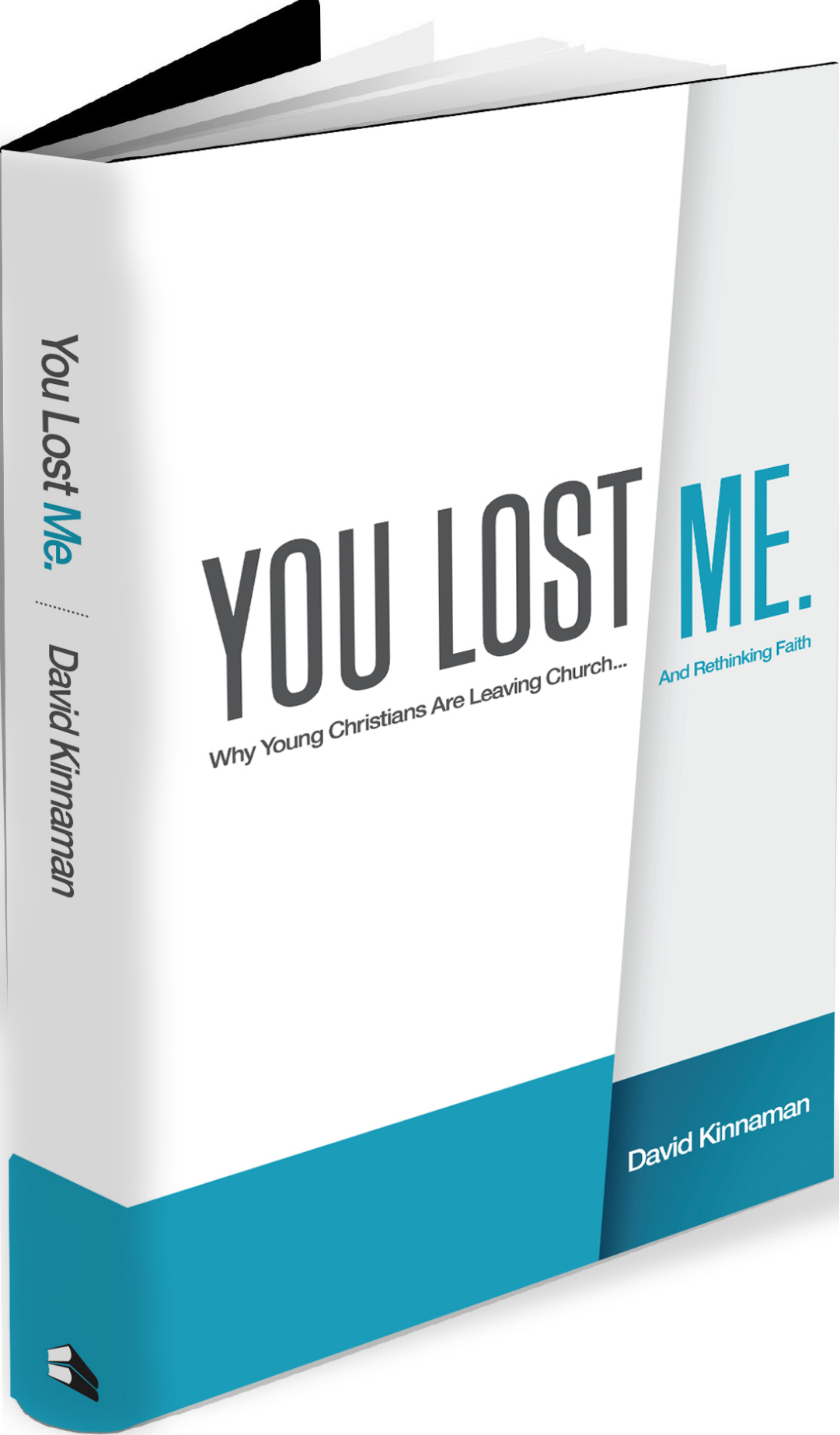
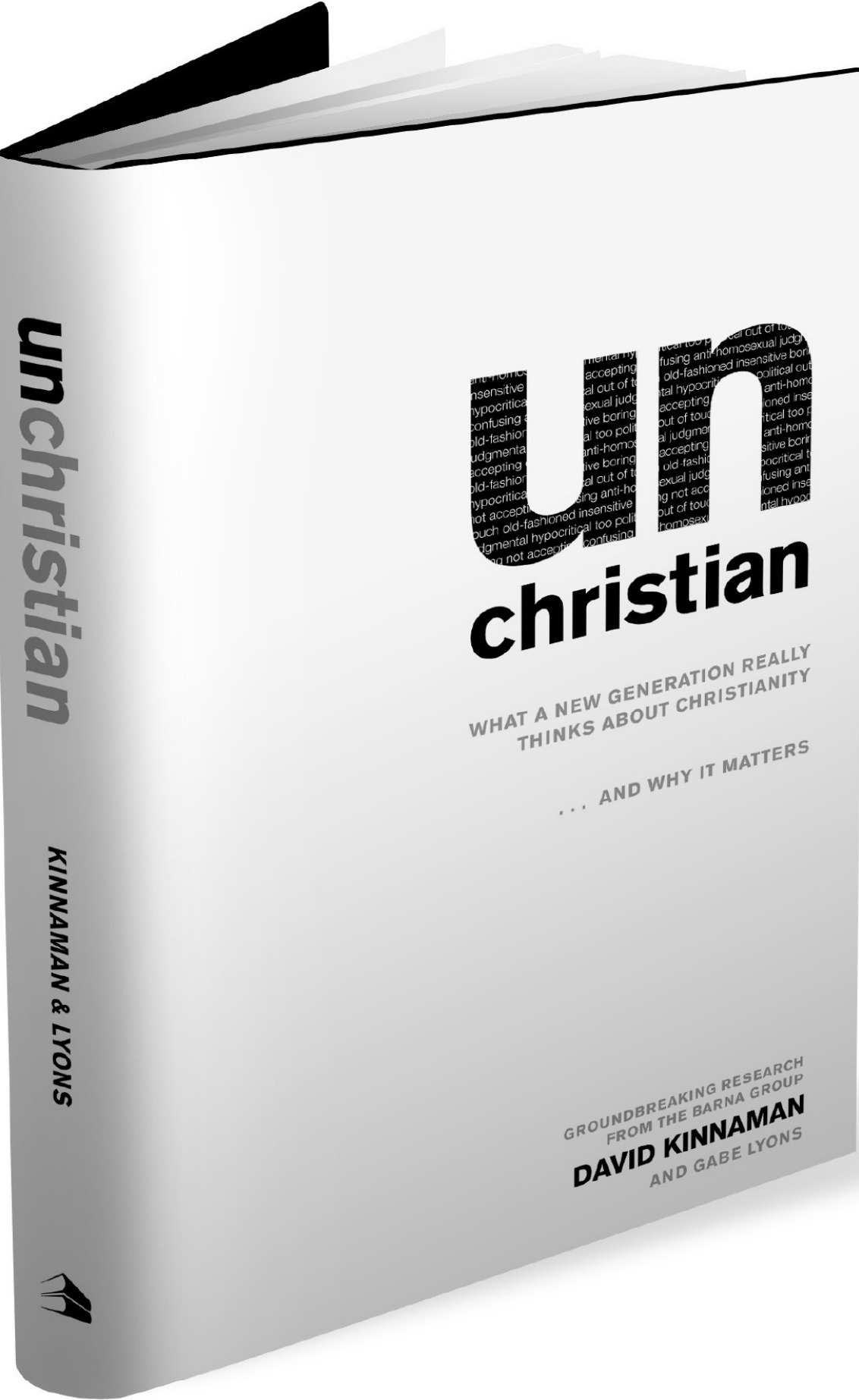
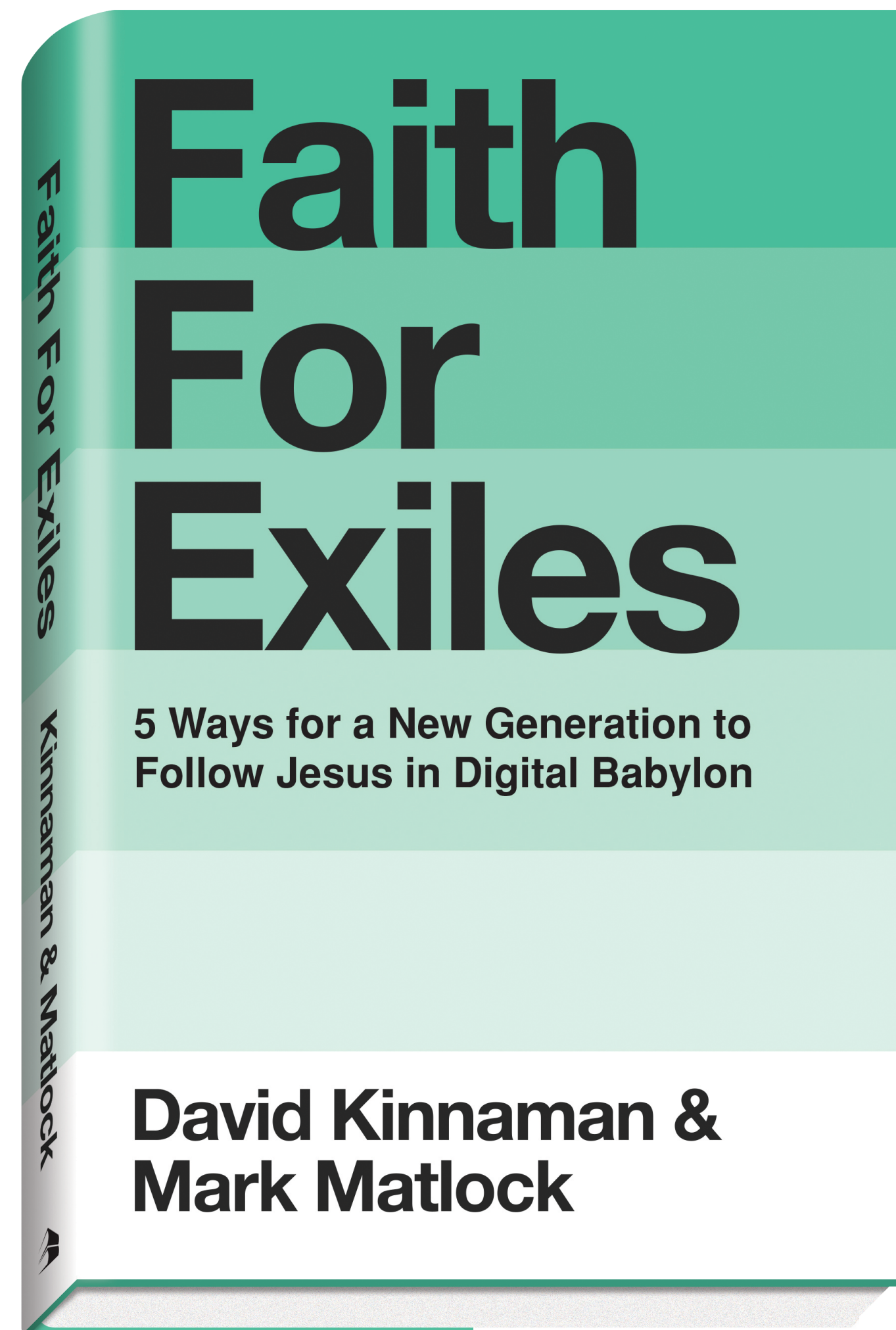


Faith For Exiles

**5 Ways a New Generation Can
Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon**

**David Kinnaman &
Mark Matlock**





Digital Babylon & Resilient Exiles

We live in a complicated, accelerated culture.

“Jerusalem”

- * Faith at the center
- * Monotheistic
- * Slower pace
- * Idol: false piety
- * Simple life


“Babylon”

- * Faith in the margins
- * Pluralistic
- * Accelerated, frenetic
- * Idol: fitting in, being up to speed
- * Bitter/sweet tension


Weight of Digital Babylon v. Spiritual Input

Among “typical” 15- to 23-year-olds, estimated number of hours per year ...

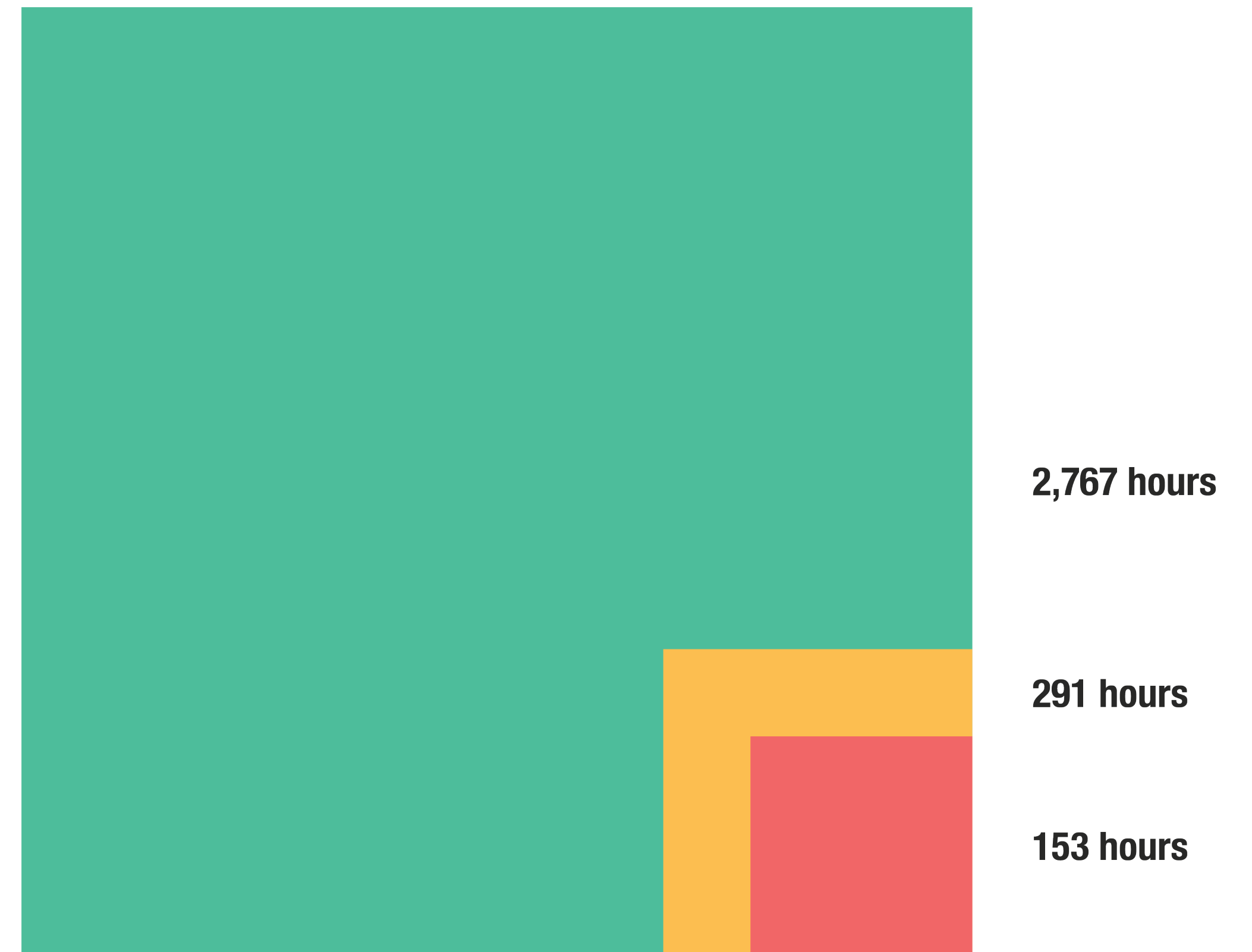
Using screen media

 Typical 15- to 23-year-old
2,767 hours

Taking in spiritual content

 Typical 15- to 23-year-old
153 hours

 Typical 15- to 23-year-old churchgoer
291 hours



Screens disciple.

Four Kinds of Exiles

18- to 29-year-olds who grew up as Christians



22%

Prodigals
(ex-Christians)



30%

Nomads
(lapsed Christians)



38%

Habitual
Churchgoers



10%

Resilient
Disciples

How We Defined Resilient Disciples

Christ followers who:

(1) attend church at least monthly and engage with their church more than just attending worship services;

(2) trust firmly in the authority of the Bible;

(3) are committed to Jesus personally and affirm he was crucified and raised from the dead to conquer sin and death; and

(4) express desire to transform the broader society as an outcome of their faith.

What Practices Distinguish Resilient Disciples?



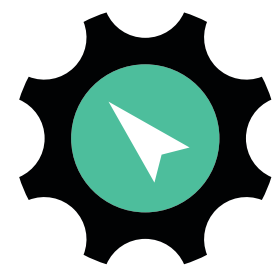
Experiencing Jesus



Cultural Discernment



Meaningful Relationships



Vocational Discipleship



Countercultural Mission

What Resilience Looks Like

Experiencing Jesus

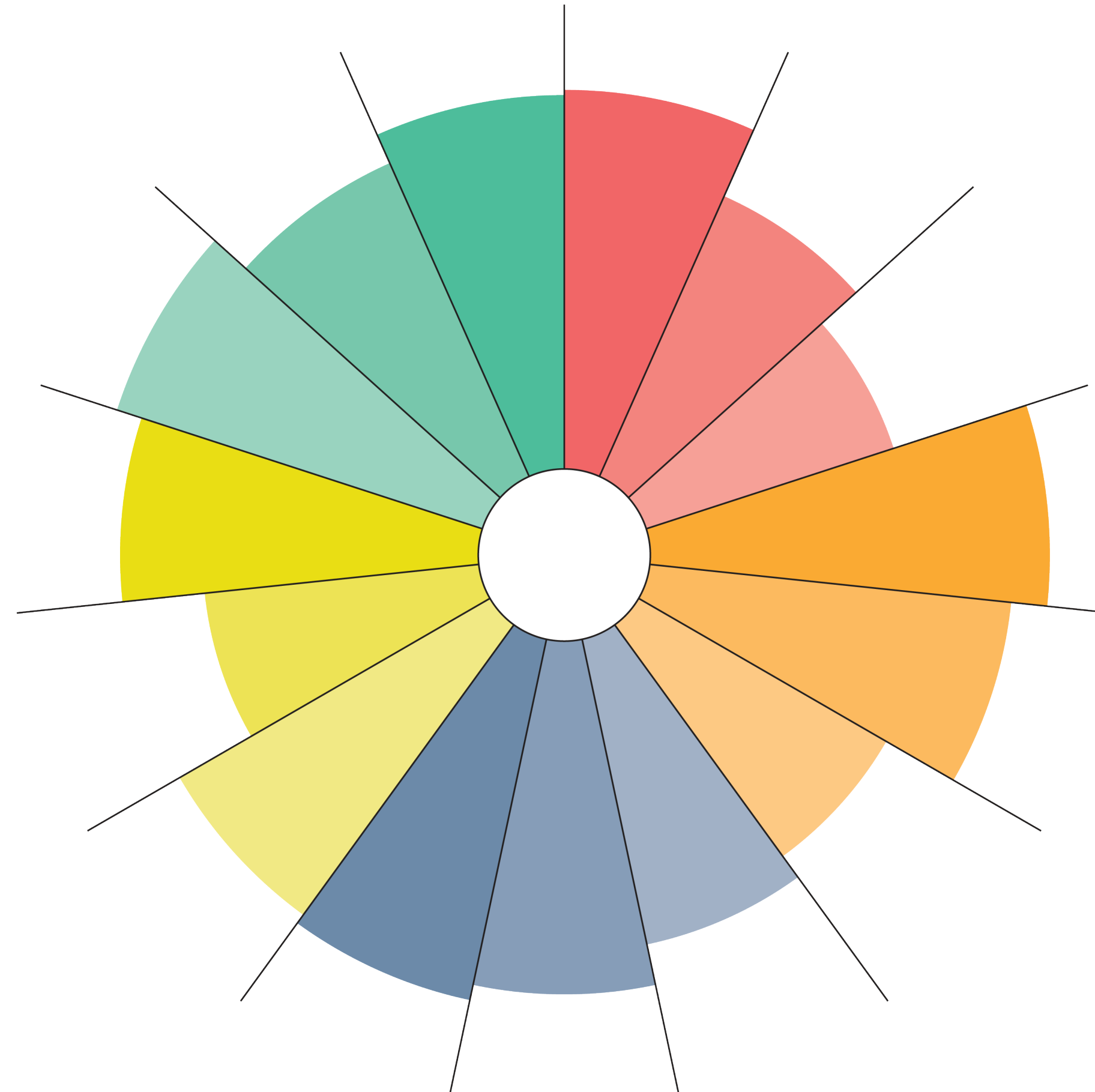
- My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction **89%**
- Jesus speaks to me in a way that is relevant to my life **83%**
- Worship is a lifestyle, not just an event **91%**

Cultural Discernment

- The Bible teaching I receive in my church is relevant to my life **86%**
- In my church I regularly receive wisdom for how to live faithfully in a secular world **70%**
- In my church I regularly receive wisdom for how the Bible applies to my life **86%**

Meaningful Relationships

- The church is a place where I feel I belong **88%**
- There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually **85%**
- When growing up, I had close personal friends who were adults from my church **77%**



Countercultural Mission

- I want others to see Jesus reflected in me through my words and actions **90%**
- I have a responsibility to tell others about my religious beliefs **76%**
- I am excited by the mission of the church in today's world **67%**

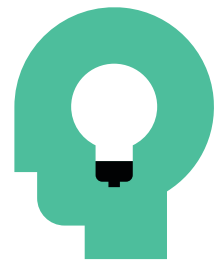
Vocational Discipleship

- I want to use my unique talents and gifts to honor God **94%**
- God designs each person with a unique calling for their life **87%**
- My church does a good job of helping me understand how to live out my faith in the workplace **72%**

Pressures Facing Today's Exiles



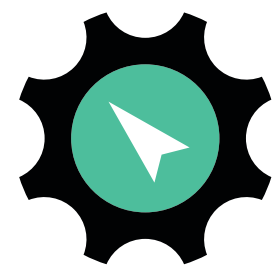
Searching for Identity: *Who am I, really?*



Fighting Anxiety: *How should I live in today's world?*



Experiencing Loneliness: *Am I loved?*



Harnessing Ambition: *What's my purpose?*



Feeling Entitled: *What matters beyond me?*

Practice 1

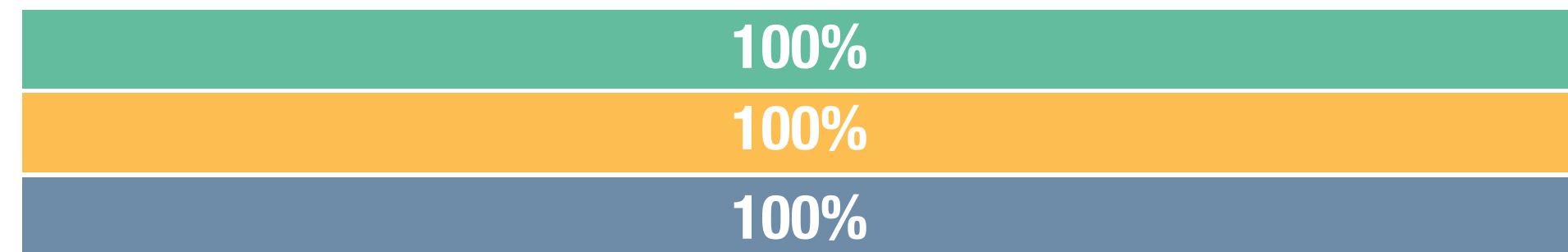
Experiencing Jesus

Experiencing Jesus means clearing religious clutter for closeness with and joy in Christ.

It's Easy to Say You're a Christian...

Identifying as Christian

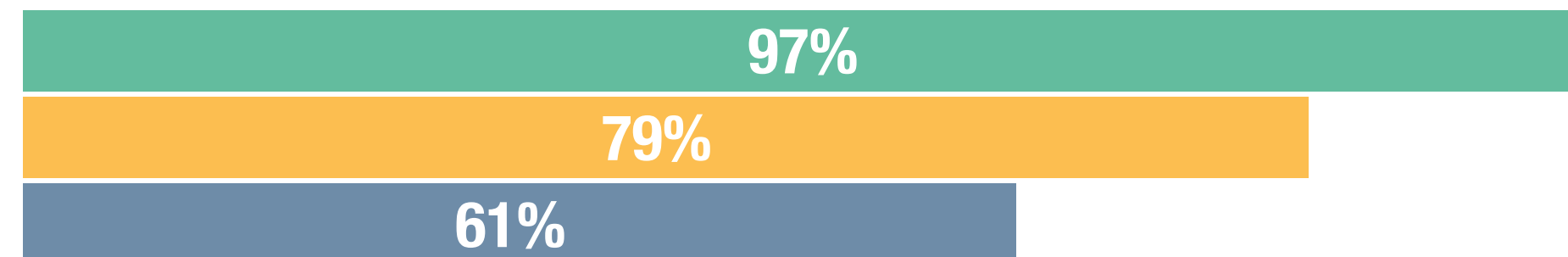
Right now, what religious faith do you consider yourself to be? Christian*



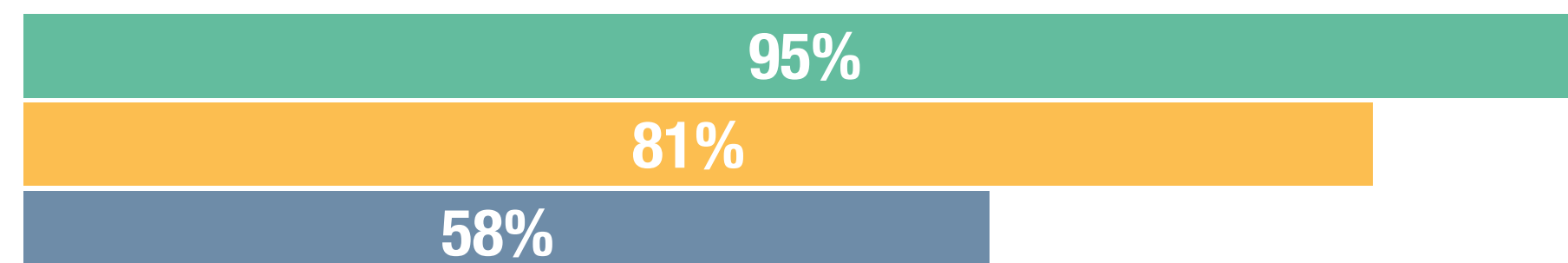
- Resilient Disciples
- Habitual Churchgoers
- Nomads / Unchurched

Which of the following phrases best fits how you would describe your faith to others? (completely or mostly)

A follower of Jesus



A Christian



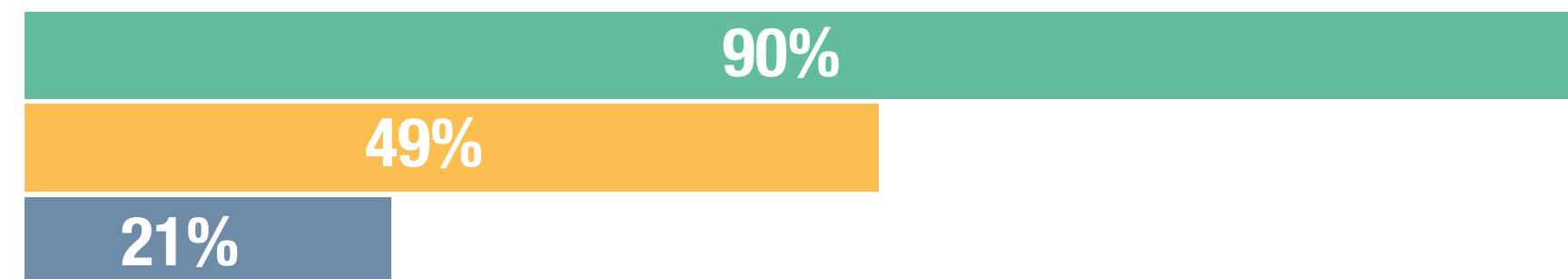
* This question was used in part to define prodigals from the other three segments.

n=1,514 18-29-year-olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

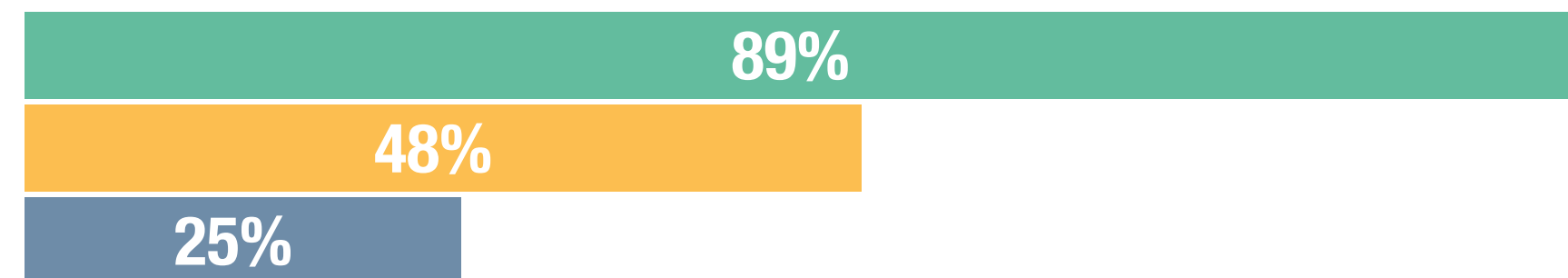
...but Less Common to Find Joy in Jesus

Finding Identity in Jesus

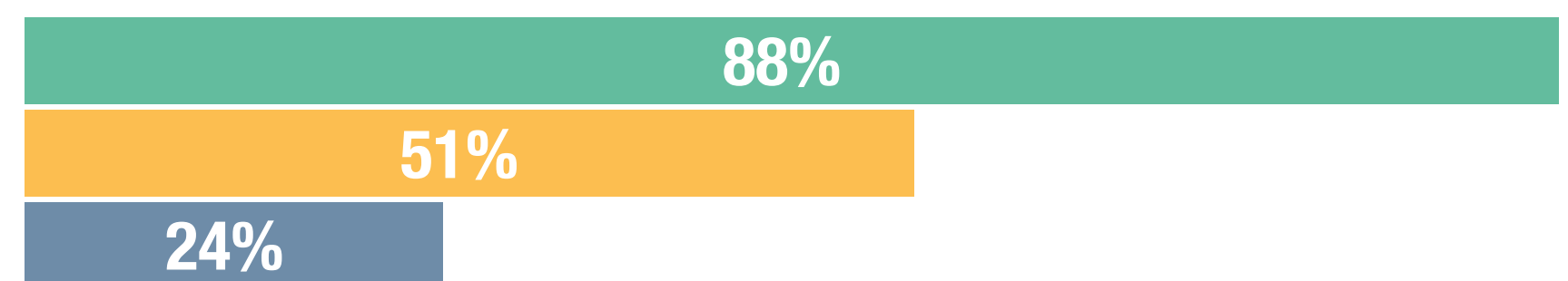
I believe living in relationship with Jesus is the only way to find fulfillment in life



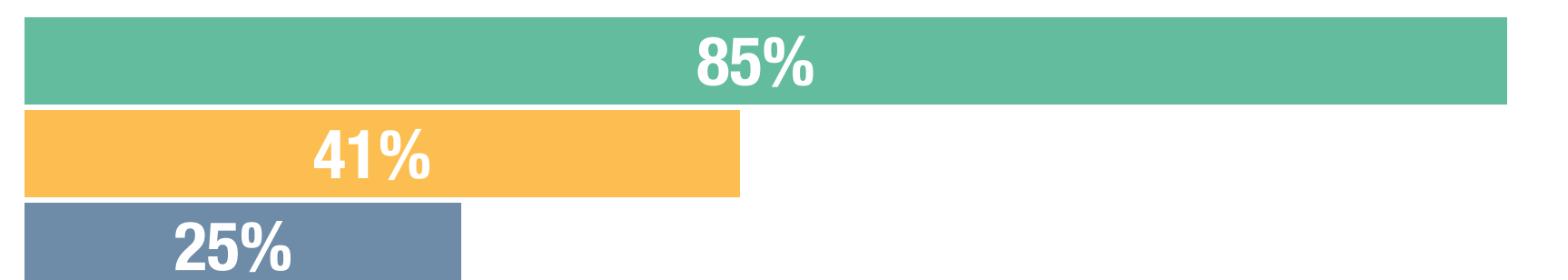
My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction



Following Jesus shapes my whole life: body, mind, heart and soul

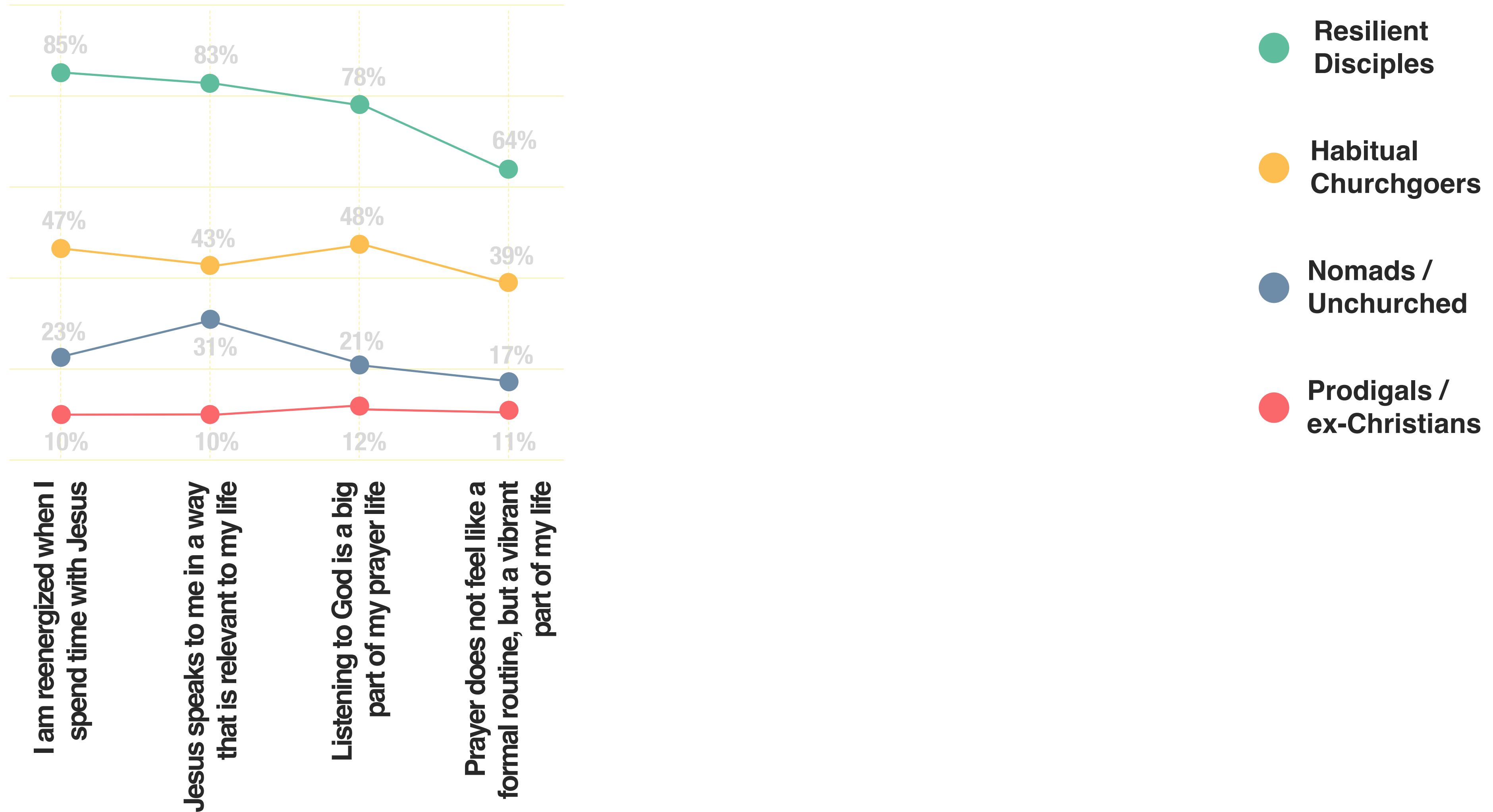


My relationship with Jesus impacts the way I live my life every day



- Resilient Disciples
- Habitual Churchgoers
- Nomads / Unchurched

Talking with Jesus



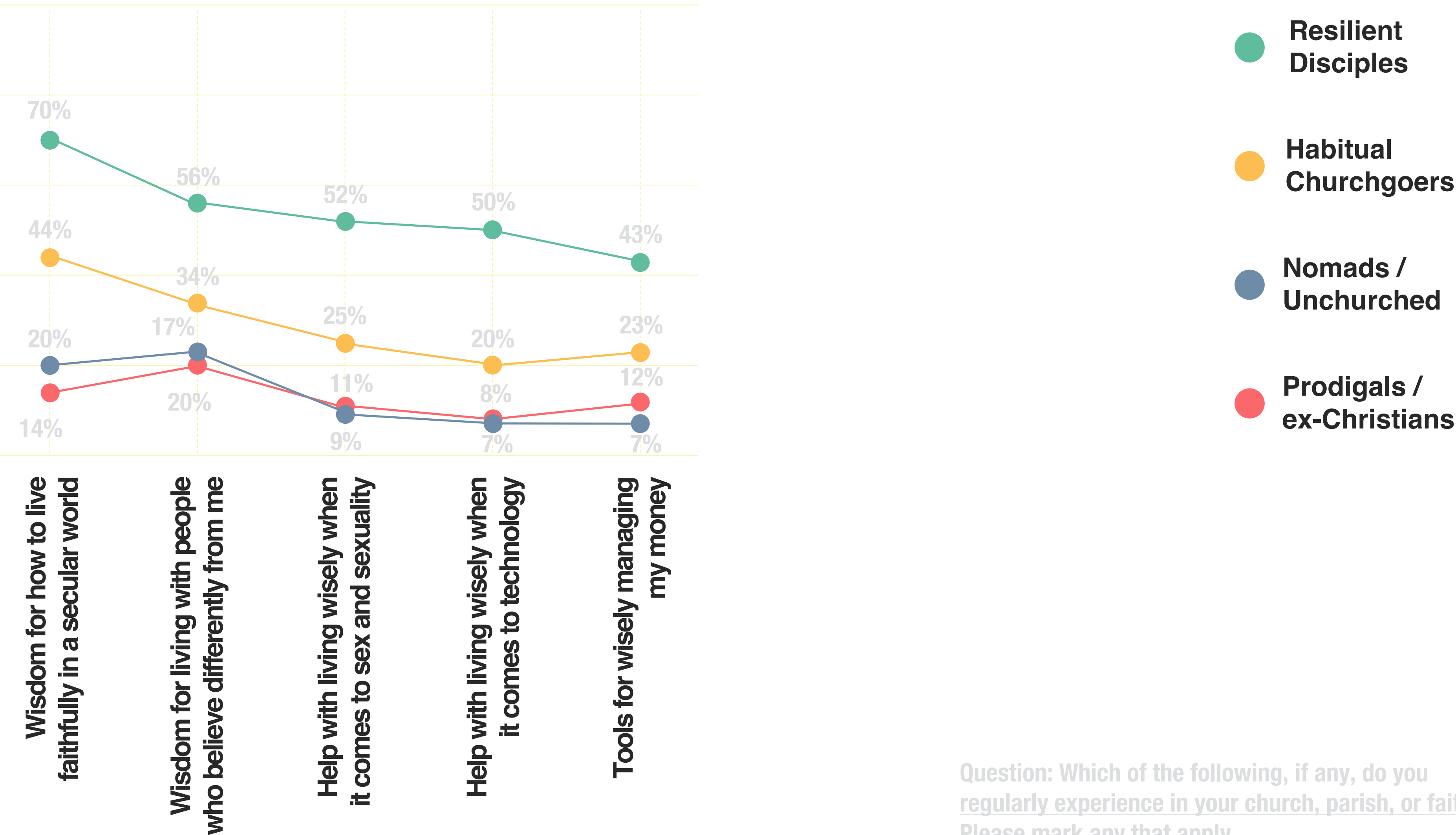
Practice 2

Cultural Discernment

Cultural discernment means taking part in a robust learning community under the authority of the Bible in order to wisely navigate an accelerated, complex culture.

How Churches Build Cultural Discernment

Experiences at church, among those who attend

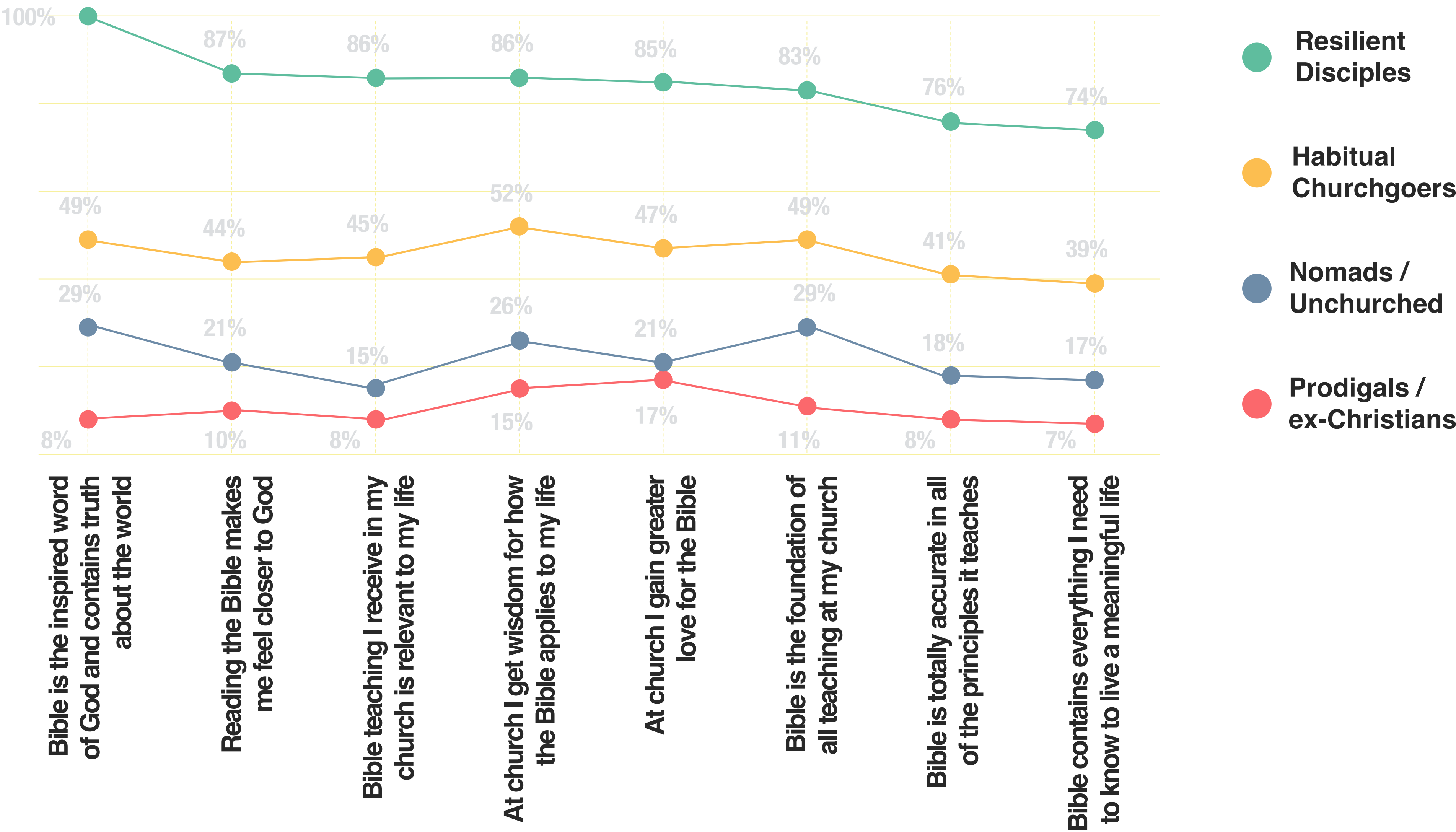


n=1,514 18-29-year-olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?
Please mark any that apply.
And if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

Building Lives on the Bible

% who agree strongly with each statement

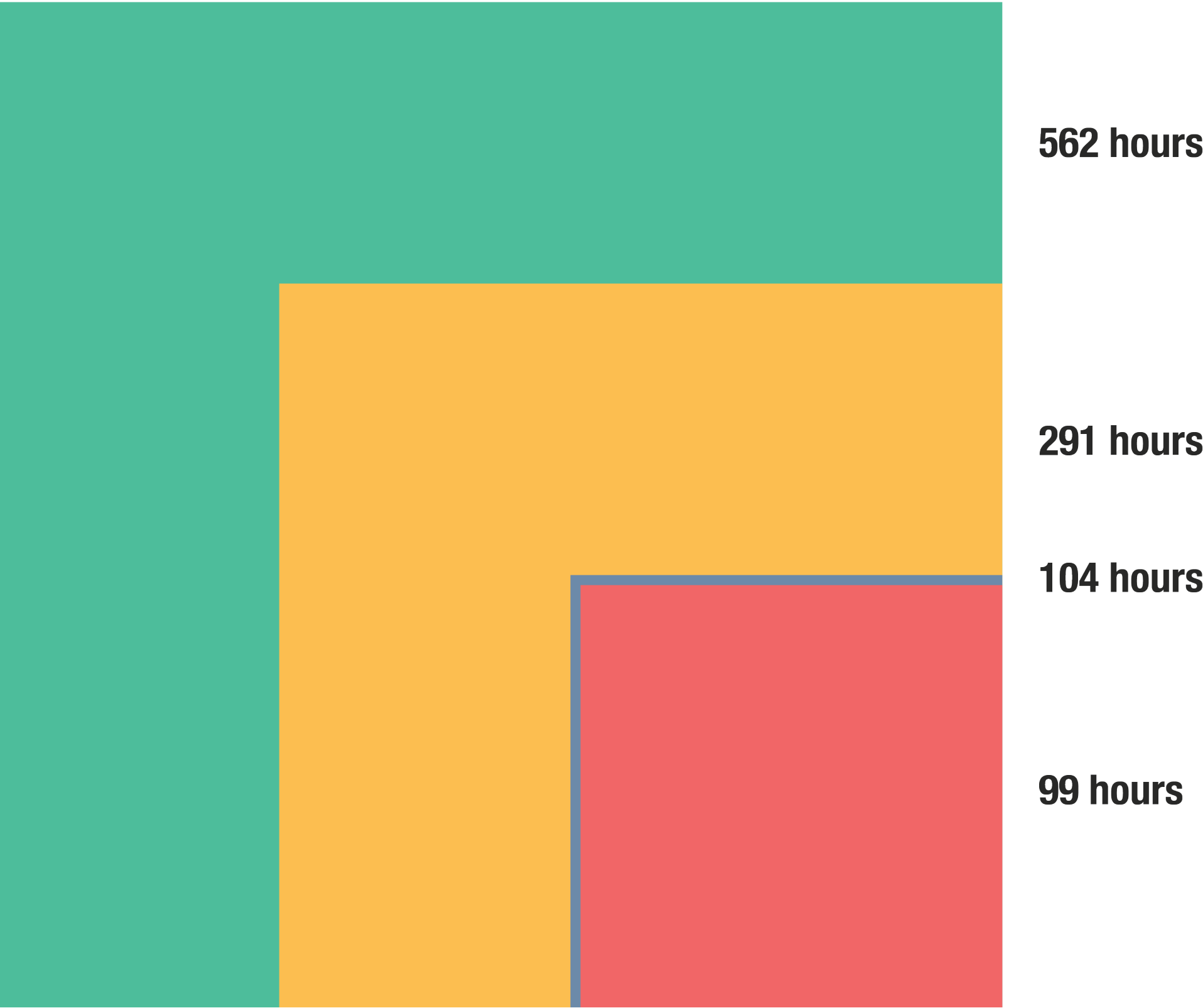


n=1,514 18-29-year-olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

Habits Matter: Resilient Disciples Digest Nearly Double the Hours of Christian Content Annually

Annual Intake of Faith Content, 15-23-year-olds

<div></div>	Prodigals / ex-Christians	99 hours
<div></div>	Nomads / unchurched	104 hours
<div></div>	Habitual churchgoers	291 hours
<div></div>	Resilient disciples	562 hours

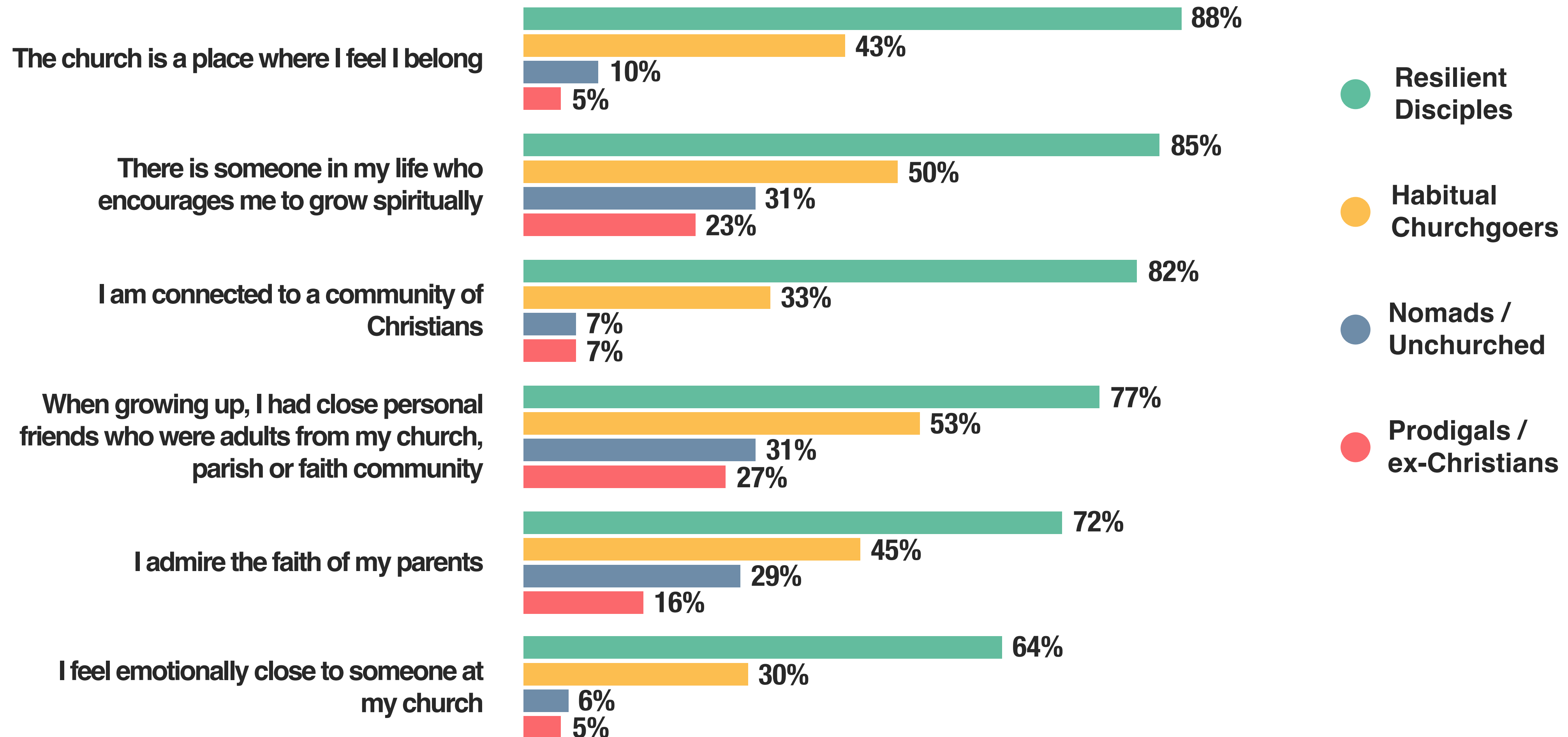


Practice 3

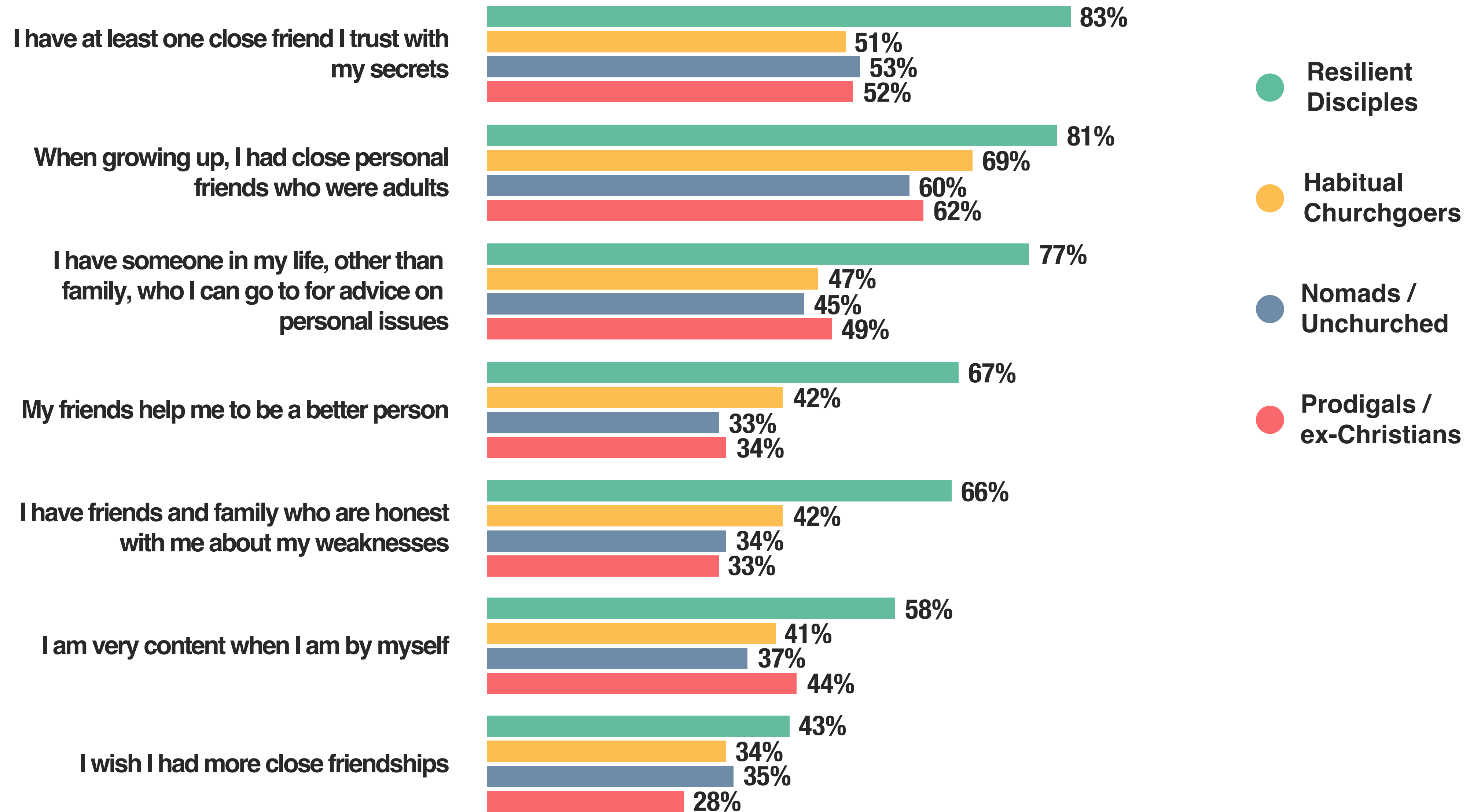
Meaningful Relationships

Meaningful relationships means being devoted to fellow believers we want to be around and become.

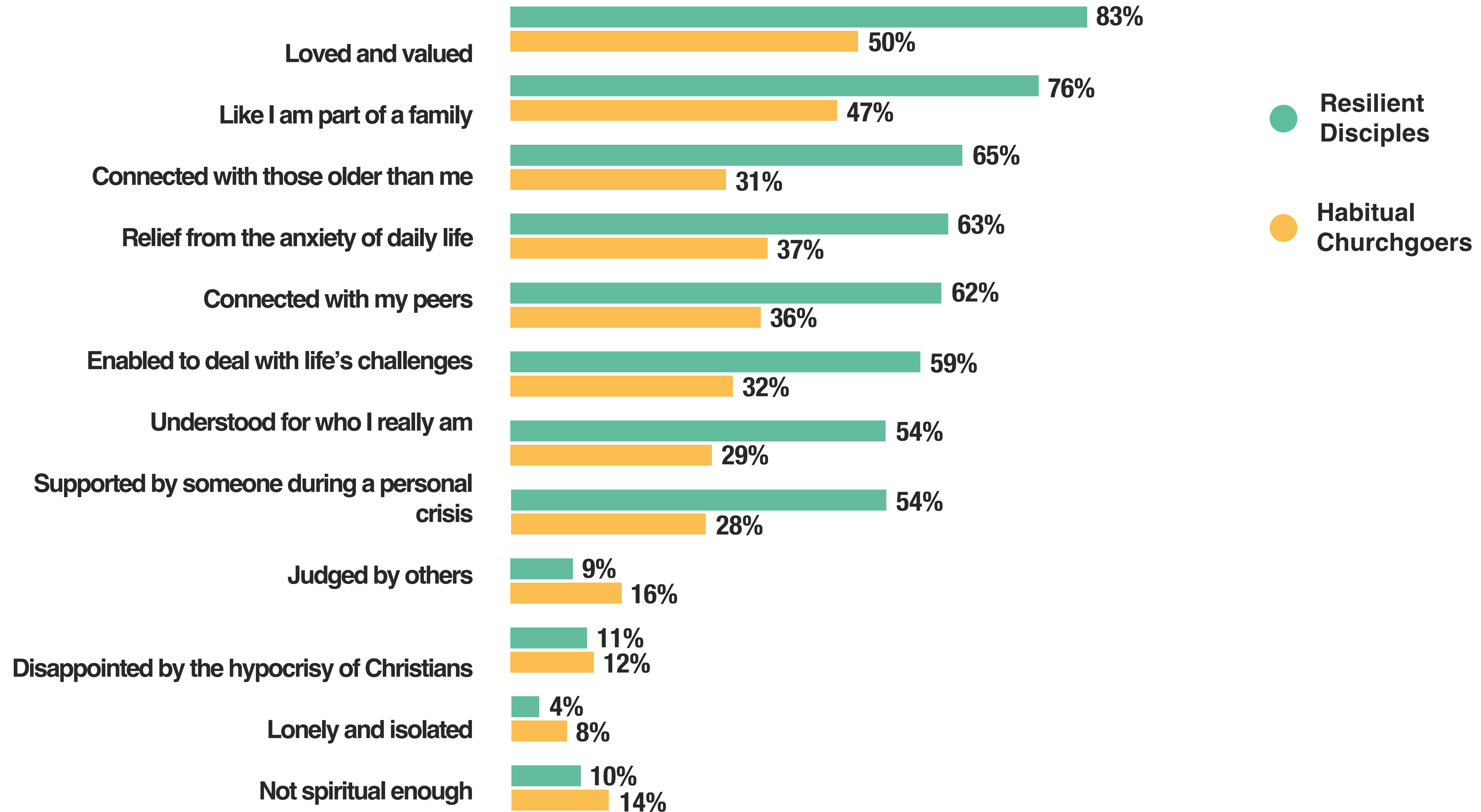
Meaningful Relationships



Resilient Disciples Have Strong Networks



The Emotional Climate of Church

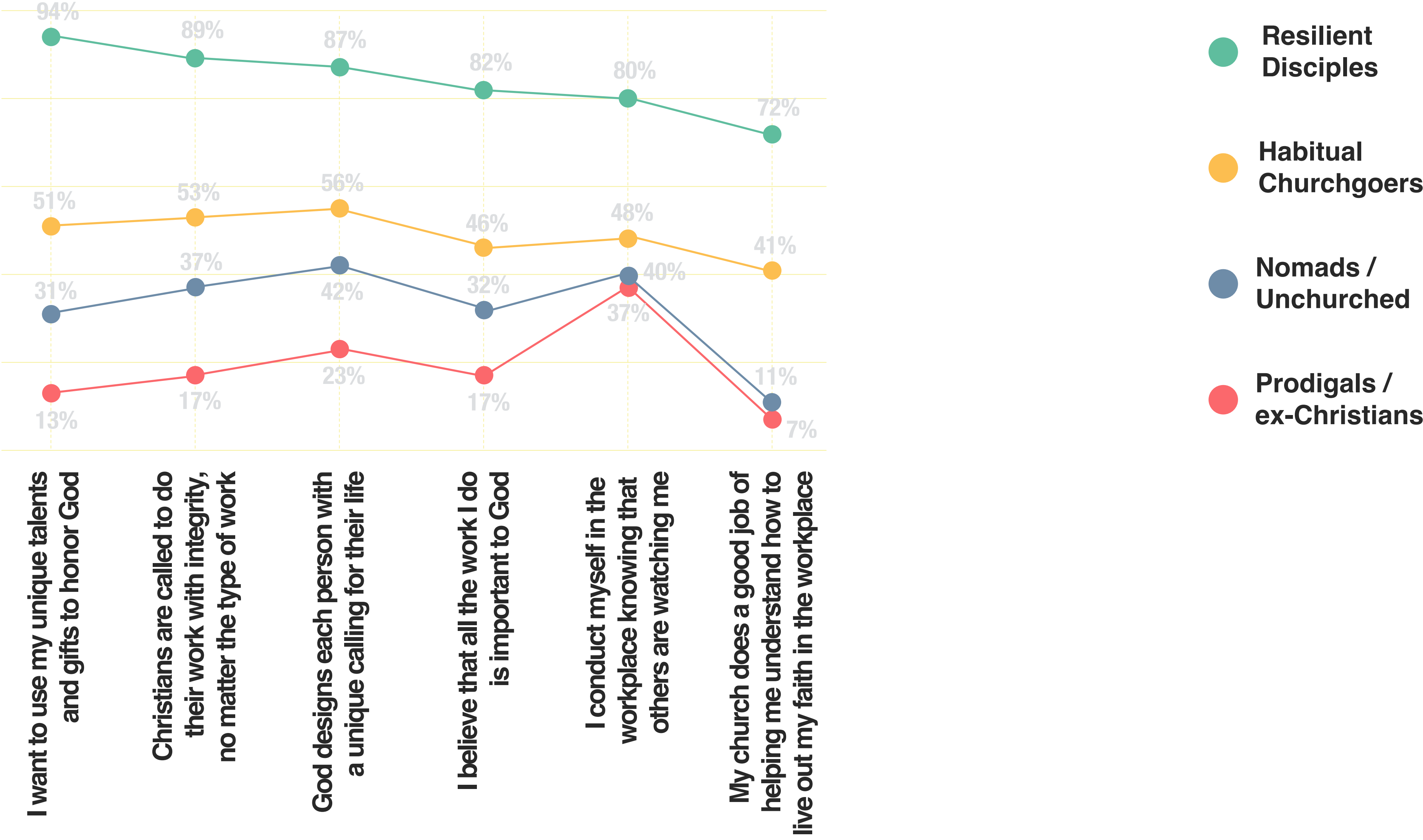


Practice 4

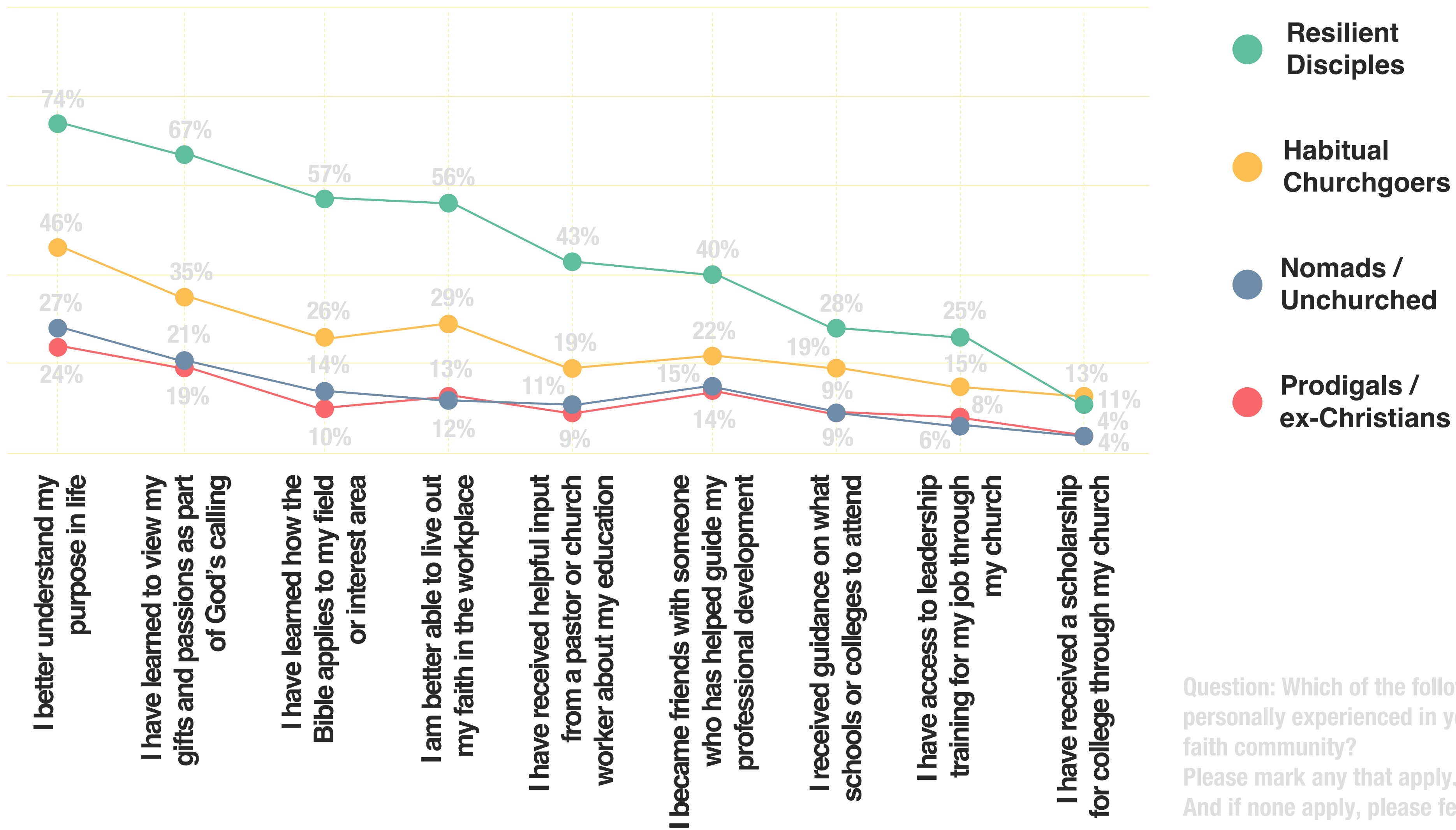
Vocational Discipleship

Vocational discipleship means knowing and living God's calling, especially in the arena of work, and right-sizing our ambitions to God's purposes.

Vocational Discipleship



How Churches Shape a Sense of Calling



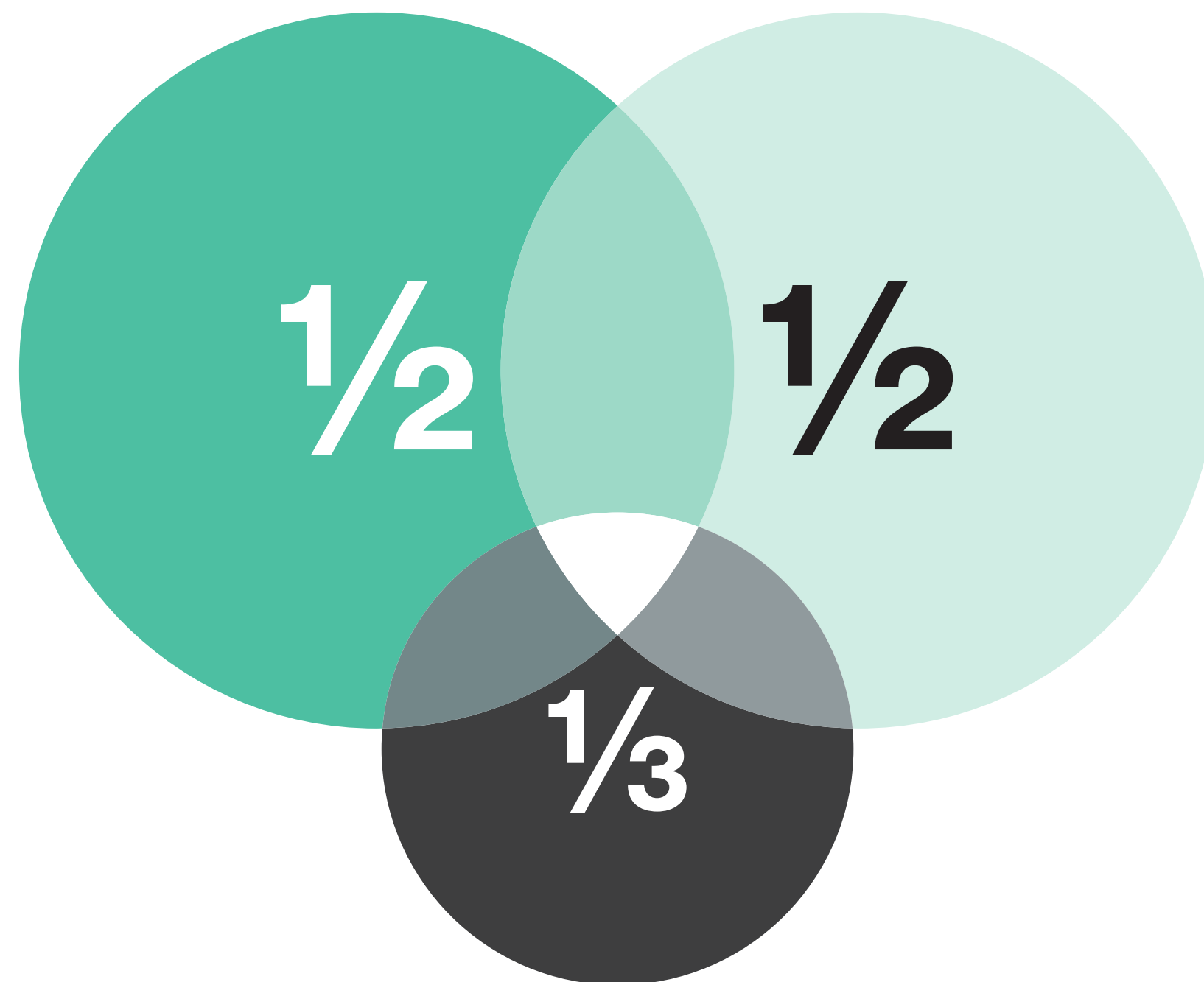
n=1,514 18-29-year-olds who grew up as Christians | February 2018

Question: Which of the following, if any, have you personally experienced in your church, parish or faith community?
Please mark any that apply.
And if none apply, please feel free to mark that.
*excludes those who never go to church

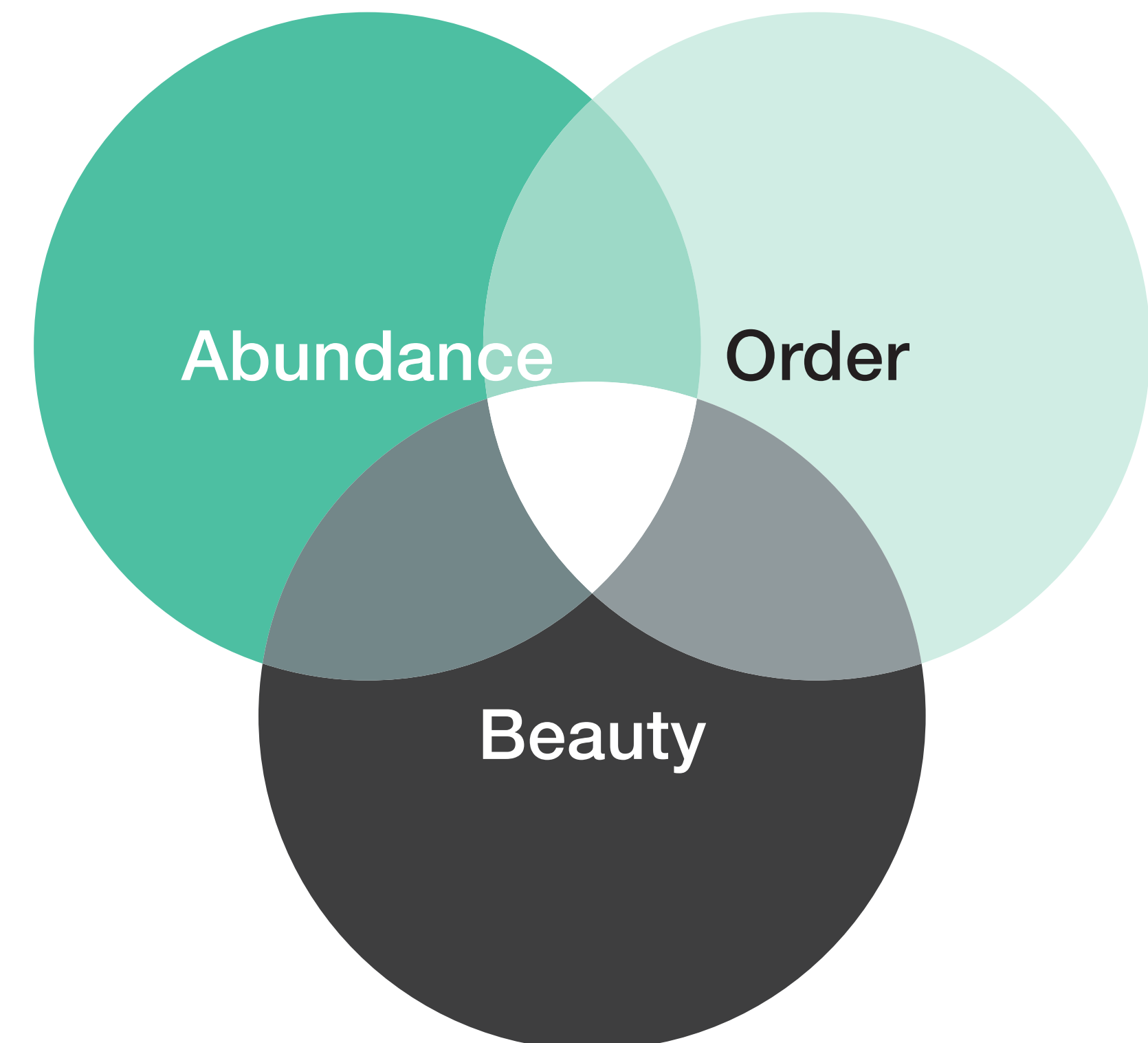
Connecting Desired Careers with God's Design for Work

Vocational Aspirations of Practicing Christian Teens

■ Entrepreneurial ■ Science-minded ■ Creative



Three Ways God Designed Work for Good

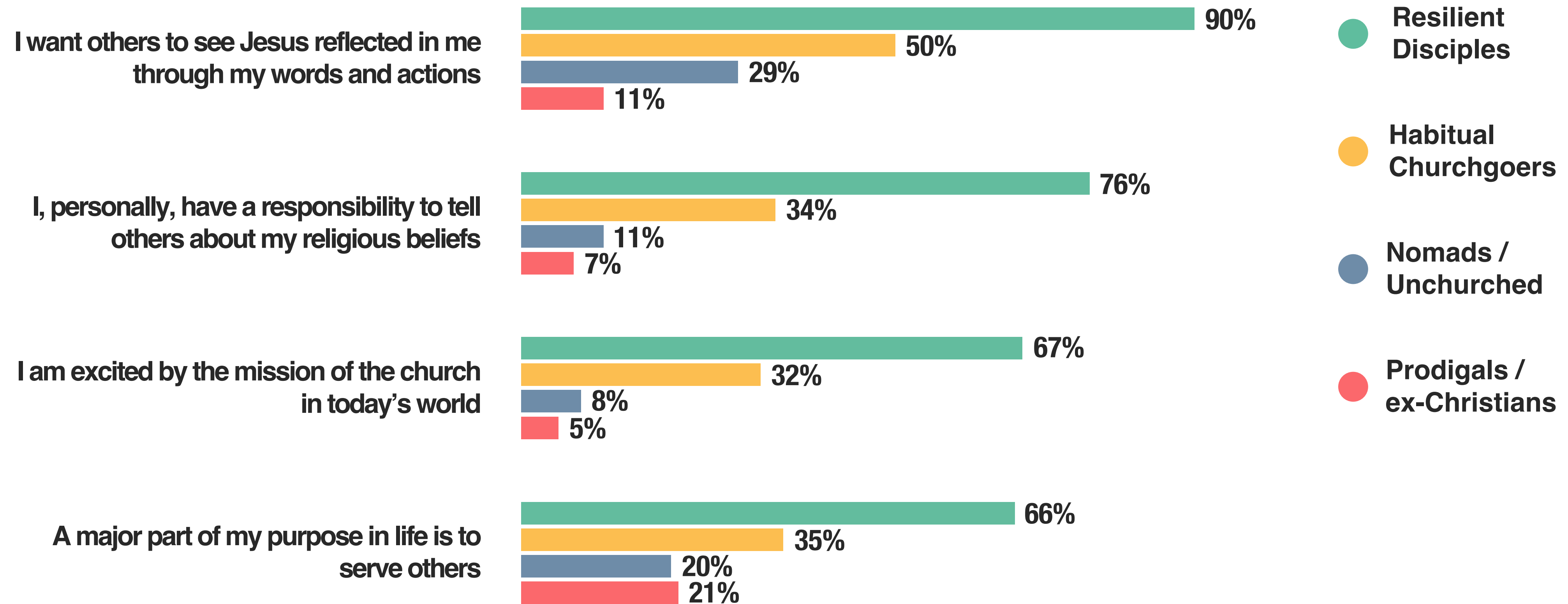


Practice 5

Countercultural Mission

Participating in countercultural mission means serving as a faithful presence by trusting in God's power and living differently from cultural norms.

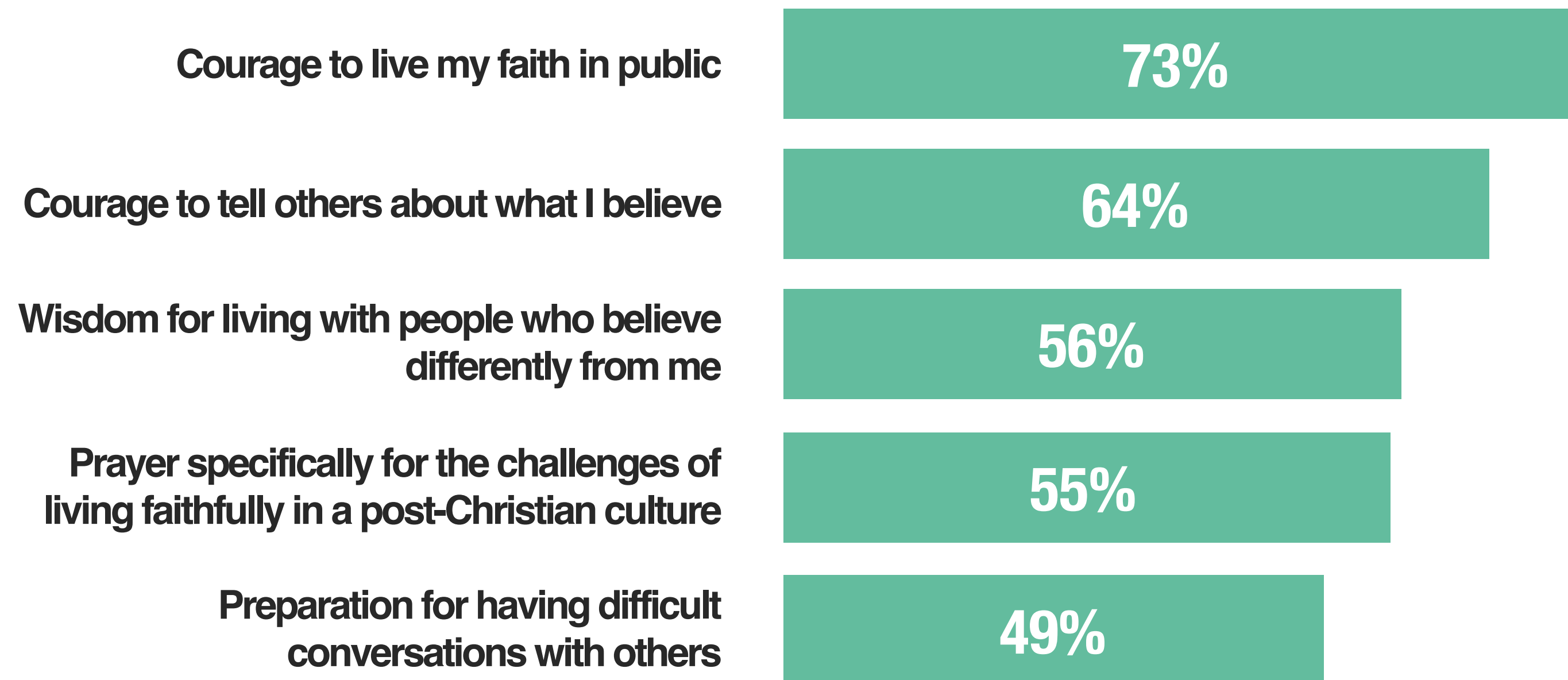
Resilient Disciples Have a Deep Sense of Mission



How Churches Contribute to Countercultural Mission Part 1

What resilient disciples experience at church

Building Courage & Readiness

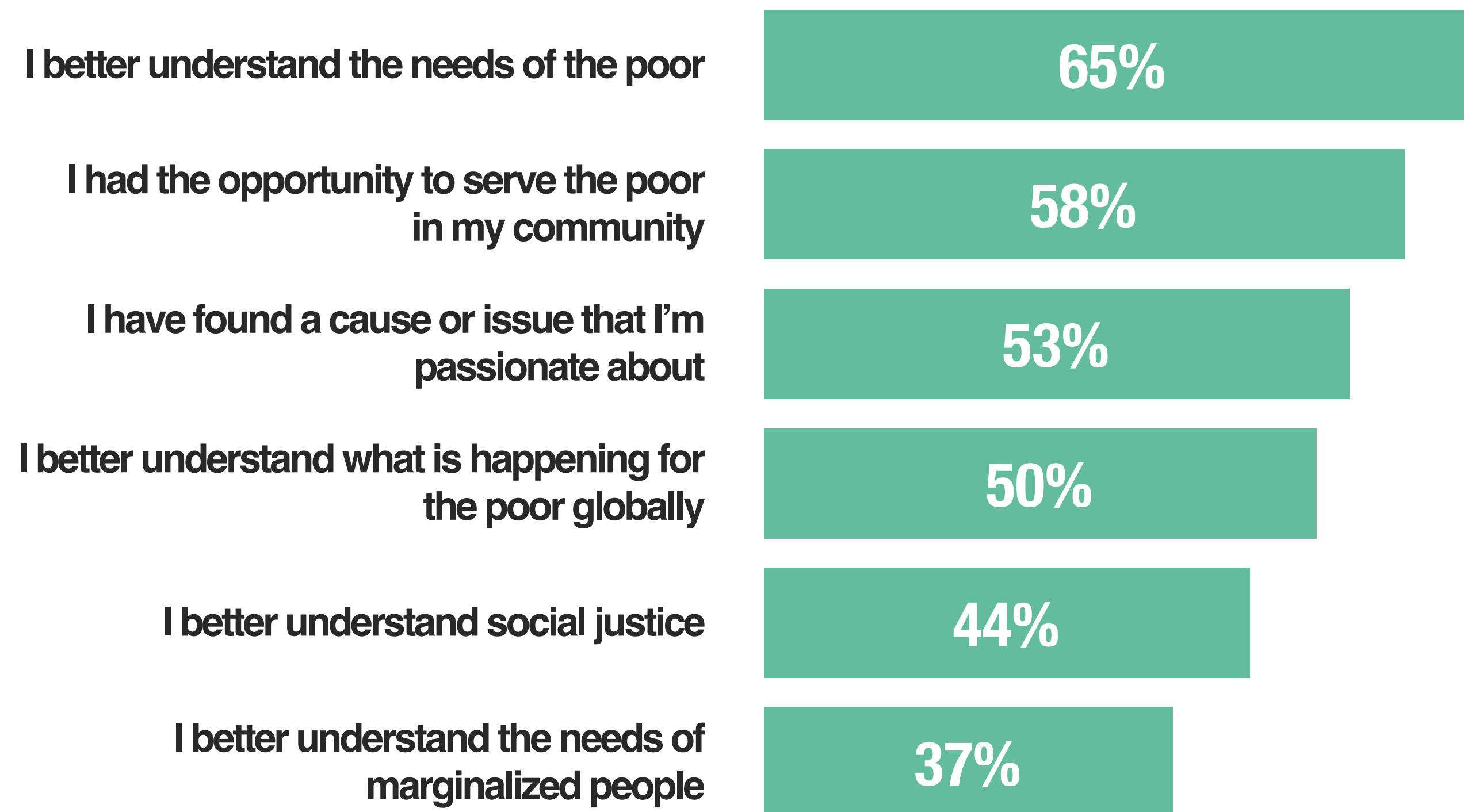


Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?
Please mark any that apply.
And if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

How Churches Contribute to Countercultural Mission Part 2

What resilient disciples experience at church

Stoking Compassion



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?
Please mark any that apply.
And if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

How Churches Contribute to Countercultural Mission Part 3

What resilient disciples experience at church

Giving Real Opportunities to Contribute



Question: Which of the following, if any, do you regularly experience in your church, parish, or faith community?
Please mark any that apply.
And if none apply, please feel free to mark that.

What We Can Learn from Exiles

- Exiles live for the sake of others.
- Exiles take epic risks for the sake of what's right.
- Exiles make prayer a mission.
- One mandate for exiles is faithfulness, or holiness.
- God is at work for good, even in exile.
- Exiles find their home in God himself.

**Exiles are instrumental to God's
purposes in times of change.**

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