





For more information about this study and to see the complete findings, check out our 2020 report:

Guiding Children

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



CHANGING LANDSCAPES

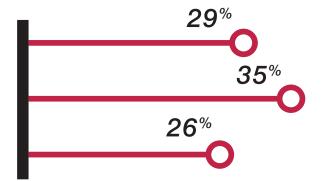


Child Consumes 16 Or More Media Hours Per Week, Media-Stressed Vs Not Media-Stressed Parents

All engaged Christian parents

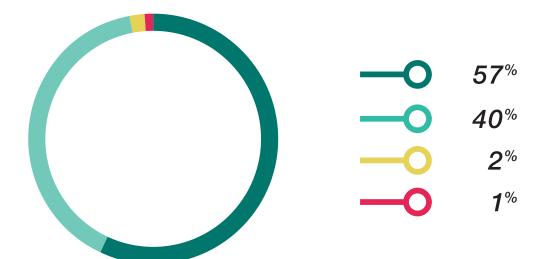
Media-stressed parents

Not media stressed



Satisfaction With Child's Spiritual **Formation**

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



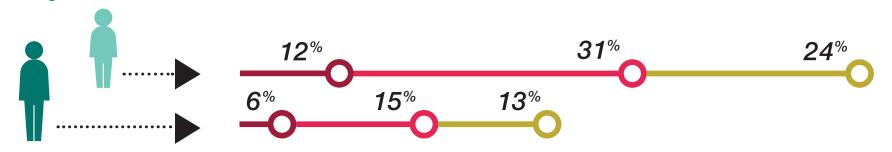
How Often Does Your Child Engage With The Bible On Their Own? Pt 1

• 4 or more times a week • A few times a week • Once a week

Printed book



Storybook Bible



How Often Does Your Child Engage With The Bible On Their Own? Pt 2

6- to 9-year-old 10- to 12-year-ol

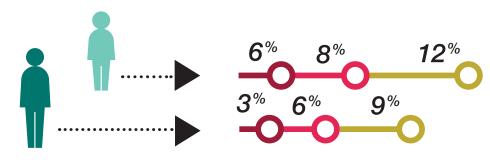
• 4 or more times a week • A few times a week • Once a week



Audio version



Video version



Do together as a family, at least once a week:

6- to 9-year-old 10- to 12-year-old

Attend church together

Pray together

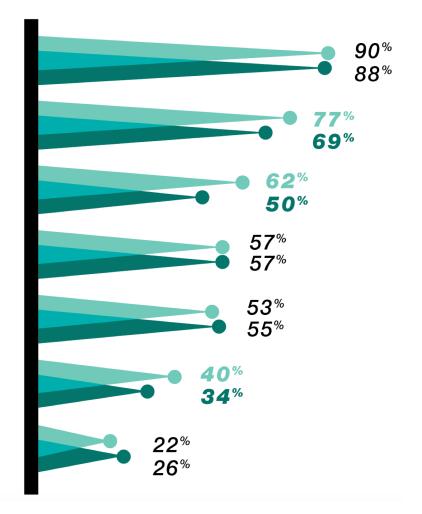
Discuss the Bible

Listen to worship music

Engage in conversations about spiritual topics

Read the Bible out loud

Volunteer / serve with a ministry



Resources parents use to help their child(ren) engage with the Bible:

6- to 9-year-old 10- to 12-year-old

Church activities

Parent-created resources

Church-created materials for kids

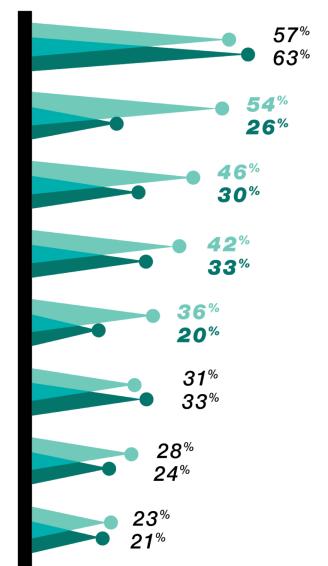
Parent resources from church

"Offline" media (books, music)

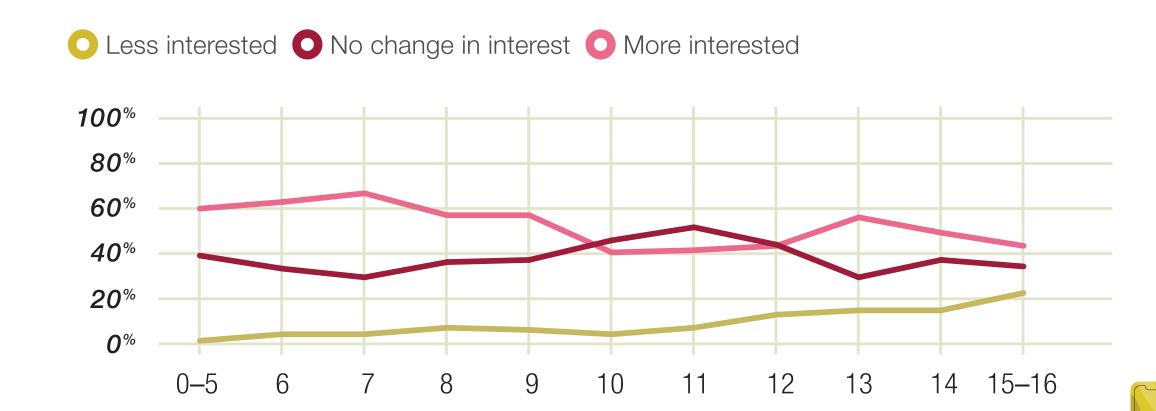
Bible class

Online / digital resources

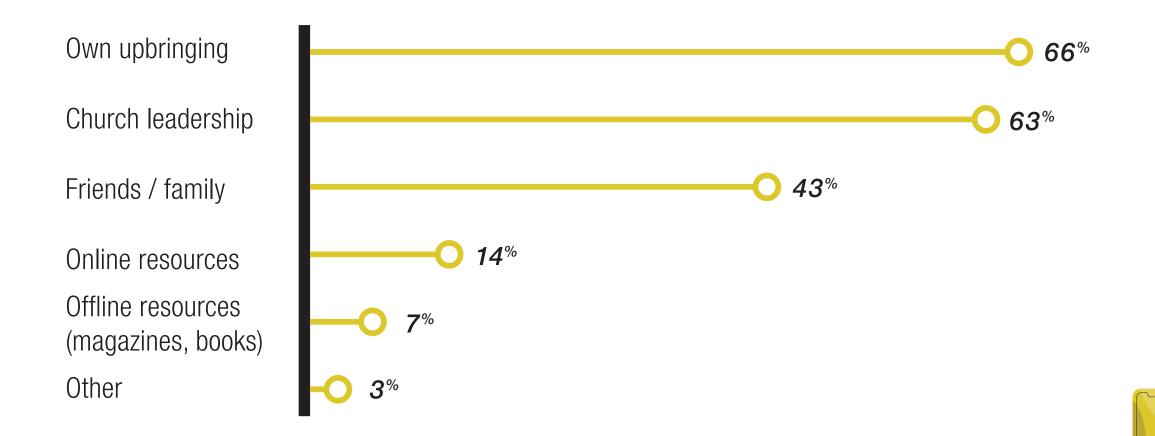
Non-church activities



Child's interest in attending church, past few years

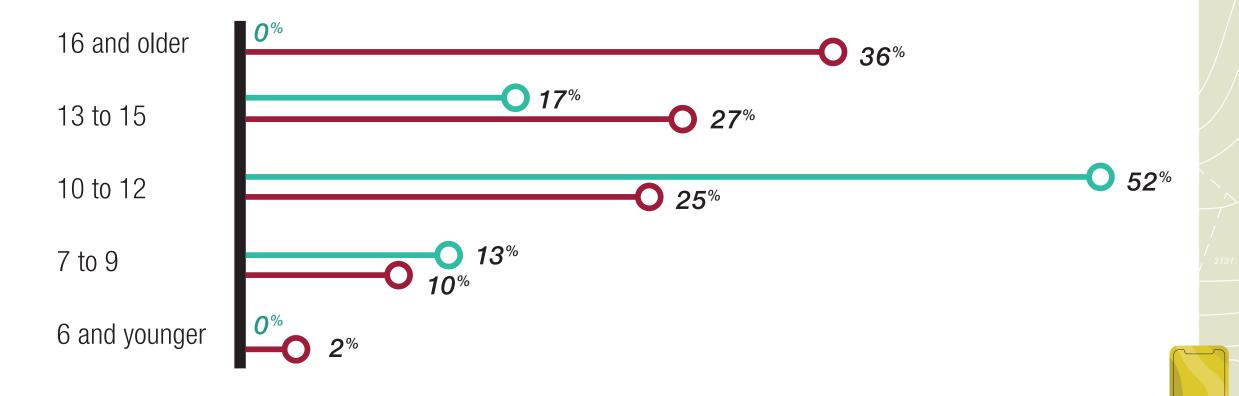


Top Two Guidance Givers



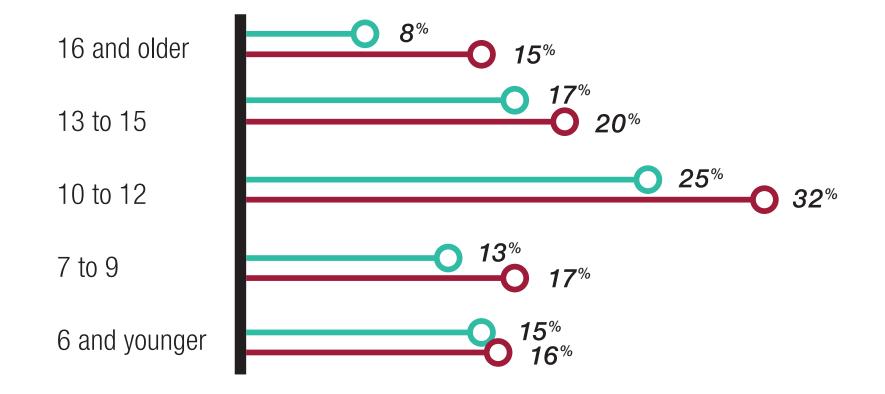
When Ministry Leaders & Parents Believe Kids Are Exposed To Pornography





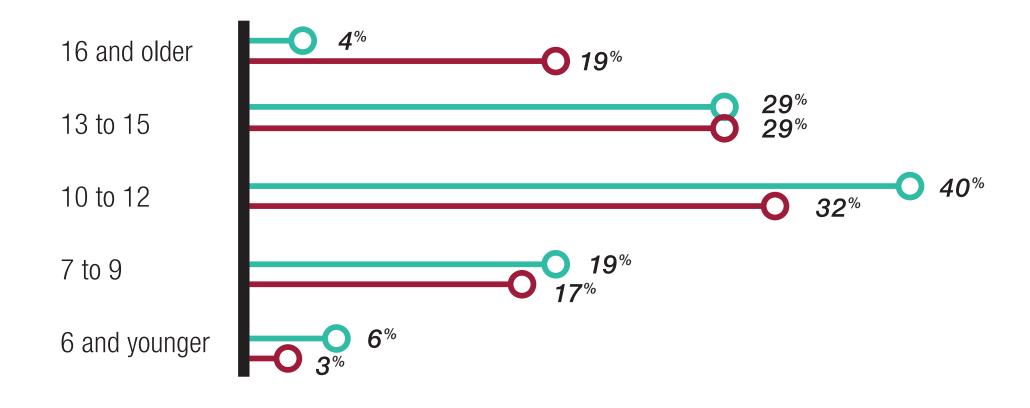
When Ministry Leaders & Parents Believe Kids Are Exposed To Gender Identity

Ministry leaders Parents



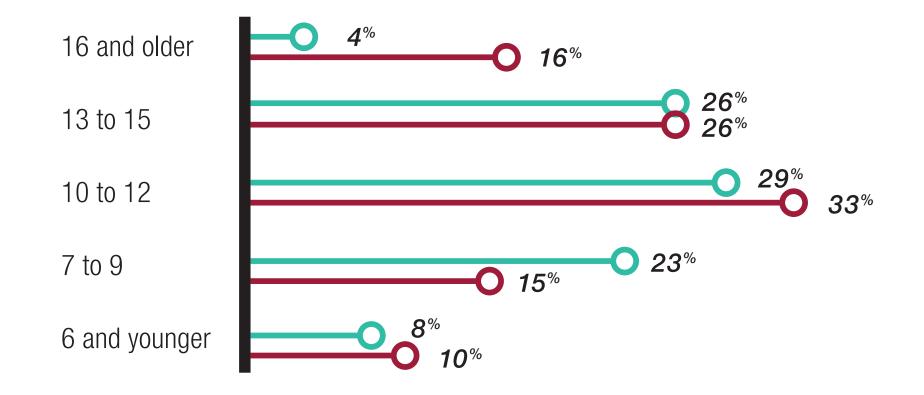
When Ministry Leaders & Parents Believe Kids Are Exposed To Anxiety, Depression, Suicide





When Ministry Leaders & Parents Believe Kids Are Exposed To Sexual Identity

Ministry leaders Parents



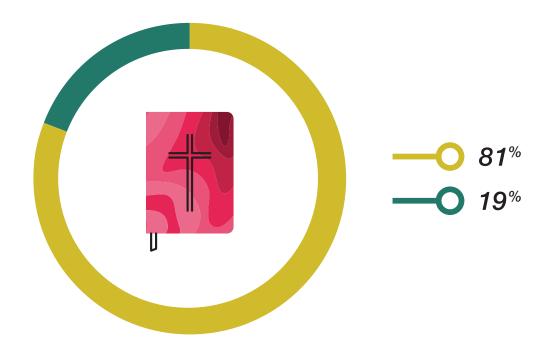


DISCOVERING SCRIPTURE



Child's Bible Engagement

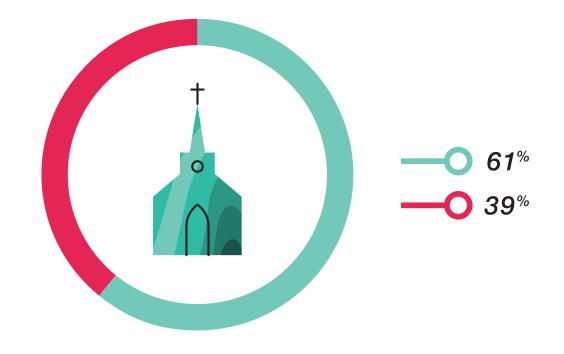
- O Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged





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- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged

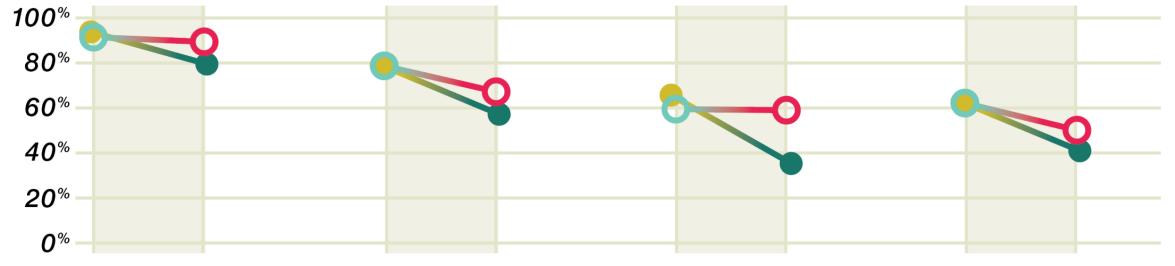




Family activities done together at least once a week

- O Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged

- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged



Attend church together

Pray together

Discuss the Bible

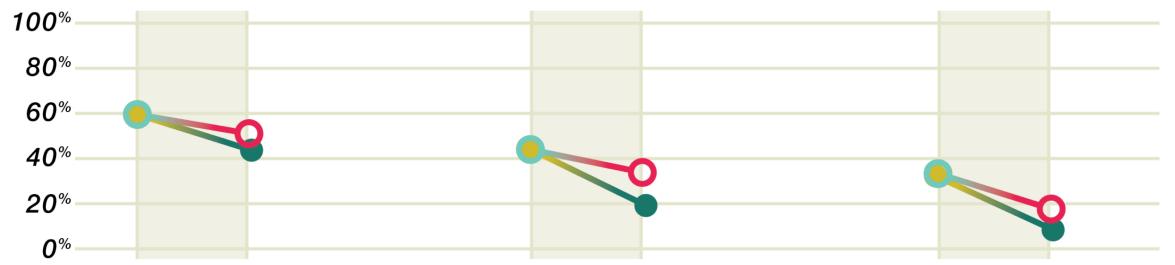
Listen to worship music



Family activities done together at least once a week

- O Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged

- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged



Engage in conversations about spiritual topics

Read the Bible out loud

Volunteer / serve with a ministry



Satisfaction with child's spiritual formation thus far

- Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged

- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged

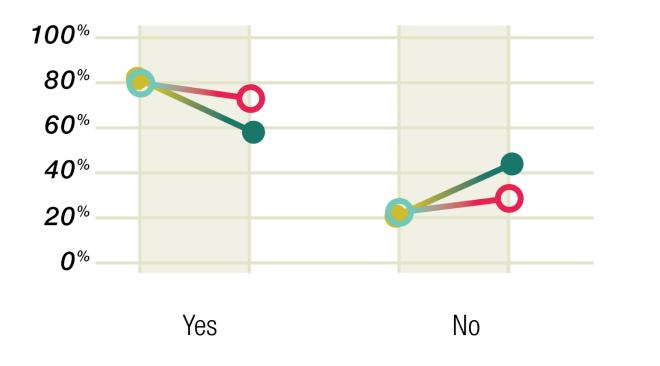




At least one child older than 12 has made a profession of faith (including baptism, confirmation, first communion, etc.)

- Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged

- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged

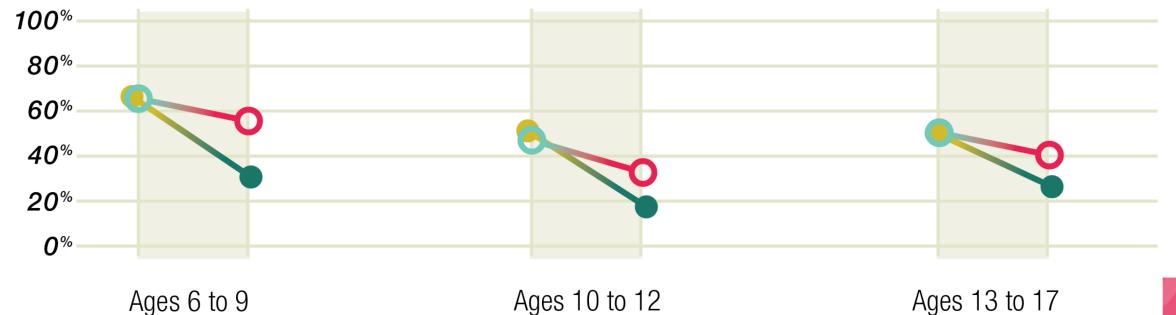




Child's interest in church has increased over the past few years

- O Bible-engaged (weekly or more often)
- Less Bible-engaged

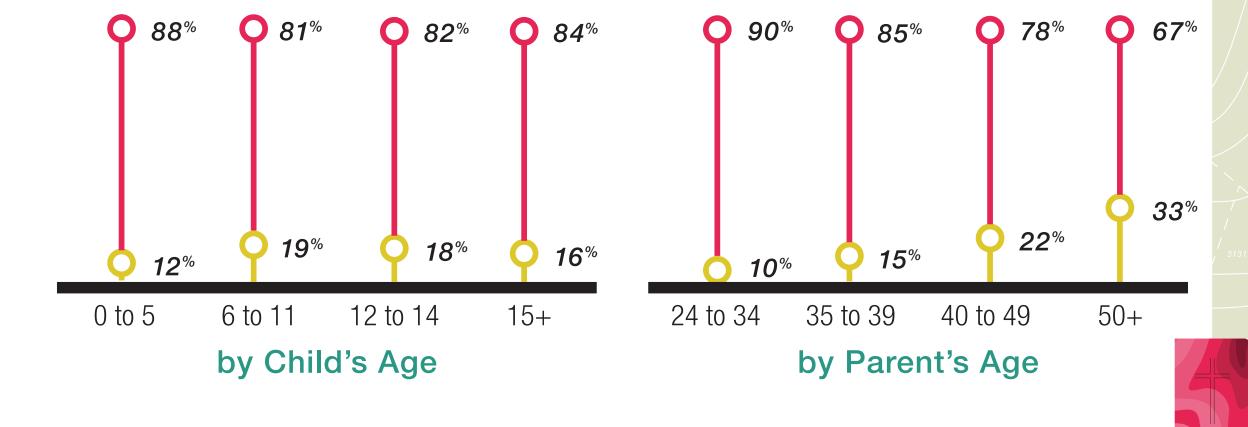
- Church-engaged (every week)
- Less church-engaged



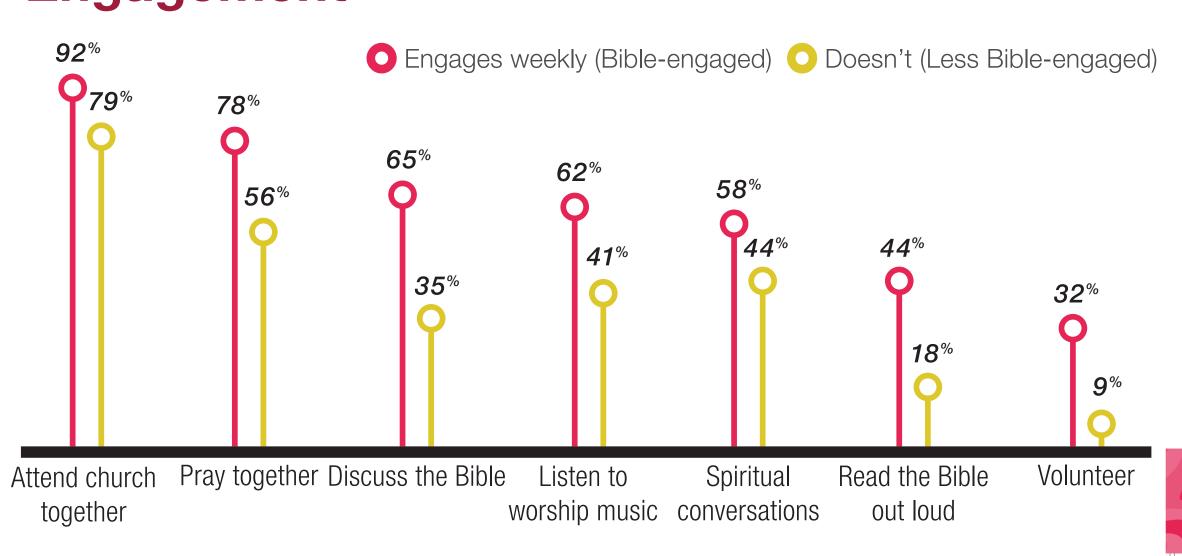


Children's Weekly Bible Engagement

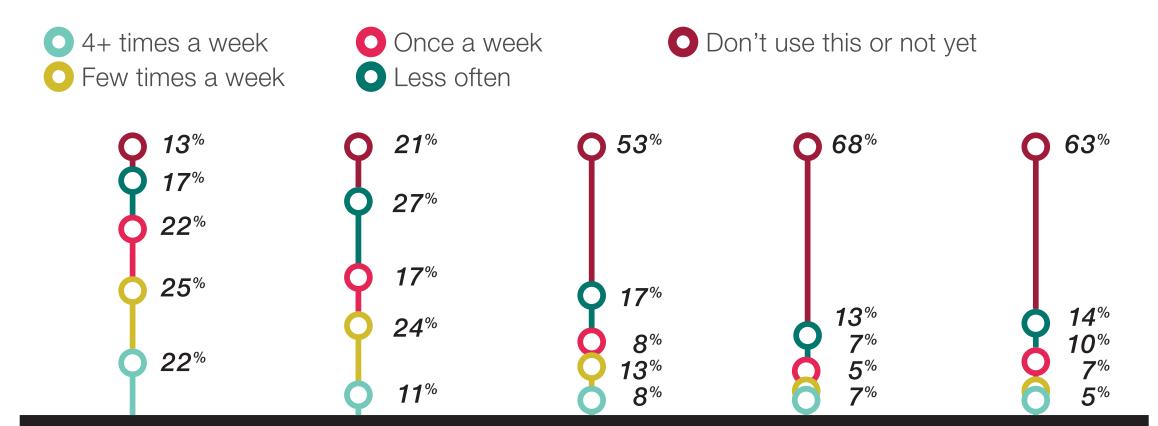
Engages weekly (Bible-engaged) ODoesn't (Less Bible-engaged)



Weekly Family Spiritual Activities, by Bible Engagement



Frequency of Bible Engagement Formats, All Parents



Bible in book form

Storybook Bible

Bible app

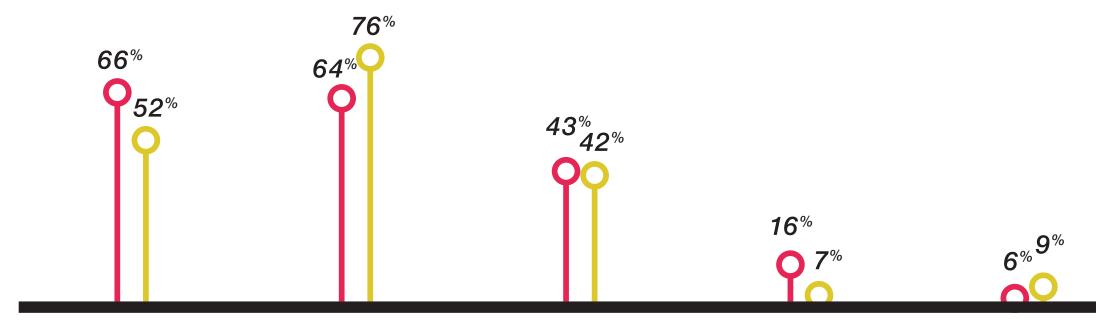
Audio version

Video version



Who & What Parents Rely On For Their Child's Spiritual Formation





Church leadership

Own upbringing

Friends / family

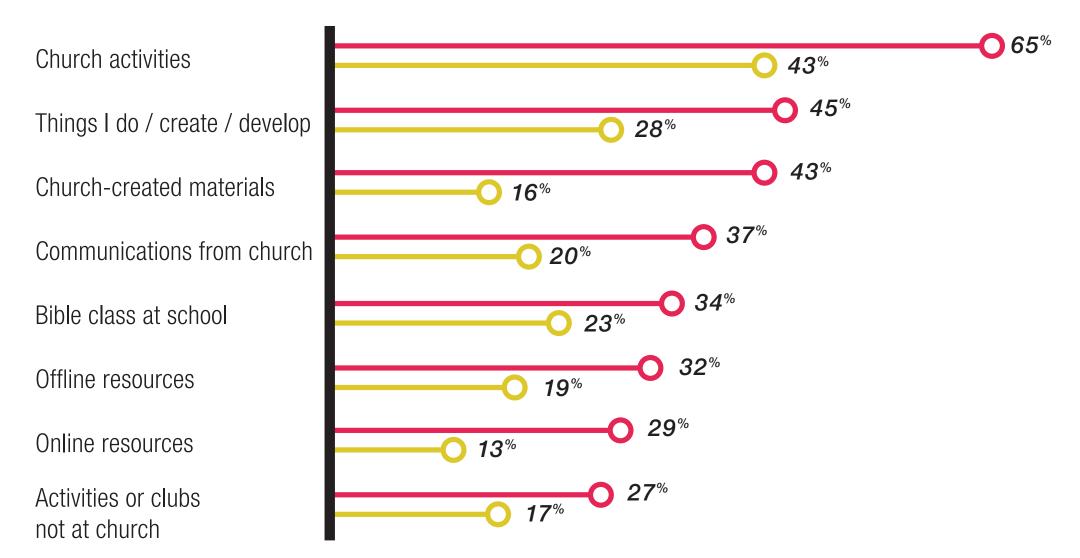
Online resources

Offline resources (books, magazines)

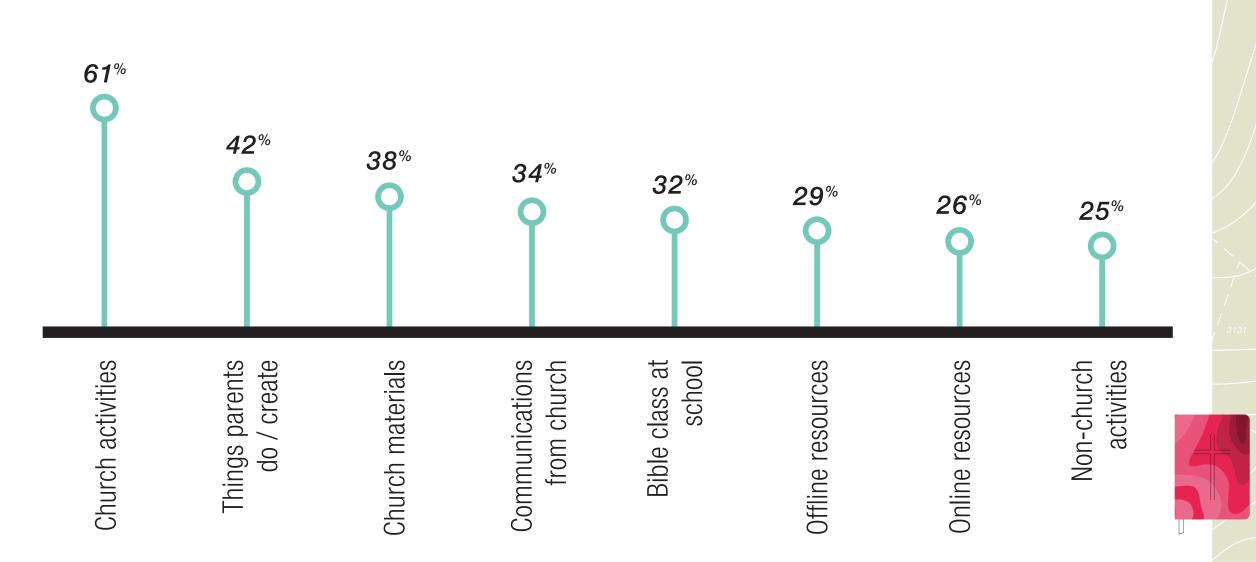


What Resources Do You Use?





Resources Used: All Engaged Christian Parents



Resources Used By Resource Parents

Resource parents
Not resource parents

Church activities

Things parents do / create

Communications from church

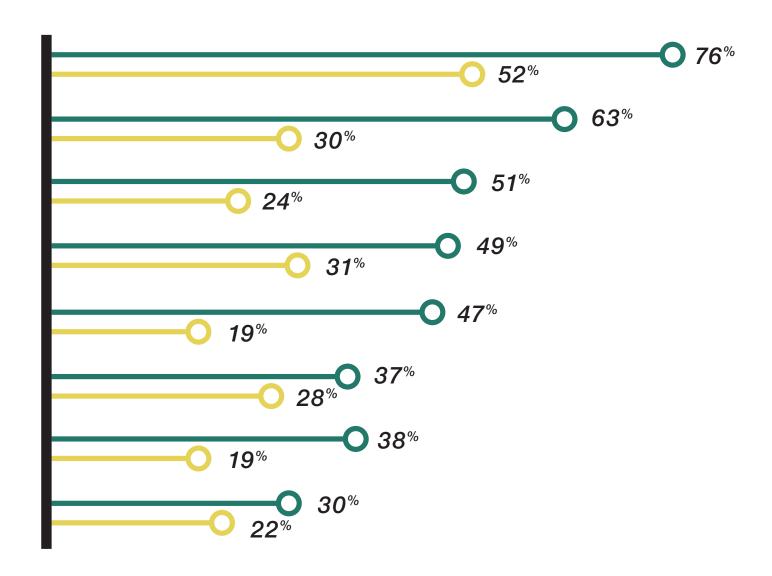
Church materials

Offline resources

Bible class at school

Online resources

Non-church activities



Weekly Family Spiritual Activities, By Resource / Not Resource

Resource parents Not resource parents

Attend church together

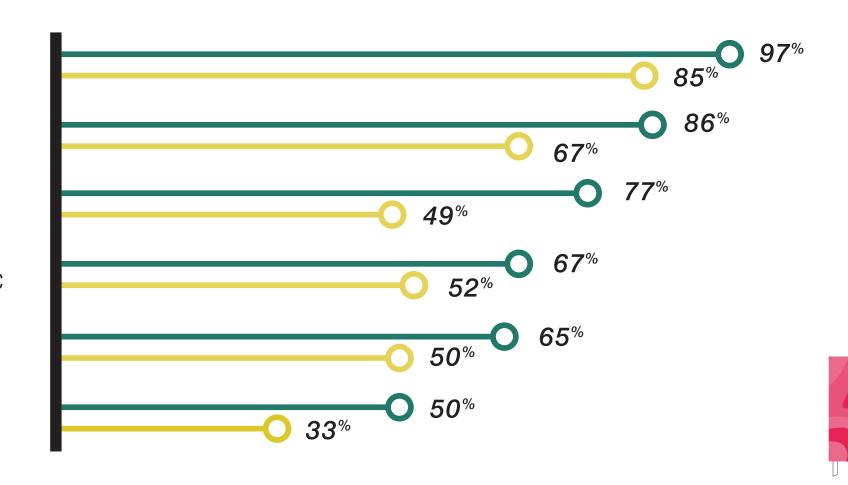
Pray together

Discuss Bible

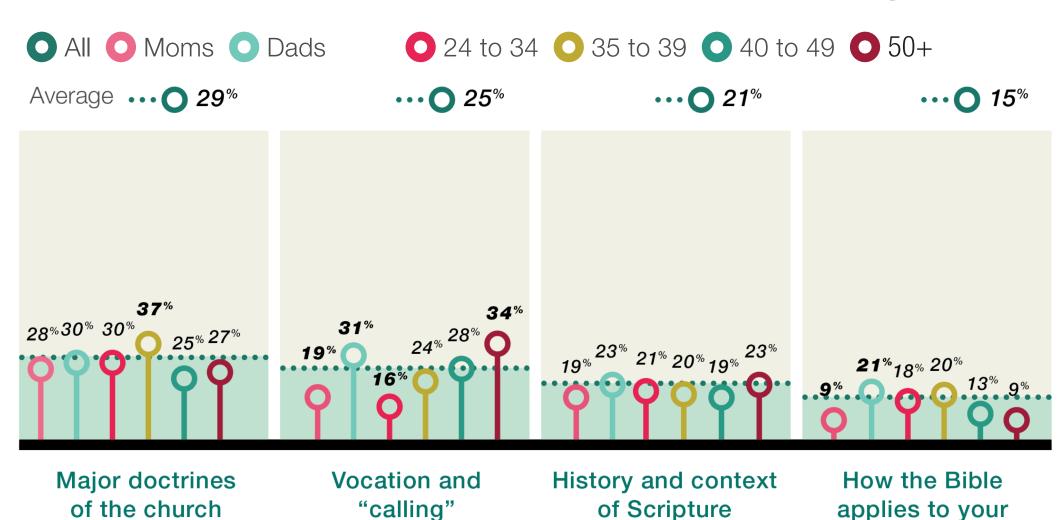
Listen to worship music

Spiritual conversations

Read Bible out loud

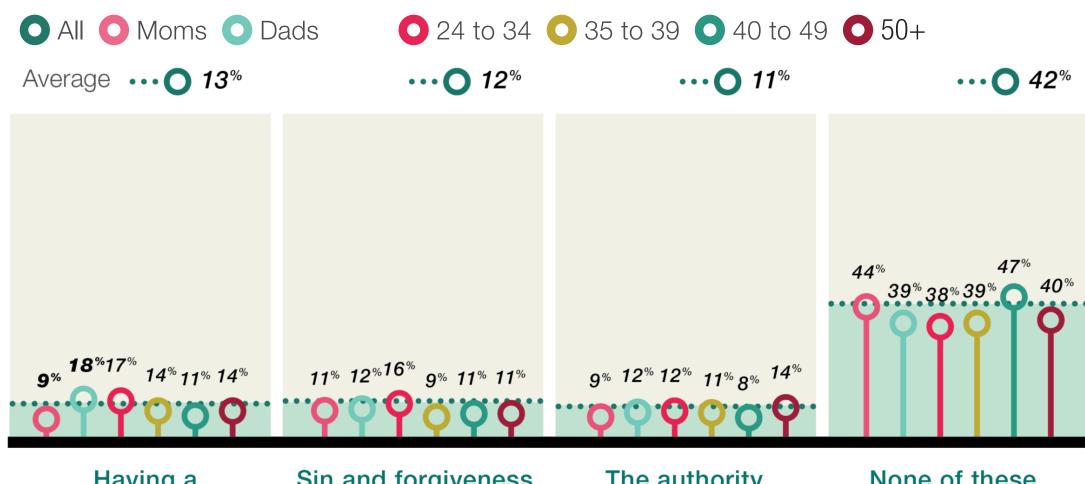


Spiritual topics parents find hard to explain / feel uncomfortable talking about



child's life

Spiritual topics parents find hard to explain / feel uncomfortable talking about



Having a relationship with Jesus

Sin and forgiveness

The authority of the Bible

None of these





"I want our children's leader to approach these issues at an age-appropriate level."





"I would like to know before our children's leader discusses any of these topics."







/



"I want to discuss these with my child and would like training on how to approach these biblically."





"I prefer to handle this myself / I would not want these addressed at church."



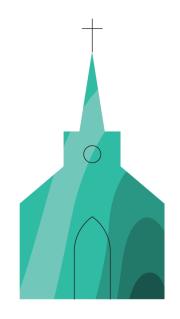




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CHURCH FAMILIES



Children's Program Is The Primary Reason For Church Choice

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree



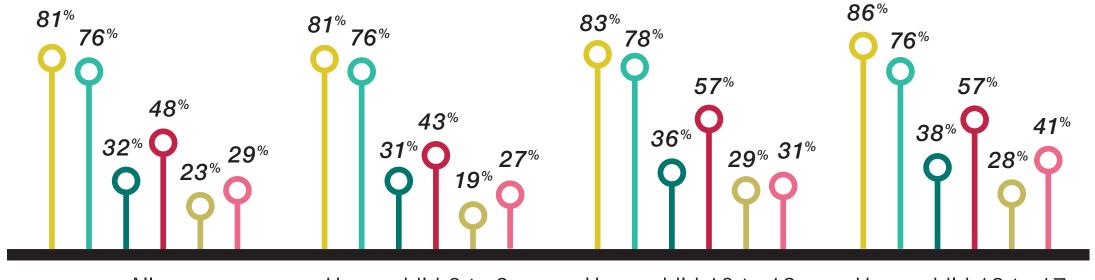


Children's Church Activity Involvement, By Child's Age

- Sunday worship
- Sunday school / children's church

- Bible study
- Fellowship / youth group

- Outreach
- O Christian camp



ΑII

Has a child 6 to 9

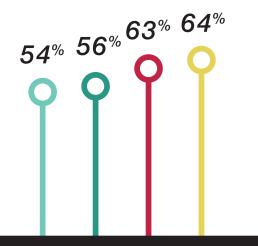
Has a child 10 to 12

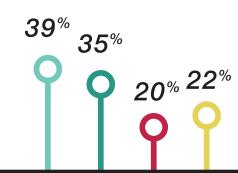
Has a child 13 to 17



Churched Level By Household Income







Church engaged

Miss one Sunday

Reasons For Missing Church

- Sick
- Out of town
- Had an activity
- O Didn't feel like going
- O Too tired
- Other



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Frequency: Watch Online?

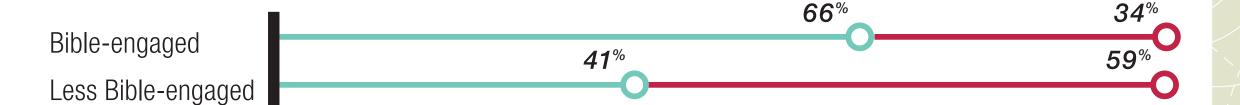
- 2+ times a month
- Once a month
- Once every 2 months
- Once every 3–4 months
- Less often
- Never



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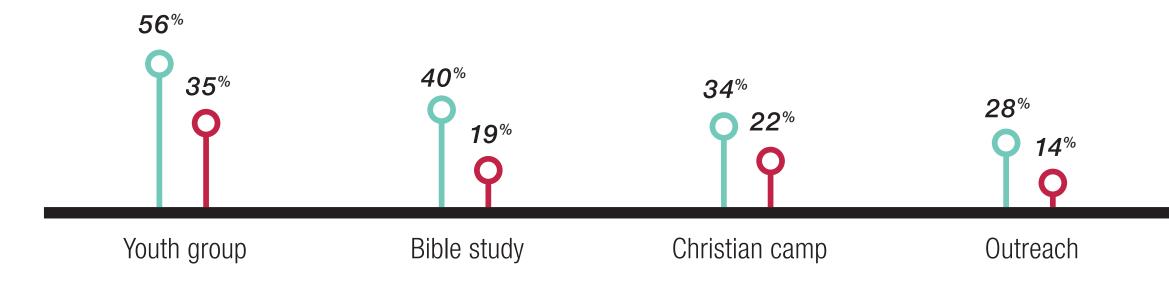
Weekly Church Attendance, By Bible Engagement





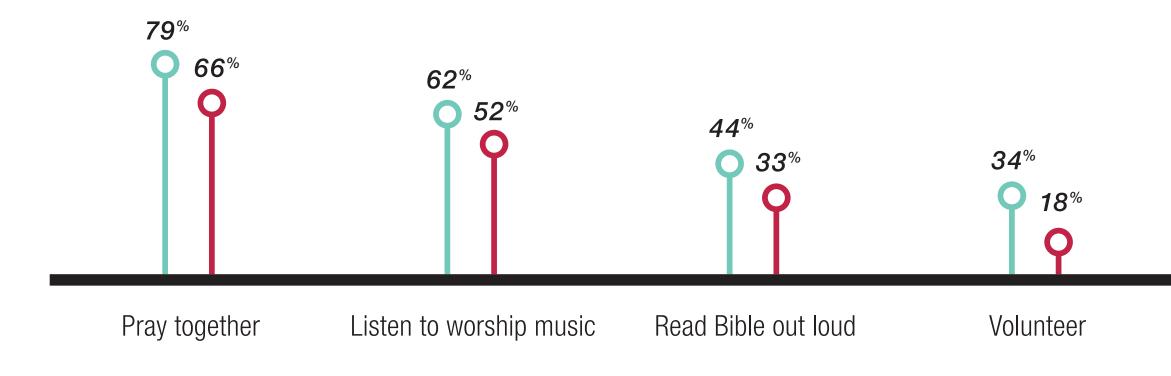
Church Activities (Within The Past Year)

O Church-engaged O Less church-engaged



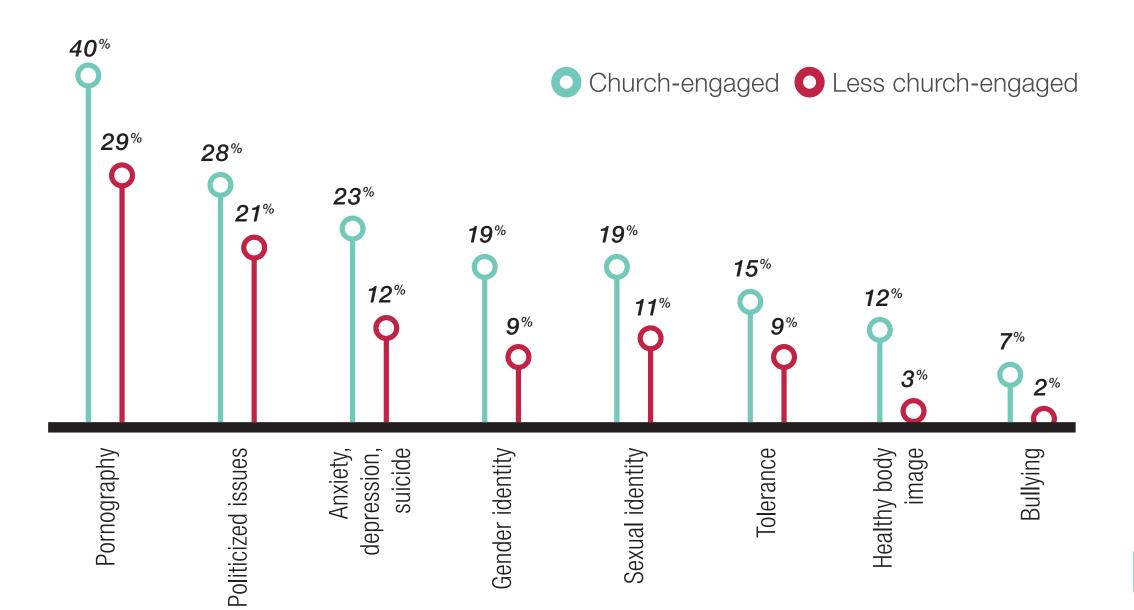
Family Activities (Within The Past Month)





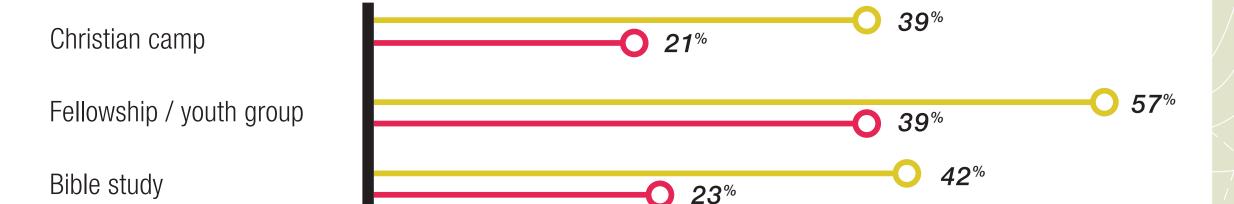
After Age 15

Child Is Exposed to _____



Children's Involvement In Church Activities

O High extracurricular Low extracurricular



Parents Feeling Equipped For Spiritual Conversations

- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- O Not at all





Parents Feeling Equipped, **By Education Level**

Extremely well
Very well

Somewhat well

O Not at all

High school or less

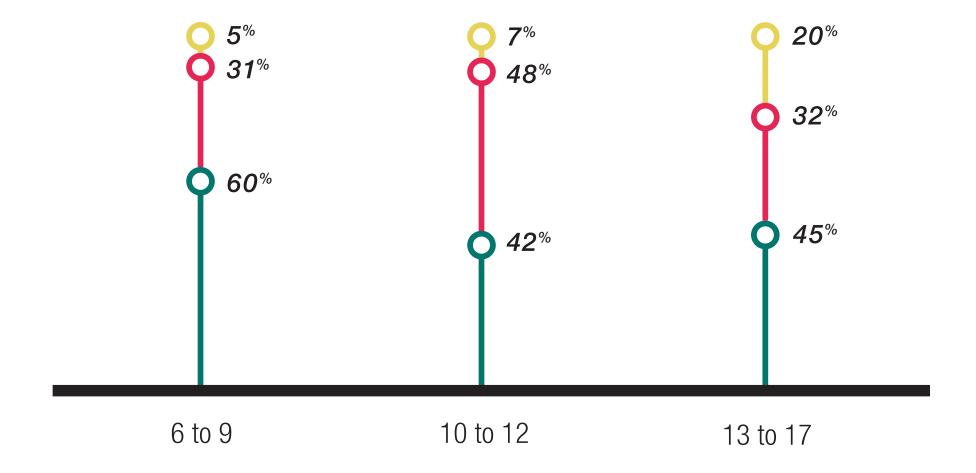
Some college or trade school

College graduate or more



Changing Interest In Church Attendance, By Child's Age

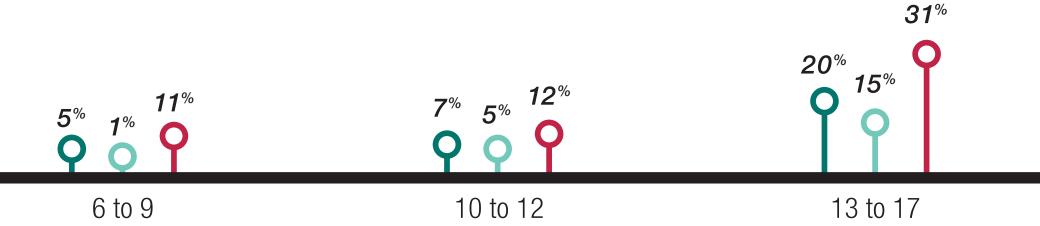




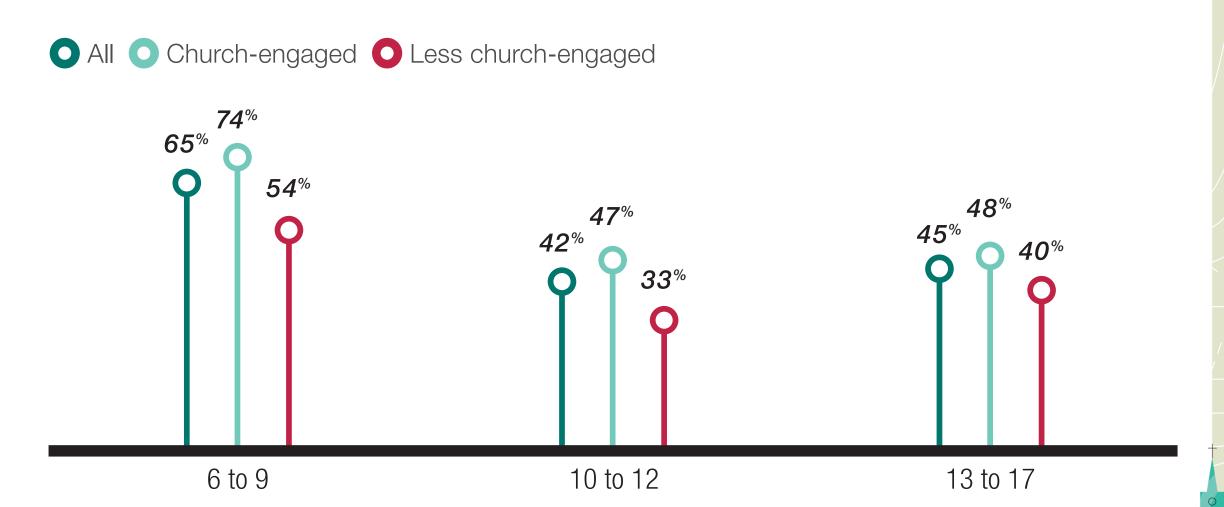
Declining Interest By Church Engagement

Barna





Increasing Interest By Church Engagement



Methodology

Qualitative interviews with toy developers, children's ministry leaders, educators, child development specialists and technology professionals.

Interviews were conducted in the fall of 2018 and used a flexible script to explore respondents' experiences in their specific fields.

A set of quantitative online surveys was subsequently conducted September 17 to October 18, 2018, using an online panel. The sample included 508 self-identified U.S. Christian parents of children ages 6 to 12 who are engaged in their Christian faith. (Barna defined "engaged" as follows: They have attended a Christian church service within the past month (other than for a holiday or a special event); they strongly agree that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and contains truth about the world; they strongly agree that they believe Jesus Christ was crucified and raised from the dead to conquer sin and death; they strongly agree that they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today; and they strongly agree that they desire to pass faith on to their child.)

The margin of error for this sample is +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

About the Project Partners

BARNA GROUP is a research firm dedicated to providing actionable insights on faith and culture, with a particular focus on the Christian church.

www.barna.com

ONEHOPE is a global organization resourcing partners and churches to present a Scripture-rich Gospel message to children and youth in a way they can understand.

www.onehope.net

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