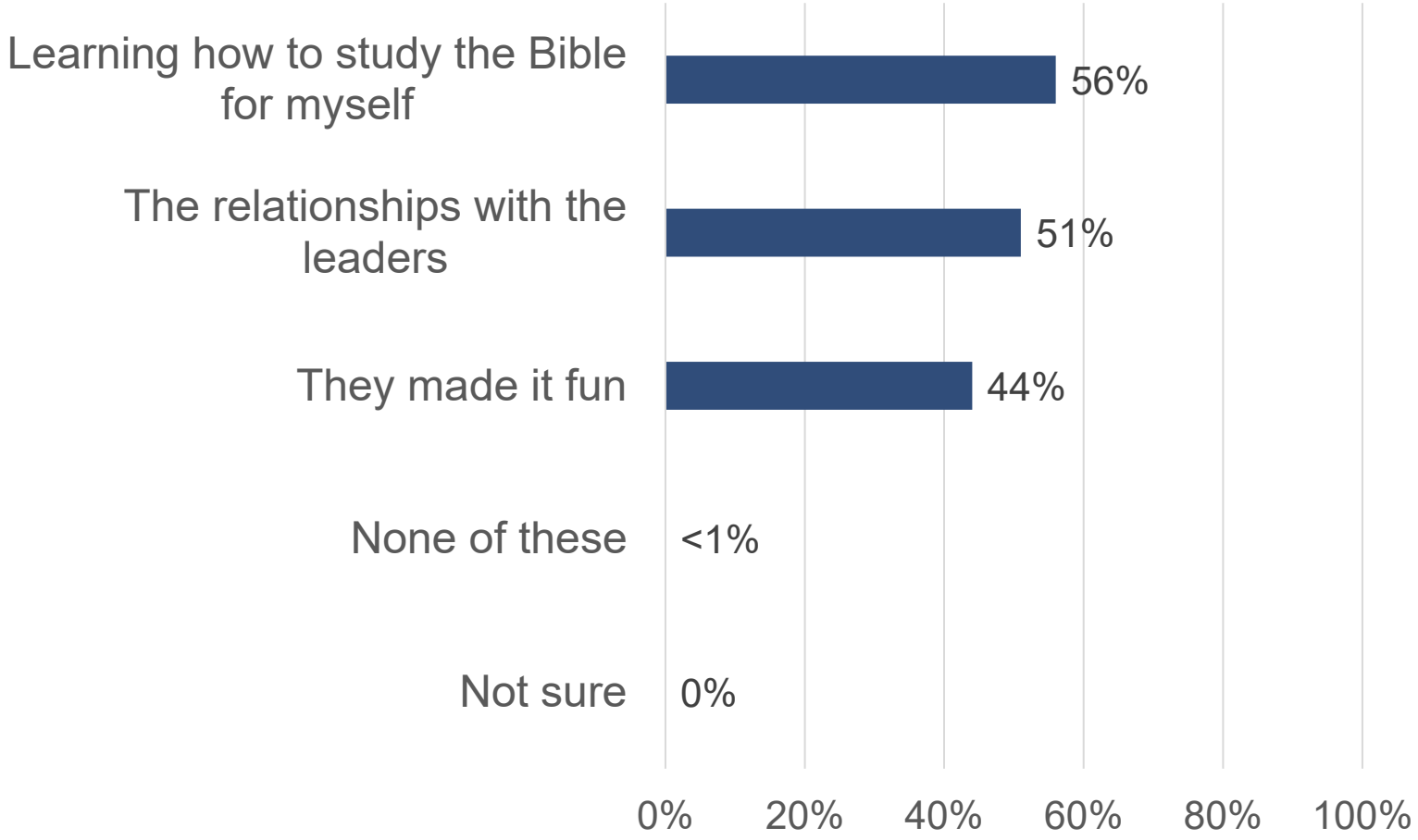


Lifeway Research

Q21: “What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful? (Select all that apply)” n=533

“What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?” *Continued*

Among those who said weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies have been impactful on their walk with Christ

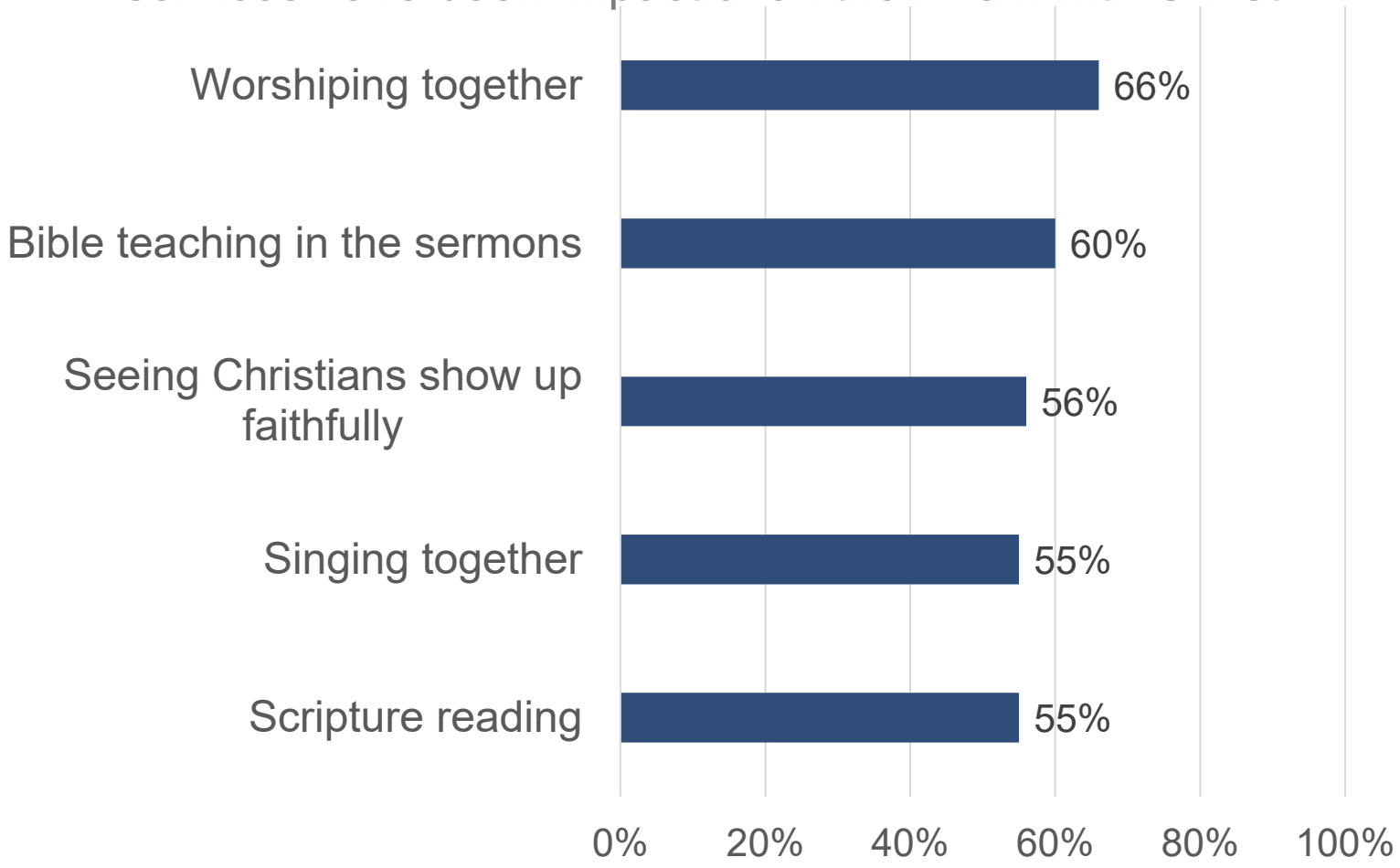


Lifeway Research

Q21: “What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful? (Select all that apply)” n=533

“What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful?”

Among those who said weekly church worship services have been impactful on their walk with Christ

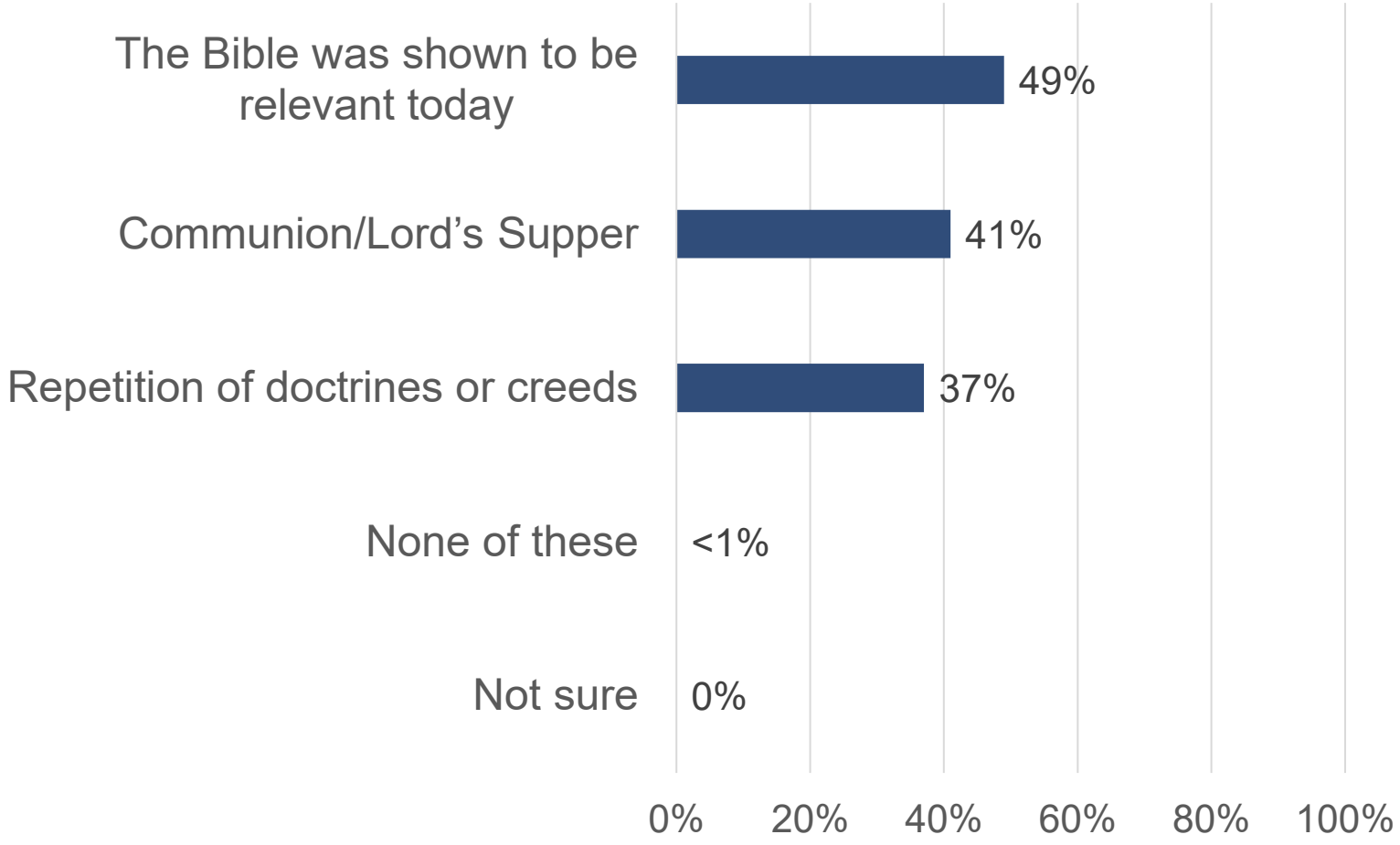


Lifeway Research

Q22: “What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful? (Select all that apply)” n=610

“What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful?” *Continued*

Among those who said weekly church worship services have been impactful on their walk with Christ

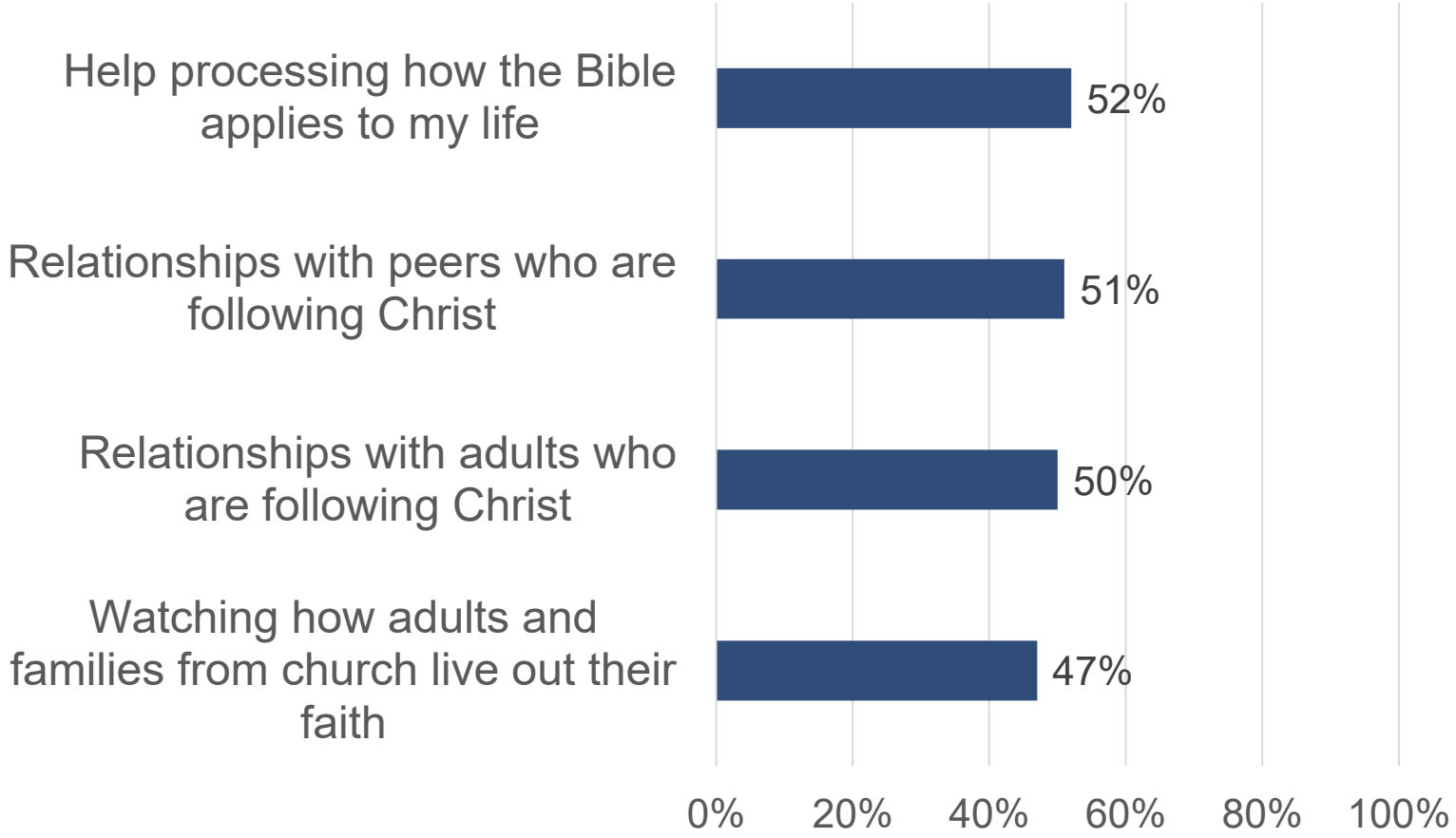


Lifeway Research

Q22: “What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful? (Select all that apply)” n=610

“What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ

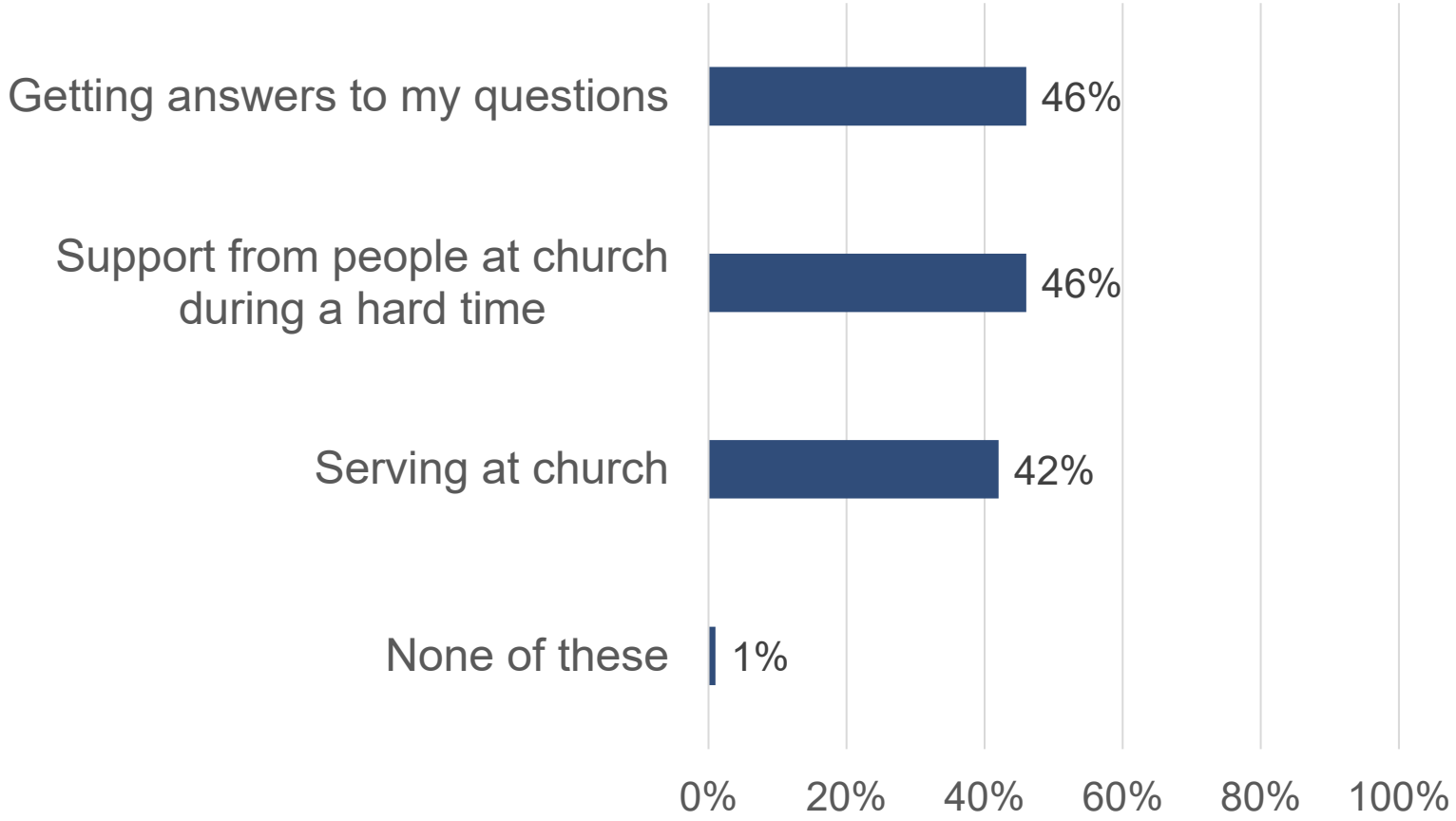


Lifeway Research

Q23: “What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ **since giving your life to Jesus Christ**? (Select all that apply)” n=1,295

“What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

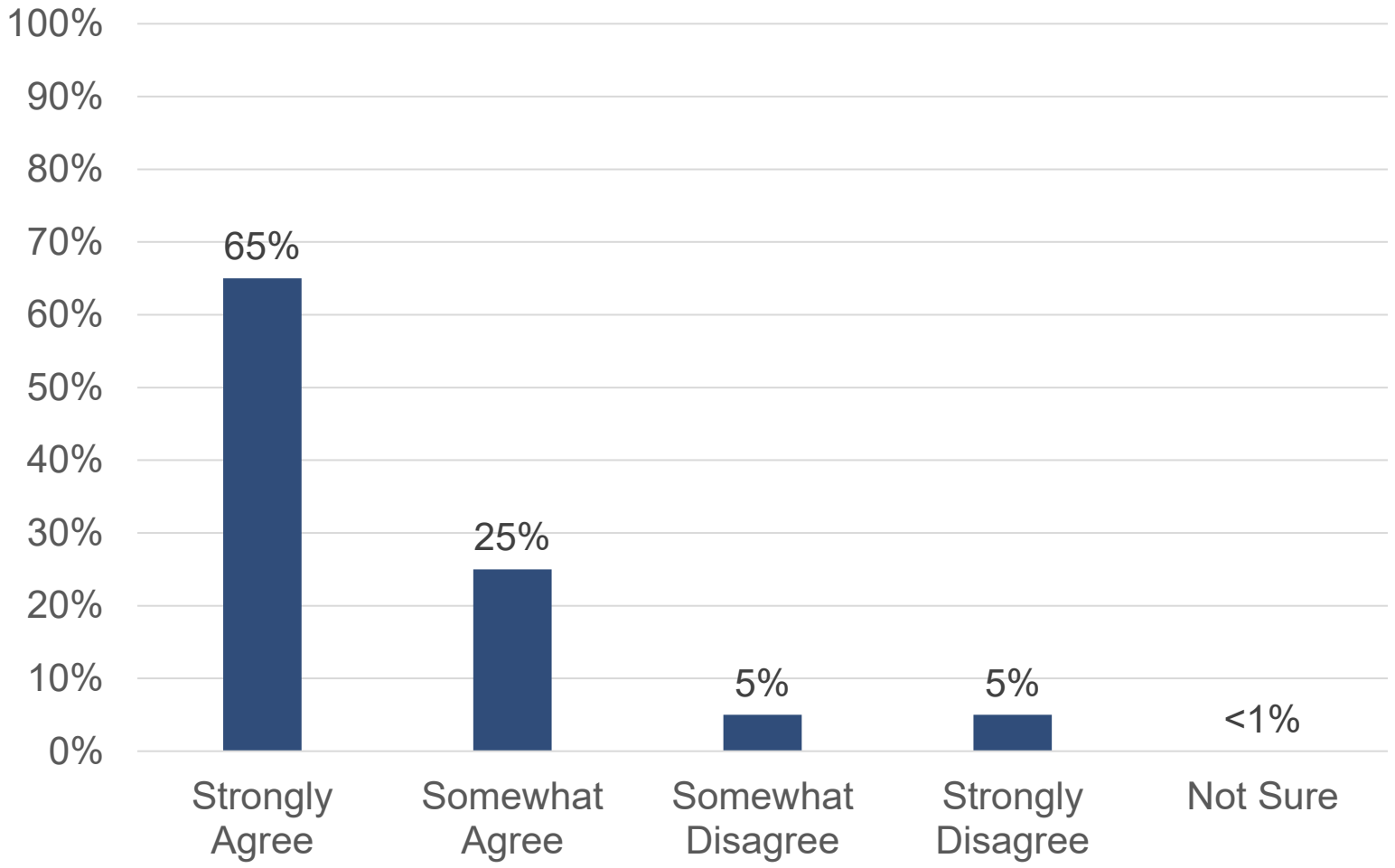
Among those who have given their life to Jesus Christ



Lifeway Research

Q23: “What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ **since giving your life to Jesus Christ**? (Select all that apply)” n=1,295

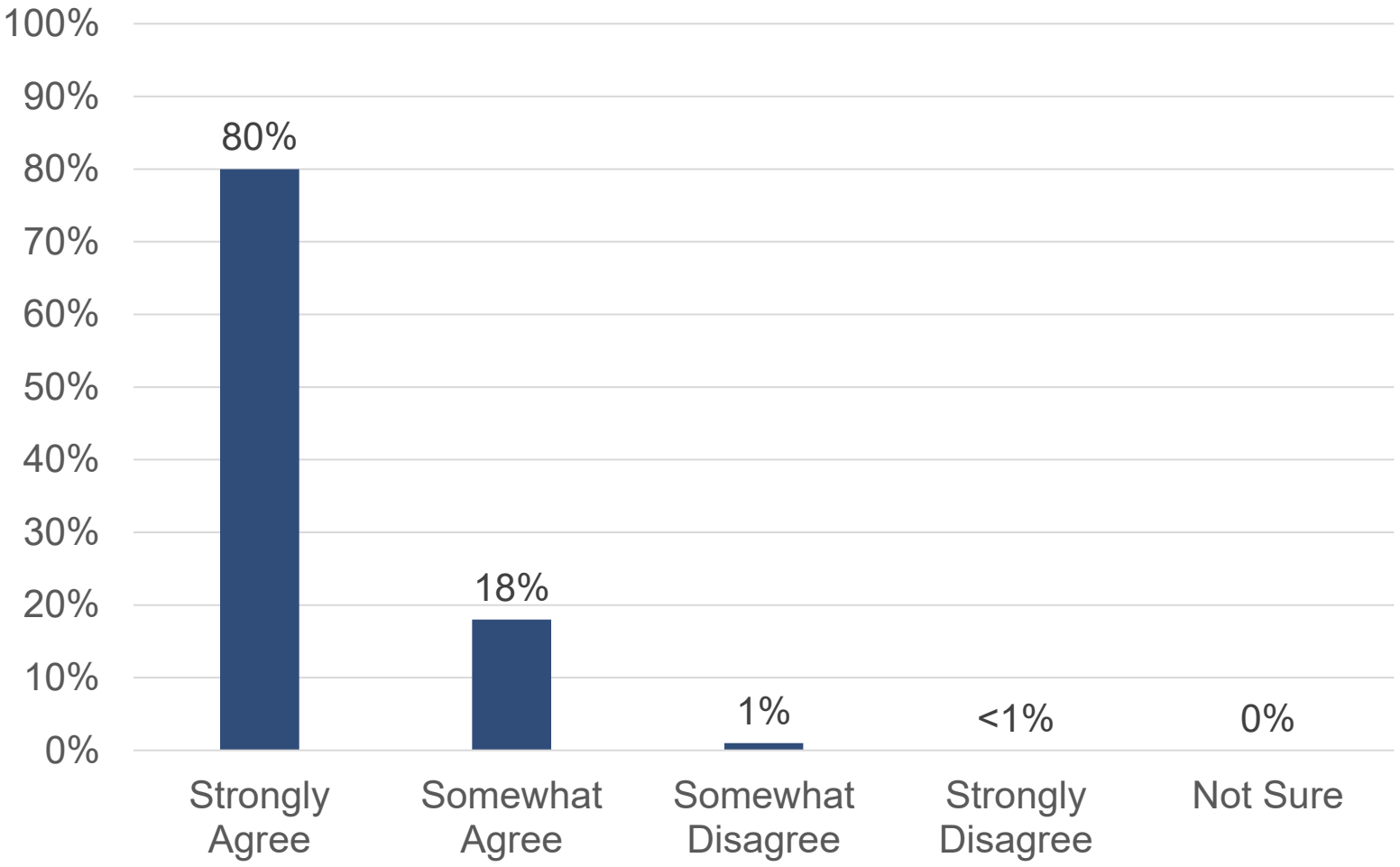
89% say that the gospel was clearly explained to them before finishing elementary school



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Q24: "The gospel was clearly explained to me before I finished elementary school." n=1,318

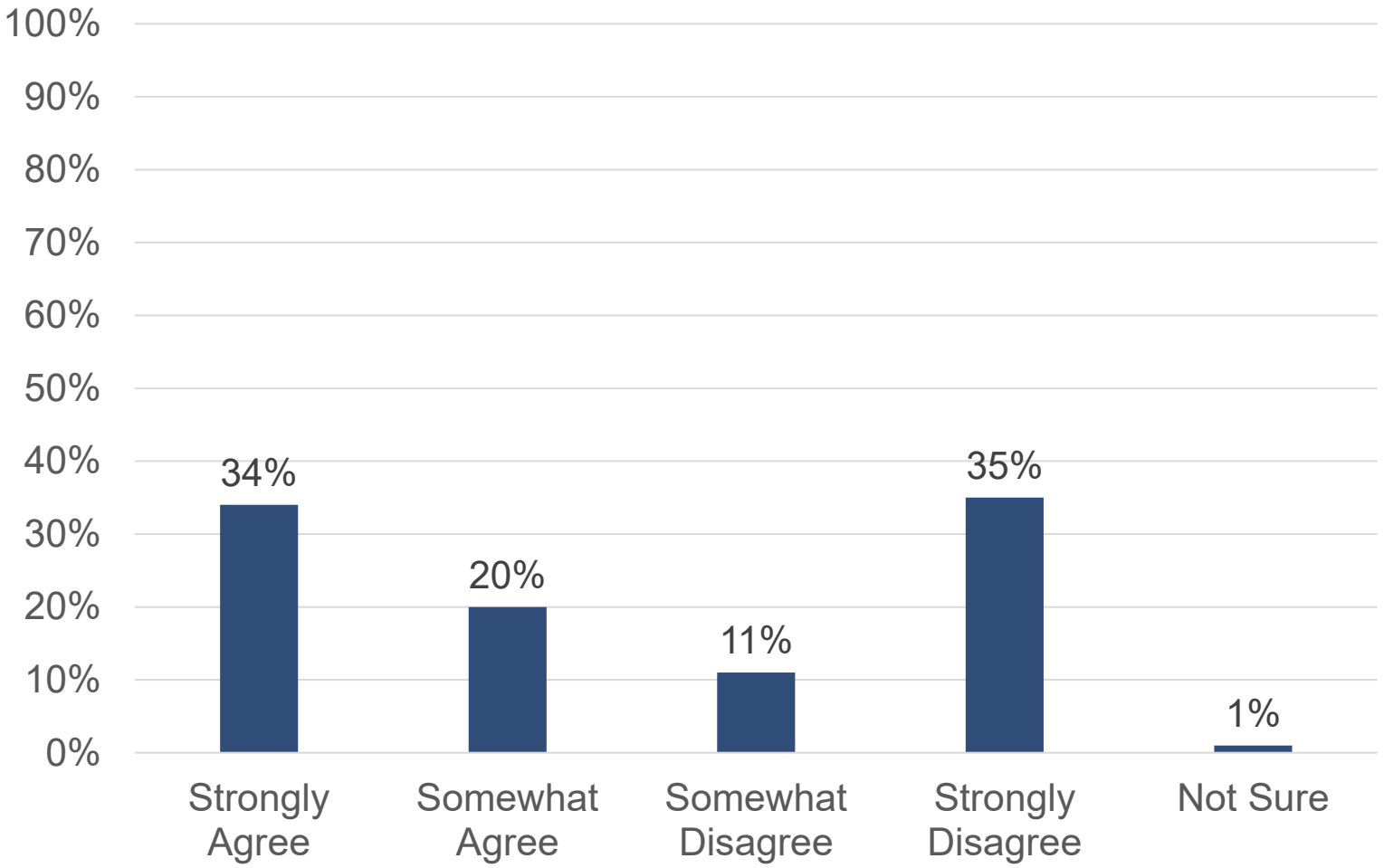
98% say that the truths in the Bible impact their decisions each day



Lifeway Research

Q25: "Truths in the Bible have a lot of impact on my decisions each day." n=1,318

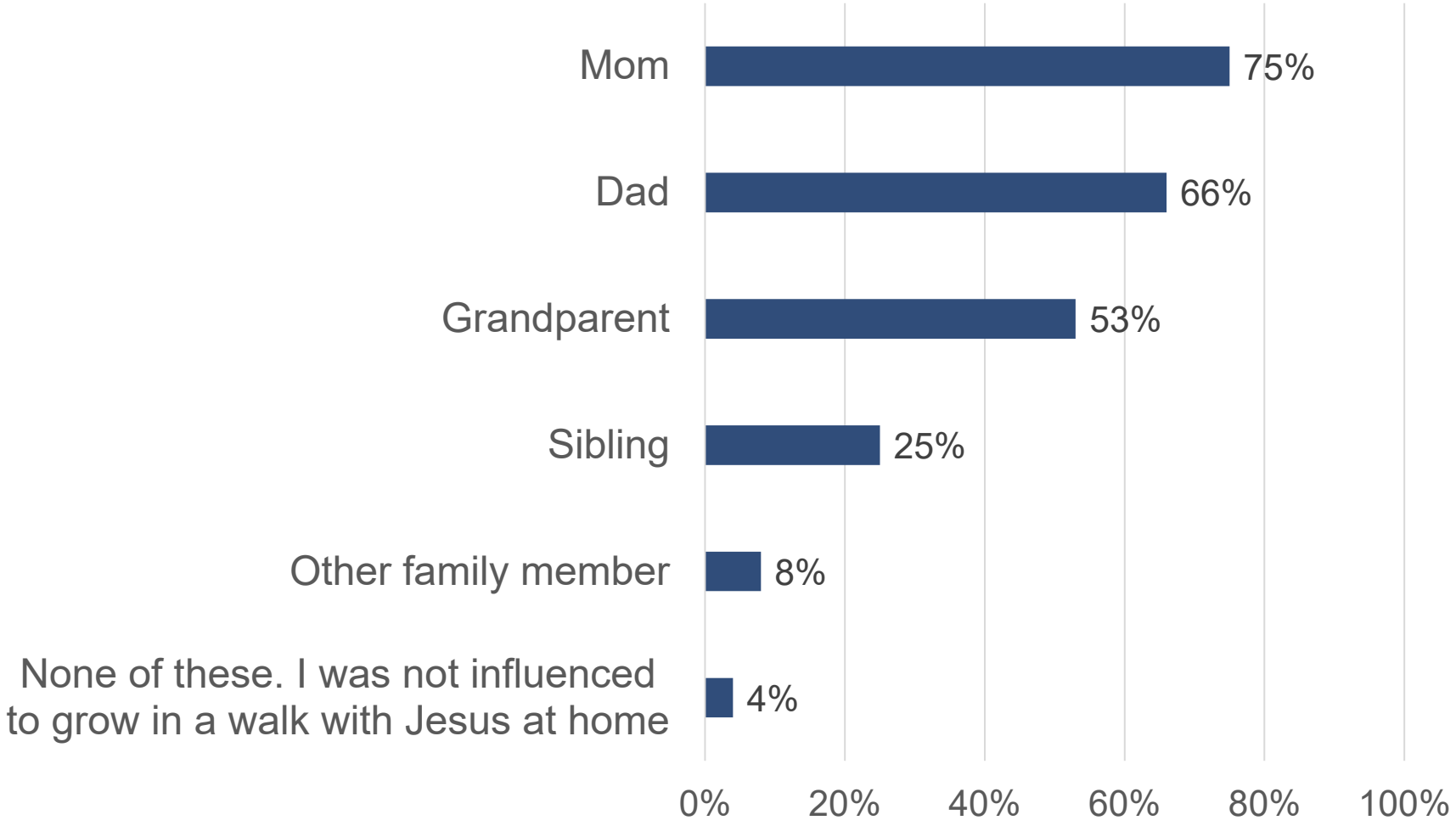
54% spend very little time thinking about what the Bible says outside of church



Lifeway Research

Q26: "I spend very little time thinking about what the Bible says outside of church." n=1,318

“Growing up, who at home was very influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

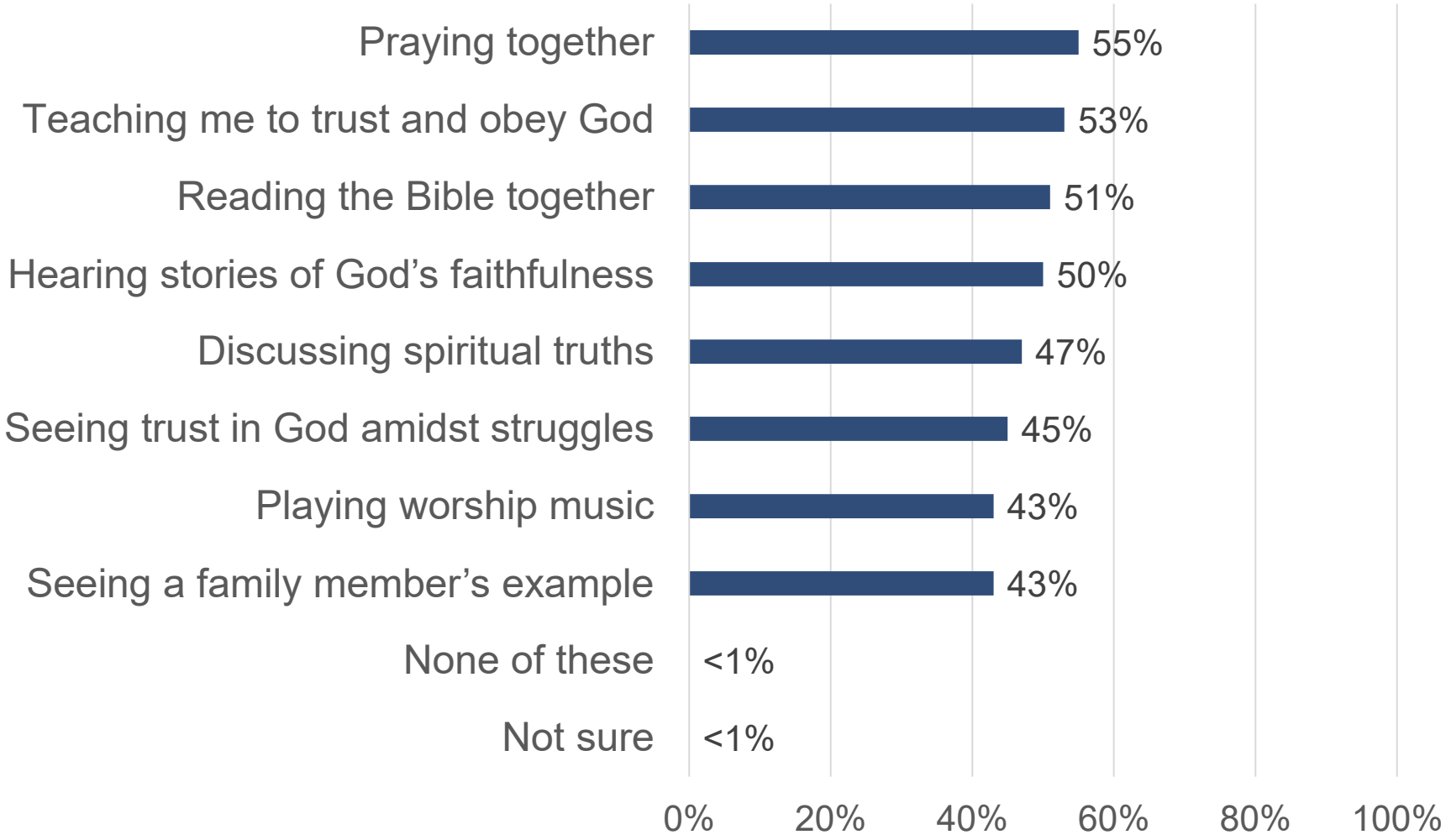


Lifeway Research

Q27: “Growing up, **who at home** was very influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

“Growing up, what influences at home helped you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

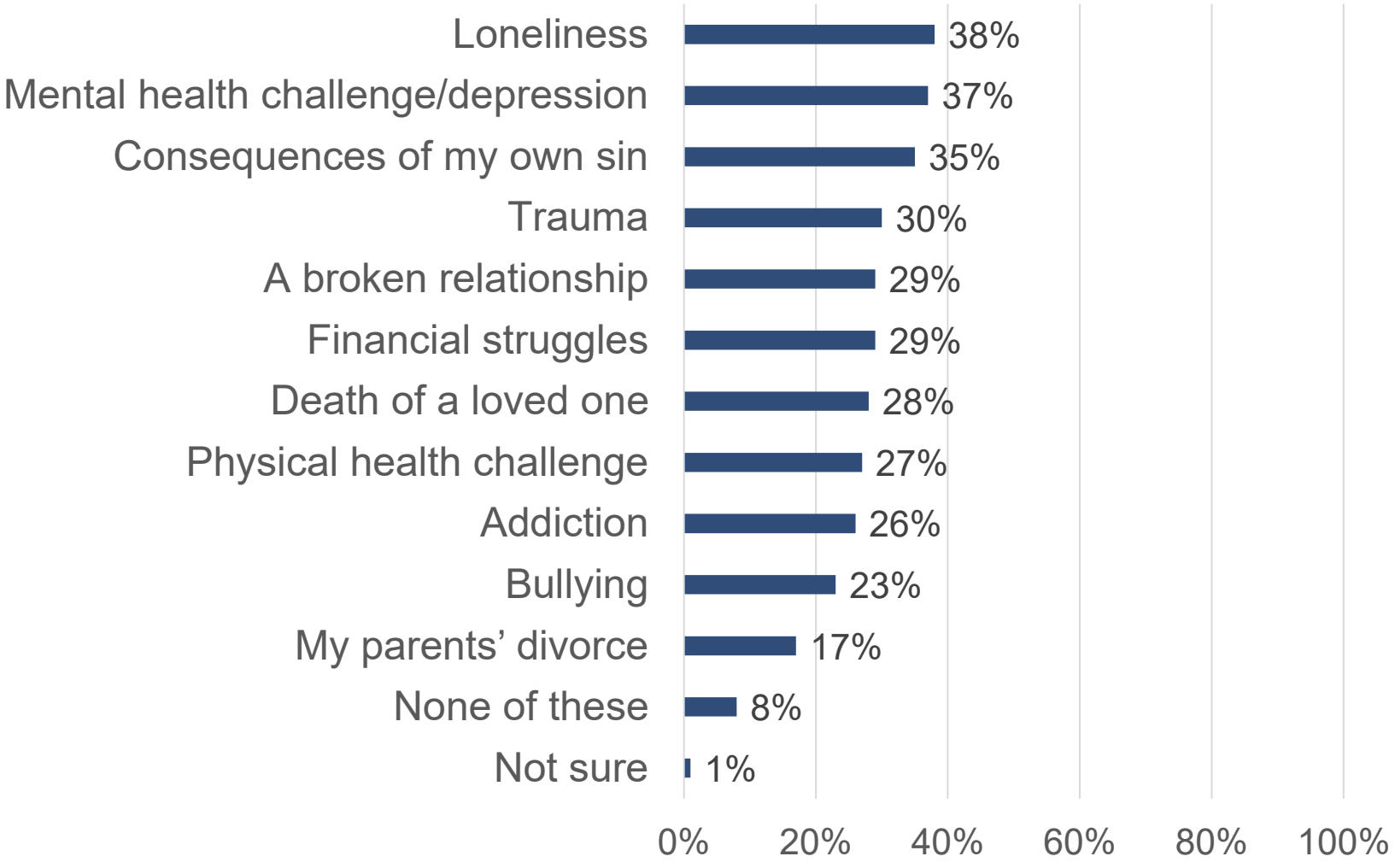
Among those who had a Christian influence at home



Lifeway Research

Q28: “Growing up, **what influences at home** helped you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,276

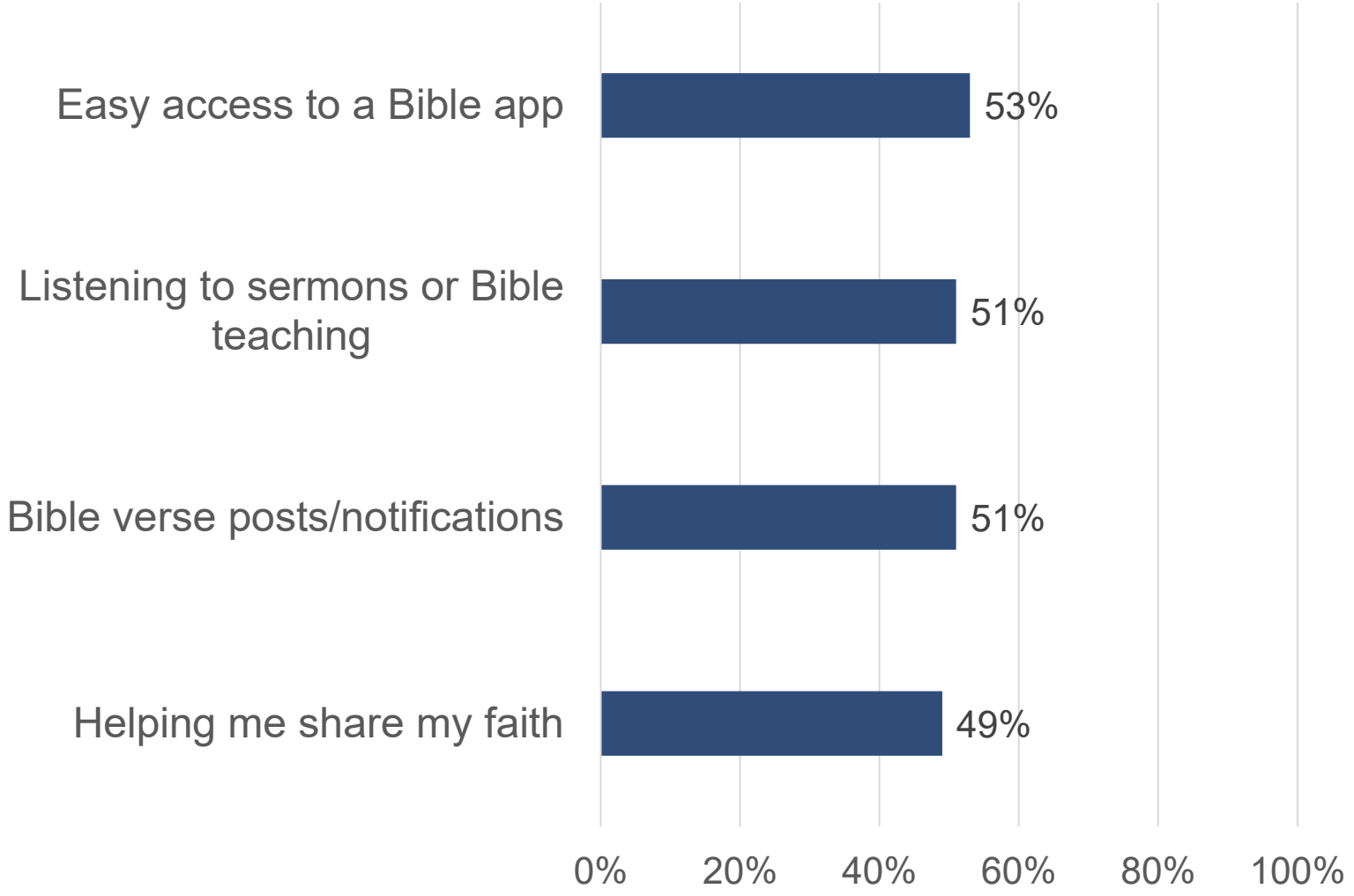
91% say God used at least one of the following difficult experiences to draw them to Him



Lifeway Research

Q29: "Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him? (Select all that apply)" n=1,318

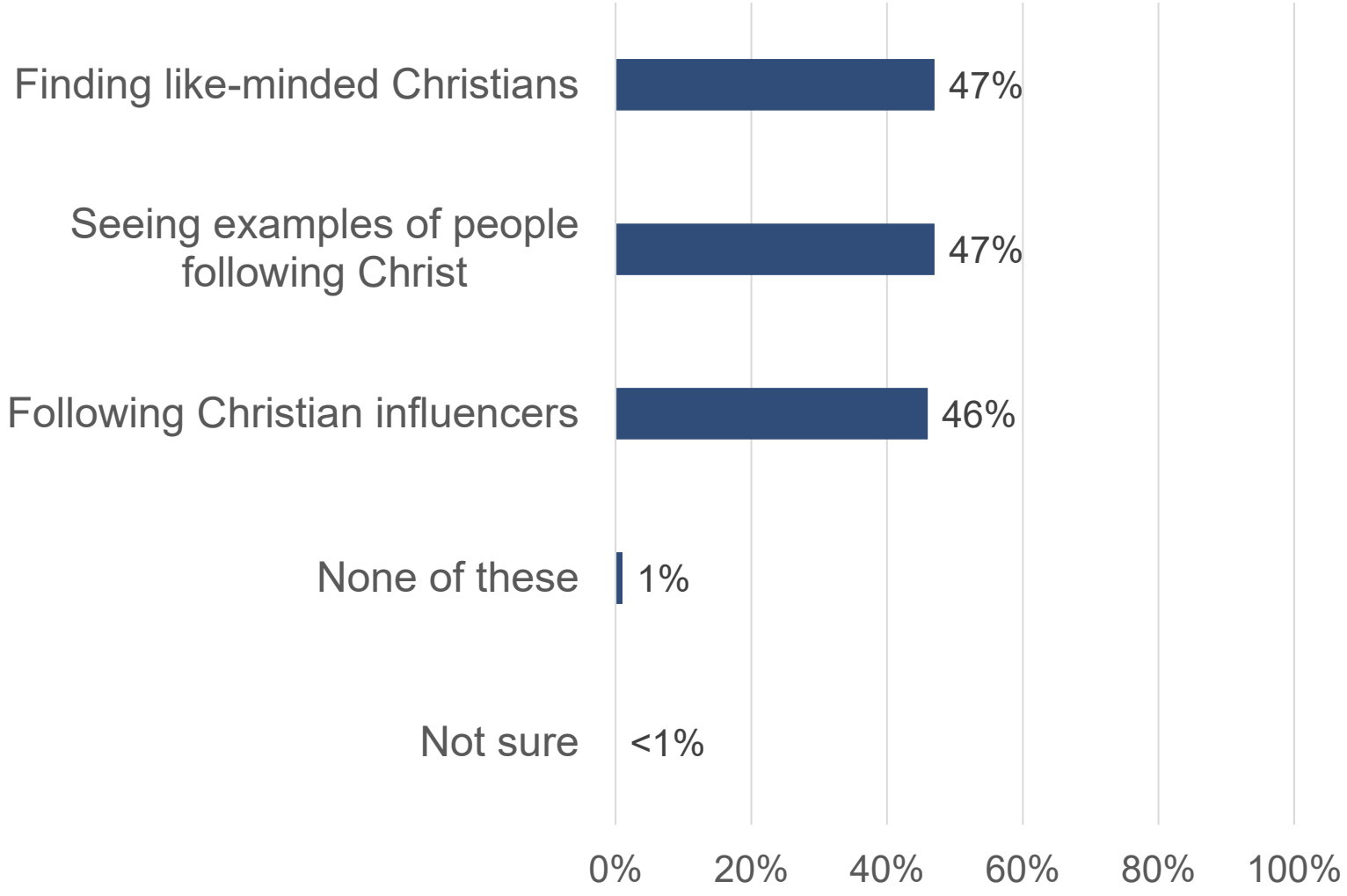
“In what ways have smart phones and social media helped your walk with Jesus Christ?”



Lifeway Research

Q30: “In what ways have smart phones and social media **helped** your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

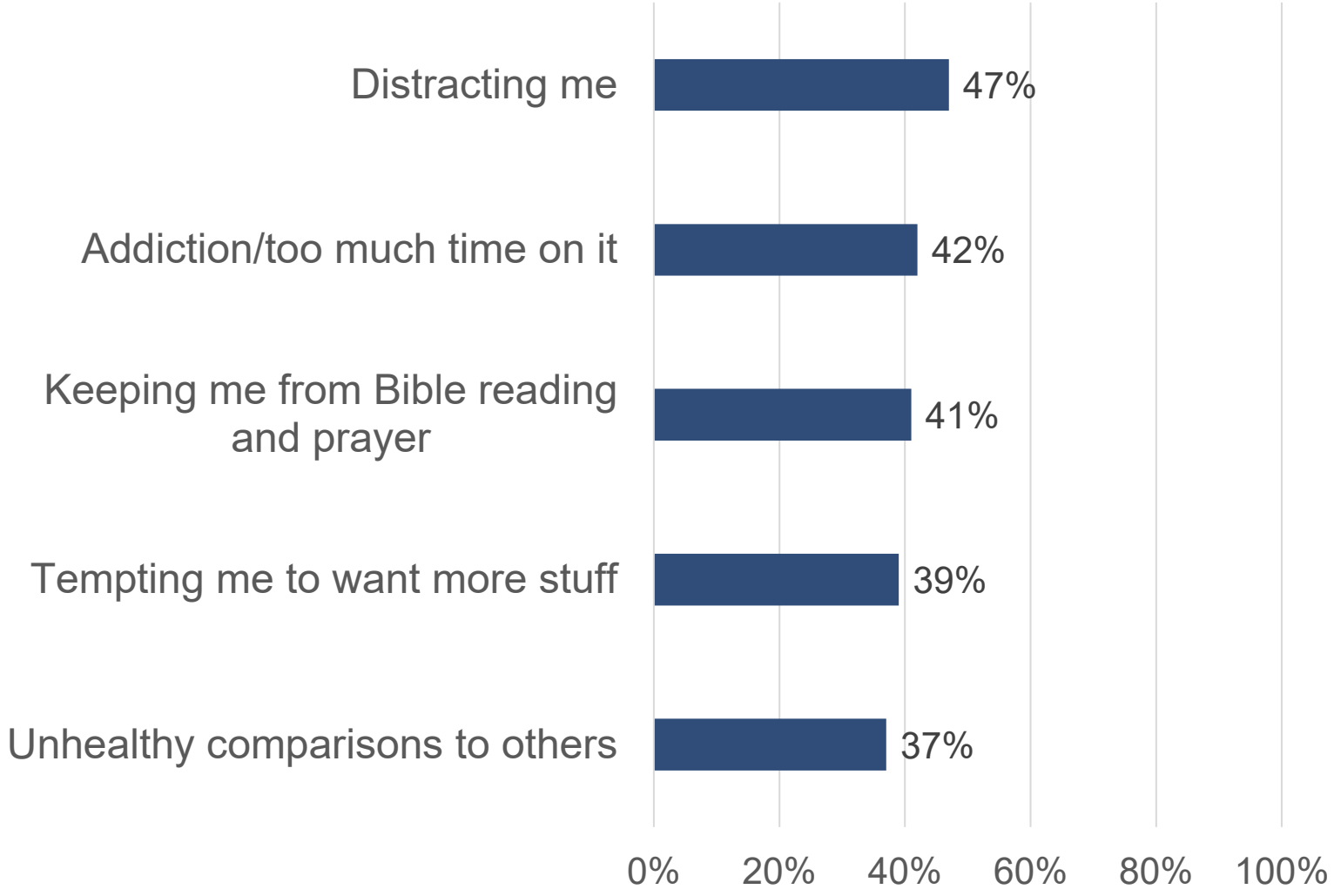
"In what ways have smart phones and social media helped your walk with Jesus Christ?" *Continued*



Lifeway Research

Q30: "In what ways have smart phones and social media **helped** your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)" n=1,318

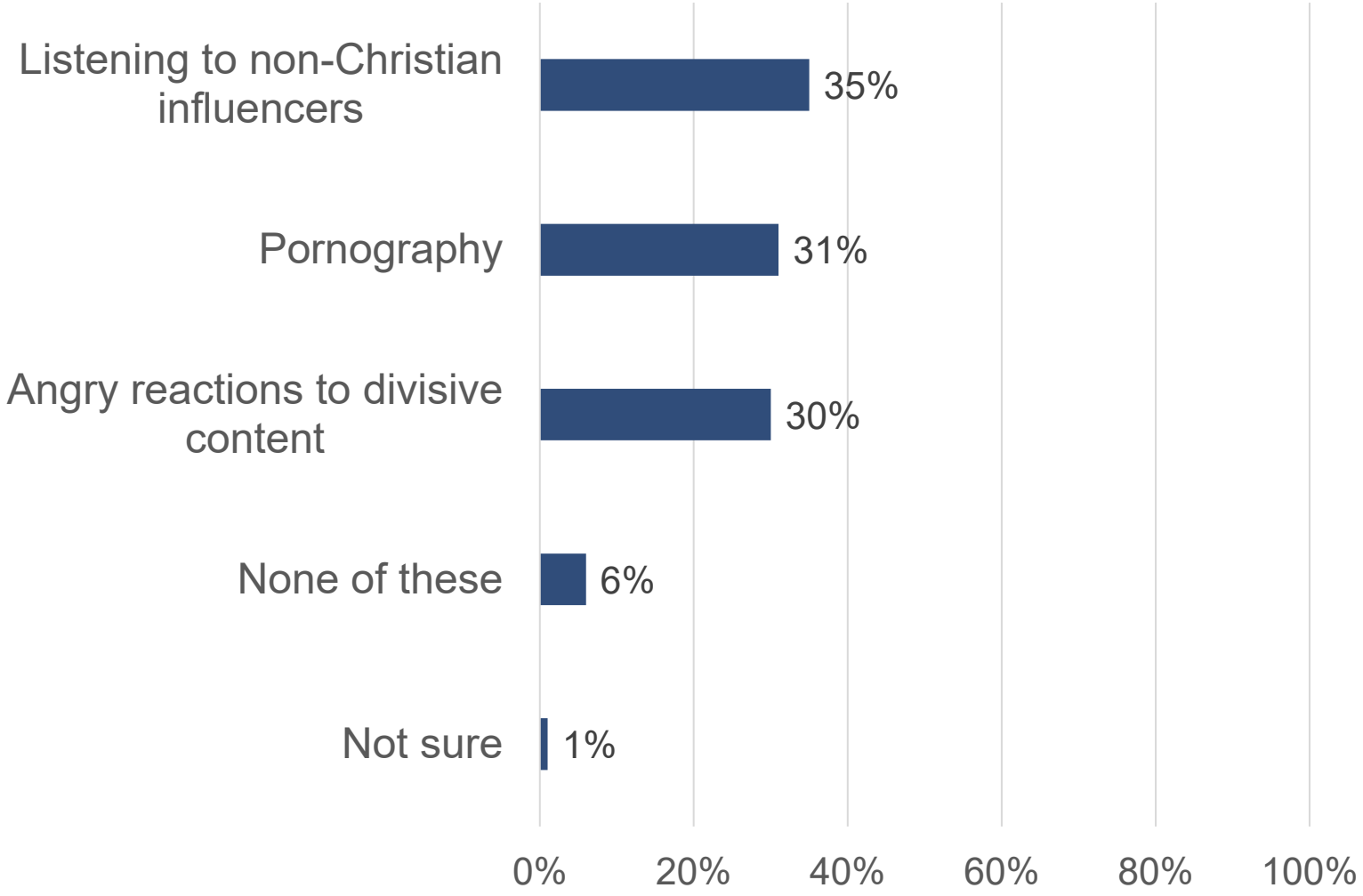
“In what ways have smart phones and social media hindered your walk with Jesus Christ?”



Lifeway Research

Q31: “In what ways have smart phones and social media **hindered** your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

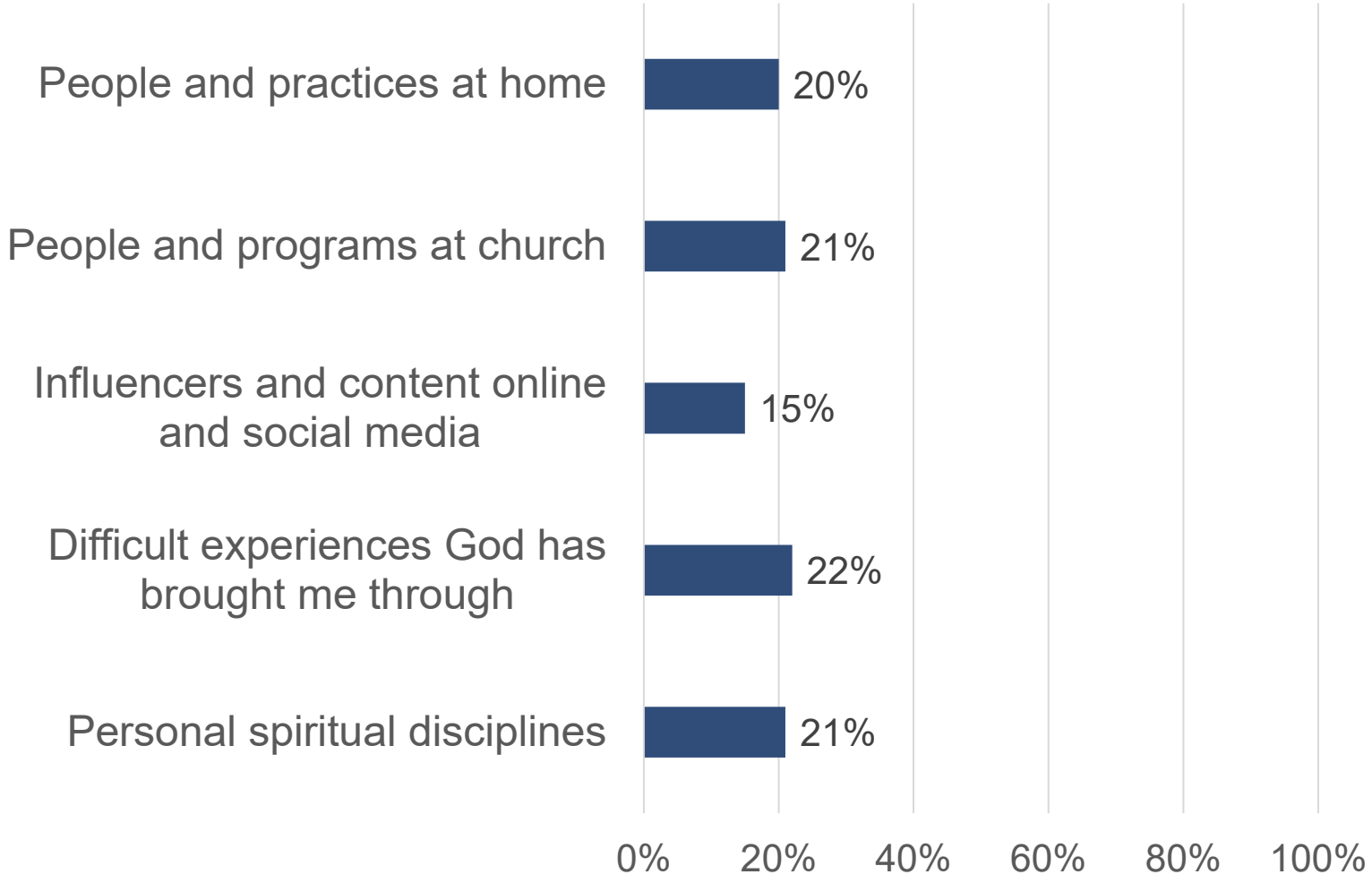
"In what ways have smart phones and social media hindered your walk with Jesus Christ?" *Continued*



Lifeway Research

Q31: "In what ways have smart phones and social media **hindered** your walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)" n=1,318

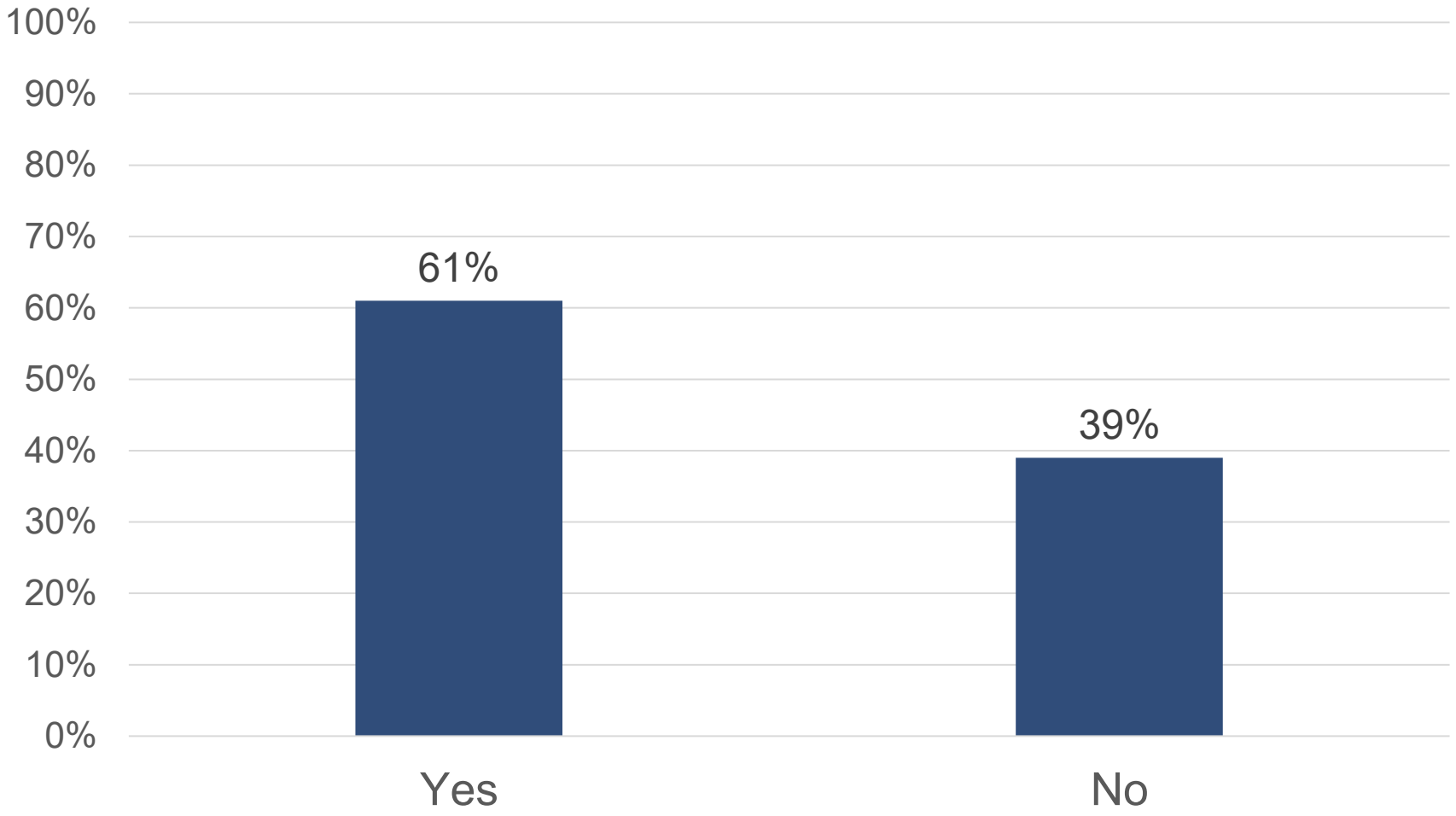
Influences that have been most helpful in their walk with Jesus Christ (first choice)



Lifeway Research

Q32: "Rank which influences have been most helpful in your walk with Jesus Christ? Give each a number 1 through 5 with 1 being the most influential. Use a number only once. Leave an item blank if it had no influence on you." n=1,318

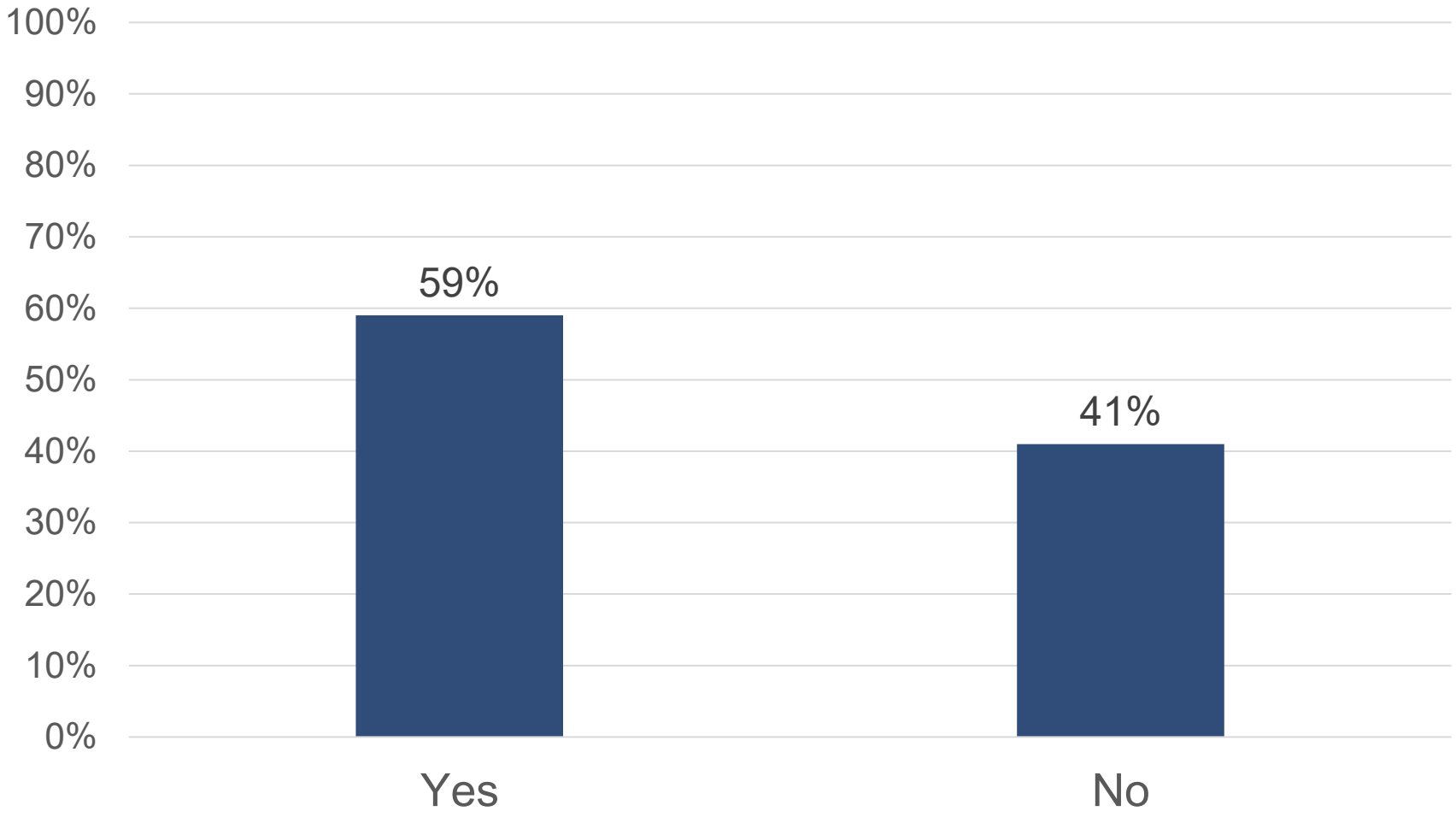
61% currently serve in ministries or projects that serve people in their community



Lifeway Research

Q33: "Are you currently involved in ministries or projects that serve people in the community not affiliated with your church? (Select one)" n=1,318

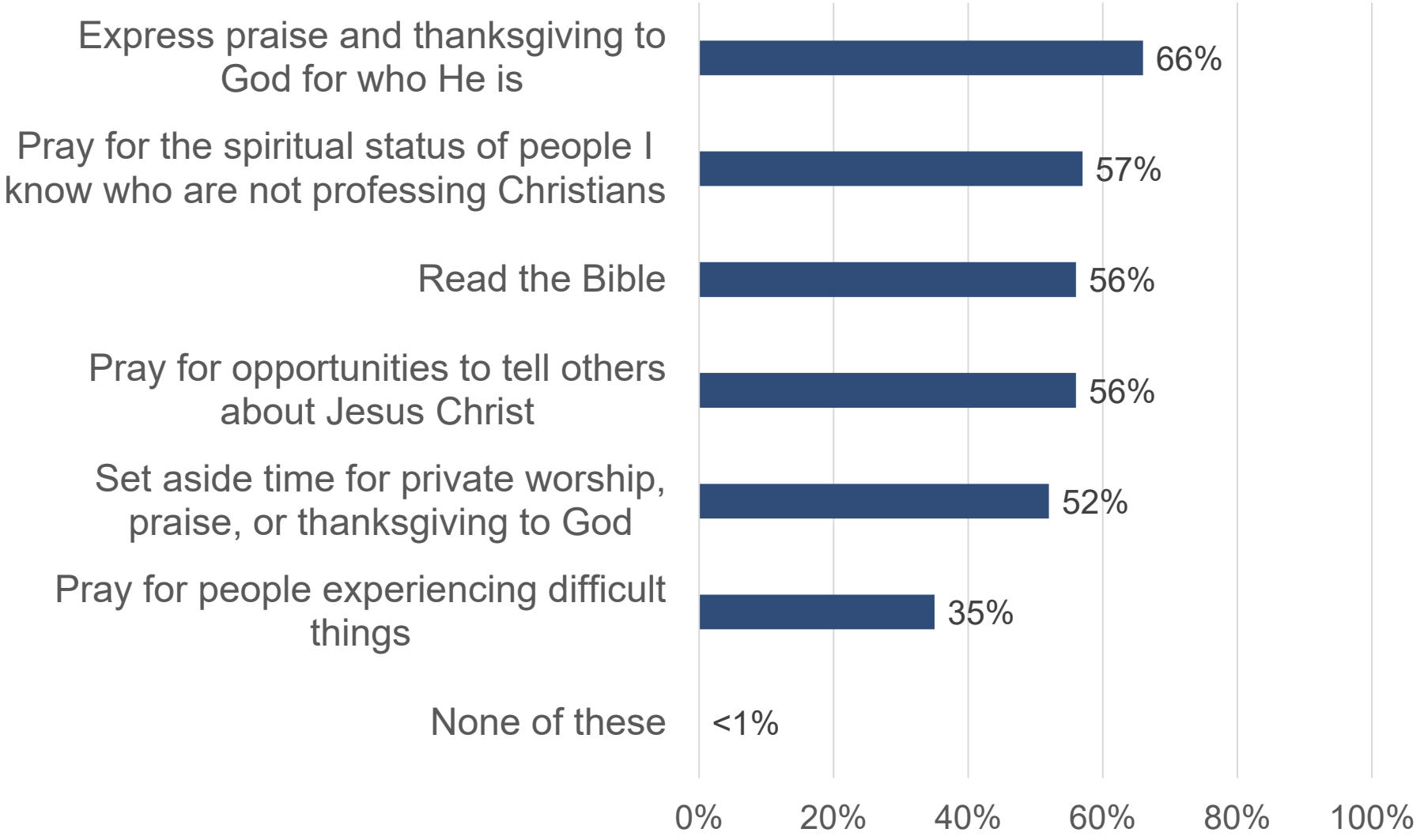
59% currently have responsibilities at their church (greeter, teacher, musician, etc.)



Lifeway Research

Q34: "Do you currently have regular responsibilities at your church (for example, greeter, teacher, musician, etc.)? (Select one)" n=1,318

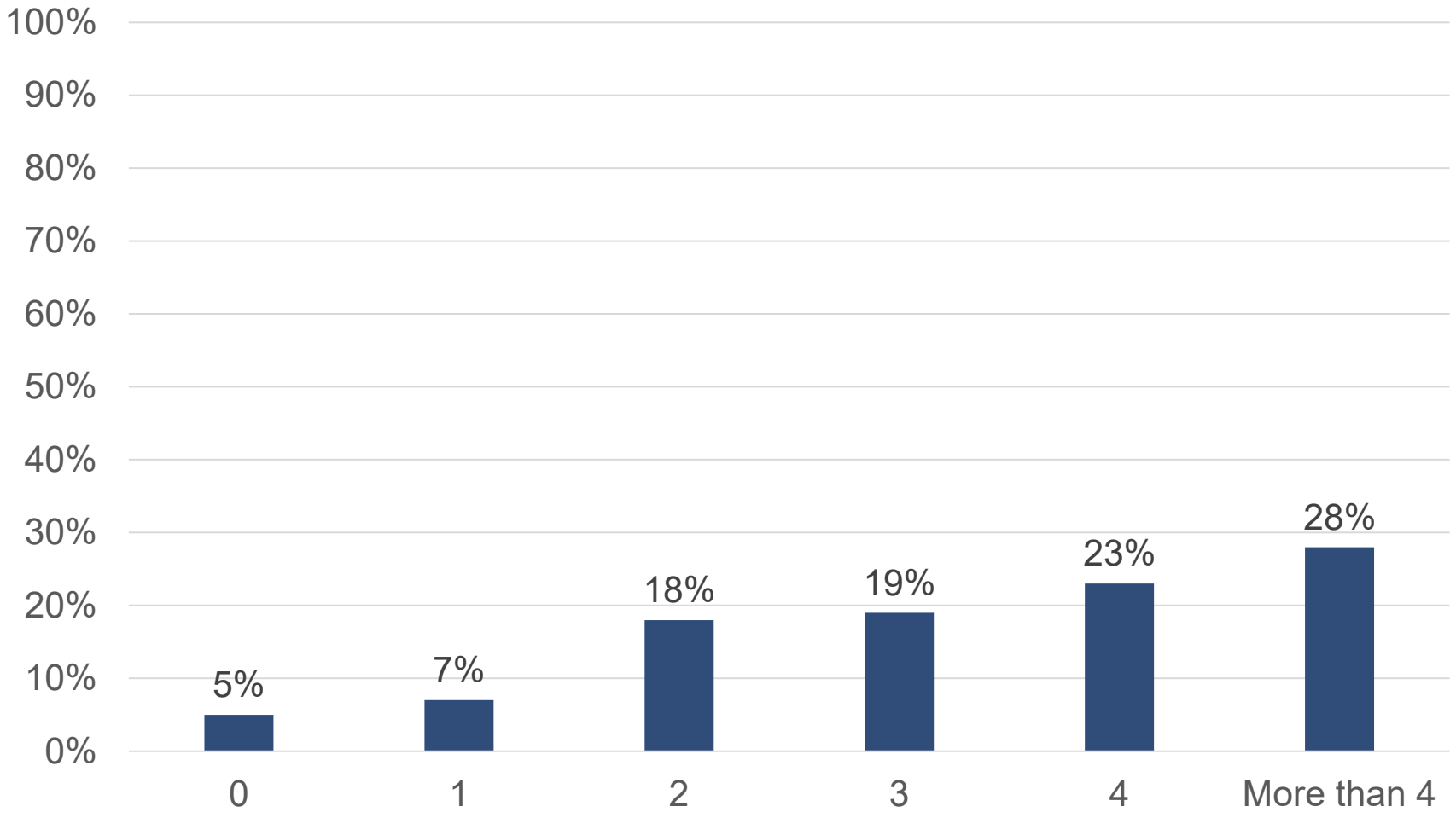
“Which, if any, of the following do you do at least a few times a week outside of church?”



Lifeway Research

Q35: “Which, if any, of the following do you do **at least a few times a week** outside of church? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

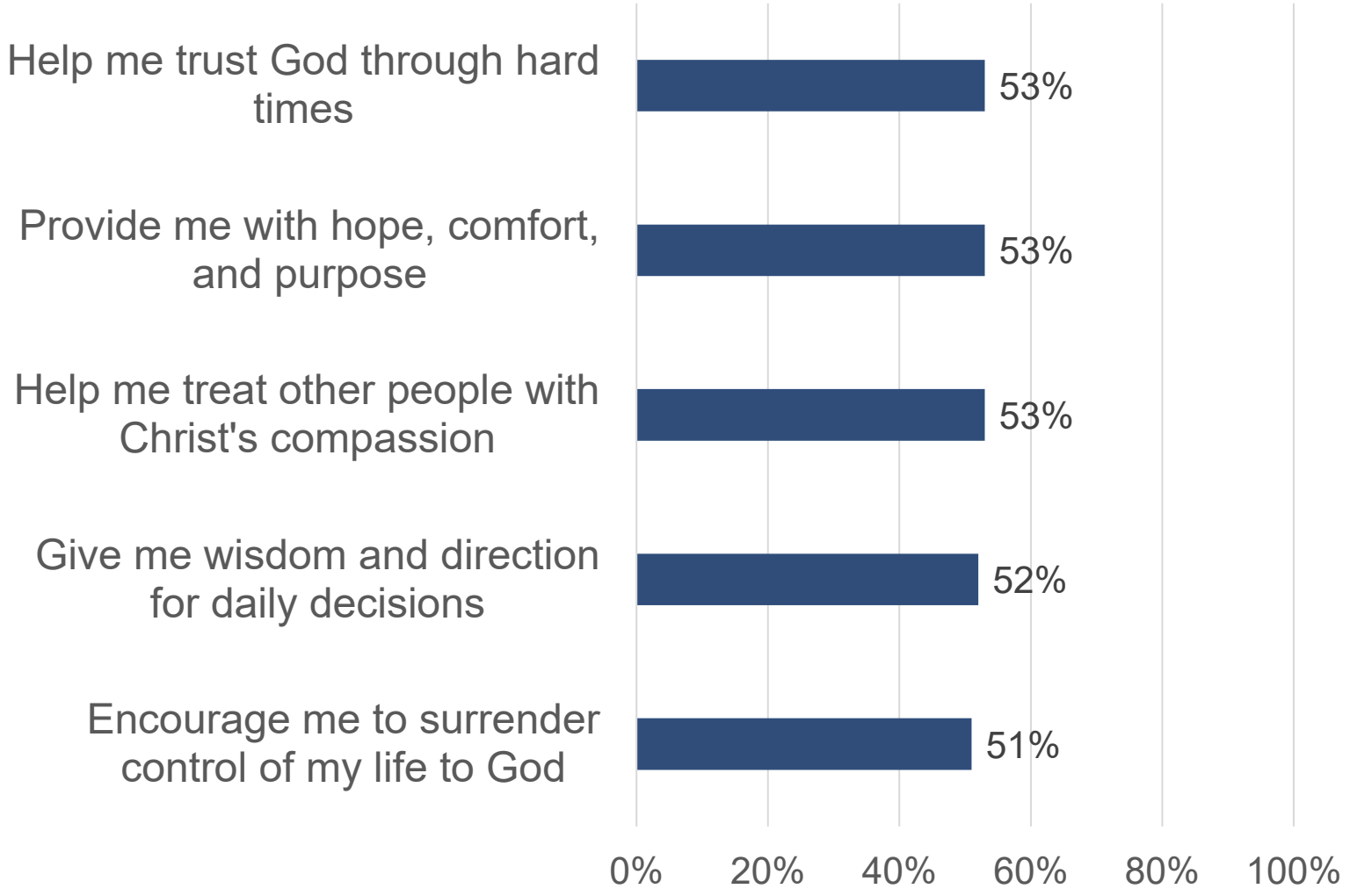
Typical worship attendance of young adults with evangelical beliefs each month



Lifeway Research

Q36: "In a typical month, about how many times (if any) do you do attend a worship service at your church?" n=1,318

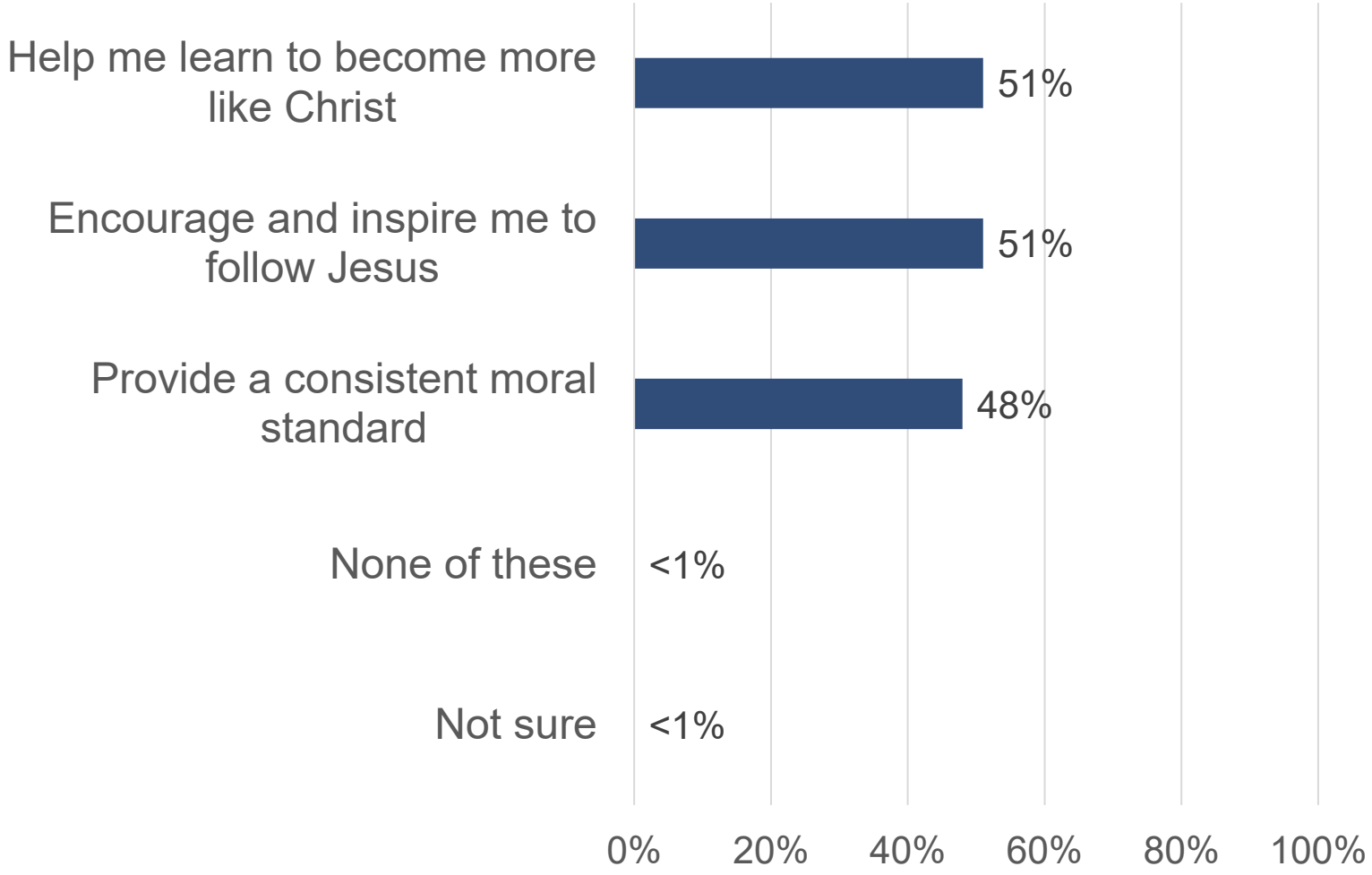
“What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? Biblical truths…”



Lifeway Research

Q37: “What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? (Select all that apply) Biblical truths…” n=1,318

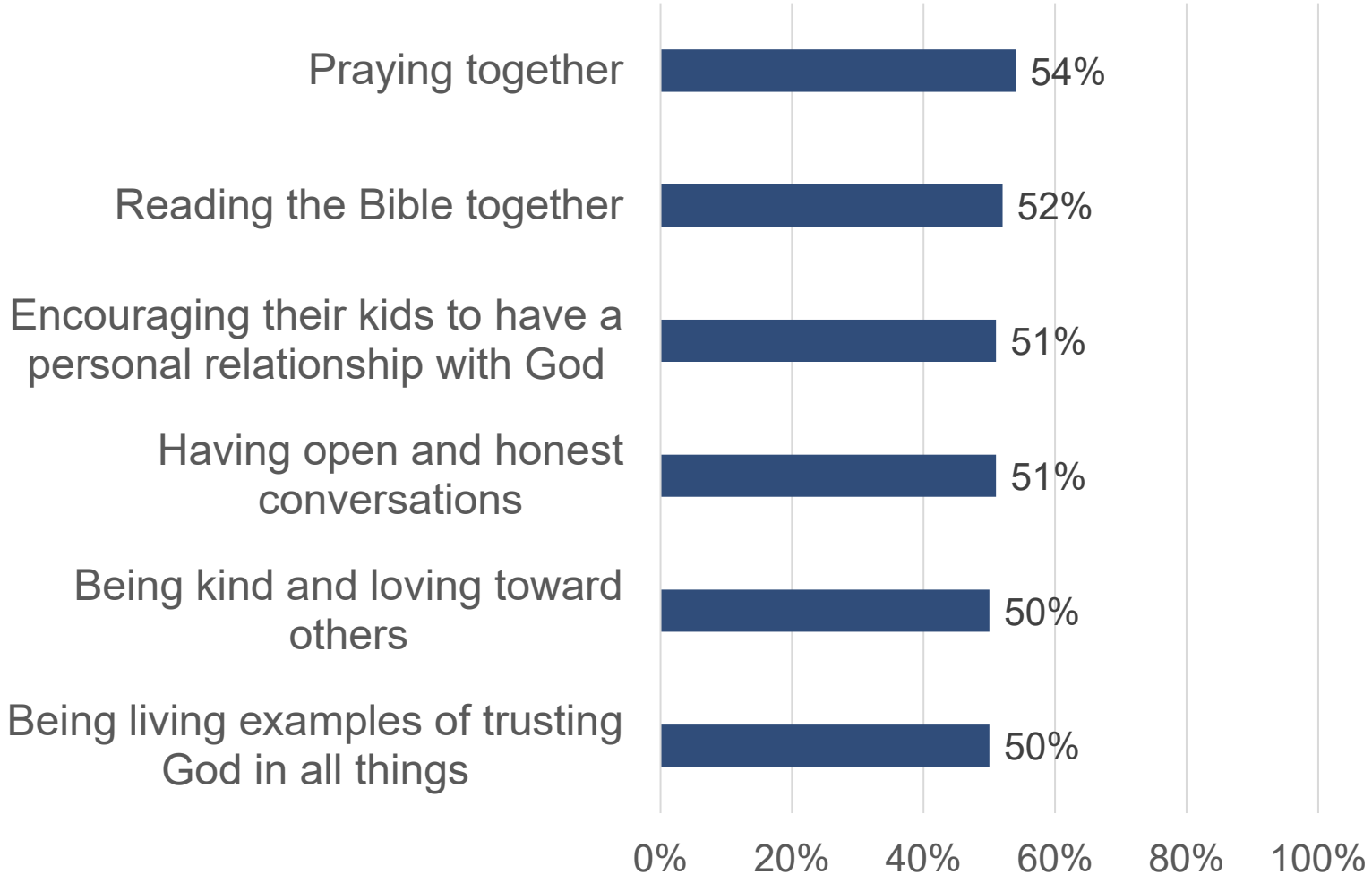
“What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? Biblical truths…” *Continued*



Lifeway Research

Q37: “What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? (Select all that apply) Biblical truths…” n=1,318

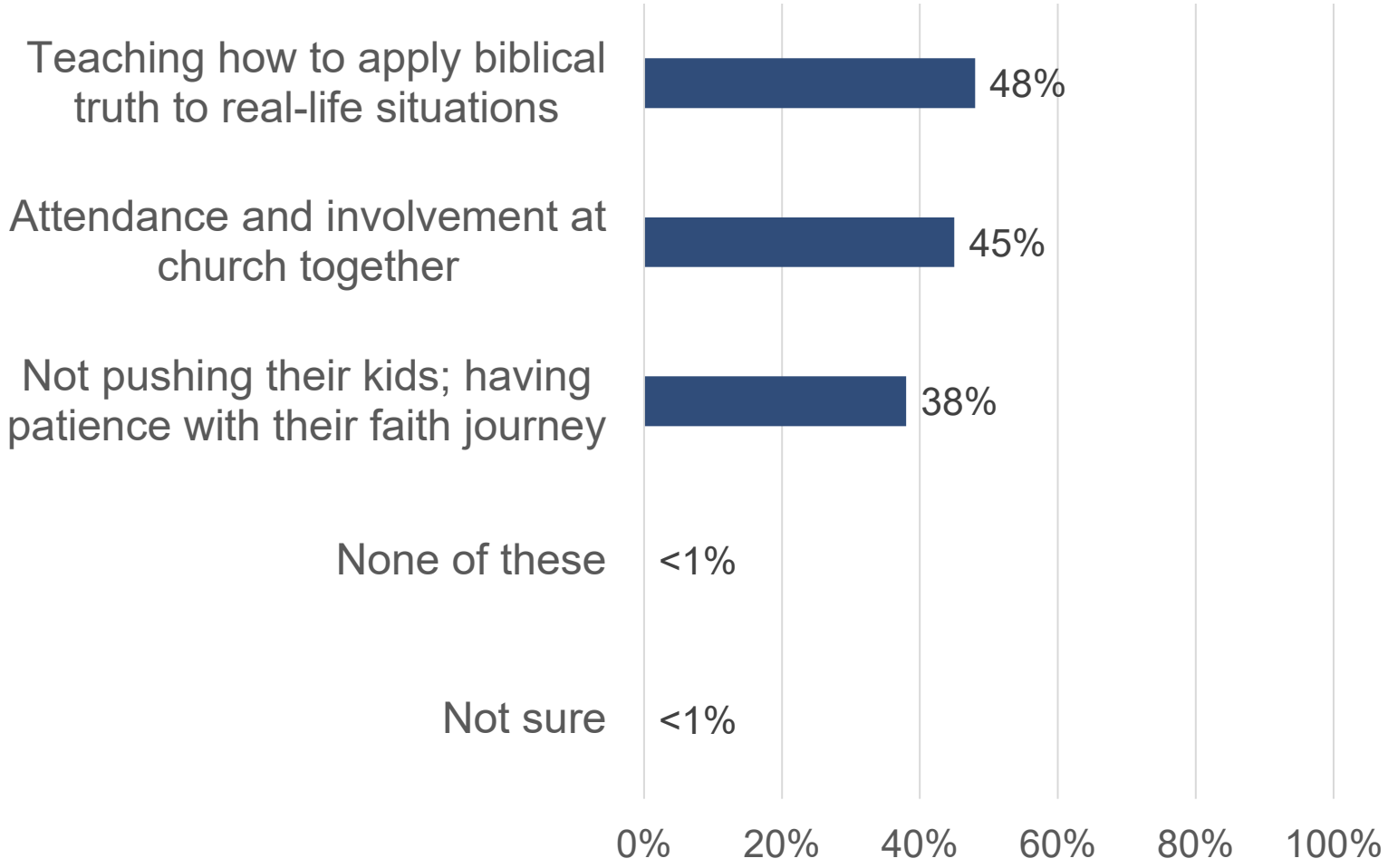
“What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids’ journey to and with Jesus Christ?”



Lifeway Research

Q38: “What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids’ journey to and with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

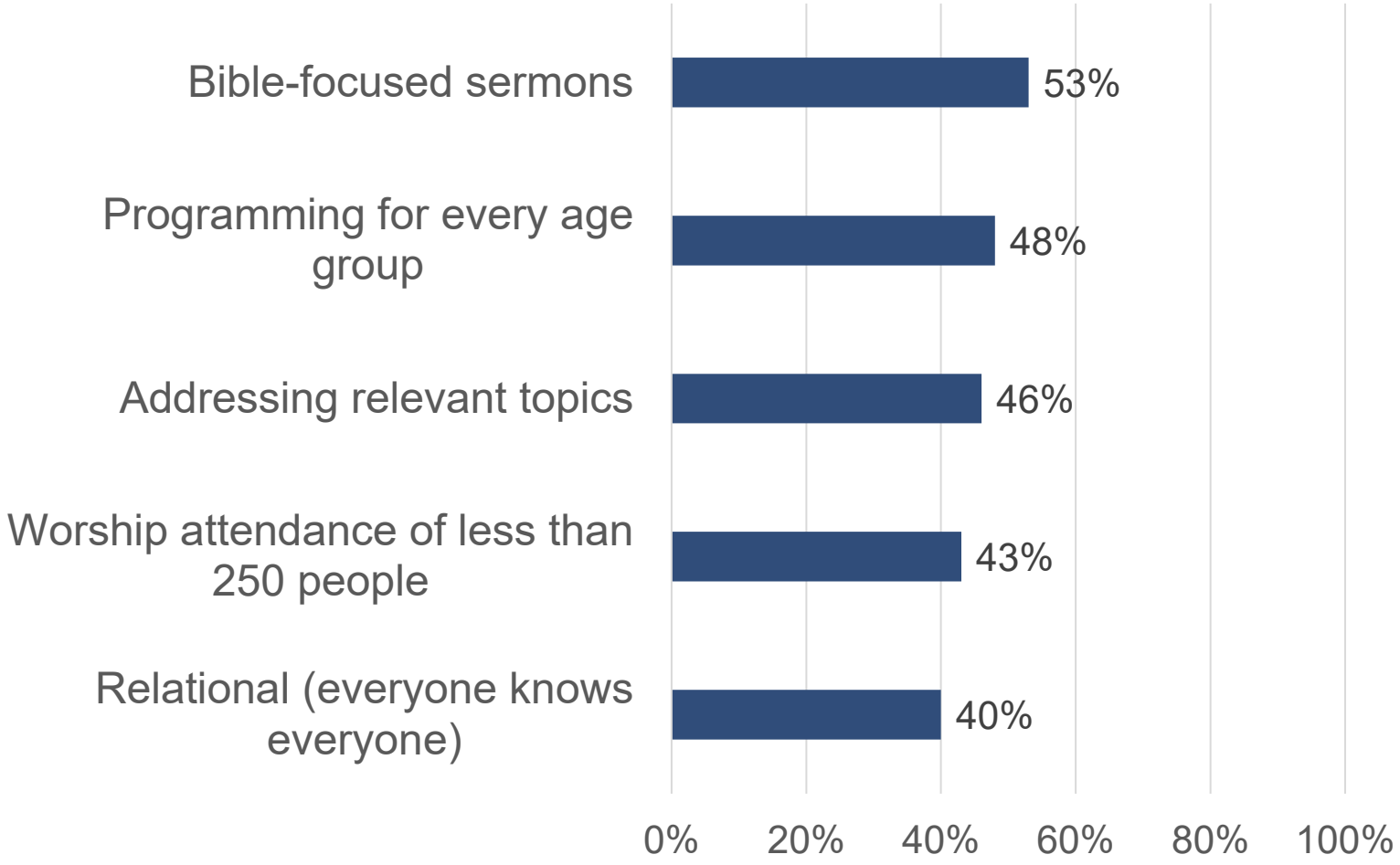
“What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids’ journey to and with Jesus Christ?” *Continued*



Lifeway Research

Q38: “What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids’ journey to and with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

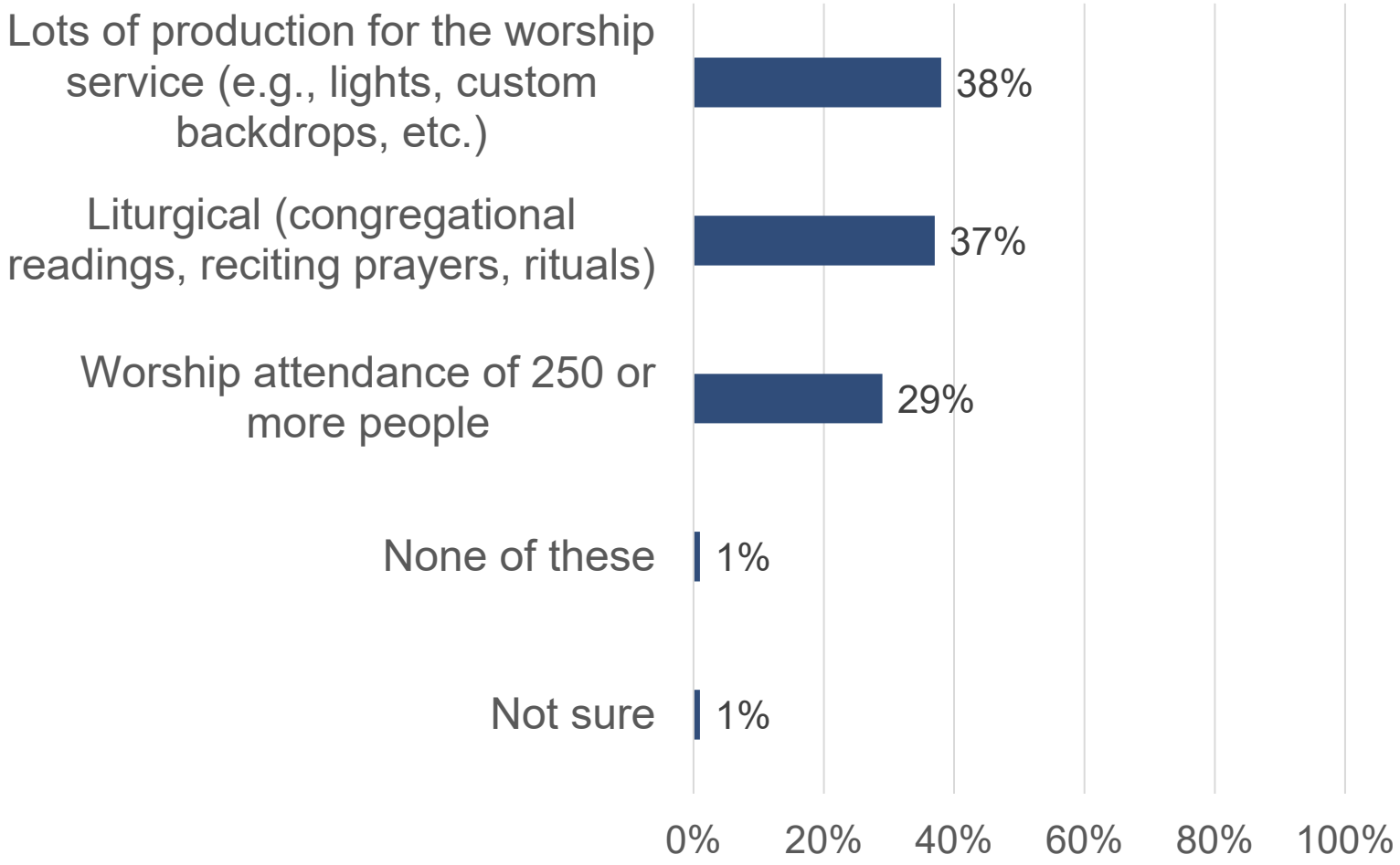
“What style of church do you think is most helpful for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ?”



Lifeway Research

Q39: “What style of church do you think is **most helpful** for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

“What style of church do you think is most helpful for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ?” *Continued*



Lifeway Research

Q39: “What style of church do you think is **most helpful** for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ? (Select all that apply)” n=1,318

Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Faith Preference

Lifeway Research

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, education, and faith preference.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION	FAITH PREFERENCE
Male	18-23	White	Northeast	High School graduate or less	Protestant
Female	24-29	African American	Midwest	Some college	Non-denominational Christian
		Hispanic	South	Bachelor's Degree	
		Other Ethnicities	West	Graduate Degree	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Lifeway Research

"At which of the following ages, if any, have you attended church once a month or more?"

Preschool

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (9%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (15%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (35% v. 24%)

Elementary ages

- African Americans are the most likely to select (50%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (22%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (25%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (46%) are more likely to select than those with some college (36%)

Lifeway Research

“At which of the following ages, if any, have you attended church once a month or more?”

Middle school ages

- Those in the West are the least likely to select (45%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (64%) or a Graduate Degree (67%) are more likely to select than those with some college (50%)

High school ages

- African Americans are the most likely to select (63%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (64%) or a Graduate Degree (62%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (48%)

Lifeway Research

“At which of the following ages, if any, have you attended church once a month or more?”

Ages 18-22

- Whites (61%) and Hispanics (65%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (52%)

Ages 23-29

- Whites (66%) are more likely to select than African Americans (56%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (72%) or a Graduate Degree (75%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (56%)

Lifeway Research

"Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?"

Bible study times

- Whites (64%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (51%)
- Those in the Northeast (70%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (58%) and West (57%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (77%) are more likely to select than those with some college (60%) or a Bachelor's Degree (58%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (70% v. 59%)

One-on-one conversations

- Those with a Graduate Degree (59%) are more likely to select than those who are high school graduates or less (39%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (37%)

Lifeway Research

"Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?"

Read the Bible

- Whites (71%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (58%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (58%)
- Those High School Graduates or less (72%) are more likely to select than those who are with a Bachelor's Degree (61%)

A class specifically on the gospel and preparation for baptism or confirmation

- Those in the South (46%) and West (46%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (34%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (59%)

“Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?”

Used metaphors or illustrations

- Whites (43%) and Hispanics (47%) are more likely to select than African Americans (33%)

Videos

- Those in the West (41%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (29%)

Music

- Whites (57%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (46%)

Lifeway Research

"Growing up, which if any of the following did your church do to explain the gospel to you clearly?"

Preaching or teaching

- Those age 24-29 are more likely to select than those 18-23 (67% v. 56%)
- Those in the Midwest (65%) and South (66%) are more likely to select than those in the West (54%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (75% v. 58%)

Repeatedly explained the gospel

- Those in the Northeast (56%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (44%) and West (42%)

Answered questions

- Those in the South (50%) are more likely to select than those in the West (39%)

Lifeway Research

"Growing up, who at church was influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

A friend my age

- Males are more likely to select than females (41% v. 31%)

A youth minister

- No meaningful significant differences

Other adult youth leaders

- Those with a Bachelor's Degree are the least likely to select (34%)

A children's minister

- Those with a Graduate Degree (47%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (28%) or with some college (31%)

Lifeway Research

“Growing up, who at church was influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Other children’s ministry leaders

- No meaningful significant differences

A Sunday School teacher

- Those in the West (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (44%)
- Those with some college (55%) or a Graduate Degree (61%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (44%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (44%)

The lead pastor

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (42%)
- Those in the Northeast (65%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (54%) and West (53%)

Lifeway Research

“Growing up, who at church was influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Music ministry leader

- Other Ethnicities (41%) are more likely to select than African Americans (27%) and Hispanics (29%)
- Those with some college (37%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (36%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (24%)

Students a few years older than me

- Males are more likely to select than females (37% v. 27%)

"What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Their explanations of what the Bible said

- Whites (59%) and Hispanics (60%) are more likely to select than African Americans (50%) and Other Ethnicities (45%)
- Those in the South (61%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (49%)

Their questions made me think

- Those in the Midwest (48%) are more likely to select than those in the West (38%)

Their interest and care for me

- Those in the Midwest (60%) are more likely to select than those in the South (50%) and West (49%)

Lifeway Research

“What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

They were present and approachable

- Whites (57%) and Hispanics (61%) are more likely to select than African Americans (45%)

Their example living out their faith

- Whites (59%) and African Americans (57%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (43%)
- Those with some college (60%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (53%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (50%)

Lifeway Research

“What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Their passion for seeking God

- Whites (63%) and African Americans (60%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (47%)
- Those in the South (65%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (52%) and West (48%)

They mentored me for several weeks (at least)

- Those in the West are the most likely to select (45%)

Lifeway Research

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

A friend my age

- More likely to select "Their questions made me think" than those who didn't pick this influencer (44% v. 32%)
- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (47% v. 31%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

A youth minister

- More likely to select "Their explanations of what the Bible said" than those who didn't pick this influencer (50% v. 40%)
- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (53% v. 38%)
- More likely to select "They were present and approachable" than those who didn't pick this influencer (52% v. 39%)
- More likely to select "Their example living out their faith" than those who didn't pick this influencer (52% v. 38%)
- More likely to select "Their passion for seeking God" than those who didn't pick this influencer (51% v. 39%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Other adult youth leaders

- More likely to select "Their explanations of what the Bible said" than those who didn't pick this influencer (48% v. 37%)
- More likely to select "Their questions made me think" than those who didn't pick this influencer (52% v. 36%)
- More likely to select "They were present and approachable" than those who didn't pick this influencer (51% v. 34%)
- More likely to select "Their example living out their faith" than those who didn't pick this influencer (51% v. 34%)
- More likely to select "Their passion for seeking God" than those who didn't pick this influencer (48% v. 36%)
- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (52% v. 38%)

Lifeway Research

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

A children's minister

- More likely to select "Their explanations of what the Bible said" than those who didn't pick this influencer (40% v. 24%)
- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (38% v. 26%)
- More likely to select "They were present and approachable" than those who didn't pick this influencer (38% v. 27%)
- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (41% v. 28%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Other children's ministry leaders

- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (32% v. 22%)
- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (35% v. 24%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

A Sunday School teacher

- More likely to select "Their explanations of what the Bible said" than those who didn't pick this influencer (56% v. 43%)
- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (58% v. 42%)
- More likely to select "Their example living out their faith" than those who didn't pick this influencer (55% v. 45%)
- More likely to select "Their passion for seeking God" than those who didn't pick this influencer (57% v. 41%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

The lead pastor

- More likely to select "Their explanations of what the Bible said" than those who didn't pick this influencer (65% v. 50%)
- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (64% v. 52%)
- More likely to select "They were present and approachable" than those who didn't pick this influencer (66% v. 50%)
- More likely to select "Their example living out their faith" than those who didn't pick this influencer (66% v. 49%)
- More likely to select "Their passion for seeking God" than those who didn't pick this influencer (64% v. 51%)

Influences that differ by types of people who influenced them (Note: they could be thinking about multiple influencers)

"Growing up, who at church was influential…" crossed by "What was it about the person/people at church you selected that made them influential in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Music ministry leader

- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (40% v. 29%)

Students a few years older than me

- More likely to select "Their questions made me think" than those who didn't pick this influencer (41% v. 27%)
- More likely to select "Their interest and care for me" than those who didn't pick this influencer (38% v. 28%)
- More likely to select "They mentored me for several weeks (at least)" than those who didn't pick this influencer (43% v. 28%)

“At what age did you give your life to Jesus Christ?”

- Those age 24-29 are more likely to select “Gave life to Jesus Christ at known age” than those 18-23 (70% v. 56%)
- Other Ethnicities are the most likely to select “Gave life to Jesus Christ at known age” (81%)
- Those in the West are the most likely to select “I don’t know the specific age, but I have given my life to Jesus” (45%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (73%) or a Graduate Degree (74%) are more likely to select “Gave life to Jesus Christ at known age” than those with some college (60%)

“Which 3 of the following life-shaping experiences best describe your journey toward following Christ? Please type 1, 2, and 3 next to your choices in the order that they happened before giving your life to Jesus.”

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

"Which one of these statements best describes your story of how you decided to give your life to Jesus?"

- Whites (33%) and Other Ethnicities (34%) are more likely to select "Slowly over time I came to understand and to want to give my life to Jesus" than African Americans (23%) and Hispanics (19%)
- African Americans are the most likely to select "I feel I have always been headed in this direction" (22%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select "I very quickly went from not understanding or having no interest to wanting to give my life to Jesus" (8%)
- Those in the Midwest are the most likely to select "I followed friends or family toward Jesus first and then slowly began to understand what it meant to give my life to Jesus" (28%)
- Those in the Northeast are the most likely to select "I feel I have always been headed in this direction" (26%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (28%) or with some college (33%) are more likely to select "Slowly over time I came to understand and to want to give my life to Jesus" than those with a Bachelor's Degree (19%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (23%) are more likely to select "I understood the gospel long before I gave my life to Jesus as I questioned if I wanted to give my life to Jesus" than those with a Graduate Degree (8%)

“Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies

- Those in the Midwest (48%) are more likely to select than those in the South (39%) and West (37%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (34%)

Youth group social activities

- Hispanics (44%) are more likely to select than African Americans (28%) and Other Ethnicities (32%)
- Those in the Northeast are the most likely to select (46%)

Youth large group Bible study teaching

- Those in the Northeast (41%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (30%) and South (33%)

Lifeway Research

"Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?"

Weekly church worship services

- Whites (50%) and Hispanics (48%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (37%)
- Those in the Midwest (51%) and South (51%) are more likely to select than those in the West (40%)

Youth worship services

- No meaningful significant differences

Children's Church

- Those with a Graduate Degree (40%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (27%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (26%)

Lifeway Research

“Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Prayer meetings

- No meaningful significant differences

Camp

- Those in the Northeast (33%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (22%)

A retreat, conference or discipleship weekend

- Those in the Midwest (34%) and West (38%) are more likely to select than those in the South (24%)

Vacation Bible School

- Whites (38%) and Other Ethnicities (37%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (24%)

Lifeway Research

“Which church programs have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Mission trip

- No meaningful significant differences

Being mentored by a leader for several weeks

- Hispanics are the least likely to select (21%)
- Those with some college (35%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (26%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (22%)

“What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?”

The teaching of the Bible

- Whites (69%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (50%)
- Those in the Midwest (68%) and South (67%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (48%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (75% v. 60%)

The discussions about the Bible

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

"What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?"

The relationships with my peers

- Whites (62%) and Hispanics (61%) are more likely to select than African Americans (43%)
- Those in the Northeast (69%) are more likely to select than those in the South (53%)
- Those with some college (62%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's Degree (48%)

The relationships with my leaders

- Those age 18-23 are more likely to select than those 24-29 (58% v. 47%)
- Whites (57%) and African Americans (50%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (36%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (58%) or with some college (52%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's Degree (40%)

Lifeway Research

“What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?”

The ability to ask questions

- Males are more likely to select than females (64% v. 53%)
- Those in the Midwest (66%) and South (59%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (45%)

Learning how to study the Bible for myself

- Whites (60%) are more likely to select than African Americans (48%)

"What was it about your weekly Sunday School or small group Bible studies that made these impactful?"

Applying the Bible to real things in our lives

- Those in the South (63%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (48%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (72% v. 57%)

They made it fun

- Whites (45%) and African Americans (48%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (33%)

“What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful?”

Seeing Christians show up faithfully

- Whites (62%) are more likely to select than African Americans (48%) and Hispanics (49%)
- Those with some college (61%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (50%)

Bible teaching in the sermons

- Whites (65%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (50%)
- Those in the Midwest (64%) and South (63%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (48%)

"What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful?"

Communion/Lord's Supper

- Males are more likely to select than females (48% v. 35%)
- Hispanics are the least likely to select (26%)
- Those with some college (48%) or a Graduate Degree (57%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (37%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (33%)

Singing together

- No meaningful significant differences

Scripture reading

- Whites (58%) and African Americans (63%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (43%)

Lifeway Research

“What was it about weekly worship services that made these impactful?”

Repetition of doctrines or creeds

- Those in the West (45%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (28%)

Worshiping together

- Whites (71%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (55%)

The Bible was shown to be relevant today

- No meaningful significant differences

“What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Relationships with peers who are following Christ

- No meaningful significant differences

Relationships with adults who are following Christ

- Hispanics (53%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (42%)
- Those in the Midwest (58%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (46%) and South (47%)

Serving at church

- Whites (44%) and Hispanics (44%) are more likely to select than African Americans (33%)

Lifeway Research

“What church experiences (other than programs) have been most impactful in your journey with Christ since giving your life to Jesus Christ?”

Watching how adults and families from church live out their faith

- Whites (53%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (37%) and Other Ethnicities (39%)

Help processing how the Bible applies to my life

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (41%)
- Those in the South (55%) are more likely to select than those in the West (45%)

Support from people at church during a hard time

- Hispanics are the least likely to select (31%)

Getting answers to my questions

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

“The gospel was clearly explained to me before I finished elementary school.”

- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to Agree than Non-denominational Christians (93% v. 79%)

Lifeway Research

“Truths in the Bible have a lot of impact on my decisions each day.”

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

“I spend very little time thinking about what the Bible says outside of church.”

- Those with some college (61%) are more likely to Agree than those who are High School Graduates or less (48%) or with a Graduate Degree (43%)
- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to Agree than Non-denominational Christians (56% v. 46%)

Lifeway Research

"Growing up, who at home was very influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Mom

- Hispanics (81%) and Other Ethnicities (82%) are more likely to select than African Americans (69%)
- Those in the Northeast (81%) and West (80%) are more likely to select than those in the South (71%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (84%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (73%) or with some college (73%)
- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to select than Non-denominational Christians (78% v. 67%)

Dad

- African Americans are the least likely to select (57%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (74%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (65%) or with some college (61%)
- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to select than Non-denominational Christians (70% v. 54%)

Lifeway Research

“Growing up, who at home was very influential in helping you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Grandparent

- African Americans (57%) and Hispanics (61%) are more likely to select than Whites (49%) and Other Ethnicities (46%)

Sibling

- Those with a Graduate Degree (39%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (19%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (24%)

“Growing up, what influences at home helped you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Reading the Bible together

- Males are more likely to select than females (55% v. 45%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (38%)

Discussing spiritual truths

- No meaningful significant differences

Praying together

- Those with a Graduate Degree (68%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (52%)
- Those in the Midwest (59%) and South (57%) are more likely to select than those in the West (48%)

“Growing up, what influences at home helped you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Seeing a family member’s example

- No meaningful significant differences

Playing worship music

- No meaningful significant differences

Teaching me to trust and obey God

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (43%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (44%)

Lifeway Research

“Growing up, what influences at home helped you grow and mature in your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Hearing stories of God’s faithfulness

- Those in the South (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (44%) and West (45%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (65%)

Seeing trust in God amidst struggles

- Whites (47%) and African Americans (48%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (37%)

Lifeway Research

“Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him?”

Addiction

- Whites (28%) and African Americans (30%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (17%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (28%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (15%)

A broken relationship

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (19%)

Bullying

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

“Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him?”

My parents’ divorce

- Whites (17%) and Hispanics (22%) are more likely to select than African Americans (12%)

Financial struggles

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (19%)
- Those in the Midwest (35%) are more likely to select than those in the West (24%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (37% v. 27%)

Loneliness

- Whites (42%) and African Americans (38%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (28%)

Lifeway Research

“Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him?”

Death of a loved one

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (17%)
- Those in the South (33%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (25%) and West (22%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (32%) or with some college (30%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (17%)

Mental health challenge/depression

- Females are more likely to select than males (42% v. 32%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (25%)

“Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him?”

Physical health challenge

- Hispanics (32%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (22%)

Trauma

- Those who are High School Graduates or less (33%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (19%)

Lifeway Research

"Did God use any of the following difficult experiences to draw you to Him?"

Consequences of my own sin

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (23%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (24%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (39%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (23%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (43% v. 33%)

None of these

- Other Ethnicities are the most likely to select (18%)
- Those in the West are the least likely to select (24%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to select (34%)

Lifeway Research

“In what ways have smart phones and social media helped your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Easy access to a Bible app

- Whites (54%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (44%)

Listening to sermons or Bible teaching

- Whites (52%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (42%)

Following Christian influences

- Those with some college (52%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (43%) or with a Graduate Degree (35%)

Bible verse posts/notifications

- Those in the South (53%) and West (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (44%)

Lifeway Research

“In what ways have smart phones and social media helped your walk with Jesus Christ?”

Finding like-minded Christians

- Those in the Midwest (55%) are more likely to select than those in the South (45%) and West (44%)

Seeing examples of people following Christ

- Whites (50%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (40%)

Helping me share my faith

- Hispanics (52%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (41%)

"In what ways have smart phones and social media hindered your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Unhealthy comparisons to others

- Whites (42%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (32%)
- Those in the Midwest (44%) are more likely to select than those in the South (34%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (47% v. 34%)

Addiction/too much time on it

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (26%)
- Those in the Midwest (49%) are more likely to select than those in the South (41%) and West (34%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (53% v. 38%)

Lifeway Research

"In what ways have smart phones and social media hindered your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Distracting me

- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (55% v. 44%)

Keeping me from Bible reading and prayer

- Those in the West are the least likely to select (31%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (46%) are more likely to select than those with a Graduate Degree (29%)

Tempting me to want more stuff

- Whites (39%) and Hispanics (45%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (29%)

Lifeway Research

"In what ways have smart phones and social media hindered your walk with Jesus Christ?"

Angry reactions to divisive content

- No meaningful significant differences

Listening to non-Christian influencers

- Hispanics are the most likely to select (43%)
- Those in the Midwest are the most likely to select (44%)
- Those with a Bachelor's Degree (43%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (31%)

Pornography

- Males are more likely to select than females (37% v. 24%)
- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (21%)

Lifeway Research

“Rank which influences have been most helpful in your walk with Jesus Christ? Give each a number 1 through 5 with 1 being the most influential. Use a number only once. Leave an item blank if it had no influence on you.”

- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select “Difficult experiences God has brought me through” as their first choice than those in Protestant denominations (30% v. 20%)

"Are you currently involved in ministries or projects that serve people in the community not affiliated with your church?"

- Those age 18-23 are more likely to select "Yes" than those 24-29 (68% v. 57%)
- Whites are the most likely to select "Yes" (67%)
- Those in the West are the most likely to select "Yes" (73%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (61%) or with some college (64%) are more likely to select "Yes" than those with a Graduate Degree (47%)

“Do you currently have regular responsibilities at your church (for example, greeter, teacher, musician, etc.)?”

- Those in the Northeast are the most likely to select “Yes” (71%)
- Those than those with some college (65%) are more likely to select “Yes” who are High School Graduates or less (54%)
- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to select “Yes” than Non-denominational Christians (62% v. 52%)

"Which, if any, of the following do you do at least a few times a week outside of church?"

Read the Bible

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (31%)
- Those in the Midwest (63%) and South (58%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (48%) and West (48%)

Pray for the spiritual status of people I know who are not professing Christians

- Whites (62%) are more likely to select than African Americans (50%) and Hispanics (51%)

Express praise and thanksgiving to God for who He is

- Hispanics (70%) are more likely to select than African Americans (60%)

“Which, if any, of the following do you do at least a few times a week outside of church?”

Pray for opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ

- Those in the West (63%) are more likely to select than those in the South (52%)
- Those with some college (62%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (53%) or with a Bachelor’s Degree (50%)

Set aside time for private worship, praise, or thanksgiving to God

- Whites (58%) are more likely to select than African Americans (46%) and Hispanics (47%)

“Which, if any, of the following do you do at least a few times a week outside of church?”

Pray for people experiencing difficult things

- Whites are the most likely to select (43%)
- Those in the South (40%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (29%) and West (27%)
- Those with some college (37%) or a Graduate Degree (43%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (28%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (47% v. 31%)

"What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? Biblical truths…"

Help me learn to become more like Christ

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (37%)
- Those in the Midwest (54%) and South (53%) are more likely to select than those in the West (44%)

Encourage and inspire me to follow Jesus

- Whites (56%) are more likely to select than African Americans (42%) and Other Ethnicities (43%)
- Those in the South (56%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (46%) and West (42%)
- Those with Graduate Degree (65%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (51%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (45%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (60% v. 48%)

Lifeway Research

“What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? Biblical truths…”

Help me treat other people with Christ's compassion

- Whites (56%) and Hispanics (57%) are more likely to select than African Americans (47%) and Other Ethnicities (43%)

Provide me with hope, comfort, and purpose

- Whites (57%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (47%) and Other Ethnicities (47%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree are the least likely to select (46%)

Give me wisdom and direction for daily decisions

- Whites (56%) are more likely to select than African Americans (48%) and Other Ethnicities (44%)
- Those in the Midwest (60%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (46%) and South (51%)

Lifeway Research

"What role do biblical truths play in your day-to-day choices and thinking? Biblical truths…"

Provide a consistent moral standard

- Those with some college (54%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (45%) or with a Graduate Degree (37%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (57% v. 46%)

Help me trust God through hard times

- Whites (58%) and African Americans (56%) are more likely to select than Hispanics (47%) and Other Ethnicities (38%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (62% v. 51%)

Encourage me to surrender control of my life to God

- No meaningful significant differences

Lifeway Research

"What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids' journey to and with Jesus Christ?"

Reading the Bible together

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (40%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (60% v. 50%)

Teaching how to apply biblical truth to real-life situations

- Whites are the most likely to select (54%)
- Those in the Midwest (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (43%) and West (42%)

Attendance and involvement at church together

- Whites are the most likely to select (51%)
- Those with some college (51%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (40%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (43%)

Lifeway Research

“What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids’ journey to and with Jesus Christ?”

Being living examples of trusting God in all things

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (34%)

Being kind and loving toward others

- No meaningful significant differences

Having open and honest conversations

- Whites are the most likely to select (56%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (61% v. 47%)

Lifeway Research

"What do you recommend parents should emphasize today as they influence their kids' journey to and with Jesus Christ?"

Praying together

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (39%)
- Those in the Midwest (57%) and South (59%) are more likely to select than those in the West (43%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (67% v. 50%)

Encouraging kids to have a personal relationship with God

- Whites (55%) and African Americans (52%) are more likely to select than Other Ethnicities (38%)
- Non-denominational Christians are more likely to select than those in Protestant denominations (64% v. 47%)

Not pushing kids; having patience with their faith journey

- Whites are the most likely to select (44%)

Lifeway Research

"What style of church do you think is most helpful for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ?"

Worship attendance of 250 or more people

- Other Ethnicities are the least likely to select (17%)

Worship attendance of less than 250 people

- Females are more likely to select than males (47% v. 38%)
- Those in the Midwest (49%) are more likely to select than those in the South (40%) and West (39%)

Lots of production for the worship service (e.g., lights, custom backdrops, etc.)

- Hispanics (45%) and Other Ethnicities (45%) are more likely to select than Whites (35%) and African Americans (33%)
- Those in the Northeast (43%) and West (42%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (33%)

Lifeway Research

“What style of church do you think is most helpful for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ?”

Liturgical (congregational readings, reciting prayers, rituals)

- Those in the West are the most likely to select (44%)
- Those in Protestant denominations are more likely to select than Non-denominational Christians (40% v. 28%)

Relational (everyone knows everyone)

- Those age 18-23 are more likely to select than those 24-29 (47% v. 36%)
- Whites (43%) are more likely to select than African Americans (33%)
- Those in the West (47%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (37%) and South (38%)

“What style of church do you think is most helpful for helping people your age and younger with their walk with Jesus Christ?”

Programming for every age group

- Hispanics (54%) are more likely to select than African Americans (43%) and Other Ethnicities (39%)

Addressing relevant topics

- No meaningful significant differences

Bible-focused sermons

- Whites are the most likely to select (59%)
- Those in the South (58%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (47%) and Midwest (49%)