

Households of Faith





For more information about this study and to see the complete findings, check out our 2019 report:

Households of Faith

The full report is available at shop.barna.com or through Barna Access membership.

Key Findings

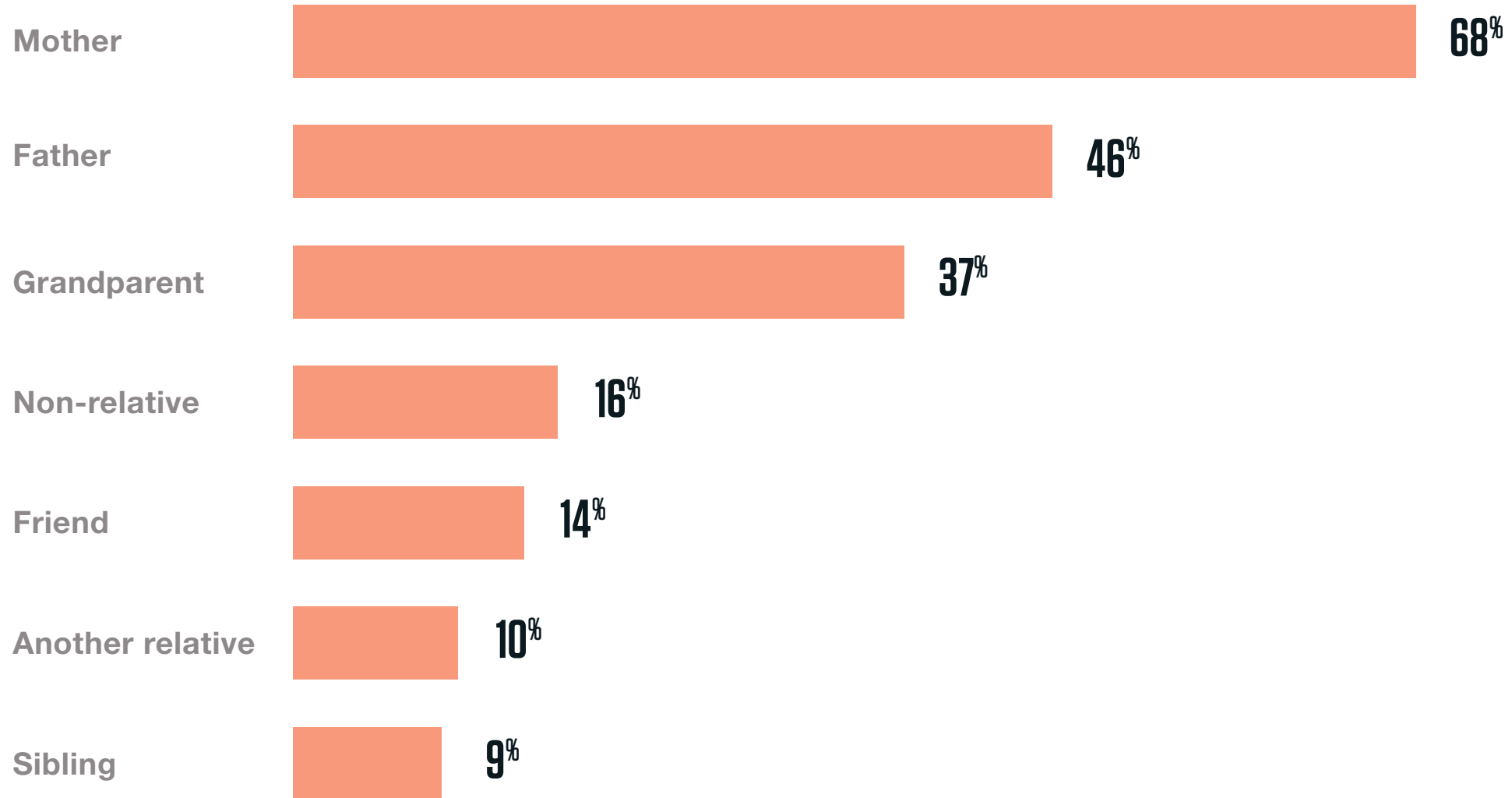
Faith formation is connected to and increases with hospitality.

Faith heritage impacts Christians' beliefs and practices for the long term.

Kids become a catalyst for any interaction, including faith-related ones.

Spiritually vibrant households are characterized by fun and quality time.

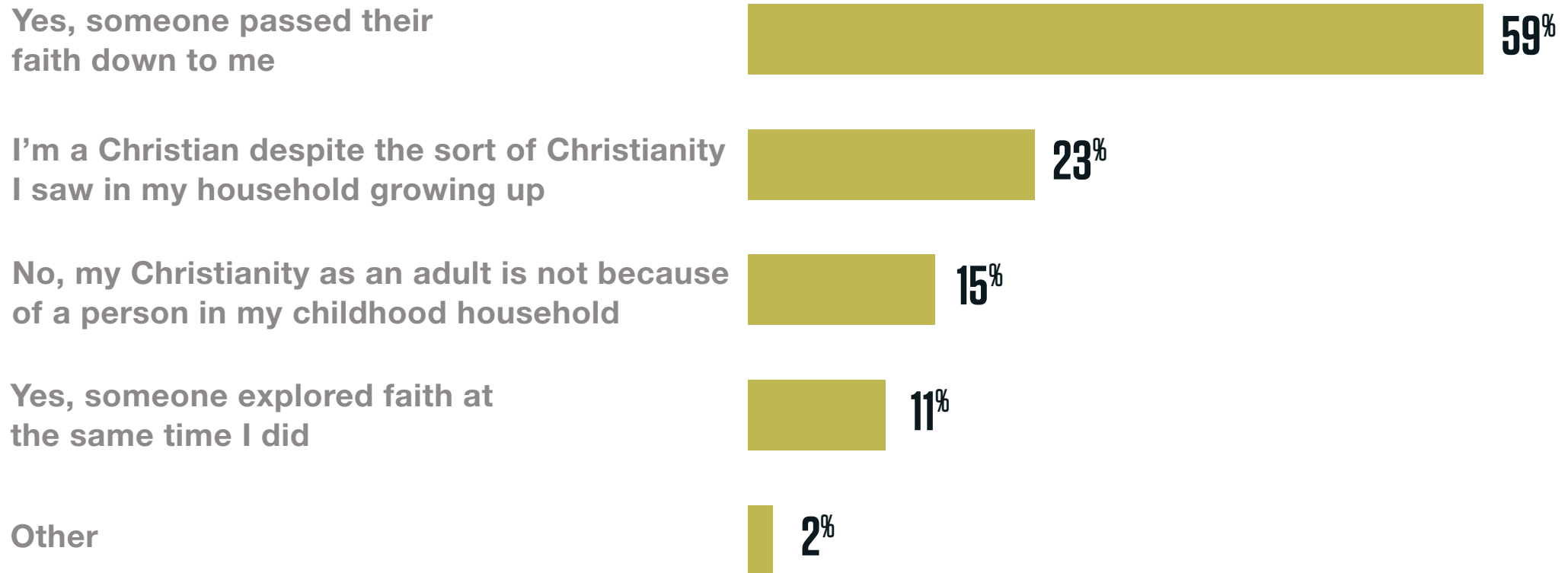
Whose Faith Influenced You?



n=725 U.S. practicing Christian adults who grew up with someone who influenced their faith and who did not inherit their faith from birth, April 5–11, 2018.

Faith Experiences with Families of Origin

*Would you say you are a Christian as an adult because of a person you grew up with in your household?
Check all that apply.*



n=1,116 U.S. practicing Christian adults who say they became a Christian after birth, April 5–11, 2018.

An Introduction to the Spiritually Vibrant Household

● Vibrant

These households talk about God or faith together weekly, pray together every day or two, read the Bible together weekly and welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month.

● Hospitable

These households welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month. They do not talk about God or faith together weekly, do not pray together every day or two and do not read the Bible together weekly.

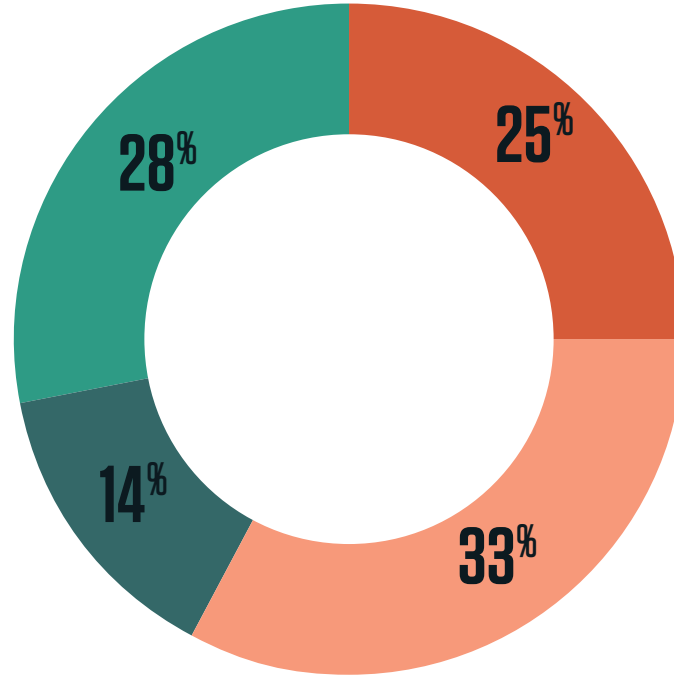
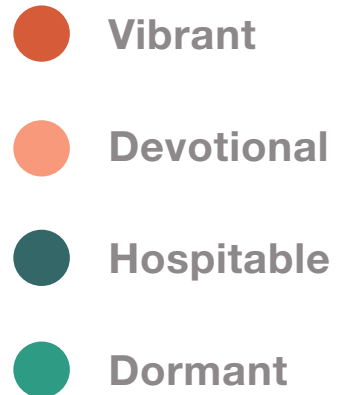
● Devotional

These households talk about God or faith together weekly, pray together every day or two and read the Bible together weekly. They do not welcome non-family visitors at least several times a month.

● Dormant

These households do not qualify as vibrant, devotional or hospitable.

An Introduction to the Spiritually Vibrant Household

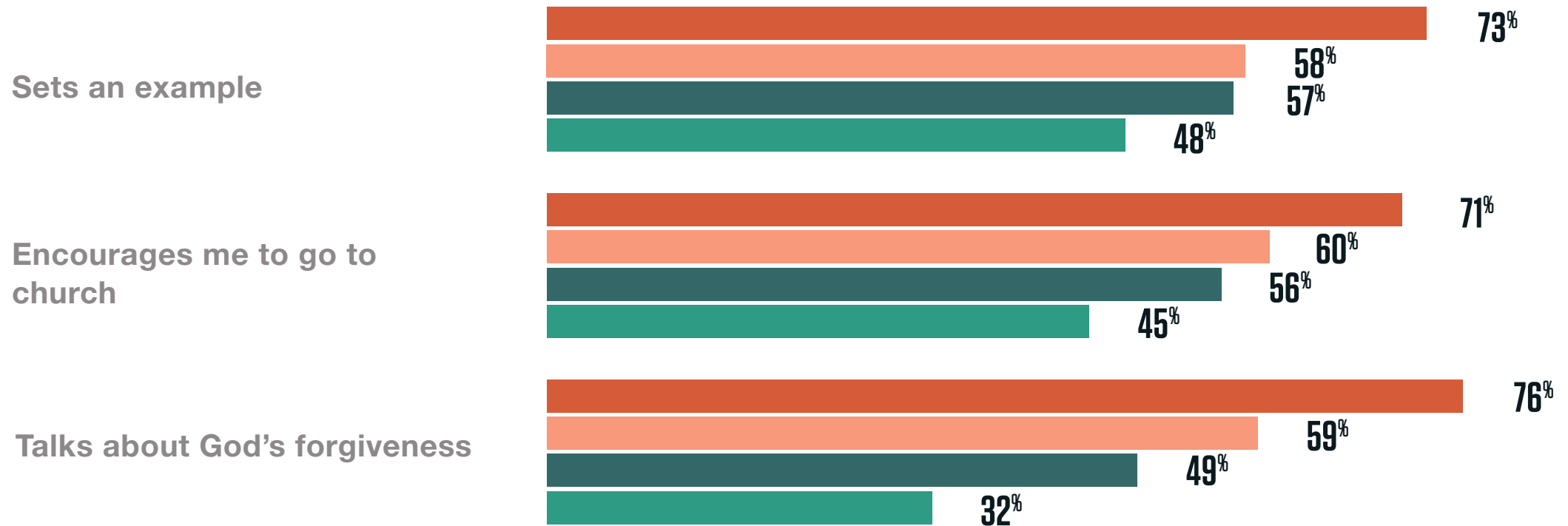


n=2,347 U.S. practicing Christian adults
and teens, April 5–11, 2018.

Models of Faith & Spiritual Vibrancy Part 1

% indicates having a member of their household who does the following to share about their faith

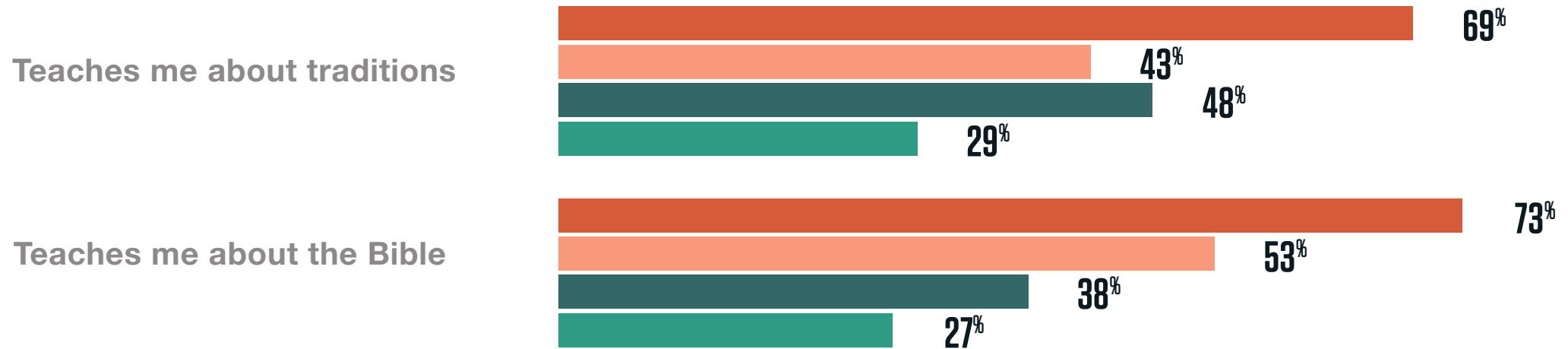
● Vibrant ● Devotional ● Hospitable ● Dormant



Models of Faith & Spiritual Vibrancy Part 2

% indicates having a member of their household who does the following to share about their faith

● Vibrant ● Devotional ● Hospitable ● Dormant



About the Research

Trends in American Households



Trends in American Households

“Boomerang” kids

Millennials delaying marriage & family

Rising cost of living in cities

Blended families

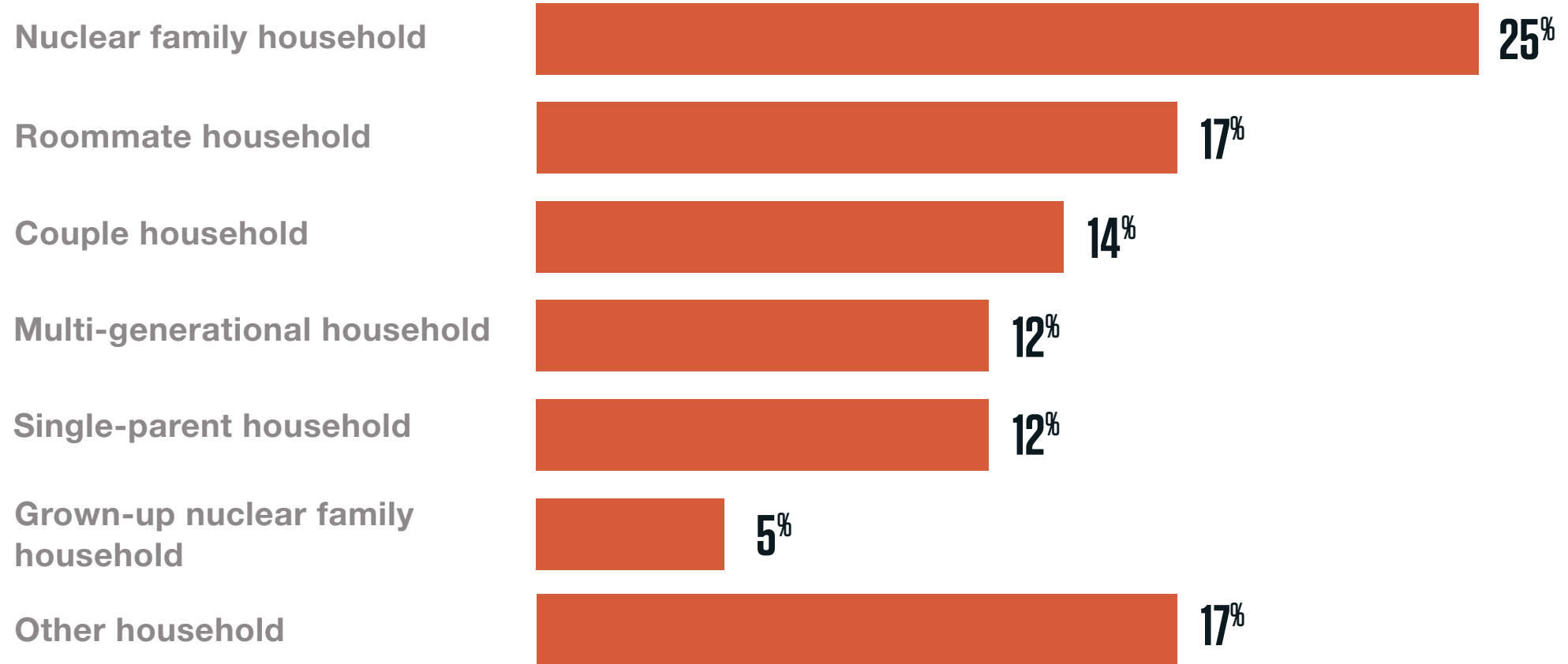
Increased diversity

Post-Christian culture

Declining church participation

DIY faith formation

Distribution of Household Types in This Study



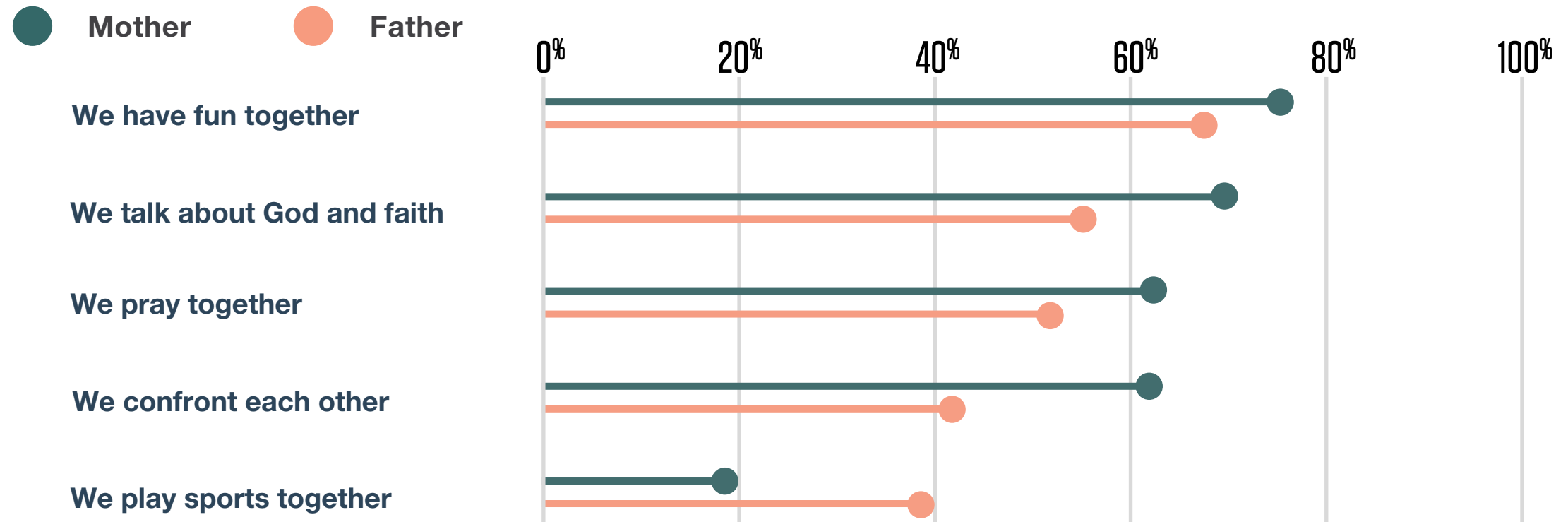
n=2,347 U.S. practicing Christian adults and teens, April 5–11, 2018. Total does not add up to 100 percent due to small overlap in single-parent and multi-generational groups.

The Roles of Mothers & Fathers



Teens' One-on-One Time with Various Household Members

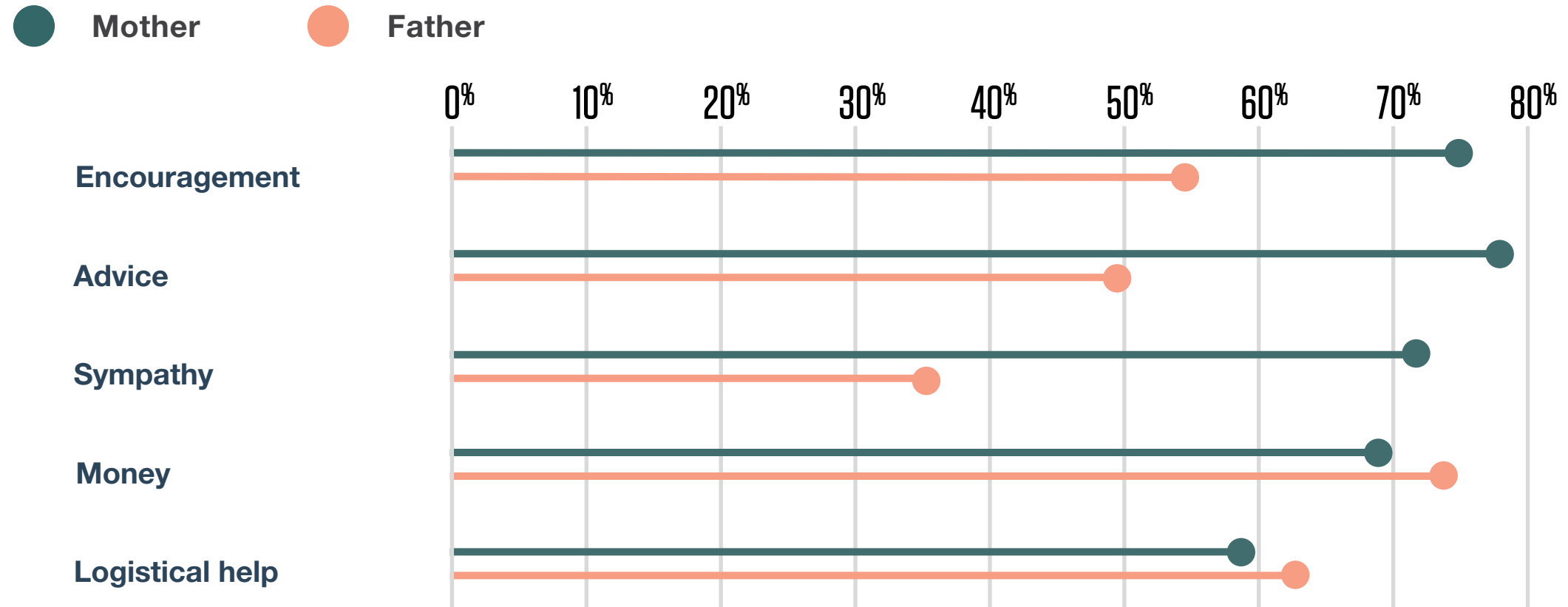
% of teens who say they have done this activity with this member of their household or extended household in the past month



n=448 U.S. practicing Christian teens, April 5–11, 2018. Respondents were only shown relationship types they live with or those who regularly visit them in their home.

Where Teens Get Support

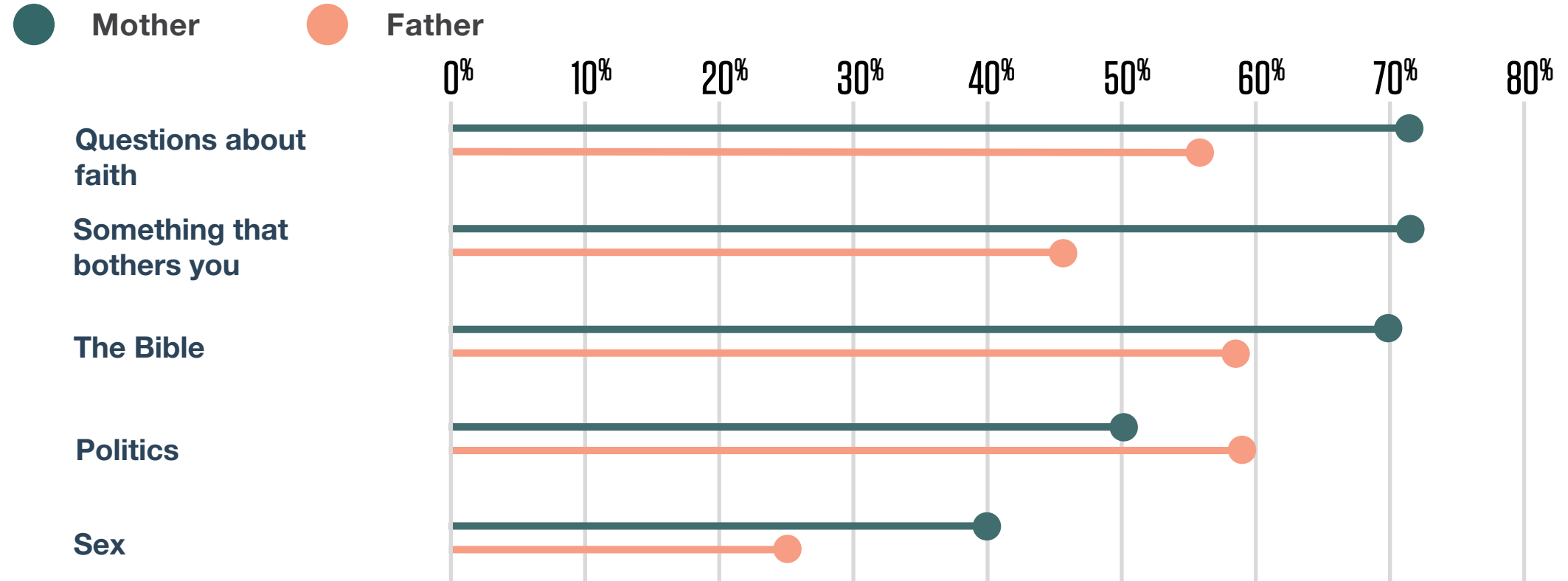
% of teens who say they are most likely to go to this member of their household or extended household for...



n=448 U.S. practicing Christian teens, April 5–11, 2018. Respondents were only shown relationship types they live with or those who regularly visit them in their home.

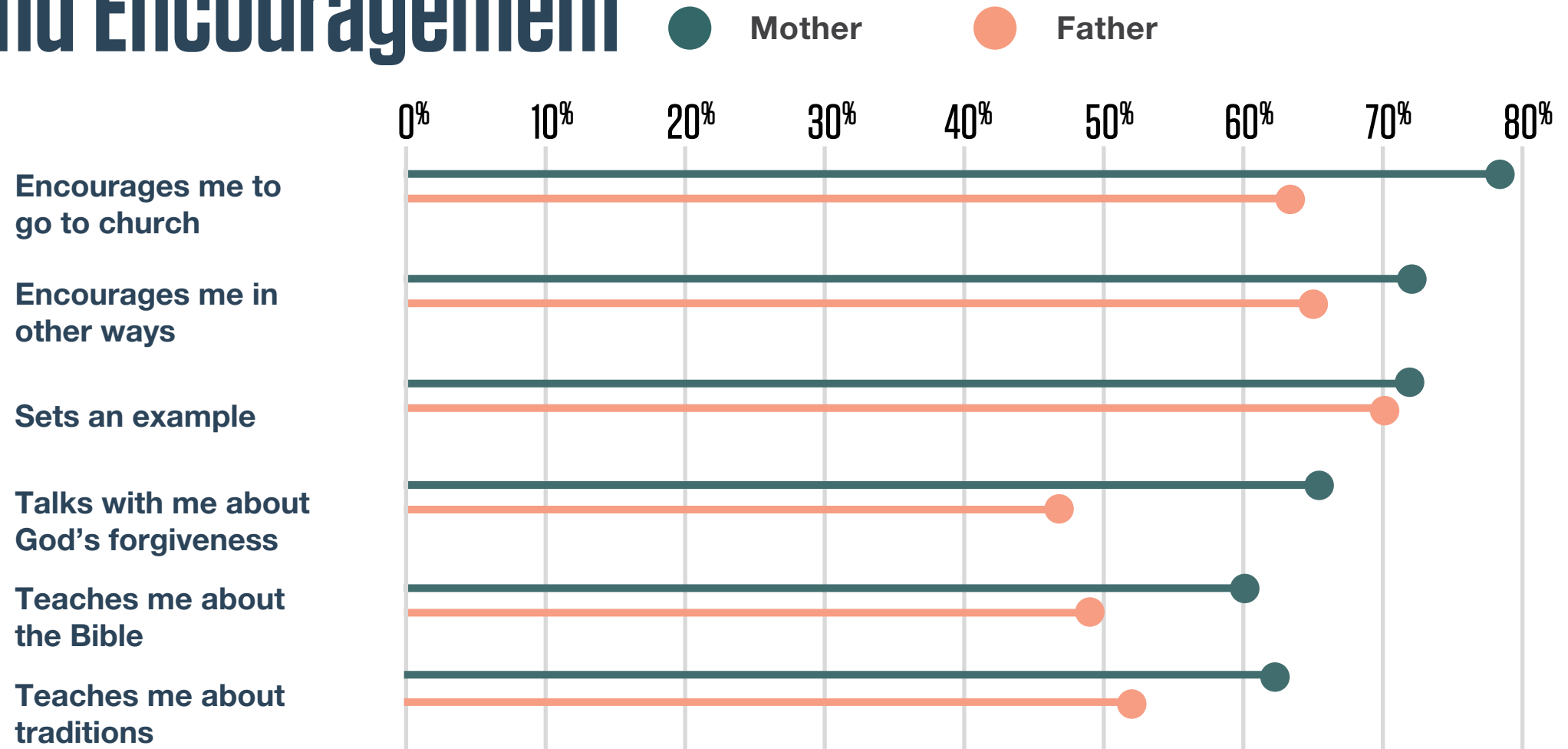
Who Teens Talk To

% of teens who say they are most likely to talk with this member of their household or extended household about...



n=448 U.S. practicing Christian teens, April 5–11, 2018. Respondents were only shown relationship types they live with or those who regularly visit them in their home.

Where Teens Receive Spiritual Guidance and Encouragement



n=327 U.S. practicing Christian teens, April 5–11, 2018. Respondents were only shown relationship types they live with or who visit them regularly in their home, not including children under age 18.

Who Are You Most Likely to Go to for...?



Mother



Father

Advice

66%

Money

56%

Sympathy

58%

Logistical Help

48%

Encouragement

62%

50%

61%

34%

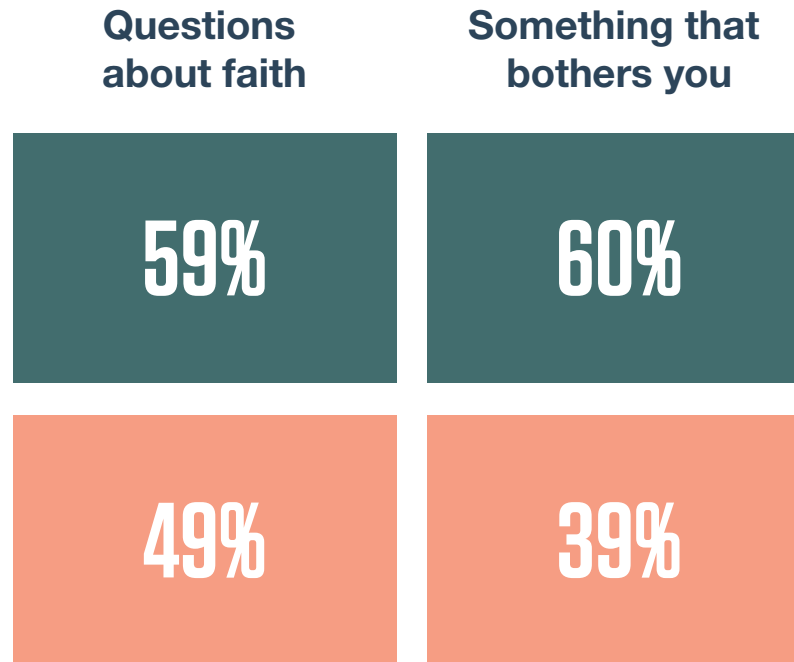
50%

49%

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Who Are You Most Likely to Talk with About...?

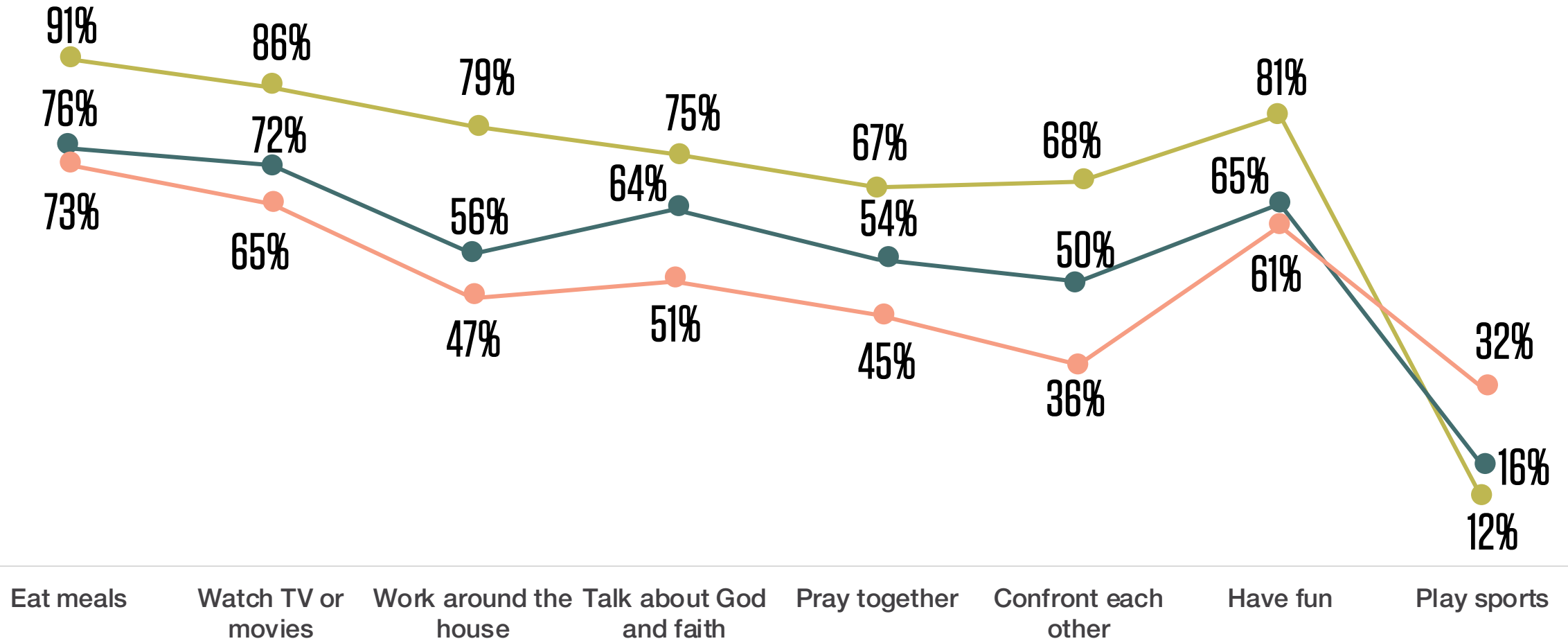
● Mother ● Father



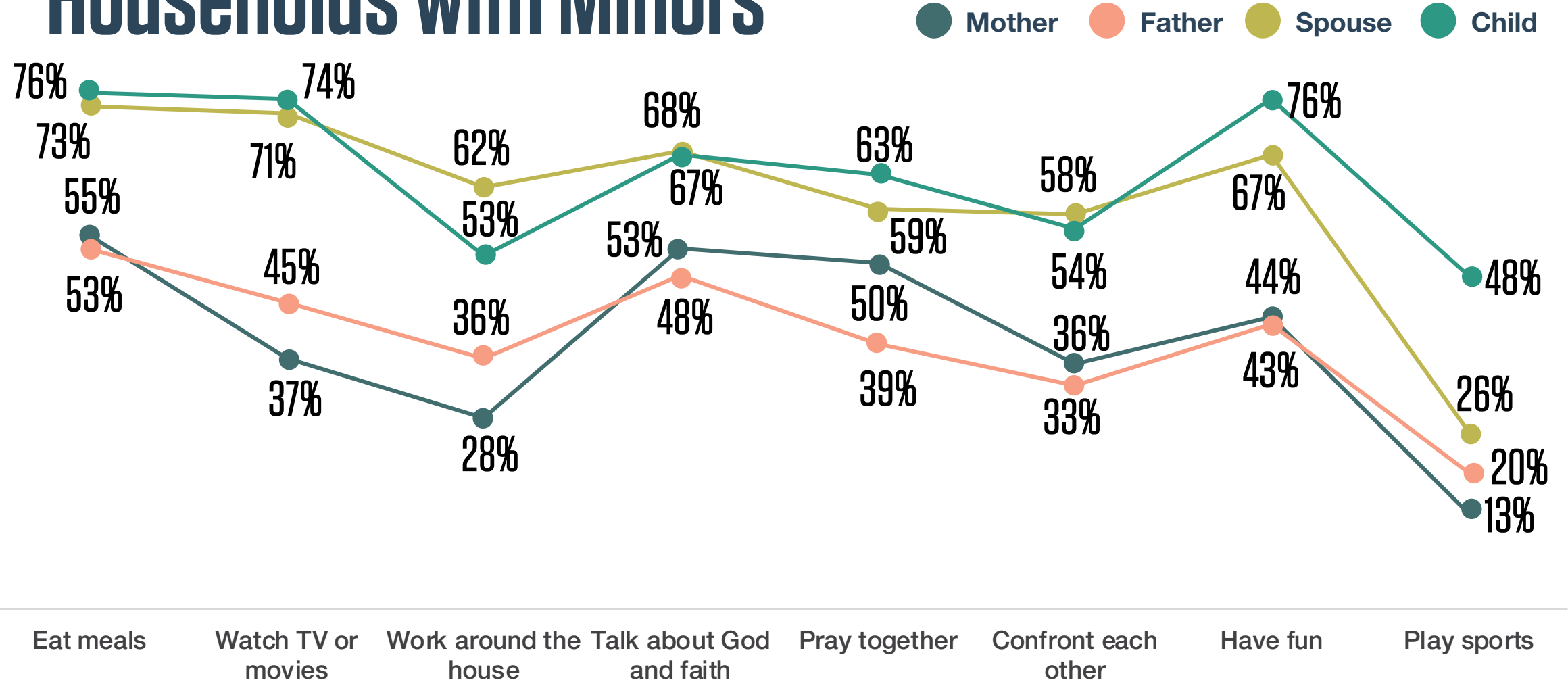
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Primary Connections in Households without Minors

● Mother ● Father ● Spouse



Primary Connections in Households with Minors



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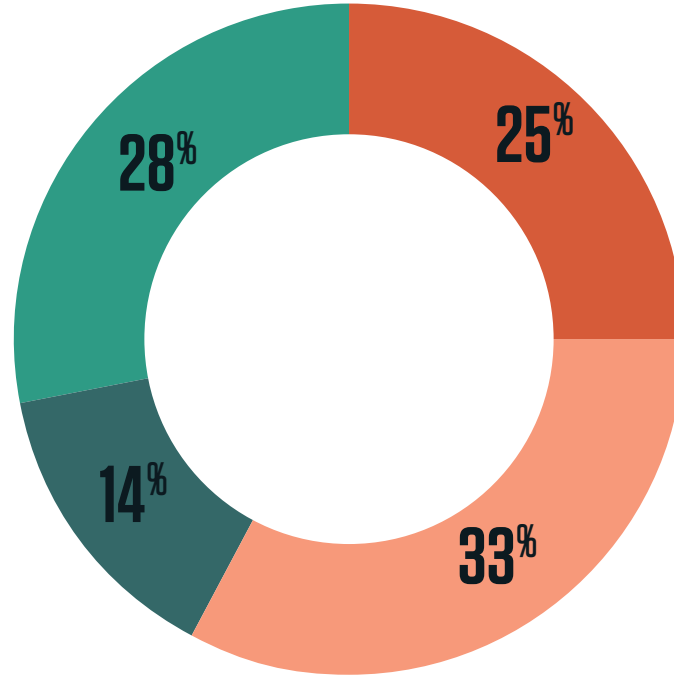
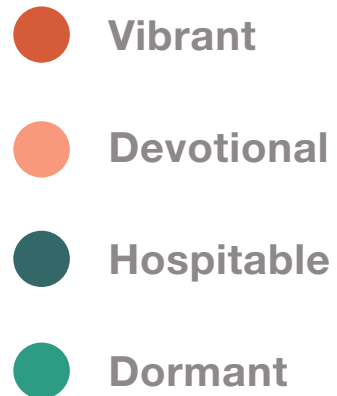
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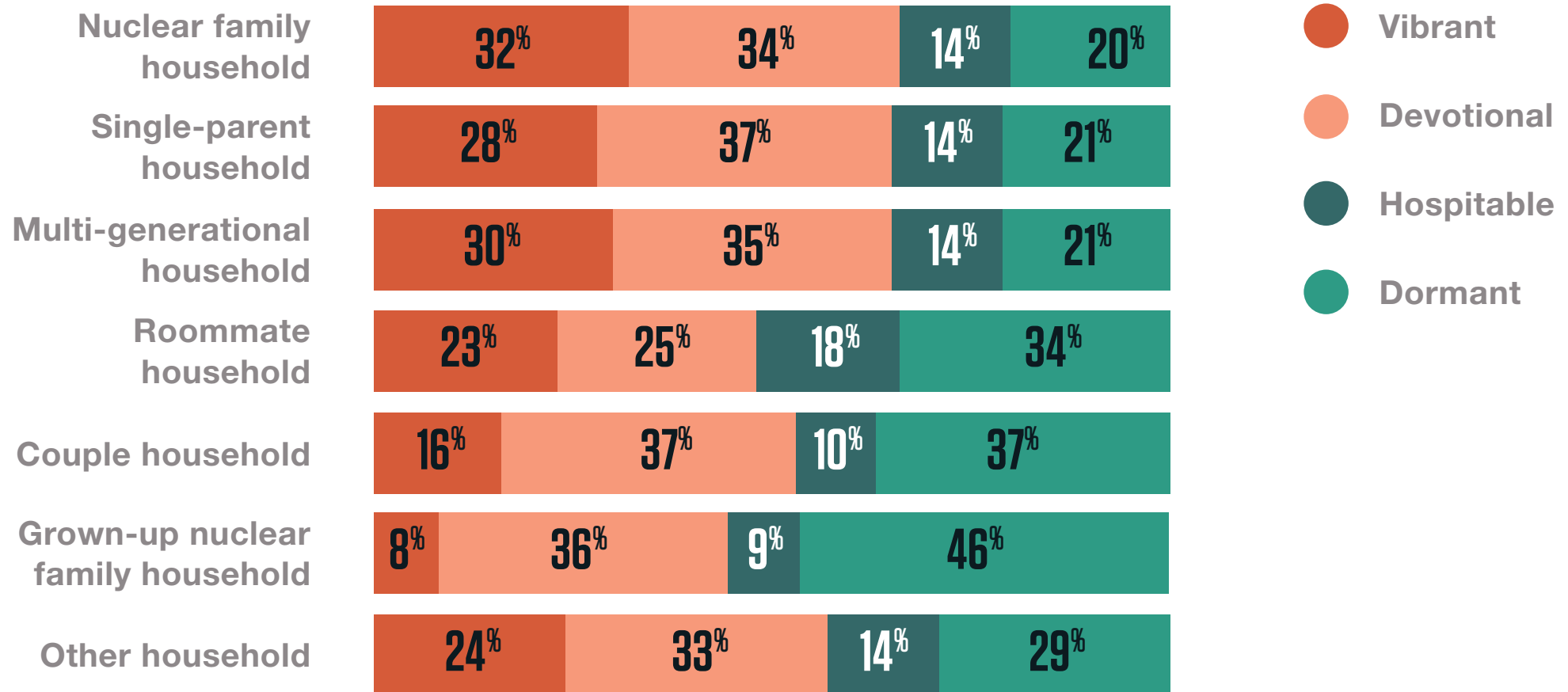
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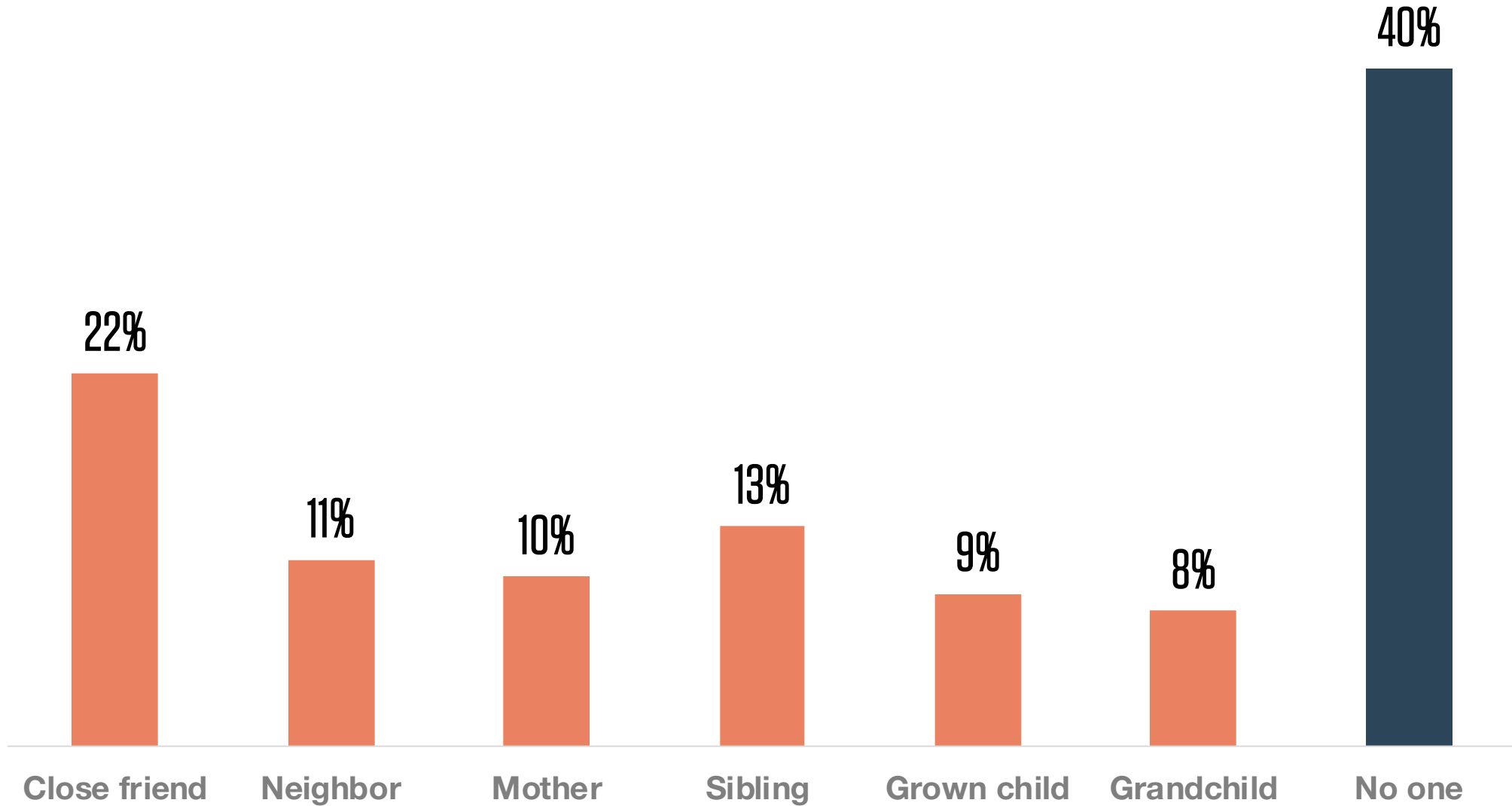
Household Types by Spiritual Vibrancy



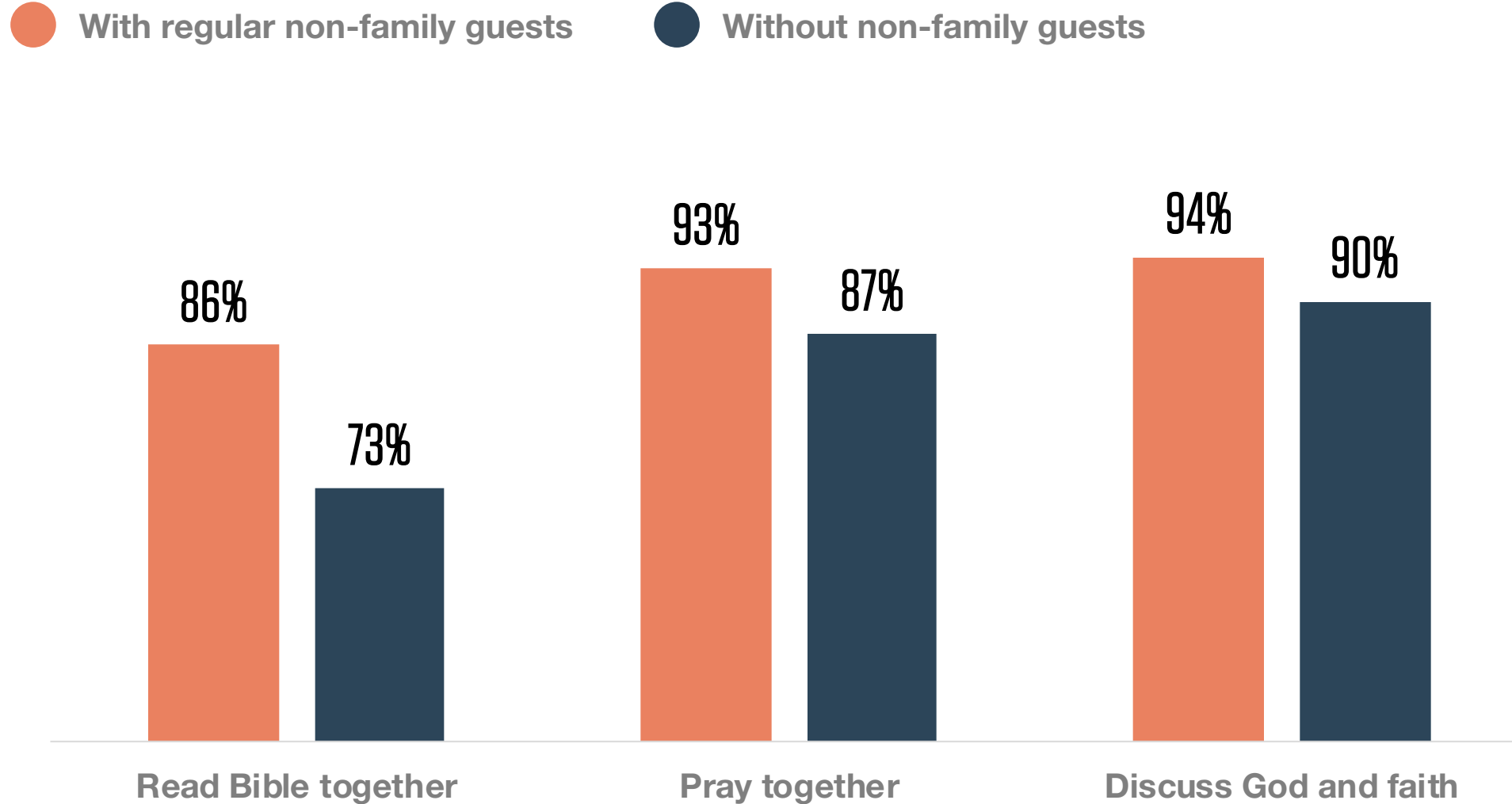
n=2,347 U.S. practicing Christian adults and teens, April 5–11, 2018.

Frequent Guests

Barna



Devotional Activities in Households



What Makes for a Vibrant Household?



- Spends fun, quality time together
- A spiritual coach is present
- Welcomes others
- Asks for help
- Members have a personal spirituality

A Spiritual Coach is Present

76%

A household member talks with me about God's forgiveness

73%

A household member teaches me about the Bible

69%

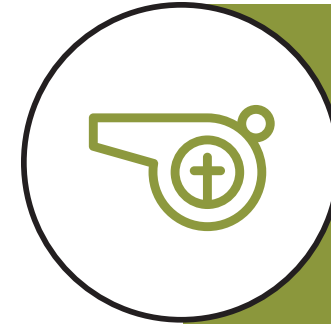
A household member teaches me about traditions

71%

A household member encourages me to go to church

73%

A household member sets an example



Spends Fun, Quality Time Together

32%

We play games daily

68%

We have household meetings

59%

We share how we're feeling with each other daily

55%

We go on walks monthly

48%

We go to the park monthly



Atmosphere: How Households Feel



Leading Households of Faith



**A congregation is only
as strong as the households
that comprise it.**

How Can We View Our Ministry with a Multi-Household Mindset?

1. Determine the variety and quantity of household types that make up your congregation
2. Evaluate ministry offerings from the perspective of the various life stages of the household members
3. Consider ways to address obstacles which prevent certain household types from attending corporate events
4. Create ministry touchpoints for households as they evolve and change categories

How Can We Model the Importance of Vibrancy to Our Congregations?

1. Teach the importance of spiritual vibrancy in church messages and programs
2. Narrate everyday household experiences as vital to discipleship and spiritual vibrancy
3. Speak to the responsibility of parents and guardians in guiding the next generation toward faith

How Does a Household-Inclusive Mindset Impact Age-Specific Ministries?

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of age-separation in your current events and programs
2. Create opportunities for older adults and younger single adults to be meaningfully involved in the life and leadership of the congregation

How Can We Coach Christians in Ways Their Upbringing Did Not?

1. Emphasize and model the importance of households, relationships, and rituals in new member classes.
2. Provide coaching on the importance and meaning of congregational rituals
3. Provide coaching to all congregants on how to establish meaningful household rituals
4. Coach adults with various faith heritages by building community and nurturing faith roots

How Can We Help Christians Understand the Importance of Household Activities to Faith Formation?

1. Identify and validate faith formation opportunities better experienced within the household context instead of the congregational context
2. Promote healthy household interactions and activities as a vital component of spiritual vibrancy
3. Explore the concepts of “life as worship” and the spirituality of the average and everyday within congregational programs and messages

How Can We Help Christians Understand the Importance of Household Activities to Faith Formation?

4. Communicate the importance of expressing joy, hospitality and openness in both the congregational and household contexts
5. Promote an understanding of what it means for a Christian to extend *and* receive hospitality
6. Encourage activities that include the “extended household”

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Millennial Non-Christians Show Greater Spiritual Curiosity Than Older Adults

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Millennials Bring Ambition and Optimism to Their Work

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The Mercy Journey

A critical element is missing in how we relate to one another today: mercy. In embarking on The Mercy Journey, the presence of Christians and the work of





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