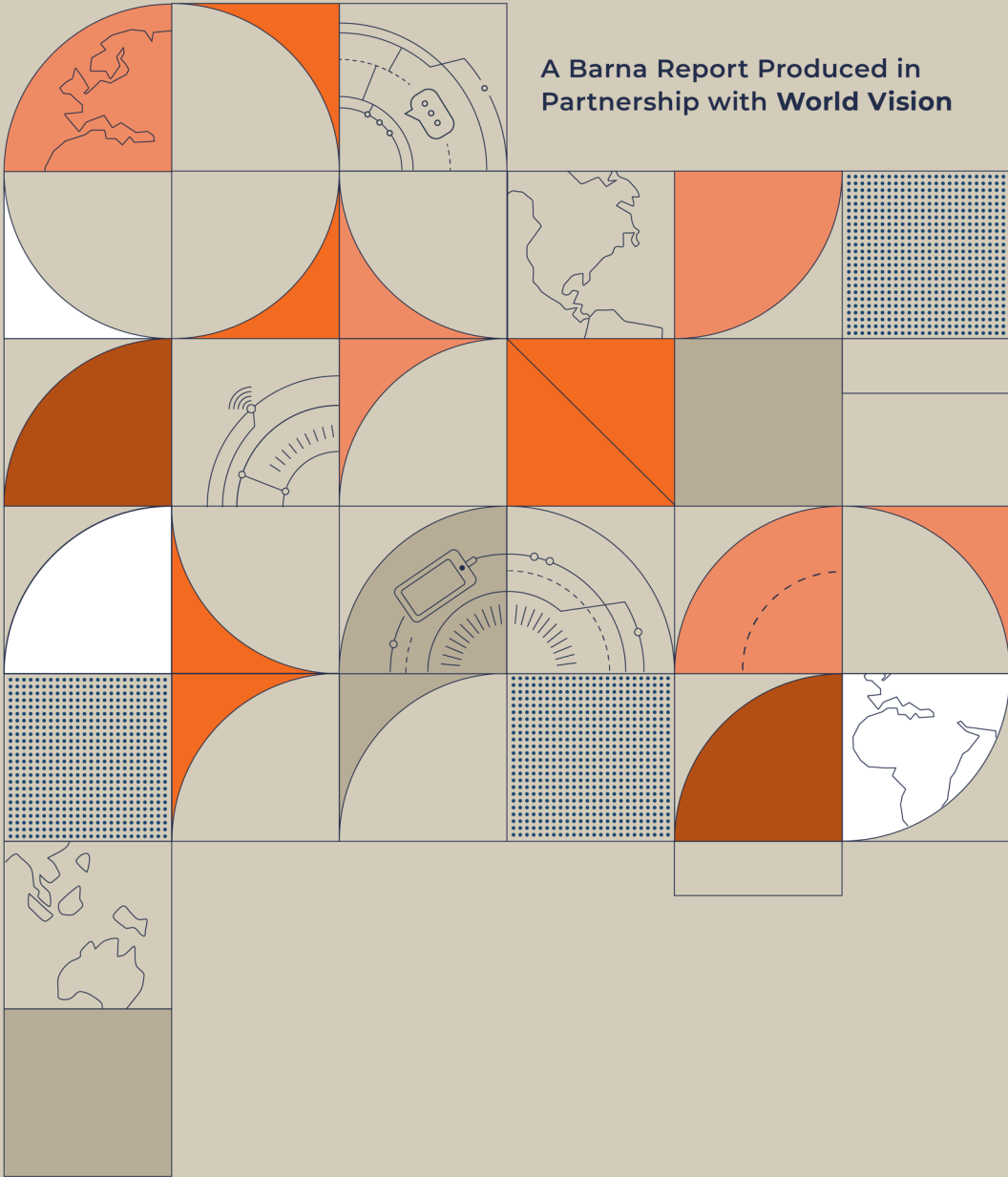


A Barna Report Produced in
Partnership with World Vision

The
CONNECTED
Generation

**How Christian Leaders Around the World Can
Strengthen Faith & Well-Being Among 18-35-Year-Olds**

UNITED STATES REPORT

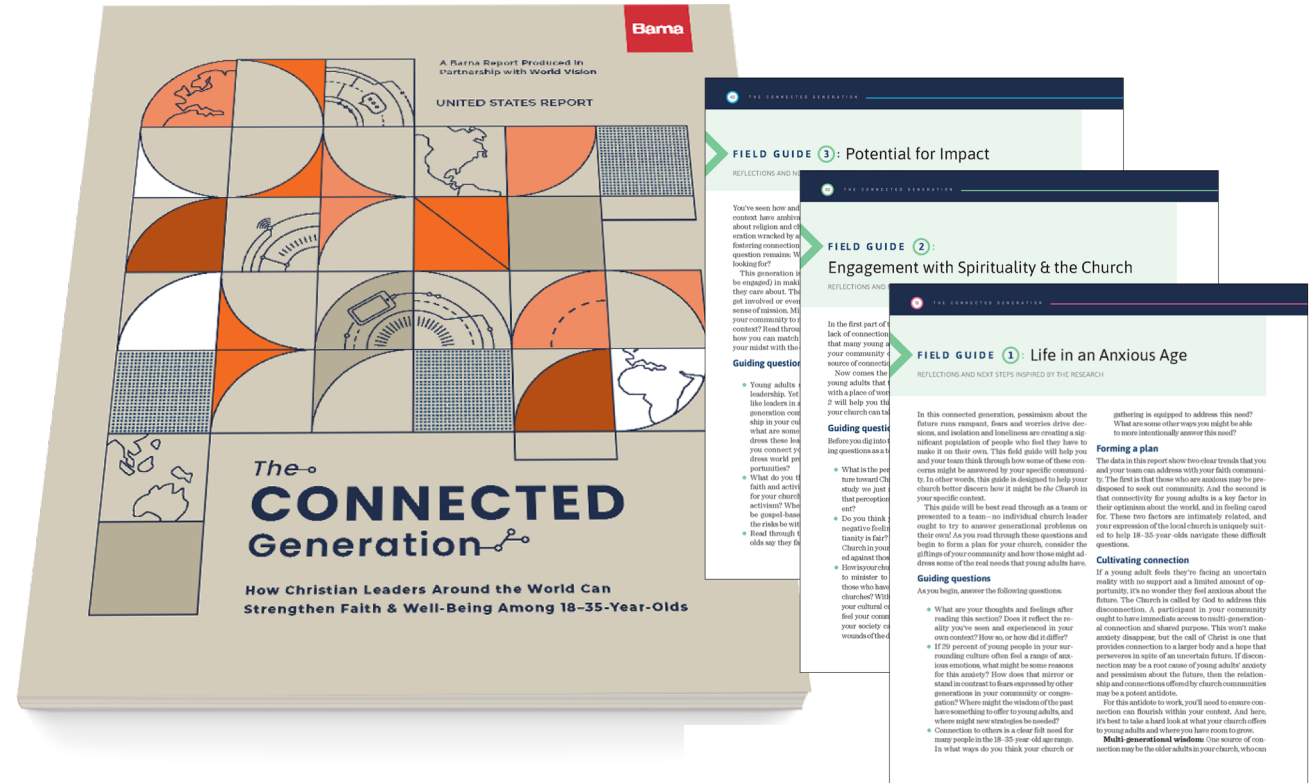


BUY THE GLOBAL AND COUNTRY REPORT AT WWW.THECONNECTEDGENERATION.COM

Barna



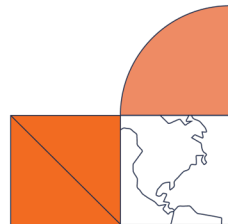
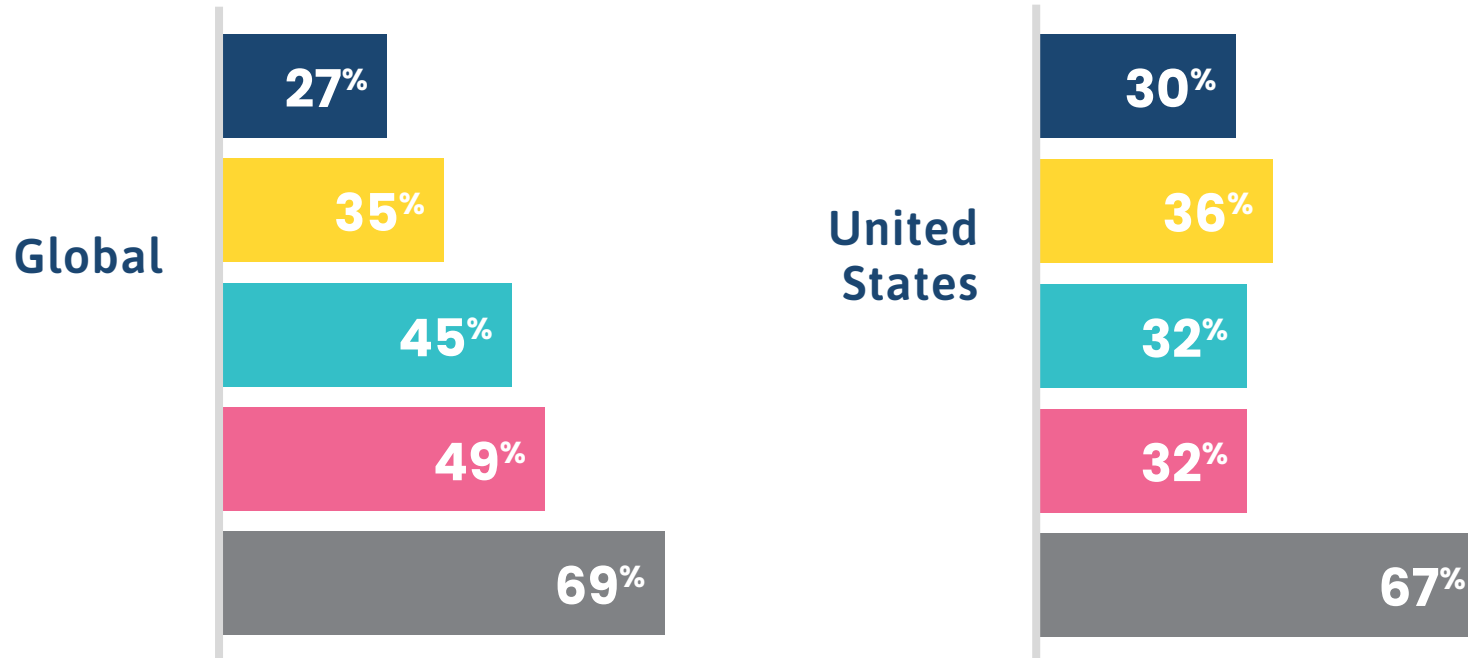
GLOBAL REPORT



US COUNTRY REPORT

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AMONG 18–35-YEAR-OLDS

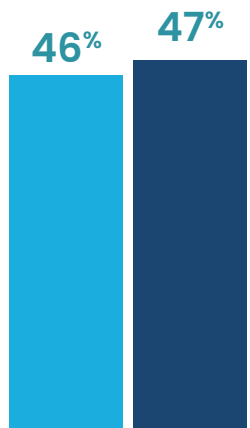
- Married
- Parent
- College education
- Inner city / urban
- Working



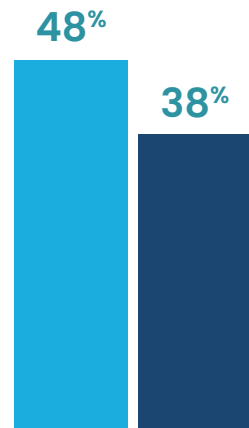
ACCOMPLISHMENTS THUS FAR EMPHASIZE FOUNCATIONAL MILESTONES

"What have you accomplished?"

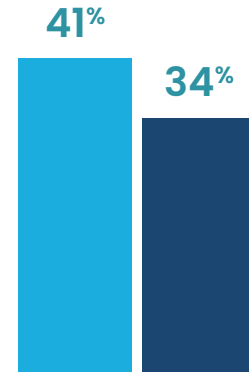
● Global ● United States



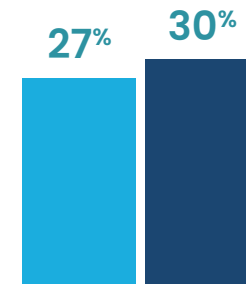
Financially independent



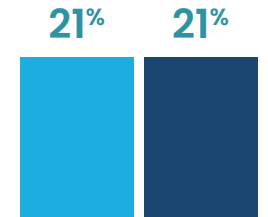
Completed education



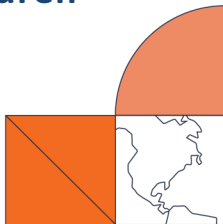
Started a career



Got married



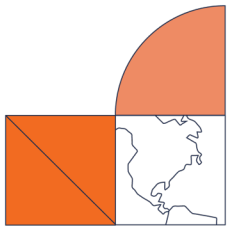
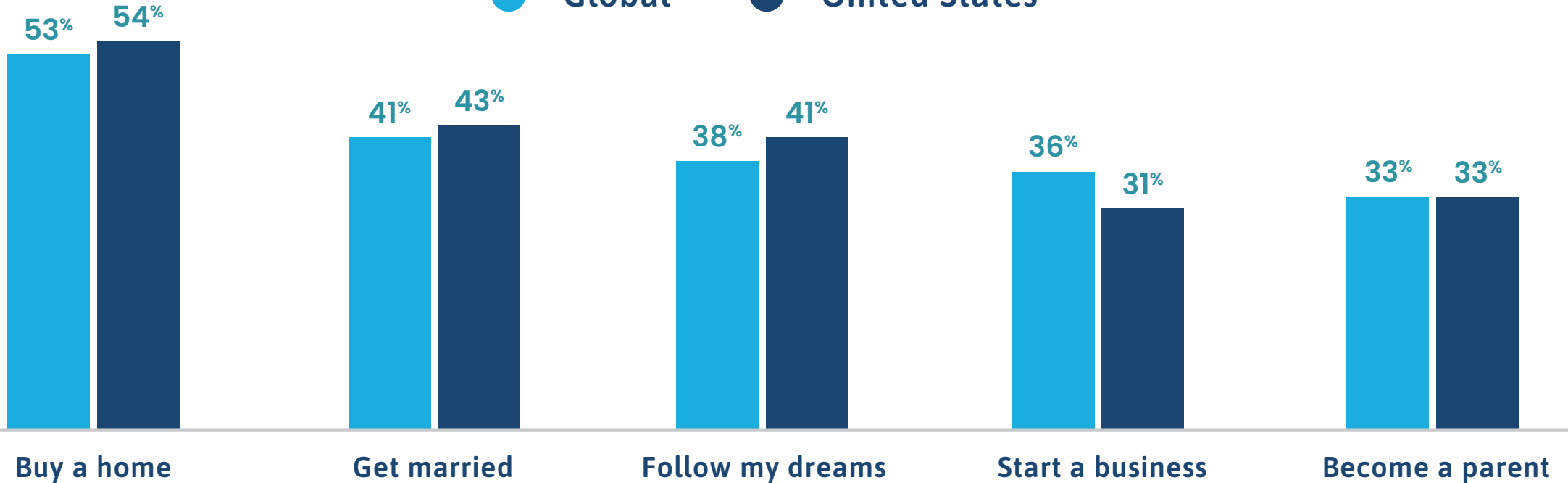
Got married and had children



FUTURE GOALS SHIFT TOWARD THE PERSONAL

“What would you like to accomplish in the next 10 years?”

● Global ● United States



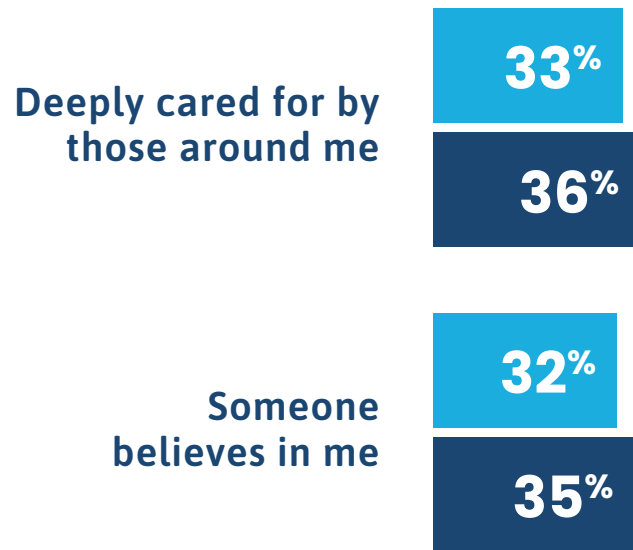
THE EMOTIONAL PORTRAIT OF YOUNG ADULTS

POSITIVE

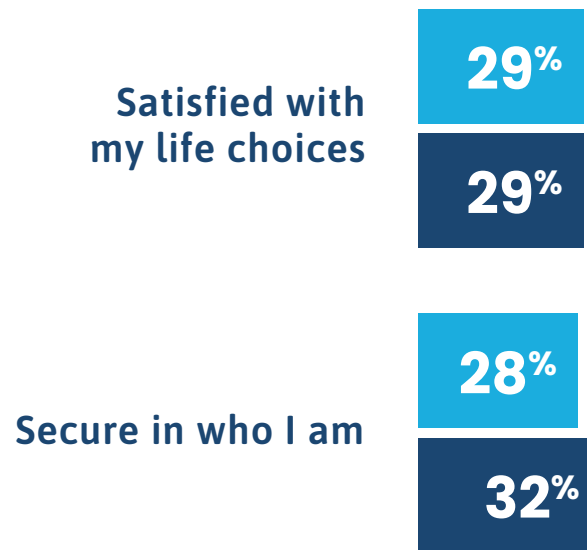
"I often feel ..."

● Global ● United States

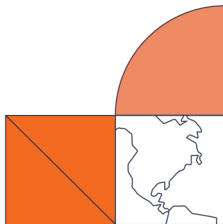
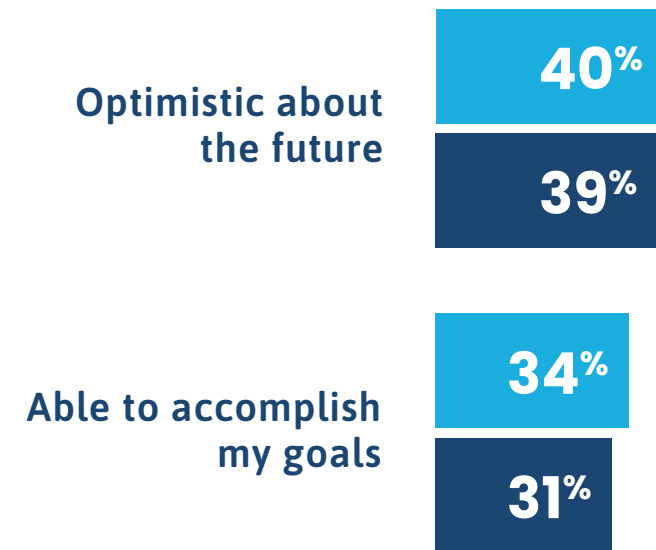
SUPPORTED



SECURE



HOPEFUL



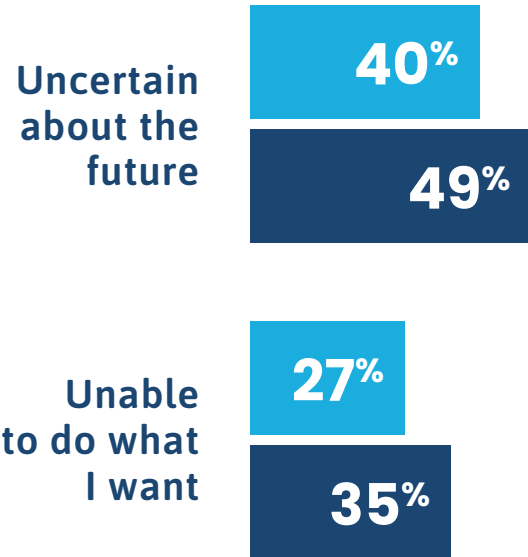
THE EMOTIONAL PORTRAIT OF YOUNG ADULTS

NEGATIVE PART 1

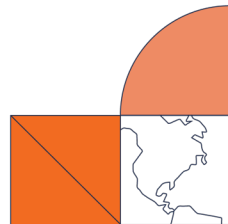
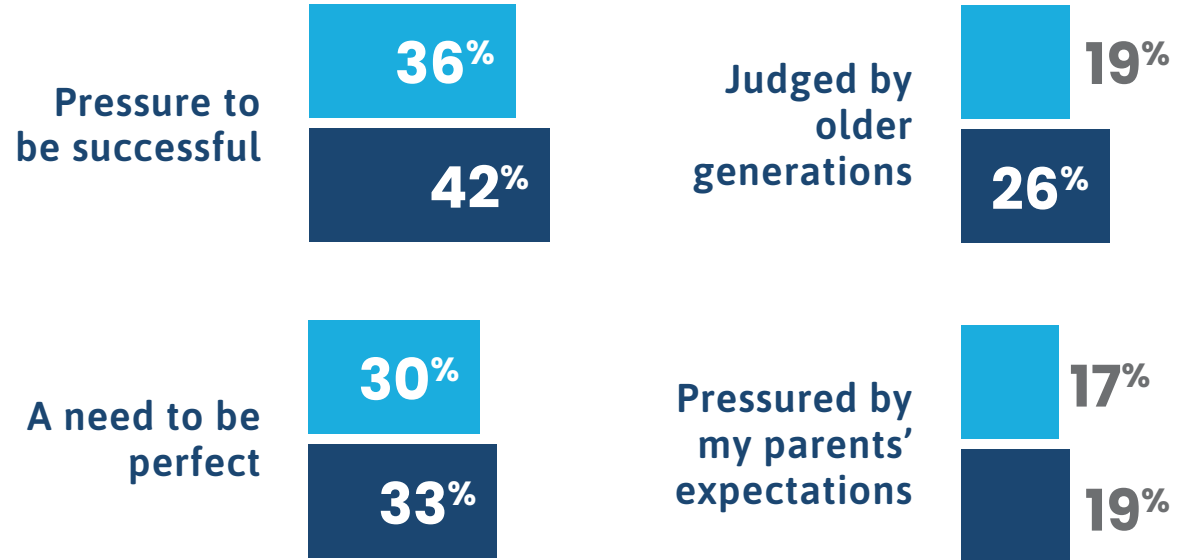
"I often feel ..."

● Global ● United States

DOUBTFUL



PRESSURED



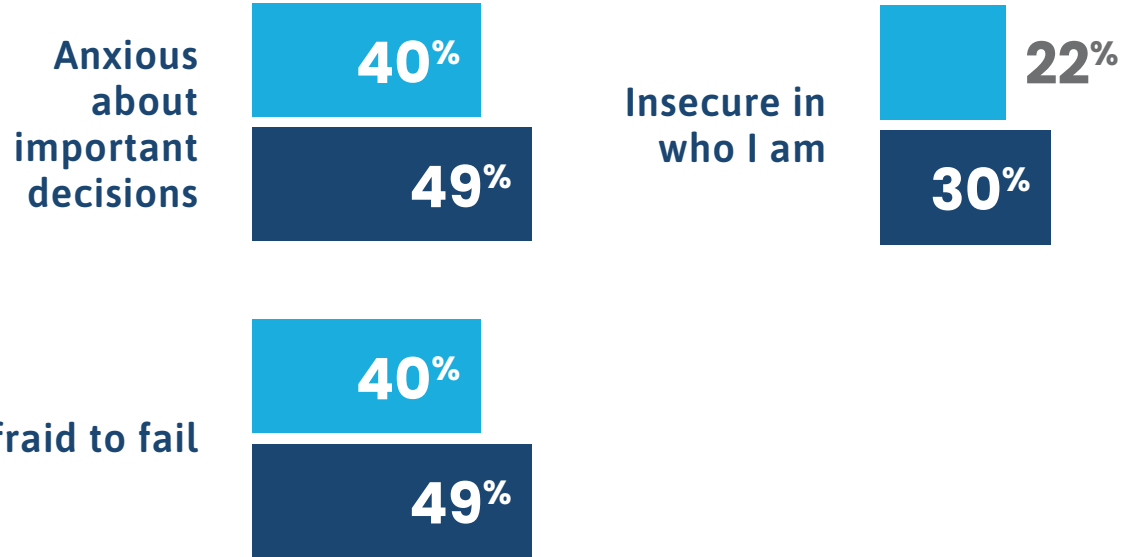
THE EMOTIONAL PORTRAIT OF YOUNG ADULTS

NEGATIVE PART 2

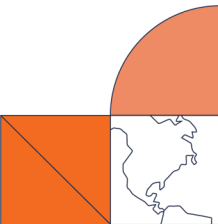
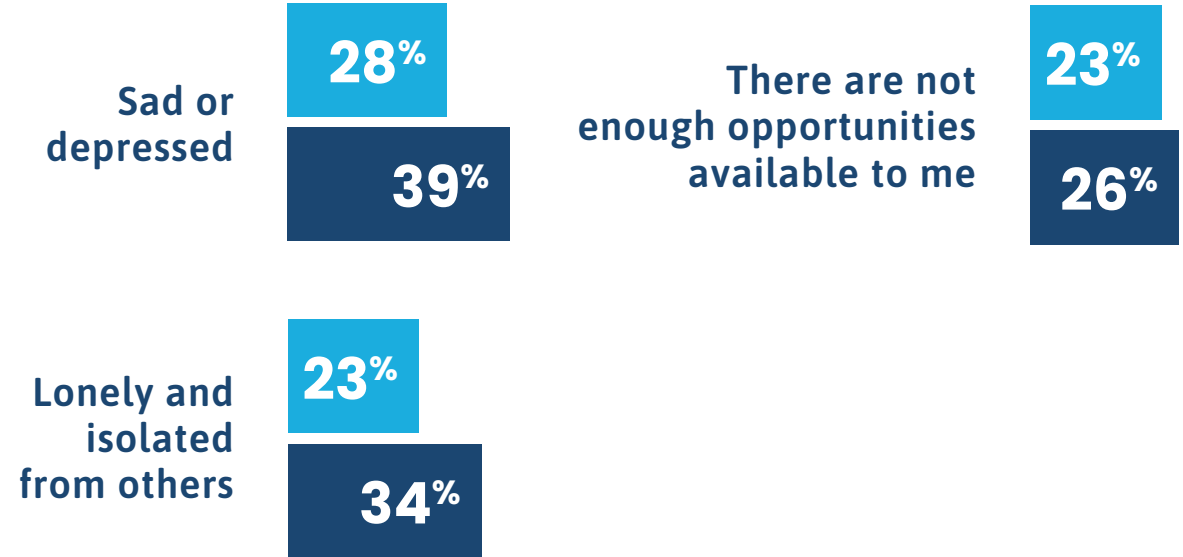
"I often feel ..."

● Global ● United States

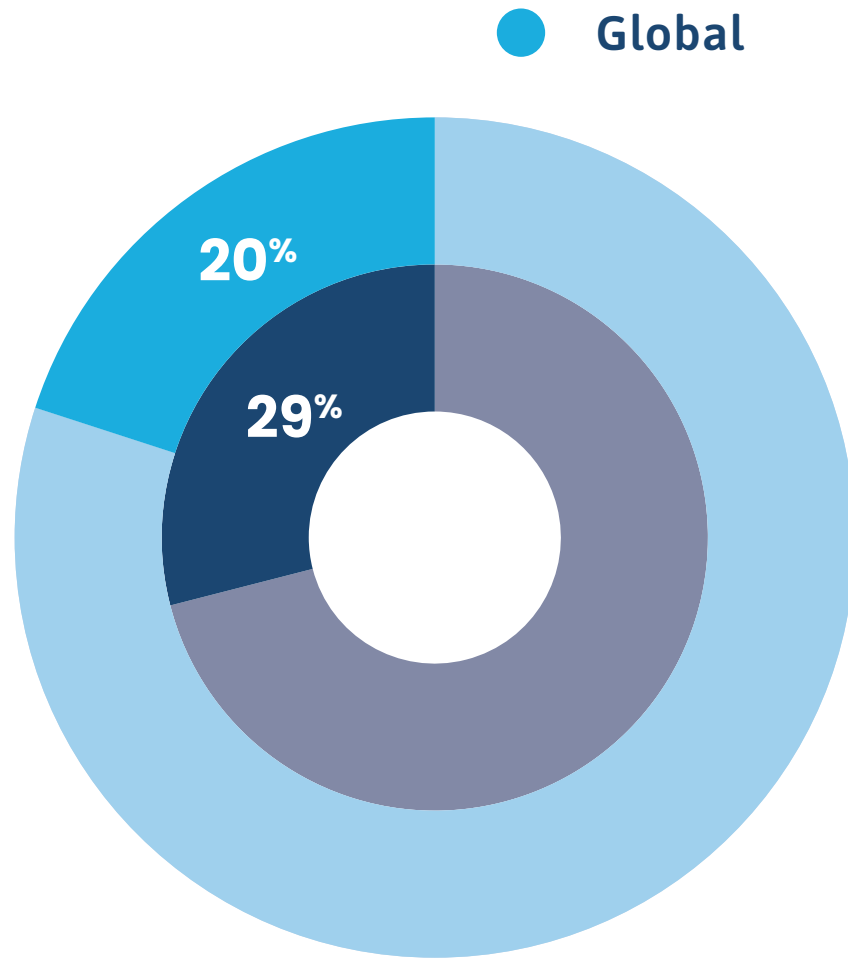
WORRIED



VULNERABLE

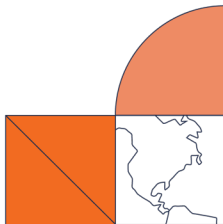


PROPORTION OF ANXIOUS* YOUNG ADULTS



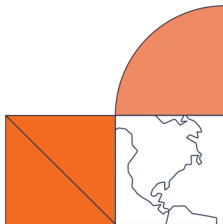
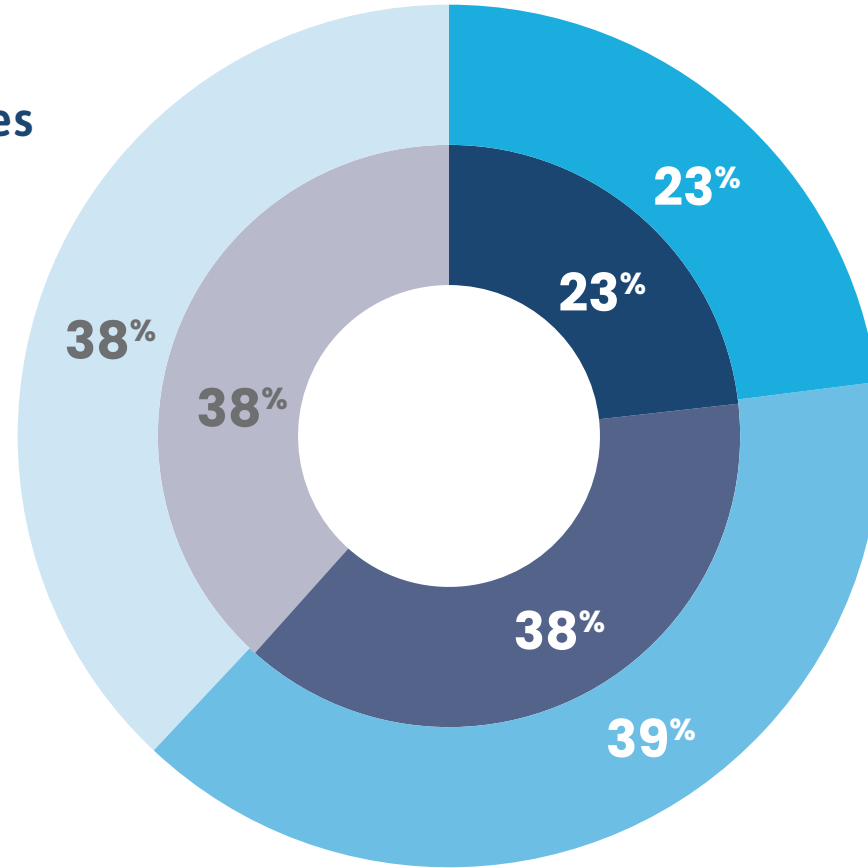
ONE IN FIVE AROUND THE WORLD IS BATTLING ANXIETY, BUT IN THE UNITED STATES THE PROPORTION CLIMBS TO THREE IN 10

**Barna defined "anxiety" as often feeling at least three of the following emotions: "anxious about important decisions", "sad or depressed", "insecure in who I am" or "afraid to fail".*

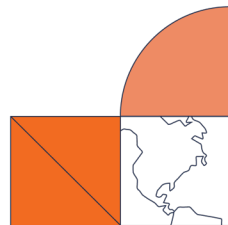
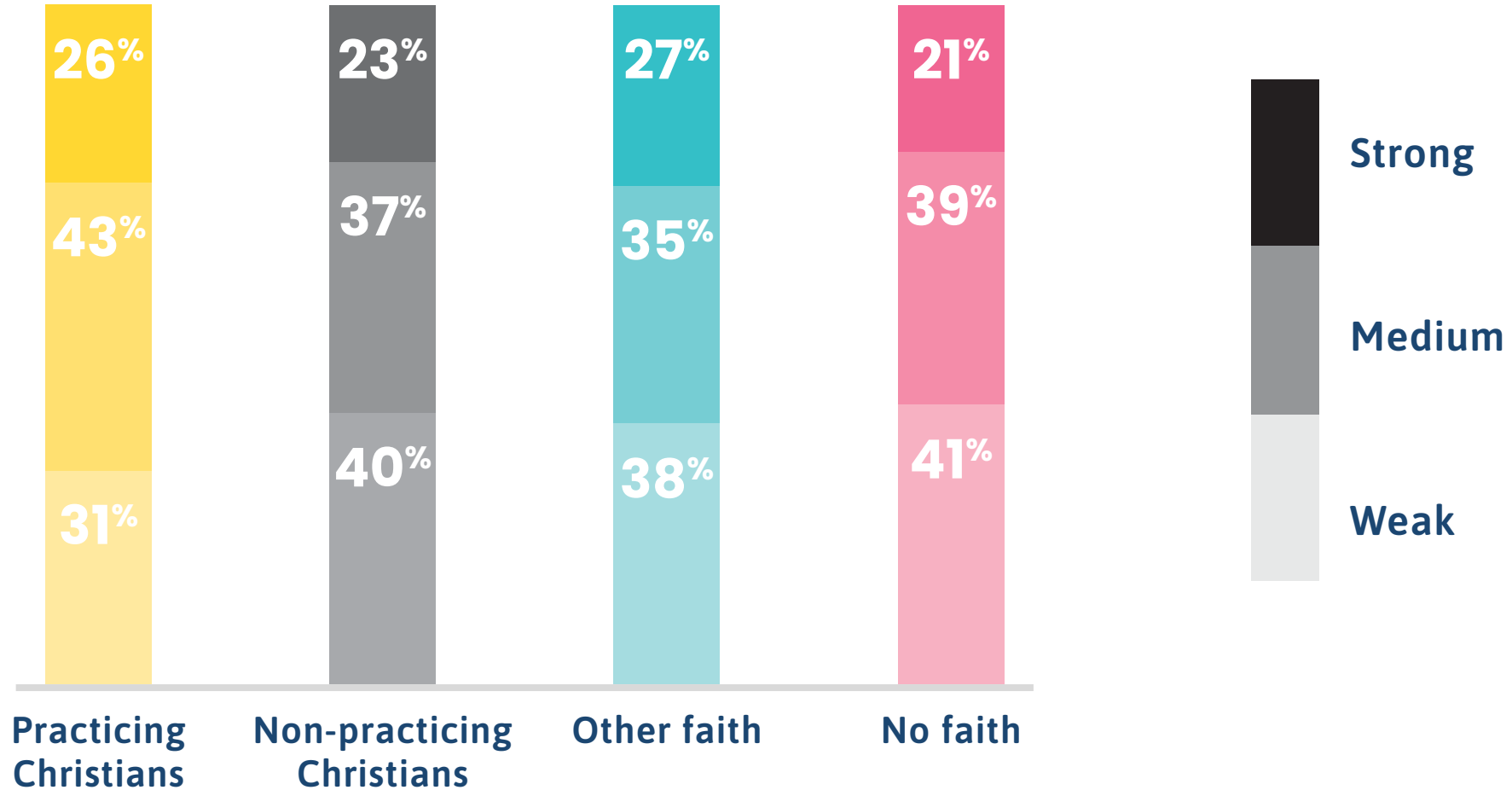


CONNECTIVITY

● Global ● United States



PEOPLE OF FAITH ARE MORE LIKELY TO SHOW STRONG CONNECTIVITY

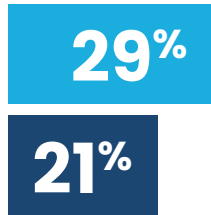


WEAK CONNECTIVITY PART 1

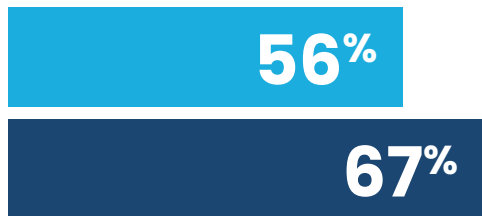
● Global ● United States

GLOBAL

I feel connected to people around the world

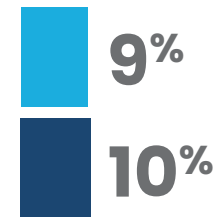


Events around the world matter to me

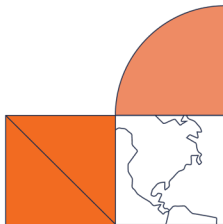
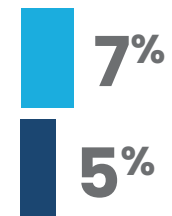


RELATIONAL

I often feel deeply cared for by those around me



I often feel someone believes in me



WEAK CONNECTIVITY PART 2

● Global ● United States

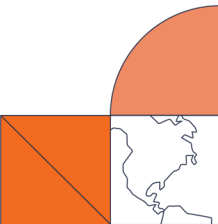
FORWARD LOOKING



OUTWARD ORIENTED



*The average 18–35-year-old regularly participates in three charitable activities related to donating, volunteering or advocating. Those who are “others oriented” participate in four or more.



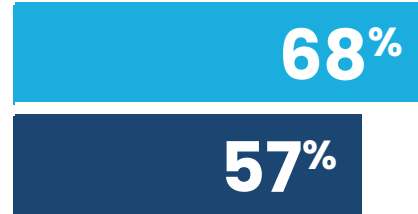
MEDIUM CONNECTIVITY PART 1

● Global ● United States

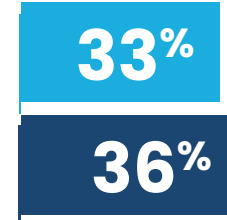
GLOBAL

RELATIONAL

I feel connected to people around the world



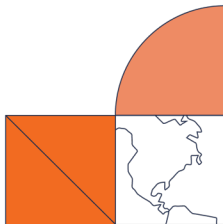
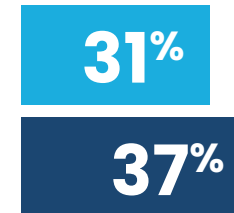
I often feel deeply cared for by those around me



Events around the world matter to me



I often feel someone believes in me



MEDIUM CONNECTIVITY PART 2

● Global ● United States

FORWARD LOOKING

I often feel optimistic about the future

44%

40%

I often feel able to accomplish my goals

34%

28%

OUTWARD ORIENTED

What it takes to be an effective leader is changing

31%

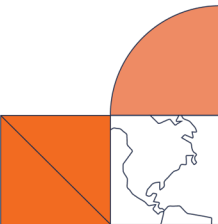
40%

Others oriented*

31%

34%

*The average 18–35-year-old regularly participates in three charitable activities related to donating, volunteering or advocating. Those who are “others oriented” participate in four or more.



STRONG CONNECTIVITY PART 1

● Global ● United States

GLOBAL

I feel connected to people around the world



Events around the world matter to me

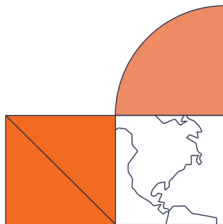


RELATIONAL

I often feel deeply cared for by those around me



I often feel someone believes in me



STRONG CONNECTIVITY PART 2

● Global ● United States

GLOBAL

RELATIONAL

I often feel optimistic about the future



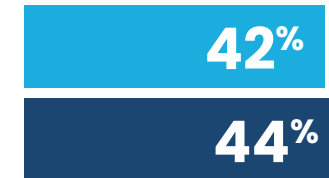
What it takes to be an effective leader is changing



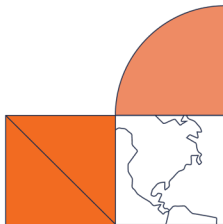
I often feel able to accomplish my goals



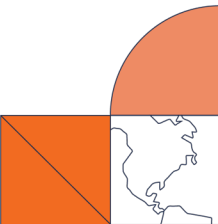
Others oriented*



*The average 18–35-year-old regularly participates in three charitable activities related to donating, volunteering or advocating. Those who are “others oriented” participate in four or more.

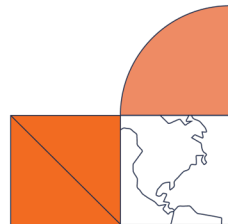
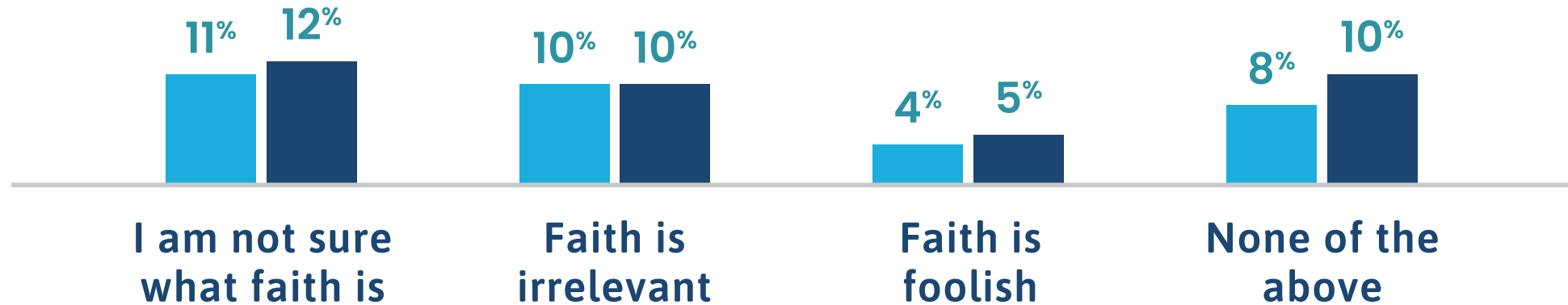


THE CONNECTED GENERATIONS' OPINIONS OF FAITH VARY PART 1



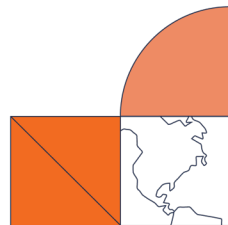
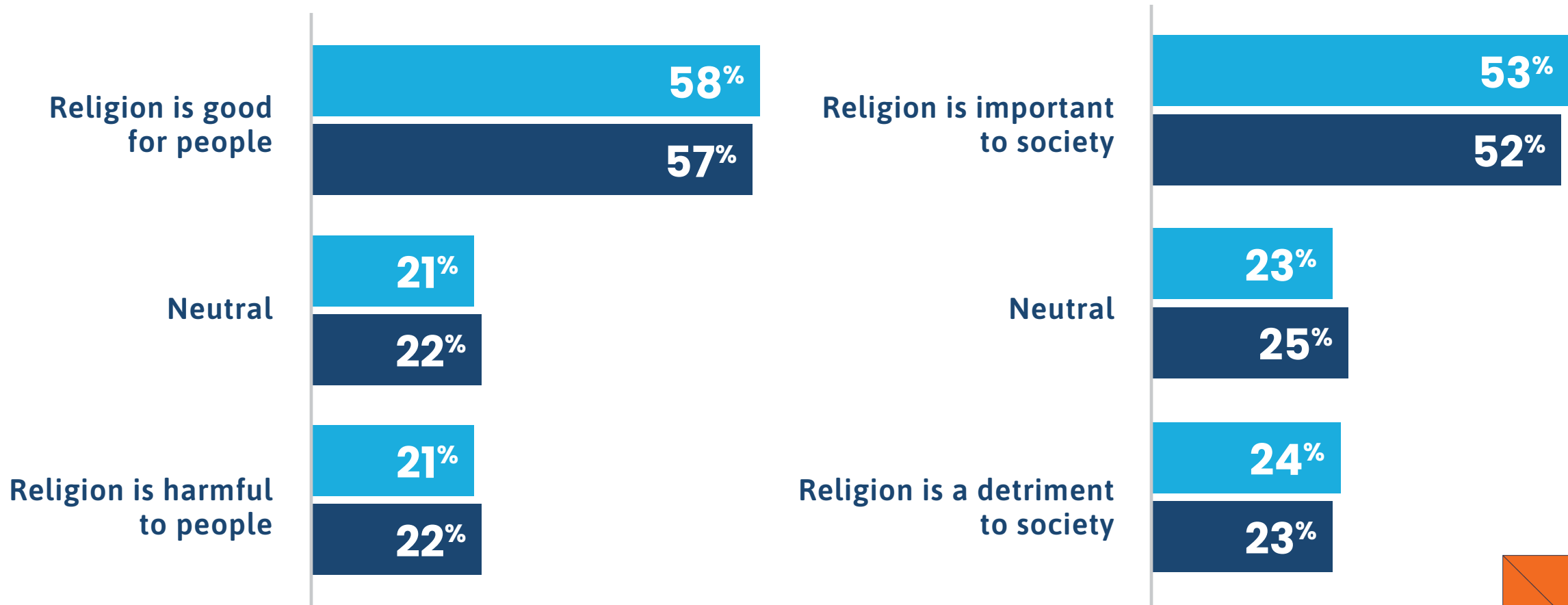
THE CONNECTED GENERATIONS' OPINIONS OF FAITH VARY PART 2

● Global ● United States

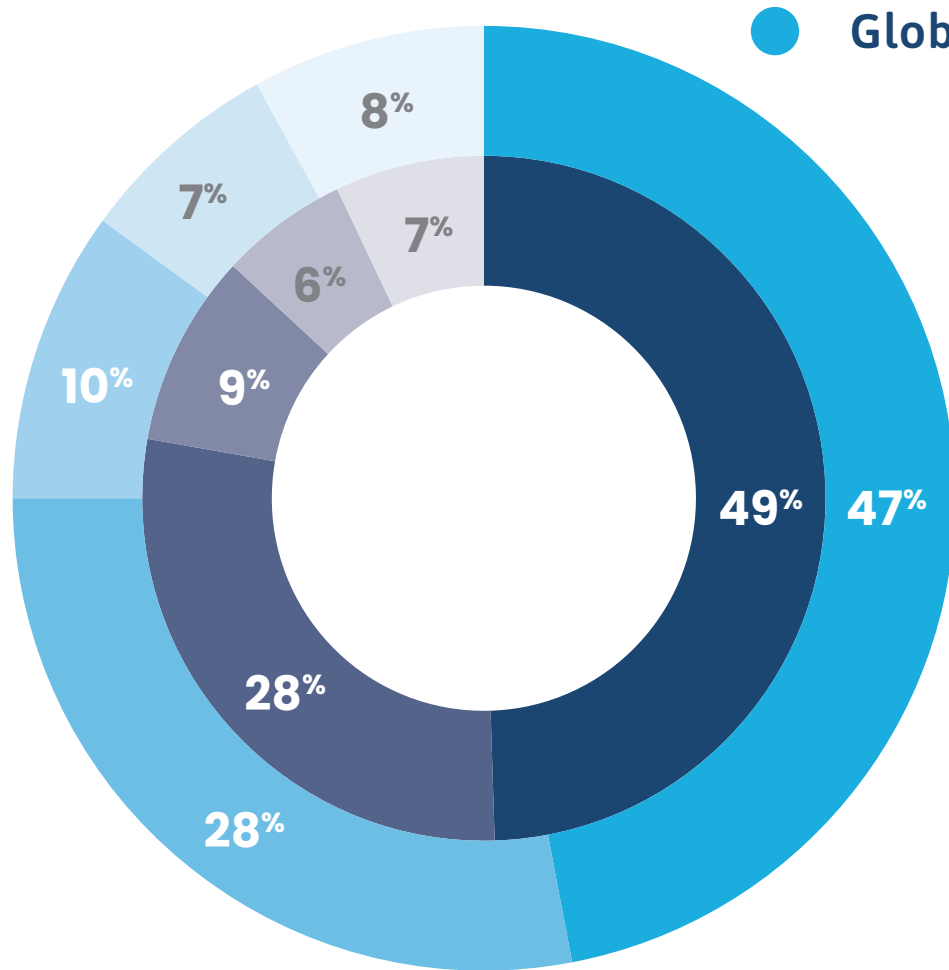


... AND SUGGEST A DEEP AMBIVALENCE ABOUT RELIGION

● Global ● United States



MOST YOUNG ADULTS BELIEVE IN SPIRITUAL FORCES



● Global ● United States

Do you believe in spiritual forces?



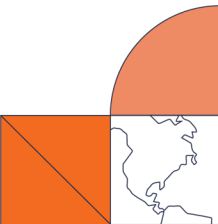
Yes, I am certain they exist

I think they exist but I'm not sure

I do not know if spiritual forces exist

I don't think they exist, but it's possible

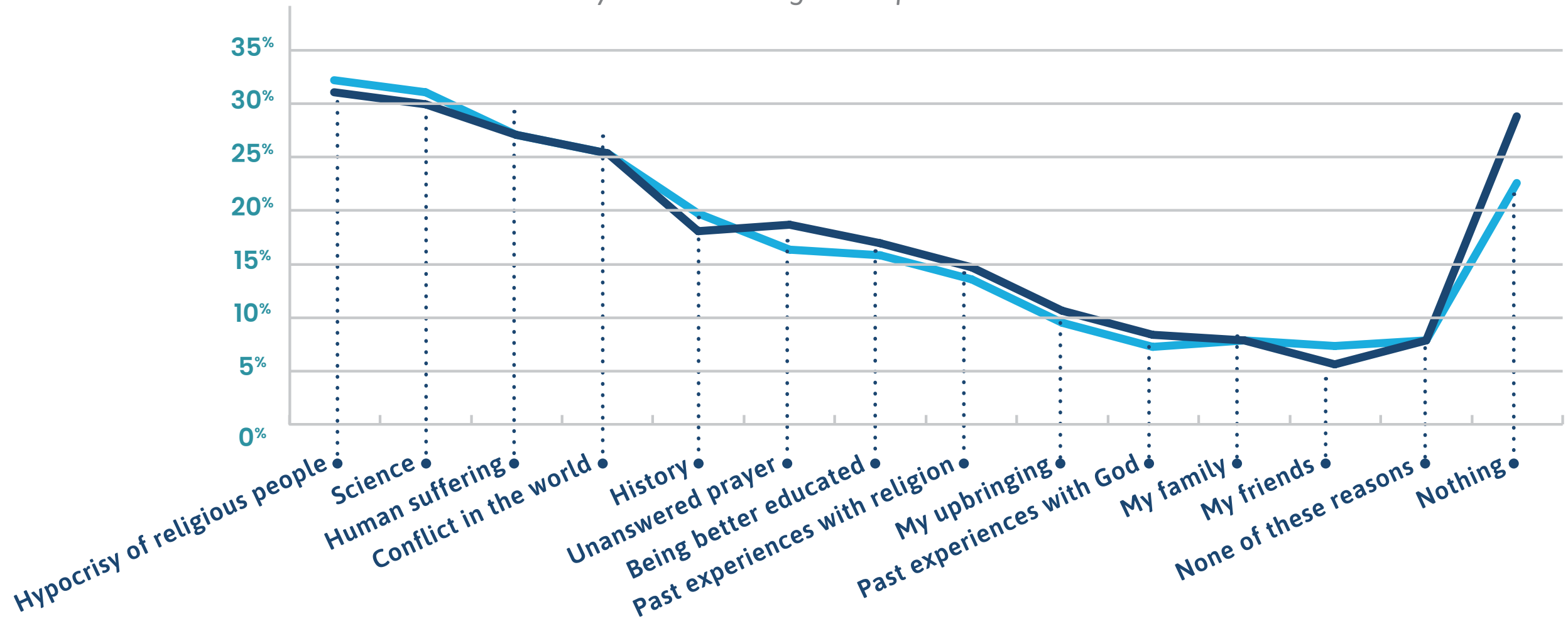
No, I do not believe spiritual forces exist



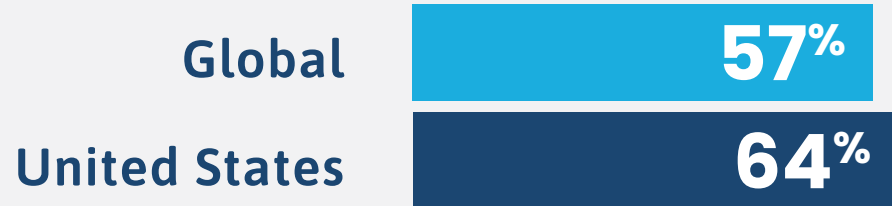
... BUT ARE STILL WRESTLING WITH SIGNIFICANT DOUBTS

● Global ● United States

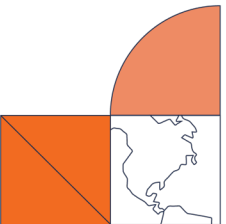
"What makes you doubt things of a spiritual dimension?"



DROPOUT PERCENTAGE



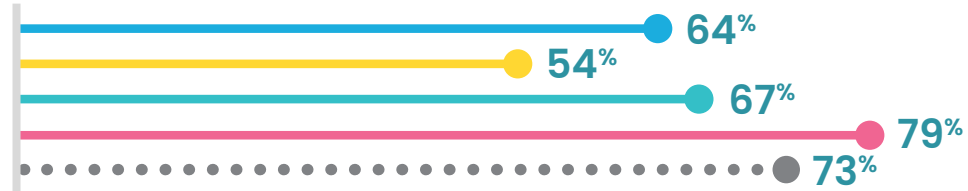
JUST OVER HALF OF CHRISTIANS IN THE TOTAL SAMPLE MEET THE CHURCH DROPOUT DEFINITION; HOWEVER, NEARLY TWO-THIRDS IN THE UNITED STATES DO



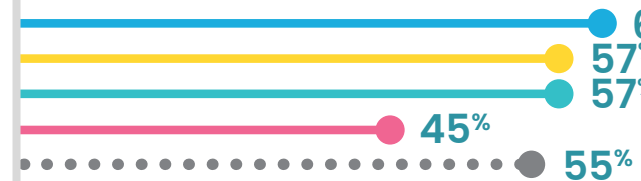
CHURCH TEACHINGS COMMONLY POSE CHALLENGES TO ENGAGEMENT PART 1

● Global ● Christians ● Other faith ● No faith ● Church dropouts

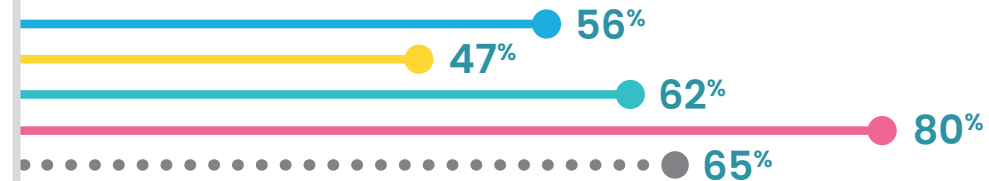
I prefer to distance myself from the politics of the Church



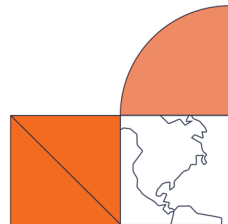
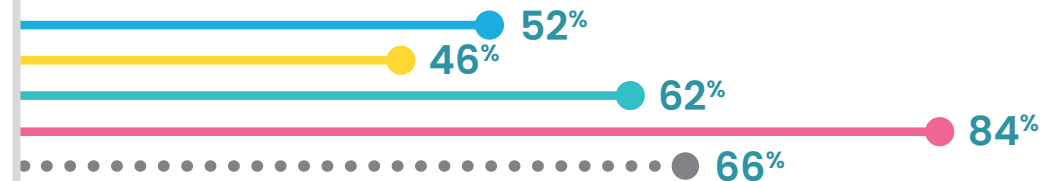
Faith is more relevant in the hard times of life



There is corruption in the Church



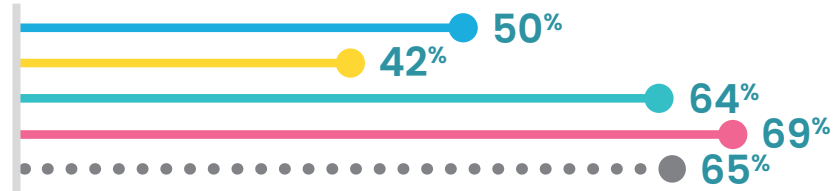
Church teachings have flaws or gaps



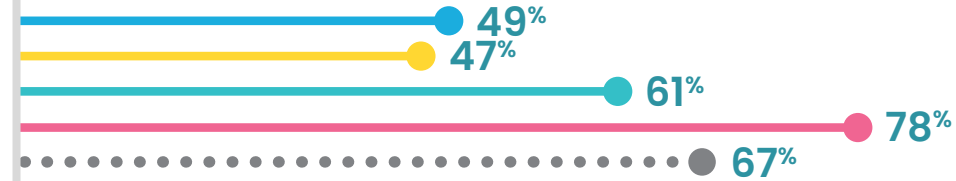
CHURCH TEACHINGS COMMONLY POSE CHALLENGES TO ENGAGEMENT PART 2

● Global ● Christians ● Other faith ● No faith ● Church dropouts

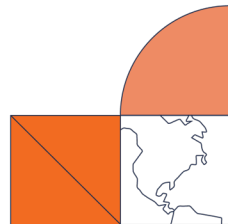
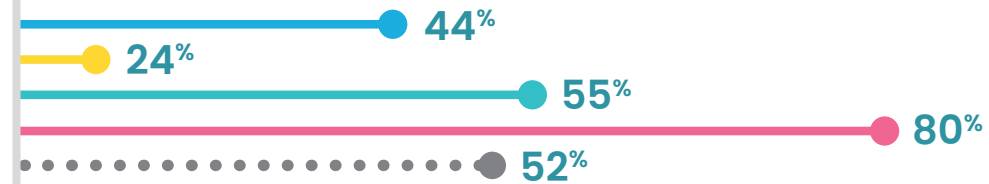
Being part of a church is not an essential part of my faith



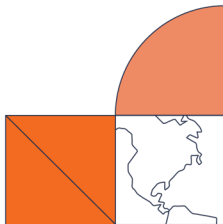
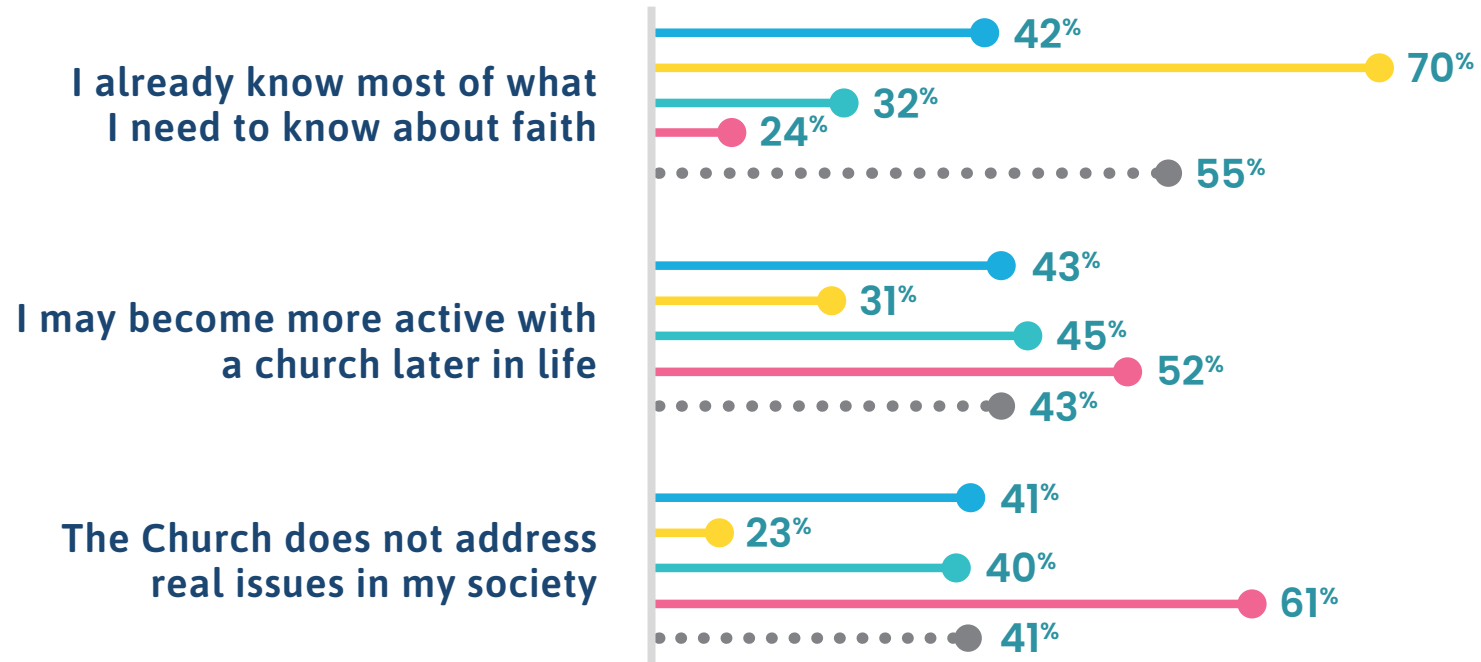
People at church are judgmental



My personal beliefs do not align with the Church's



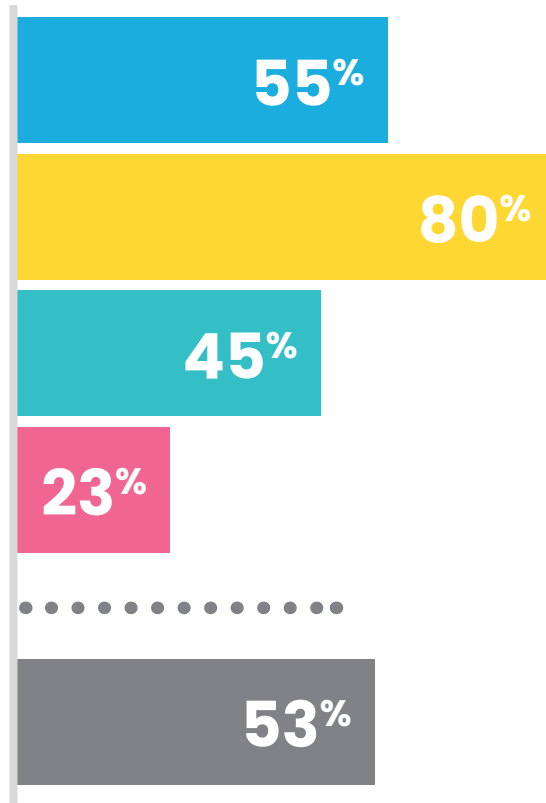
CHURCH TEACHINGS COMMONLY POSE CHALLENGES TO ENGAGEMENT PART 3



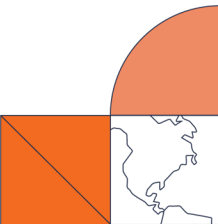
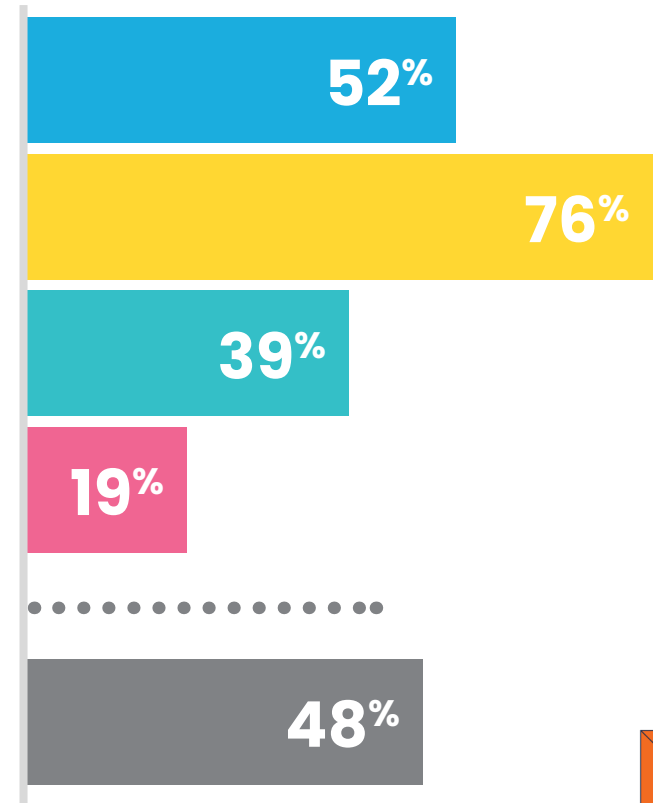
OPINIONS OF THE CHURCH PRESENT A CLEAR DIVIDE PART 1

● Global ● Christians ● Other faith ● No faith ● Church dropouts

The Church is good for people

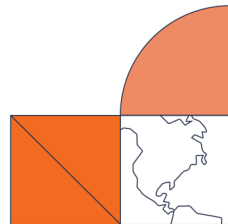
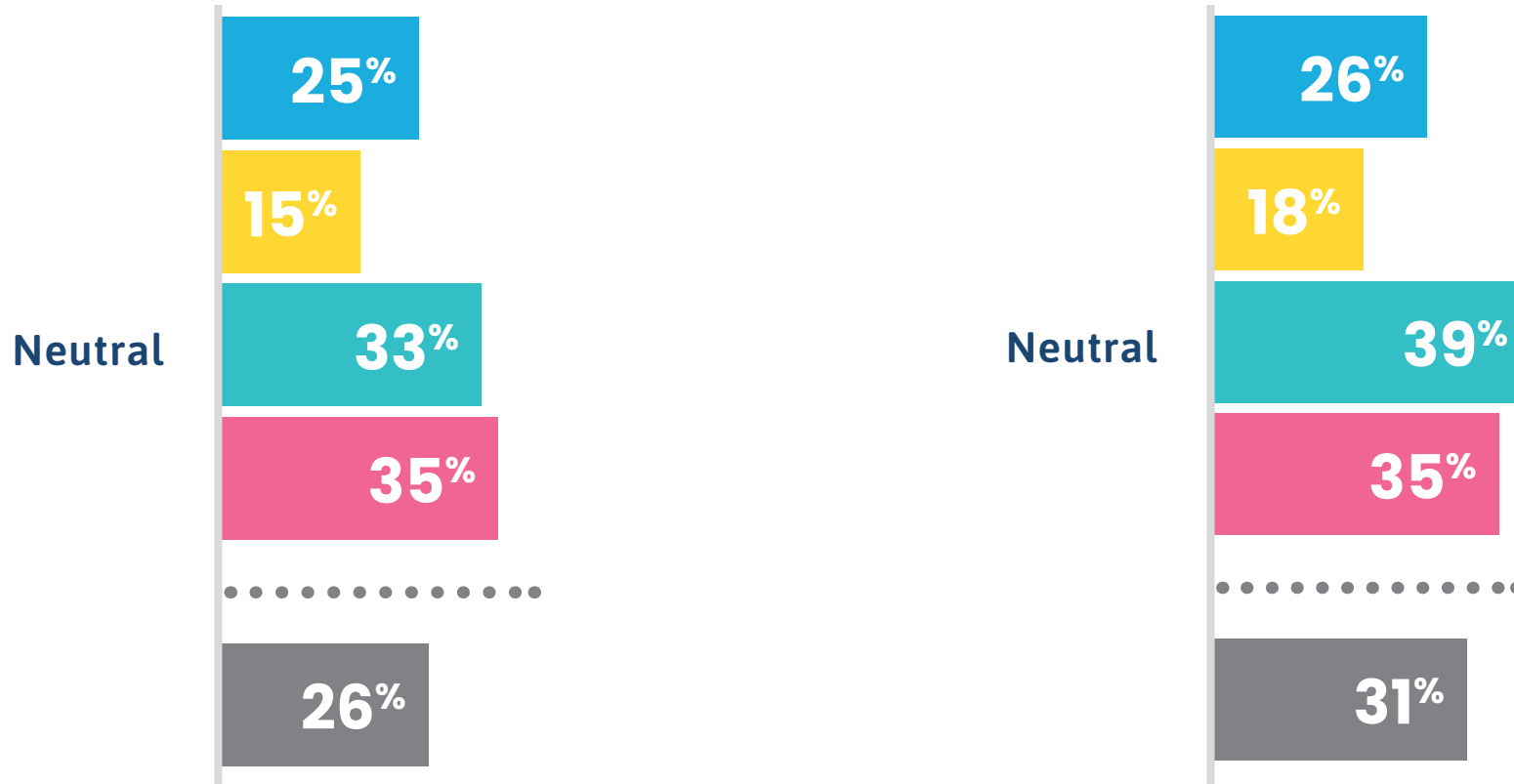


The Church is important to society



OPINIONS OF THE CHURCH PRESENT A CLEAR DIVIDE PART 2

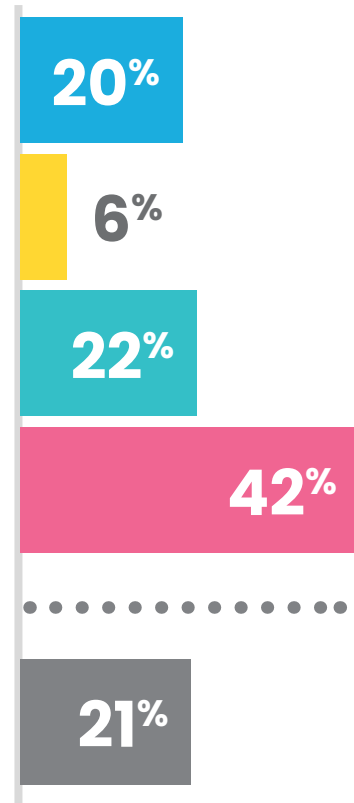
● Global ● Christians ● Other faith ● No faith ● Church dropouts



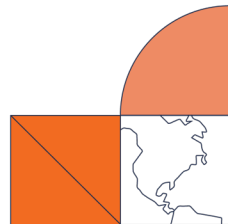
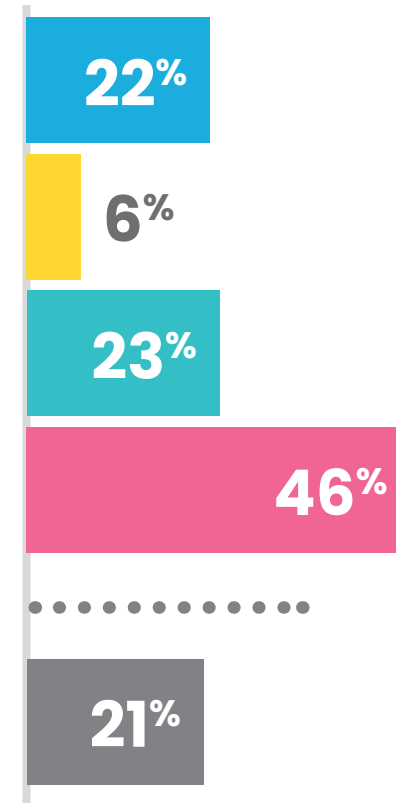
OPINIONS OF THE CHURCH PRESENT A CLEAR DIVIDE PART 3

● Global ● Christians ● Other faith ● No faith ● Church dropouts

The Church is harmful to people

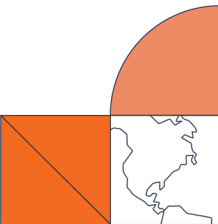
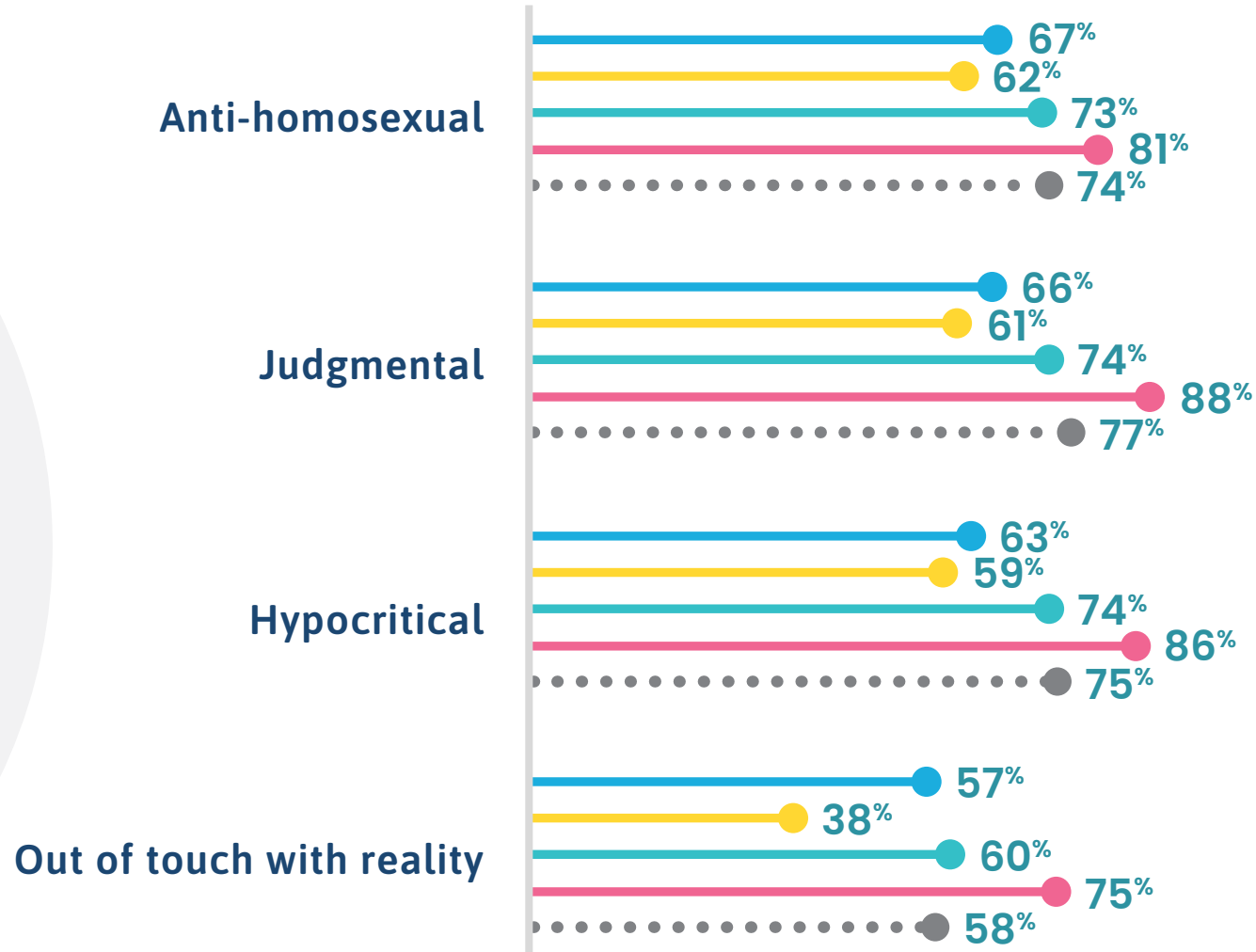


The Church is a detriment to society



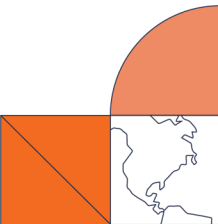
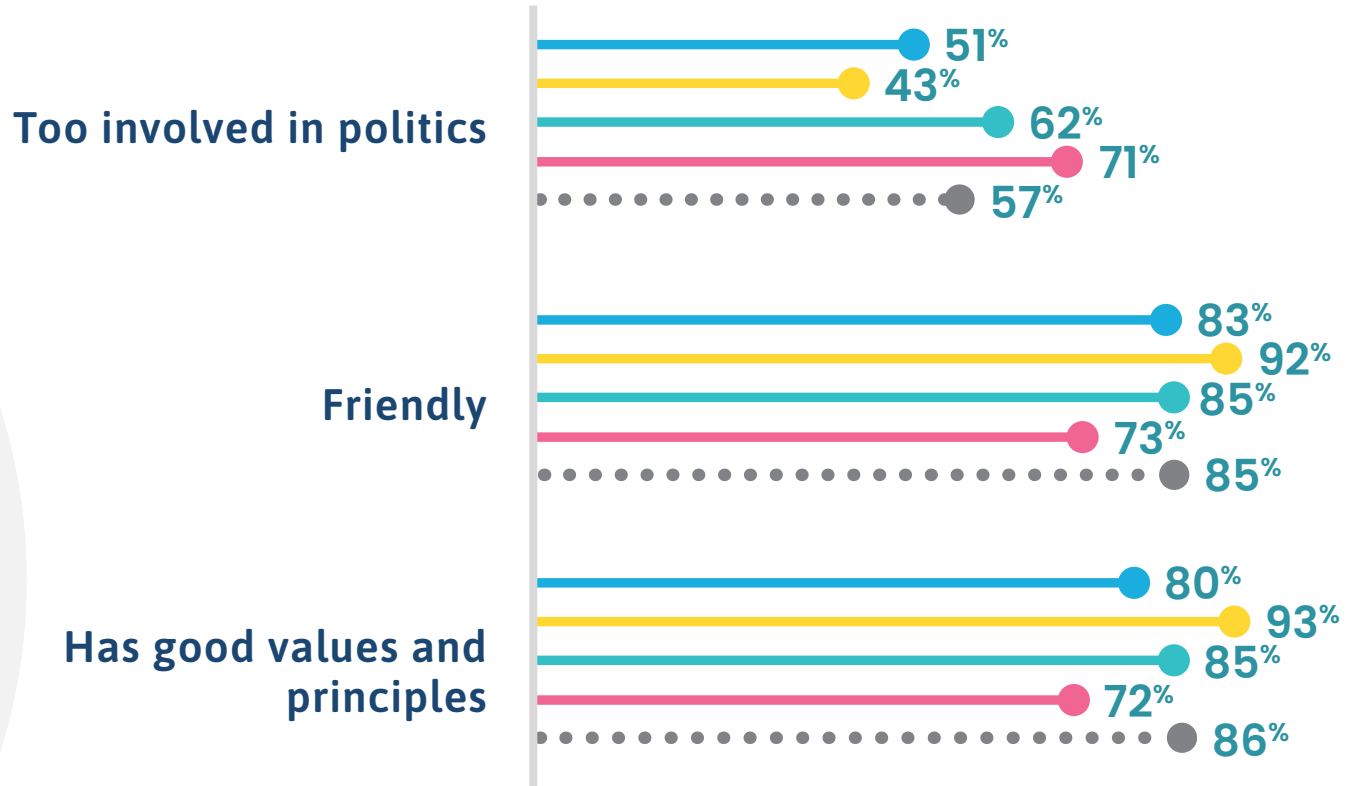
NON-RELIGIOUS YOUNG ADULTS SEE THE MODERN CHURCH DIFFERENTLY PART 1

% say this term describes present-day Christianity "a lot" or "some"



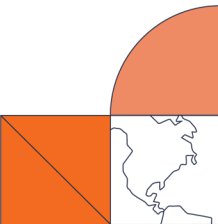
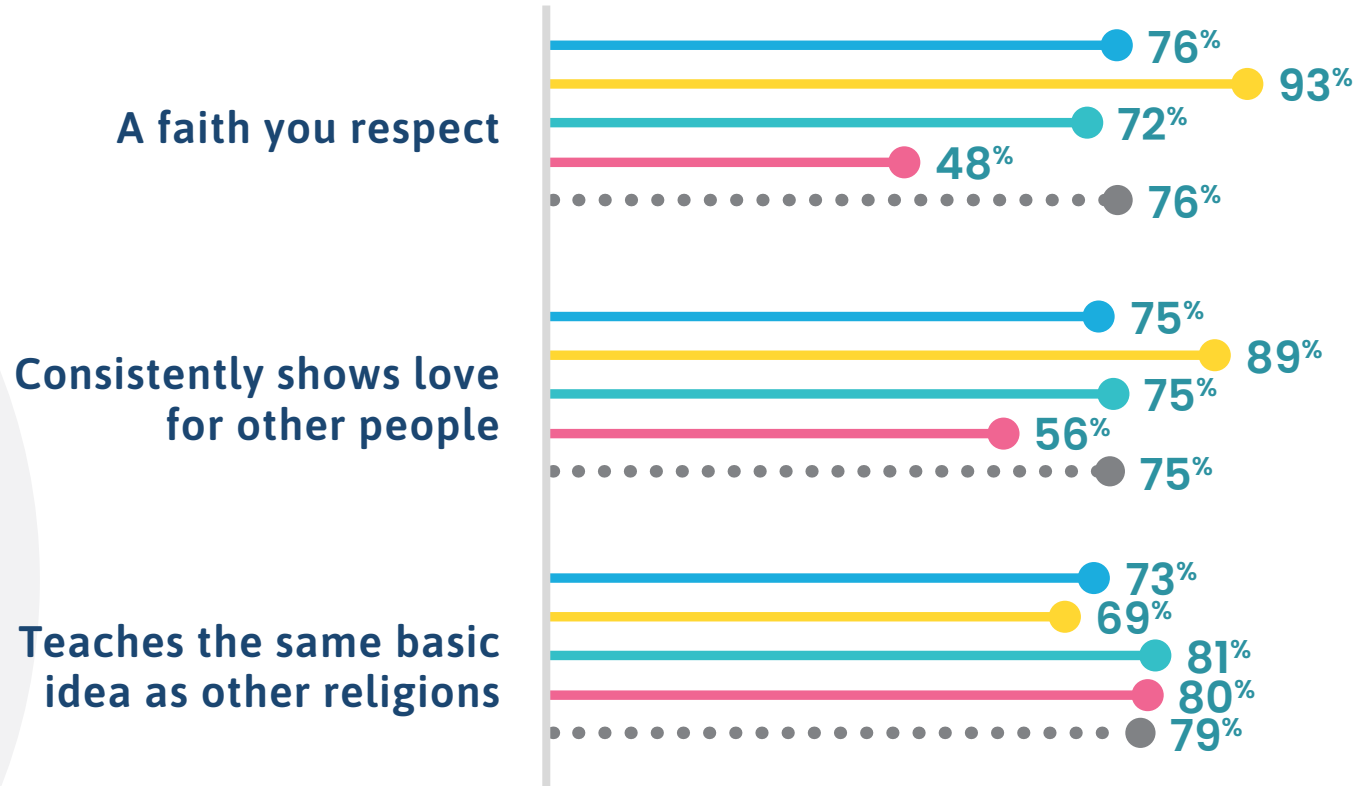
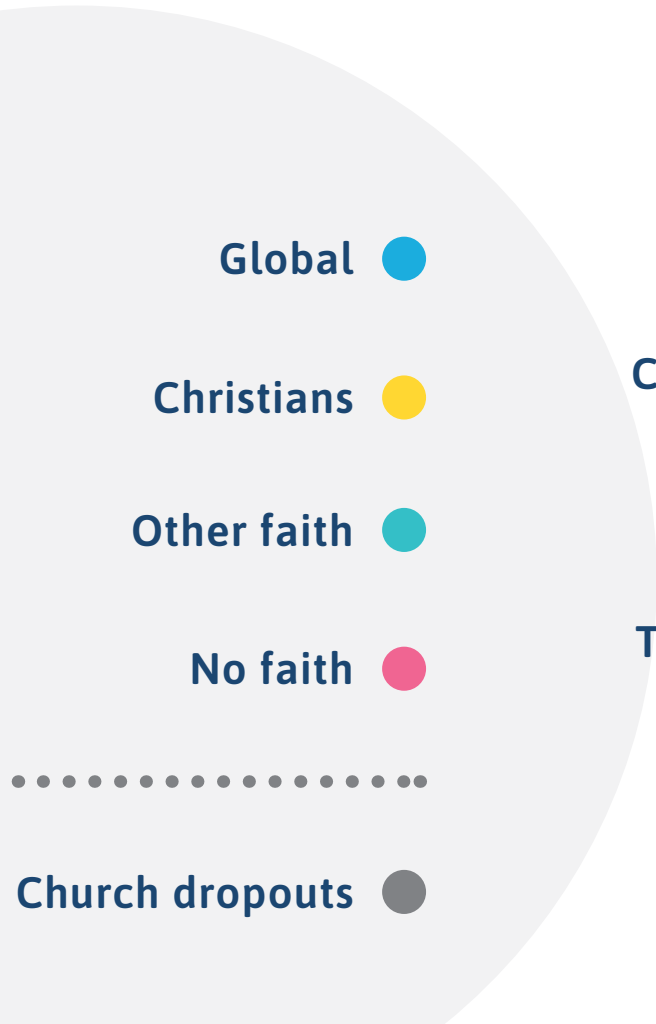
NON-RELIGIOUS YOUNG ADULTS SEE THE MODERN CHURCH DIFFERENTLY PART 2

% say this term describes present-day Christianity "a lot" or "some"



NON-RELIGIOUS YOUNG ADULTS SEE THE MODERN CHURCH DIFFERENTLY PART 3

% say this term describes present-day Christianity "a lot" or "some"



THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT JESUS' NATURE

PART 1

"Who do you say Jesus is?"

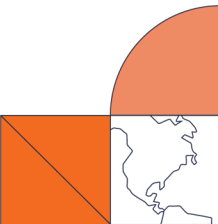
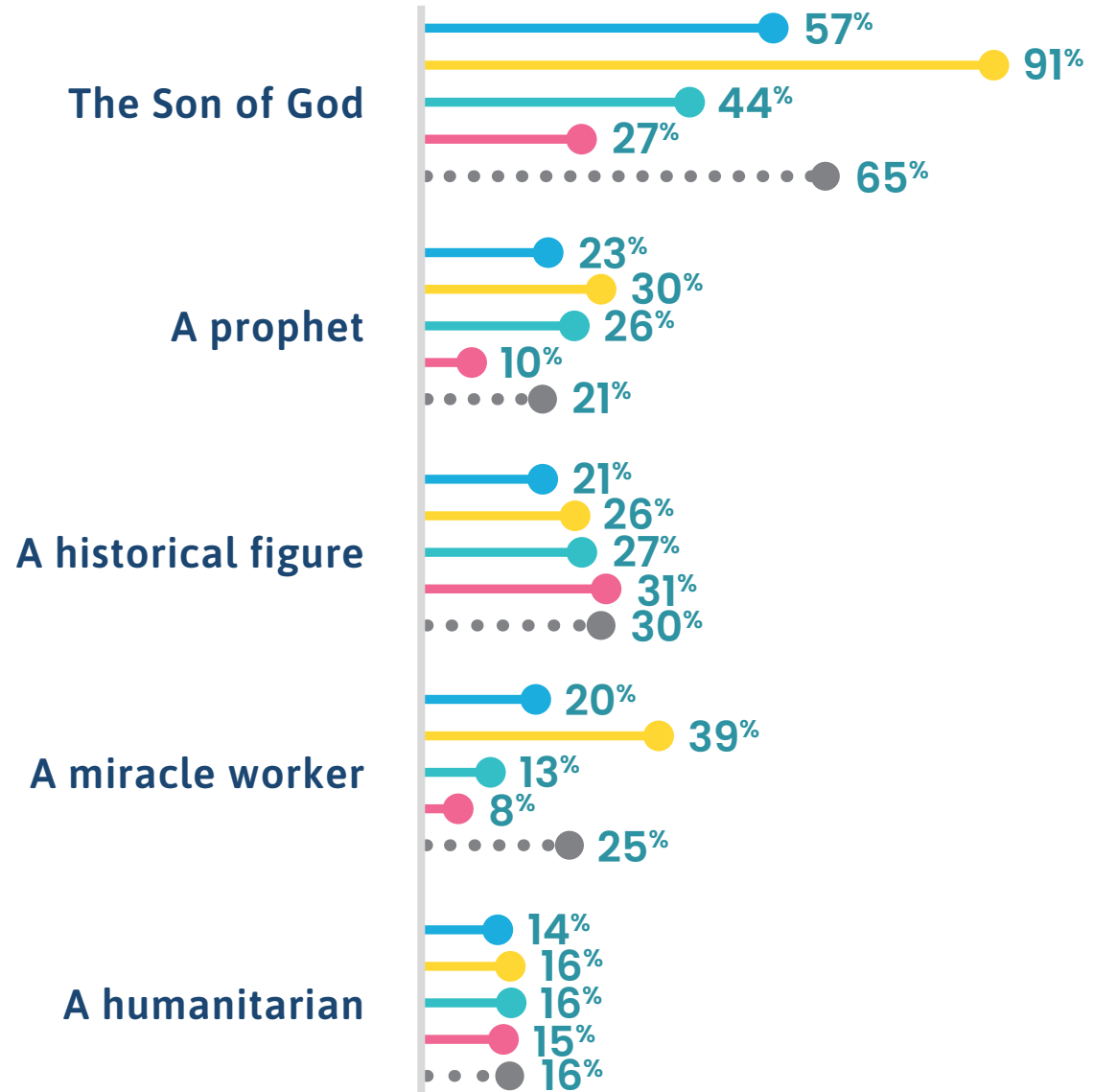
Global ●

Christians ●

Other faith ●

No faith ●

Church dropouts ●

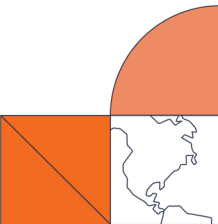
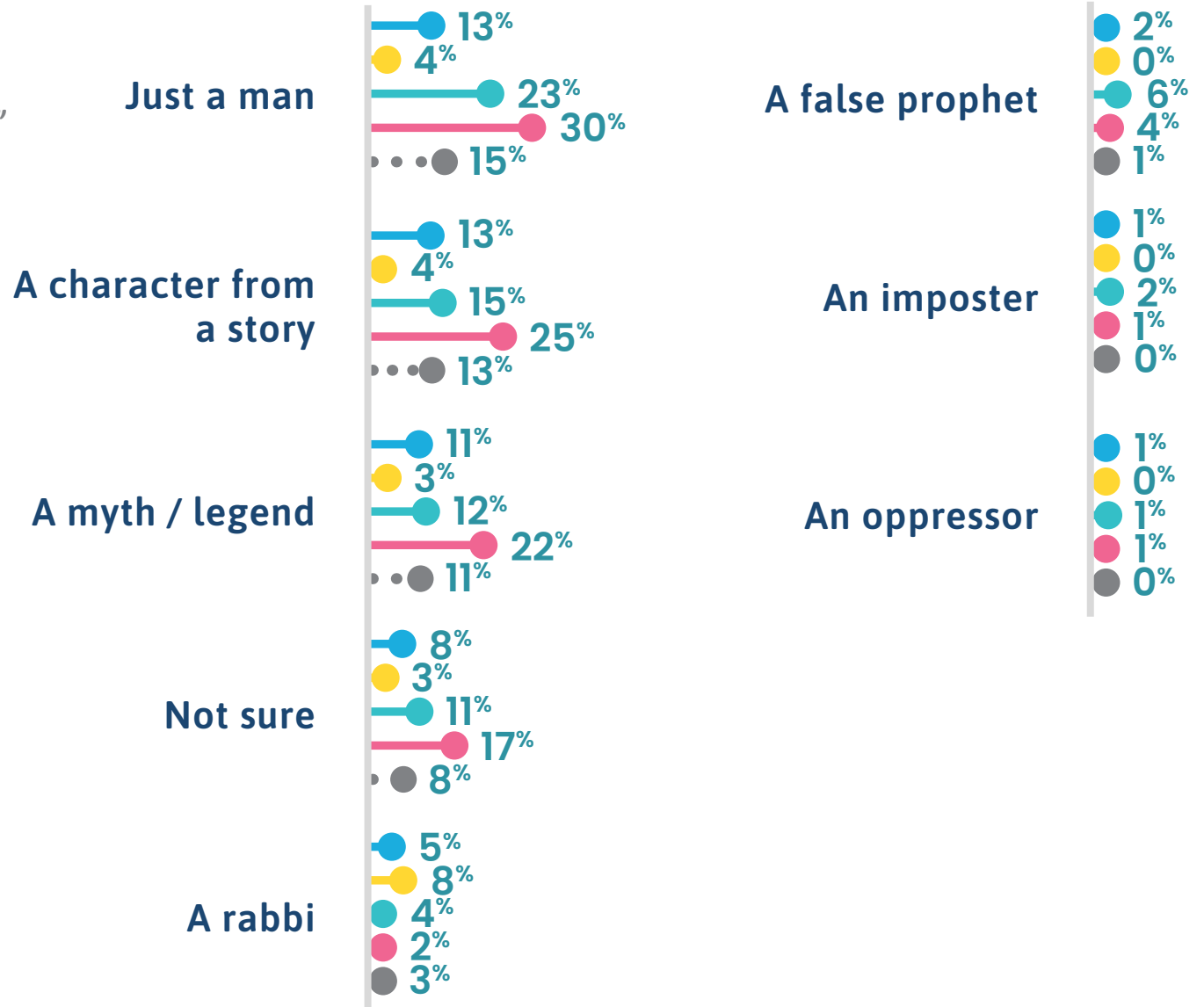


THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT JESUS' NATURE

PART 2

"Who do you say Jesus is?"

- Global ●
- Christians ●
- Other faith ●
- No faith ●
-
- Church dropouts ●

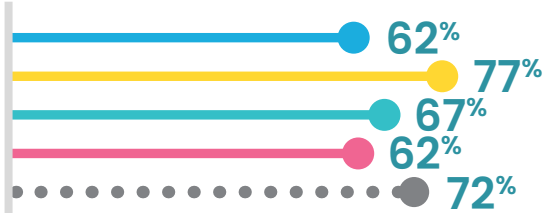


... AND NO CLEAR CONSENSUS ON THE PRIMARY MARKERS OF CHRISTIAN IDENTITY PART 1

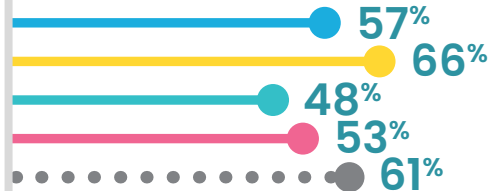
“How do you know someone is a Christian?”

- Global ●
- Christians ●
- Other faith ●
- No faith ●
-
- Church dropouts ●

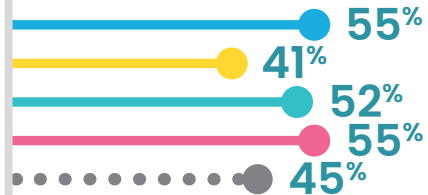
Believe Jesus was the Son of God



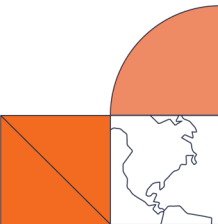
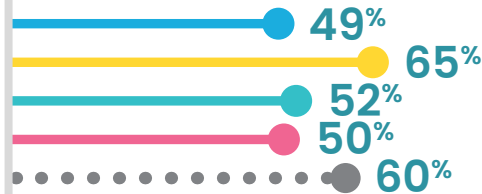
Pray to God



Attend church



Believe Jesus rose from the dead

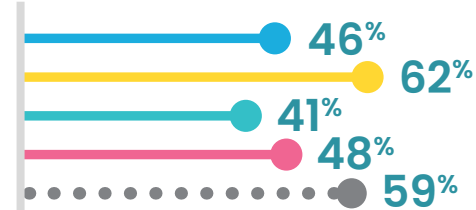


... AND NO CLEAR CONSENSUS ON THE PRIMARY MARKERS OF CHRISTIAN IDENTITY PART 2

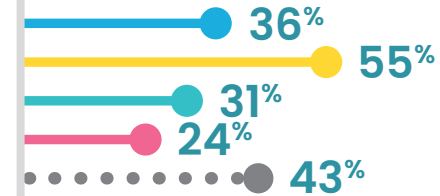
"How do you know someone is a Christian?"

- Global ●
- Christians ●
- Other faith ●
- No faith ●
-
- Church dropouts ●

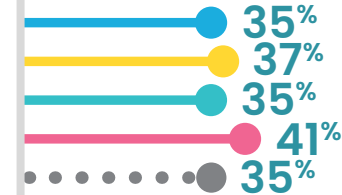
Believe in eternal life in Heaven



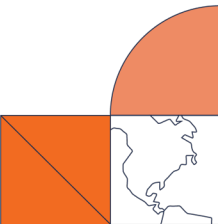
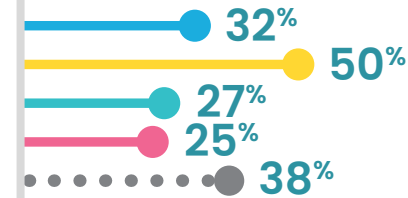
Forgive others



Talk about their faith with non-believers



Repent of sins



... AND NO CLEAR CONSENSUS ON THE PRIMARY MARKERS OF CHRISTIAN IDENTITY PART 3

"How do you know someone is a Christian?"

Global ●

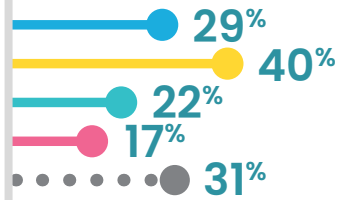
Christians ●

Other faith ●

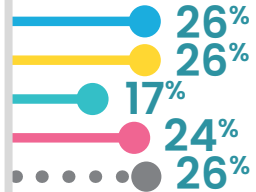
No faith ●

.....
Church dropouts ●

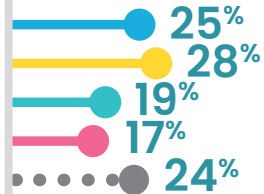
Care for the poor and vulnerable



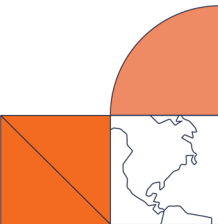
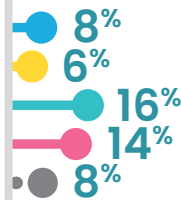
Take sacraments



Avoid any immoral behavior



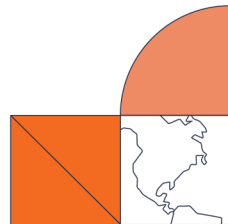
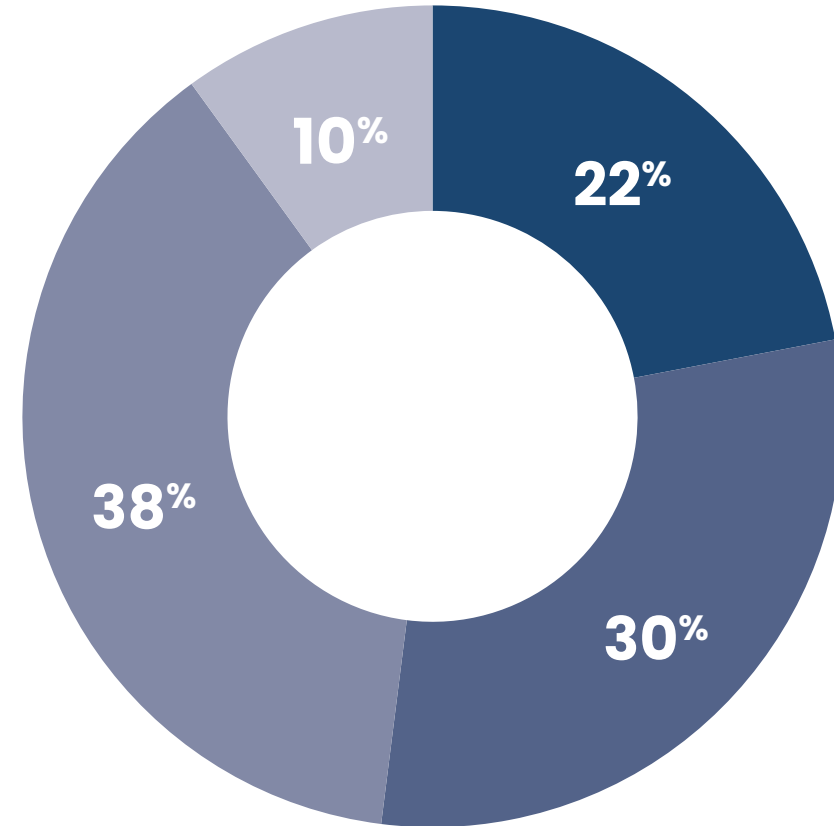
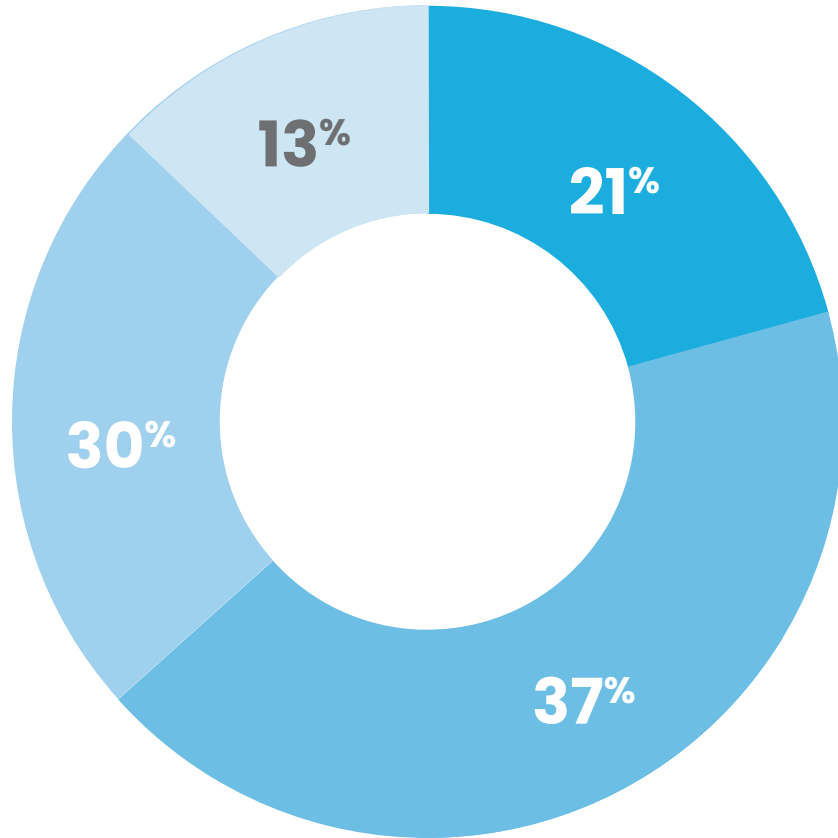
None of the above



RESILIENT DISCIPLESHIP & THE IMPACT OF THE CHURCH

● Global ● United States

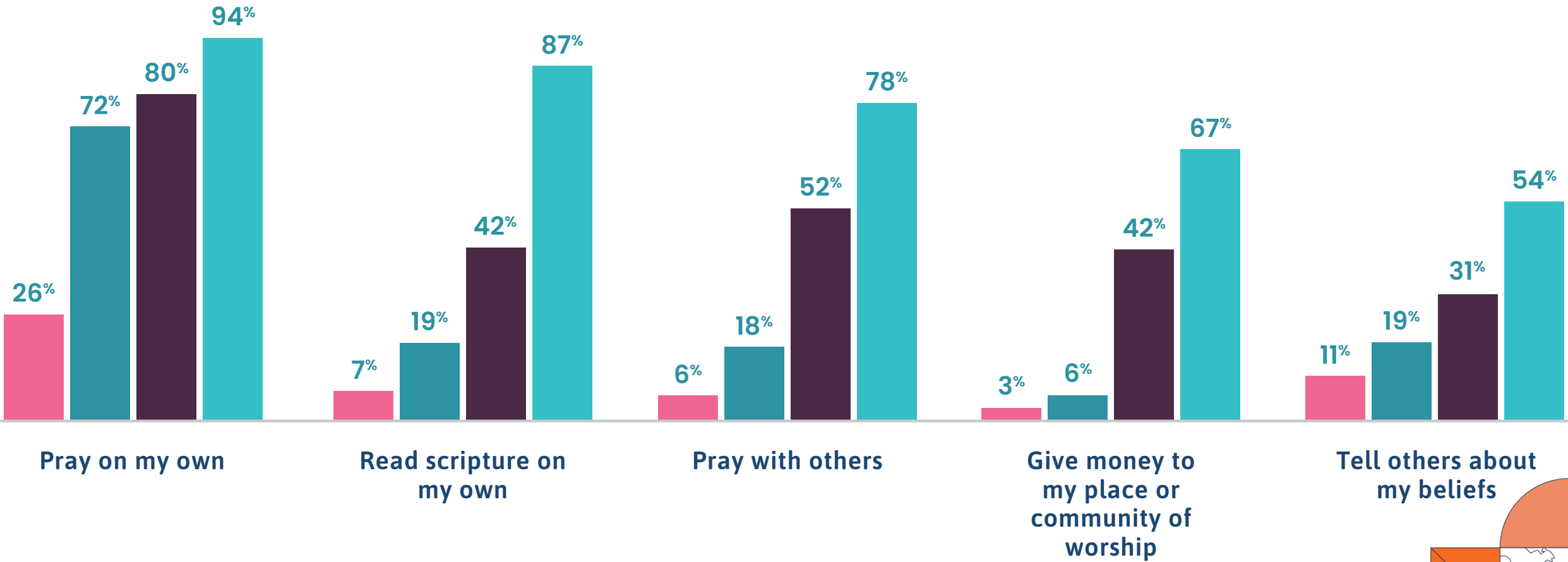
● Prodigals ● Nomads ● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



PRAYER & SCRIPTURE ARE THE FOUNDATION OF RESILIENCE

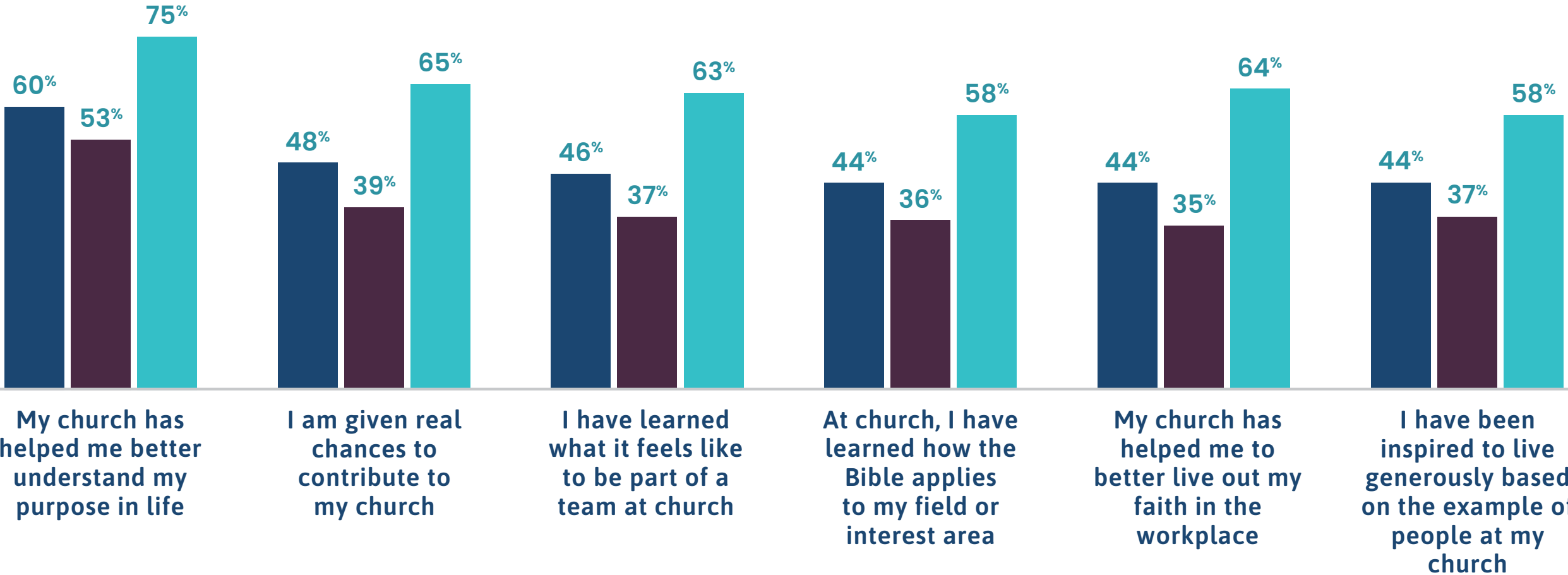
"At least once a month I ..."

● Prodigals ● Nomads ● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



CHURCH IS DEEPLY IMPACTFUL ON IDENTITY & VOCATION

● Total (United States) ● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



WHAT YOUNG ADULTS SAY IS MISSING FROM WORSHIP COMMUNITIES PART 1

- Habitual churchgoers
- Resilient disciples

My friends attending



Regularly meeting with a mentor



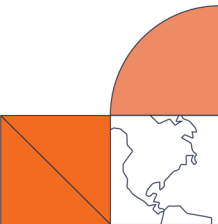
My family attending



Opportunities to fight injustice and oppression



Support groups for challenges in my life



WHAT YOUNG ADULTS SAY IS MISSING FROM WORSHIP COMMUNITIES PART 2

- Habitual churchgoers
- Resilient disciples

Workshops for strengthening relationships (marriages, families, etc.)

10%

12%

Opportunities to care for the poor and needy

9%

11%

Social gatherings outside of the worship space

12%

10%

Leadership opportunities

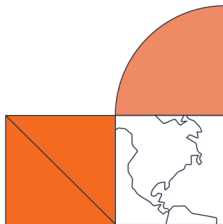
7%

9%

Opportunities to connect with older generations

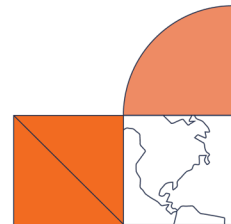
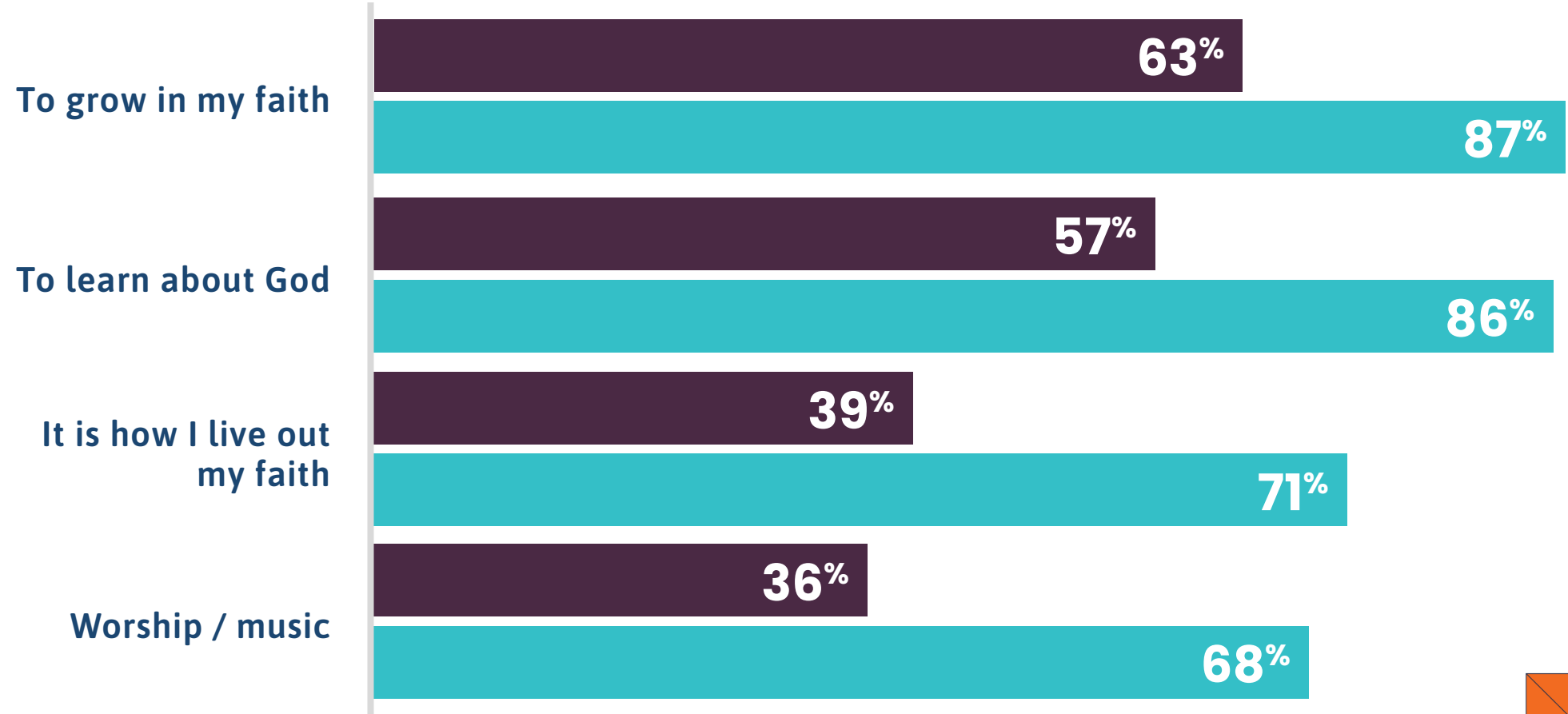
8%

8%



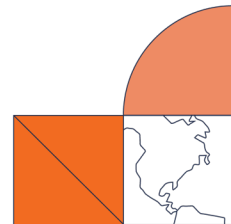
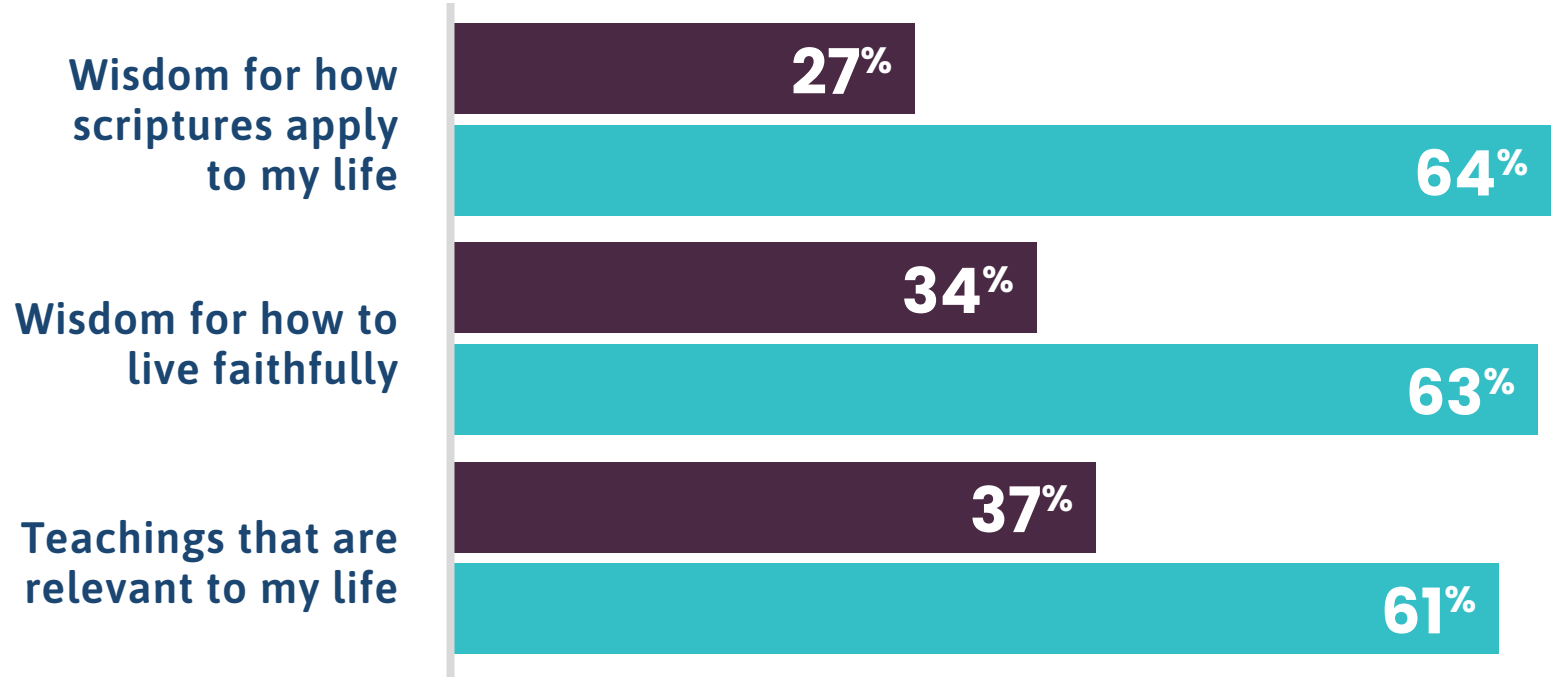
WHY YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP COMMUNITIES PART 1

● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



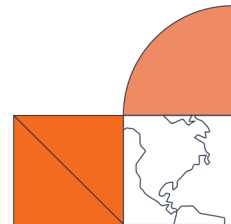
WHY YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP COMMUNITIES PART 2

● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



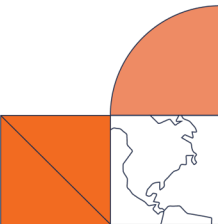
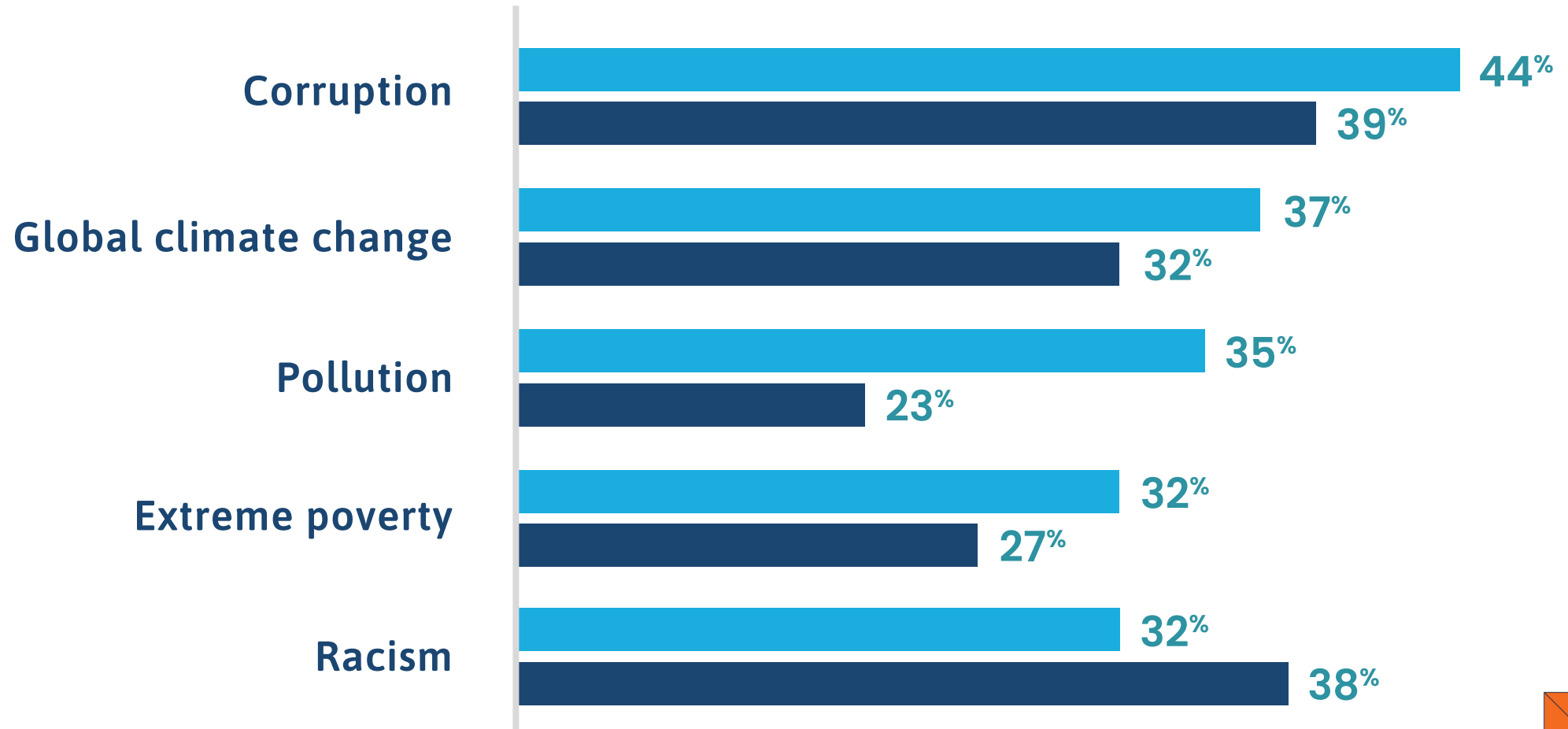
WHY YOUNG ADULTS PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP COMMUNITIES PART 3

● Habitual churchgoers ● Resilient disciples



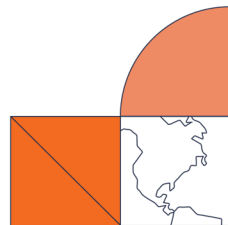
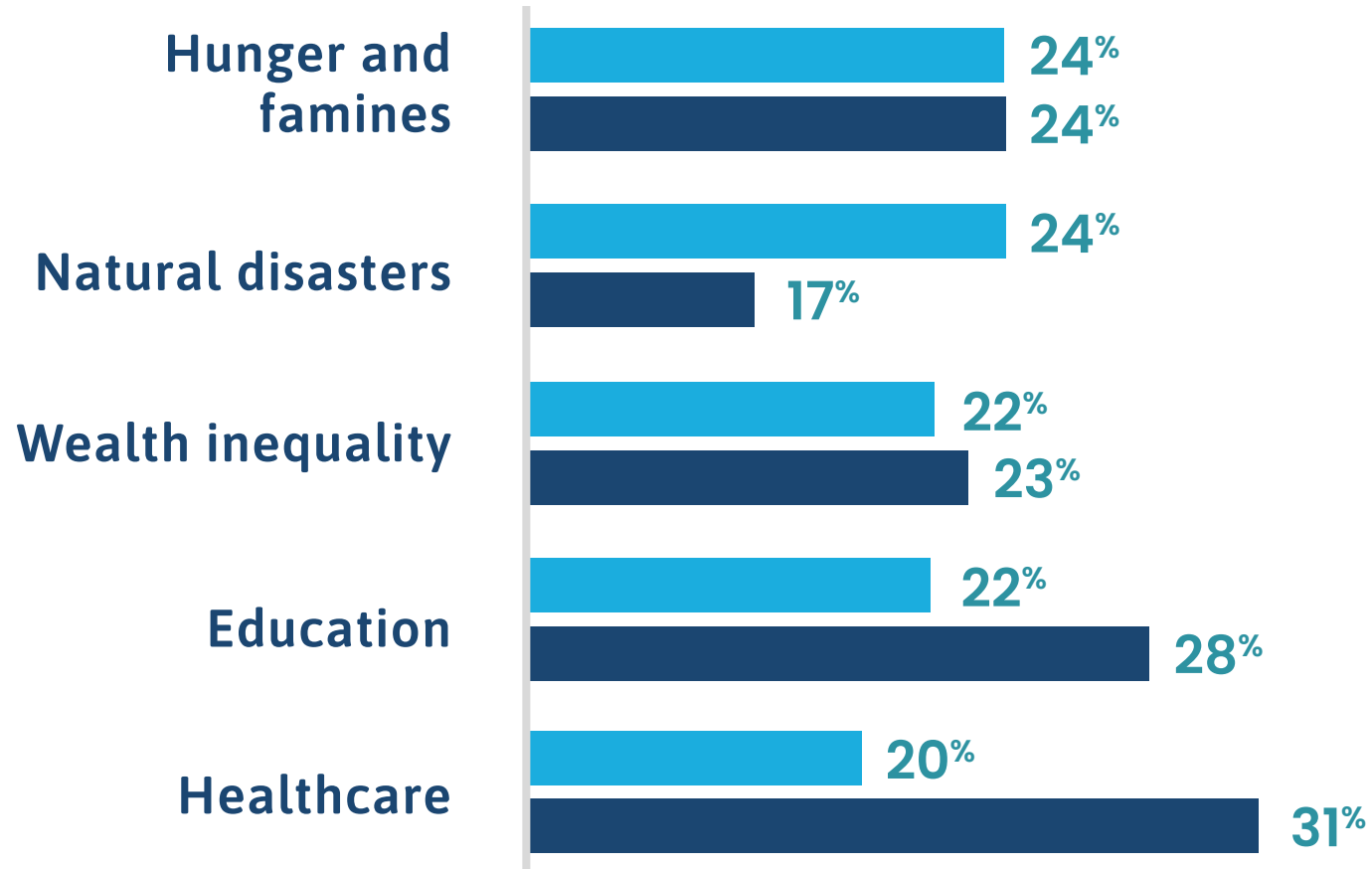
FEARS ABOUT THE WORLD'S FUTURE PART 1

● Global ● United States



FEARS ABOUT THE WORLD'S FUTURE PART 2

● Global ● United States

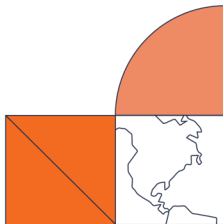
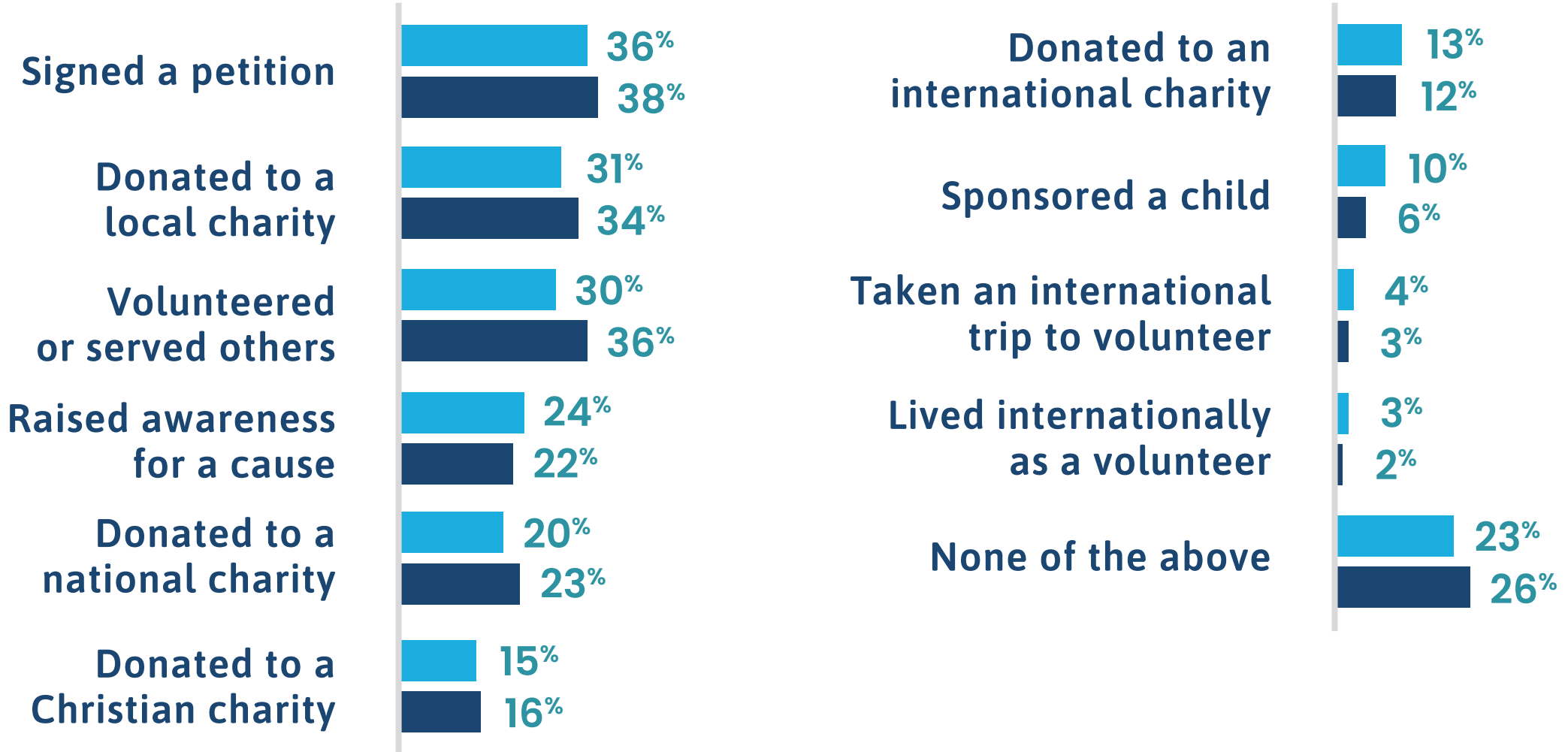


READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"In the last three years, I have ..."

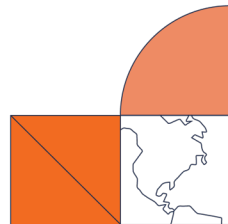
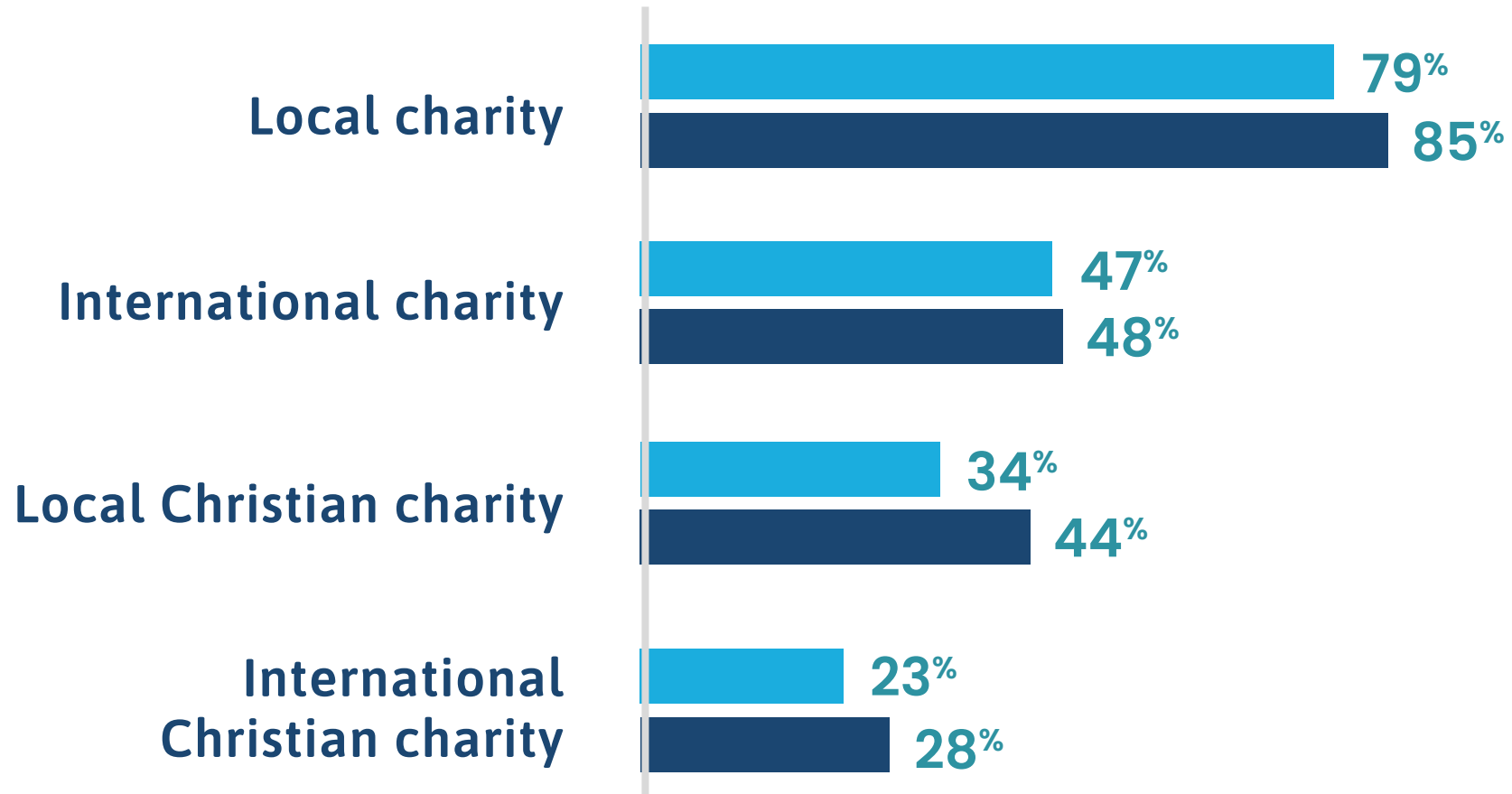
● Global

● United States



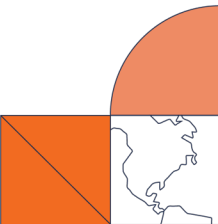
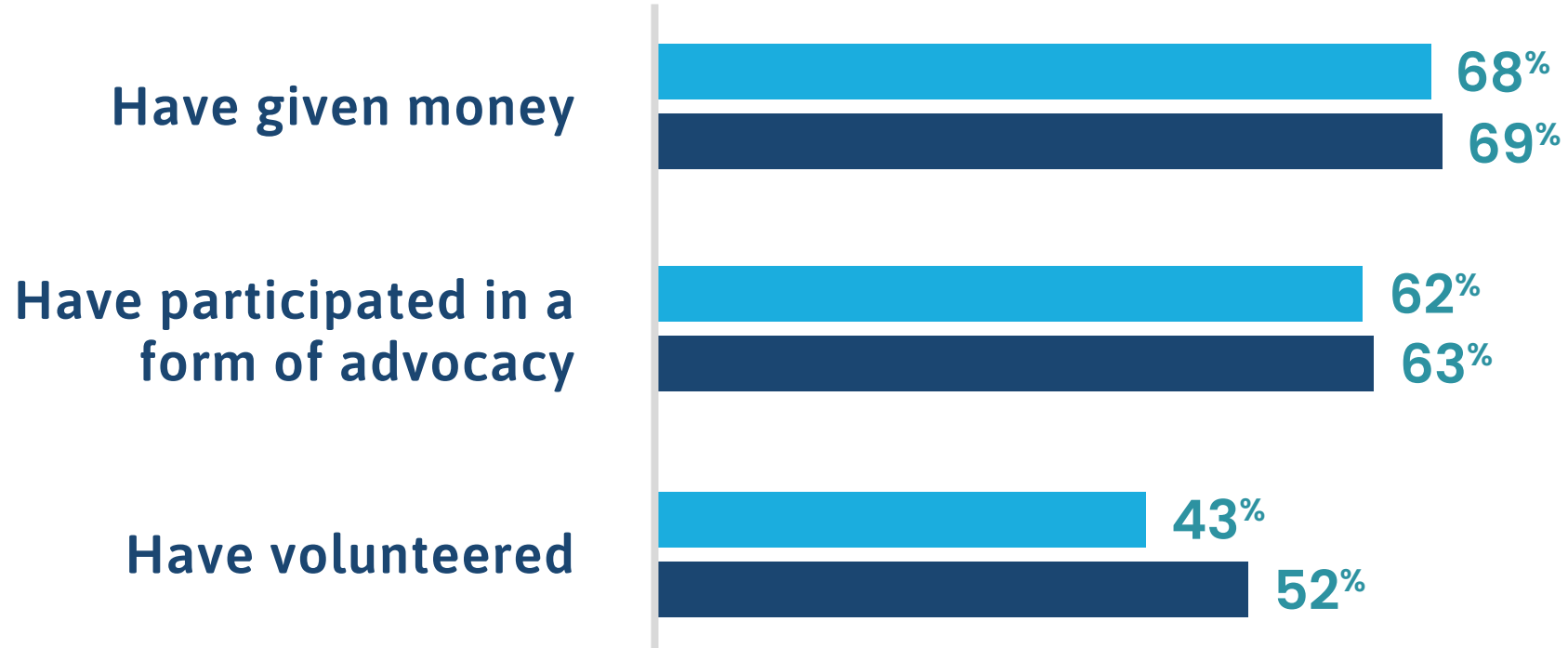
THE CHARITIES YOUNG ADULTS ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING

● Global ● United States



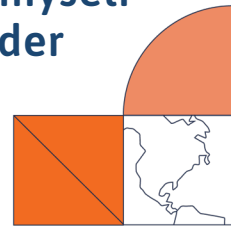
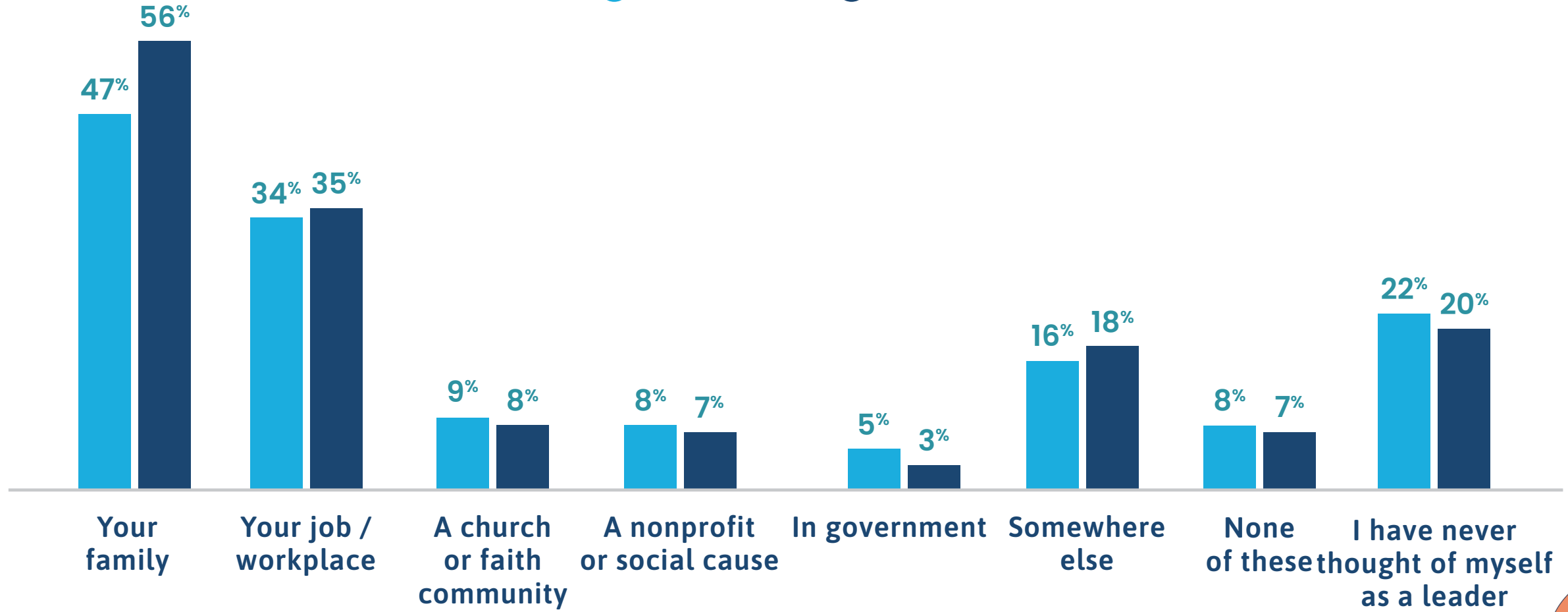
PARTICIPATION IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

● Global ● United States



WHERE DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A LEADER?

● Global ● United States



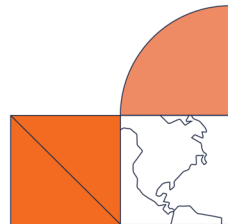
THE CHURCH HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN INSPIRING AND GROWING LEADERSHIP

● Global ● United States

I have been inspired to be a leader based on the example of someone at my church



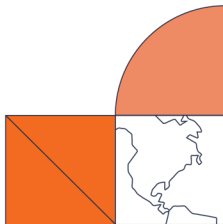
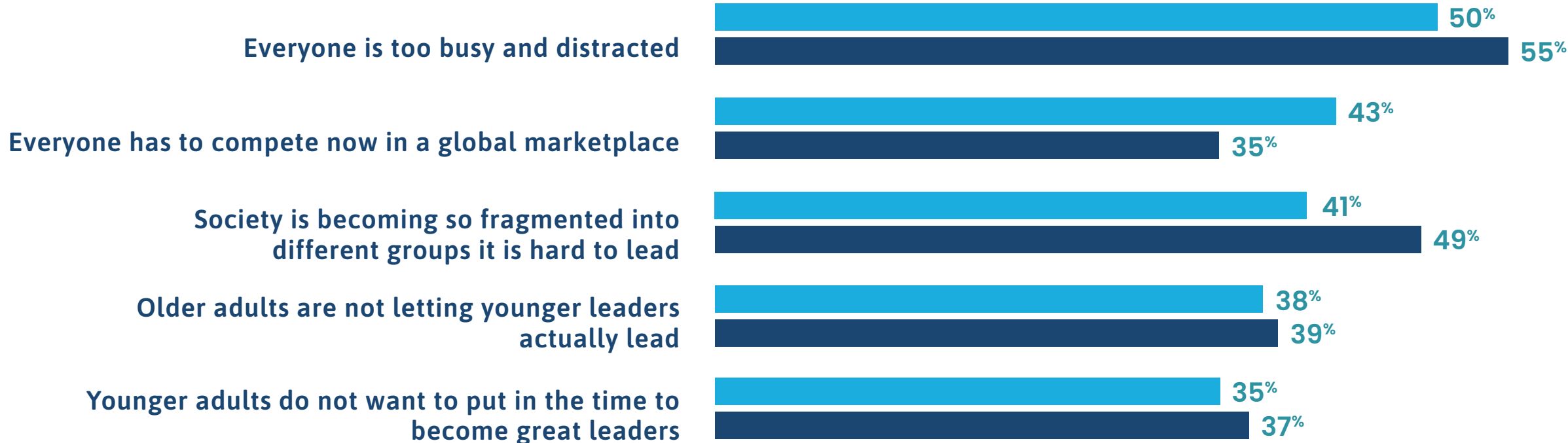
I have access to leadership training for ministry through my church



BUSYNESS, DISTRACTION & COMPETITION CULTIVATE A WORLD IN WHICH IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO LEAD PART 1



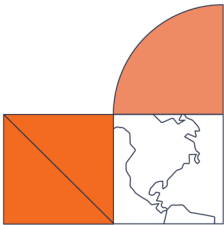
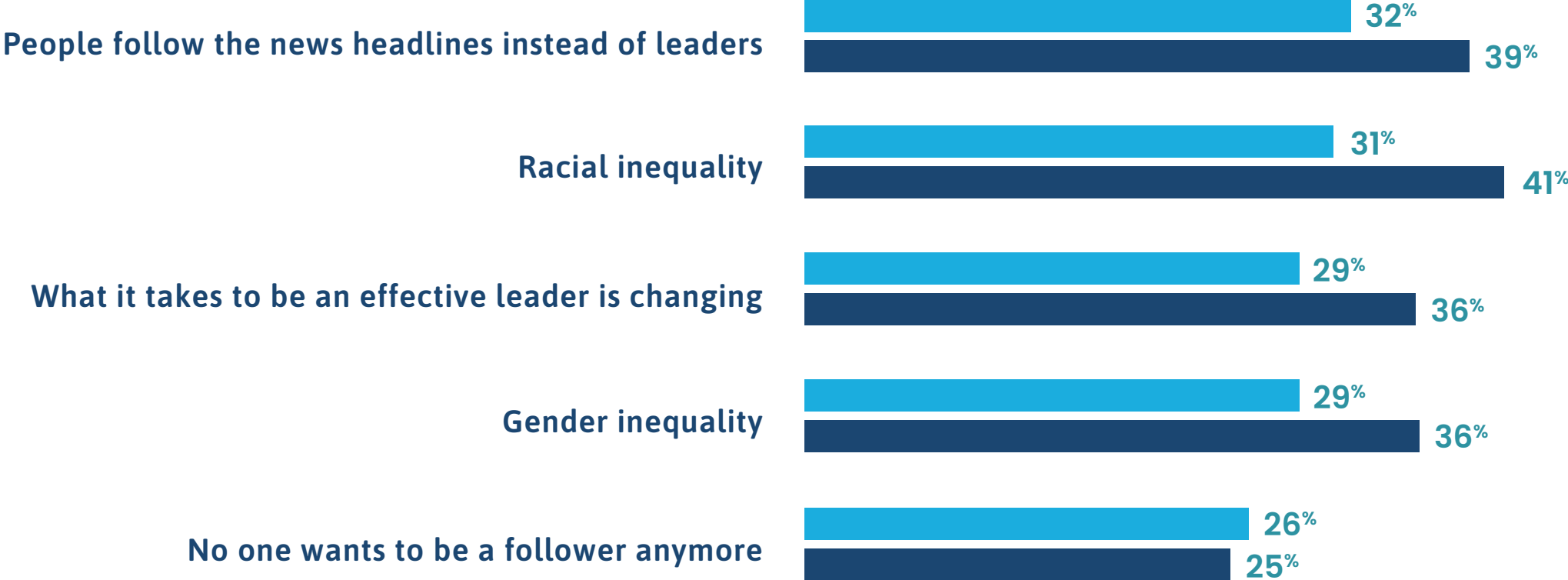
● Global ● United States



BUSYNESS, DISTRACTION & COMPETITION CULTIVATE A WORLD IN WHICH IT'S MORE DIFFICULT TO LEAD PART 2

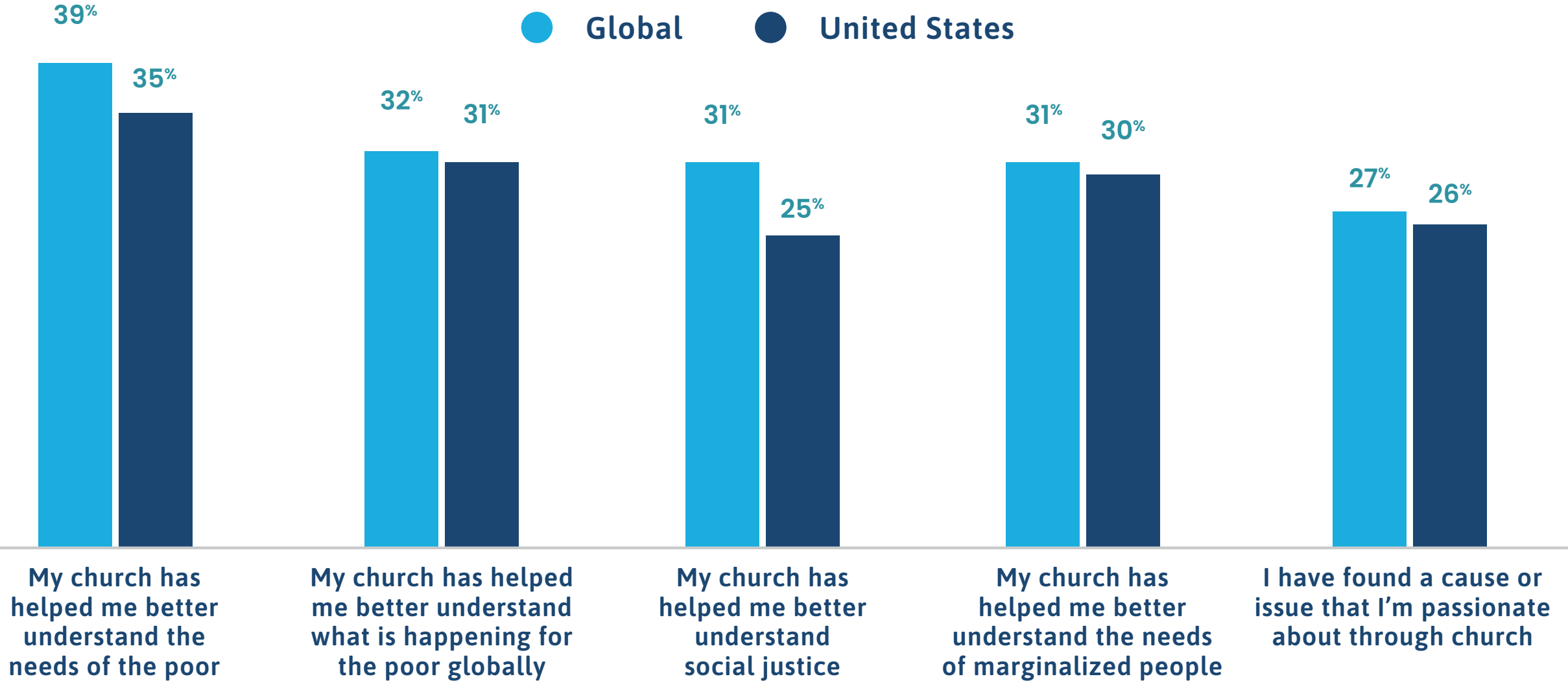


● Global ● United States



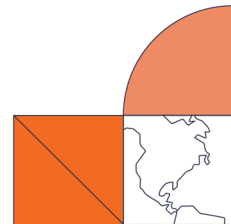
THE CHURCH SERVES AS A PLACE OF BOTH FORMATION & ACTIVATION

● Global ● United States



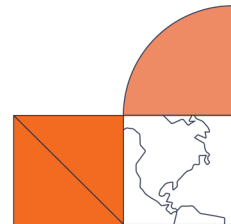
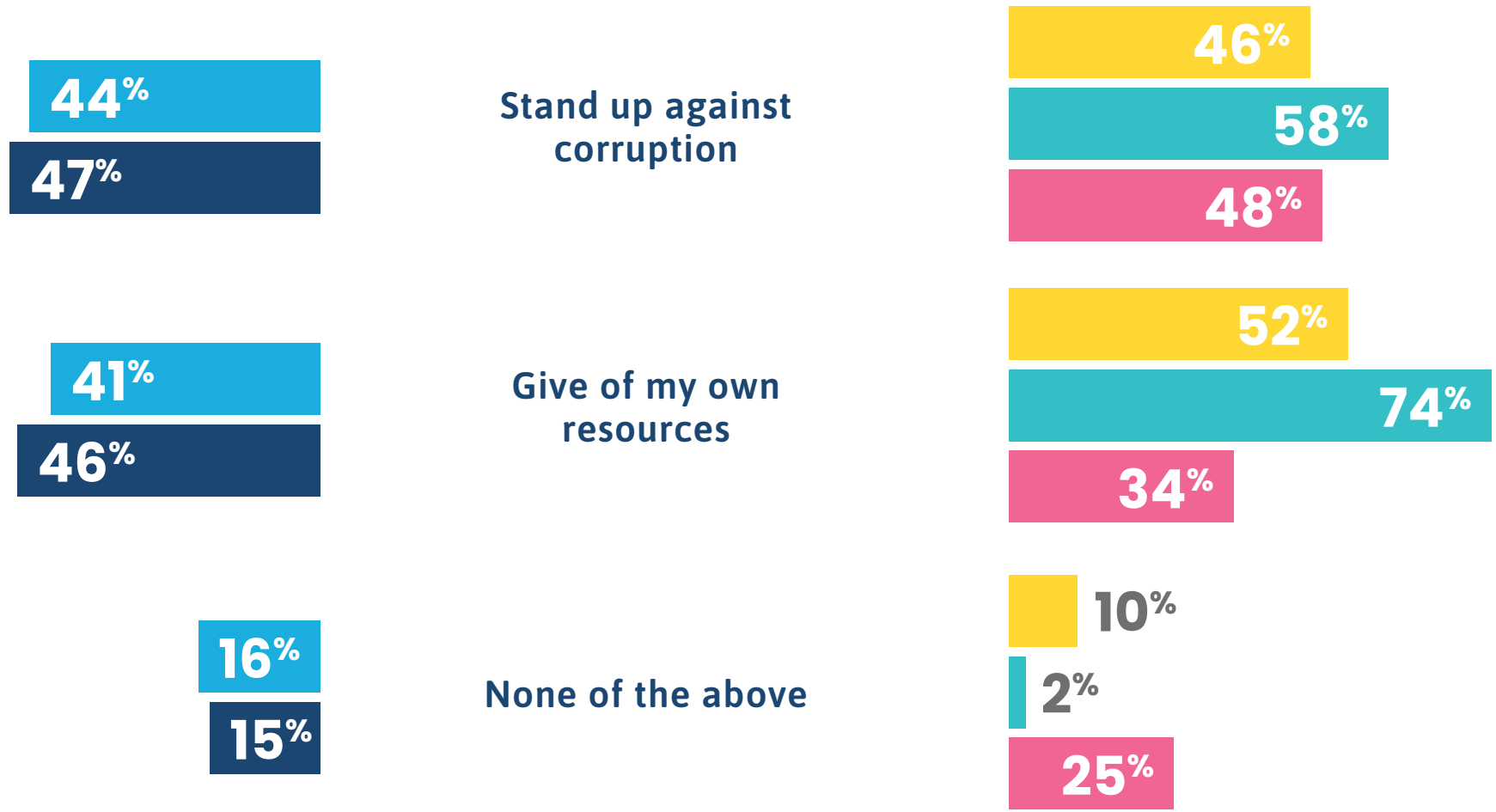
BECAUSE OF MY BELIEFS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I ... PART 1

● Global
 ● United States
 ● Christians
 ● Resilient disciples
 ● No faith



BECAUSE OF MY BELIEFS, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I ... PART 2

● Global
 ● United States
 ● Christians
 ● Resilient disciples
 ● No faith



METHODOLOGY

This study is based on online, representative public opinion surveys conducted by Barna Group.

A total of 15,369 respondents

ages 18 to 35 across 25 countries were surveyed between December 4, 2018 and February 15, 2019.

Sample distribution based on continent and country are shown here.

North America

- United States (2,000)
- Canada (1,000)

Africa

- South Africa (750)
- Nigeria (512)
- Kenya (300)
- Ghana (462)

Asia

- South Korea (500)
- India (500)
- Philippines (250)
- Indonesia (500)
- Singapore (500)
- Malaysia (250)
- Taiwan (300)

Latin America

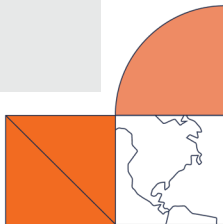
- Mexico (500)
- Brazil (1,005)
- Chile (300)
- Colombia (300)

Europe

- United Kingdom (1,100)
- Germany (1,001)
- Spain (500)
- Austria (500)
- Switzerland (500)
- Romania (251)

Oceania

- Australia (1,021)
- New Zealand (567)



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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

