

APPENDIX A



Shine Congregation Survey 2025 Summary Results

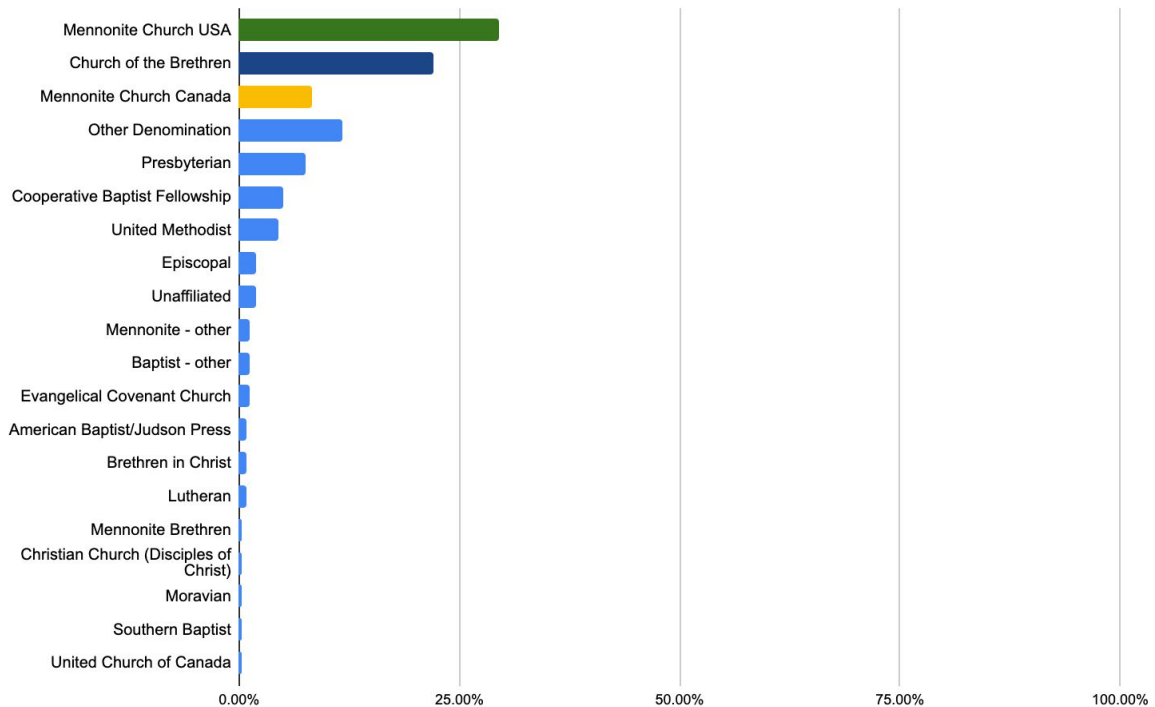
264 Total Responses

Complete Responses: 264

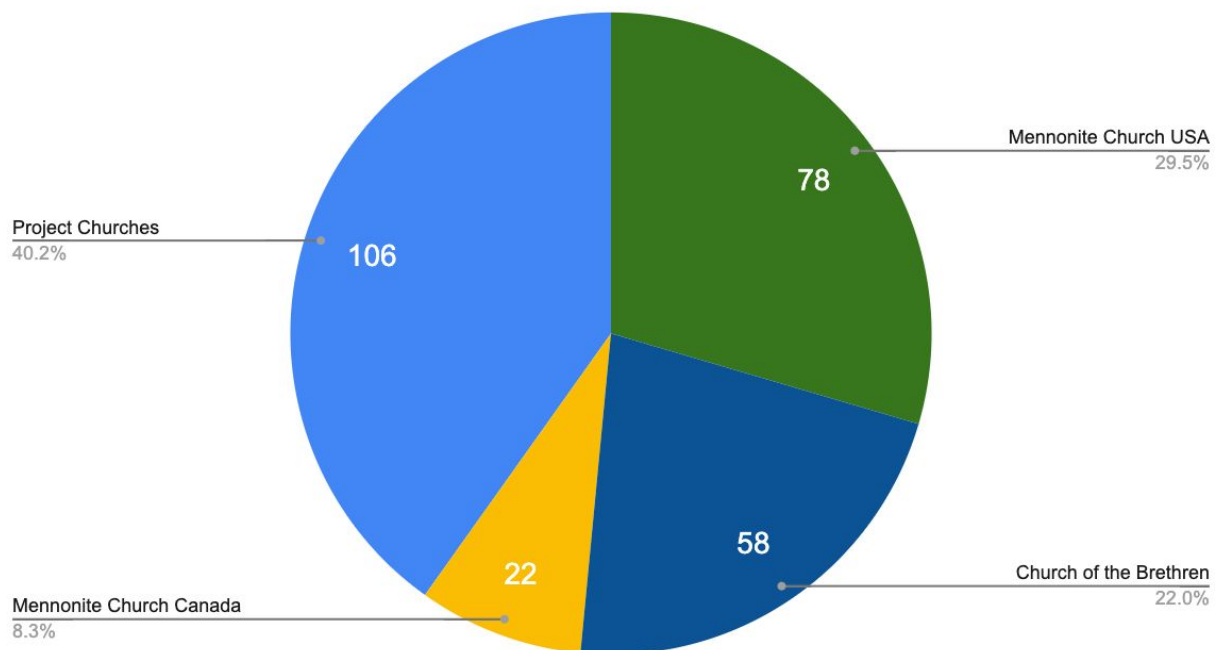
Date Created: Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Q2: Select your congregation's affiliation from the drop-down list below:

Answered: 264 Skipped: 0



Congregations by Stakeholder Affiliation



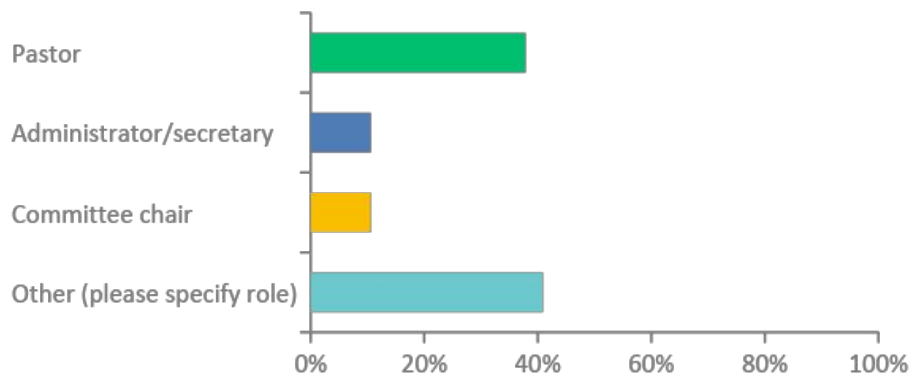
Q2: Select your congregation's affiliation from the drop-down list below:

Answered: 264 Skipped: 0

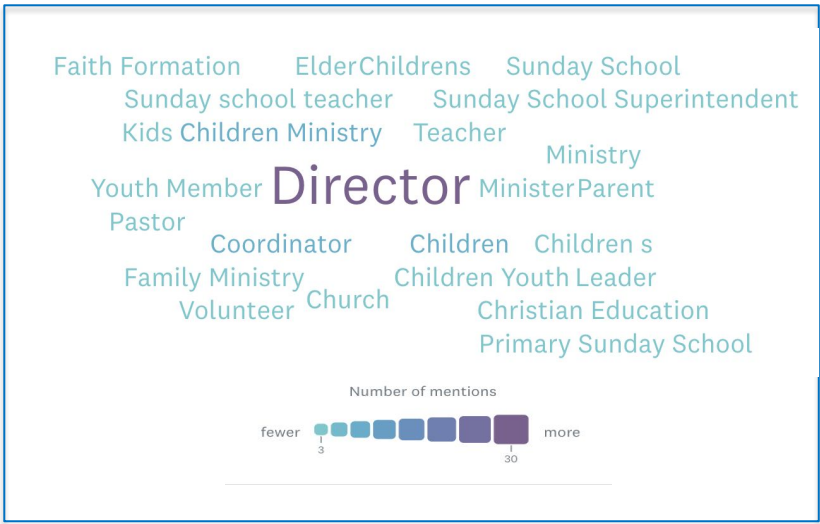
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mennonite Church USA	29.55%	78
Church of the Brethren	21.97%	58
Other Denomination	11.74%	31
Mennonite Church Canada	8.33%	22
Presbyterian	7.58%	20
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	4.92%	13
United Methodist	4.55%	12
Episcopal	1.89%	5
Unaffiliated	1.89%	5
Mennonite - other	1.14%	3
Baptist - other	1.14%	3
Evangelical Covenant Church	1.14%	3
American Baptist/Judson Press	0.76%	2
Brethren in Christ	0.76%	2
Lutheran	0.76%	2
Mennonite Brethren	0.38%	1
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	0.38%	1
Moravian	0.38%	1
Southern Baptist	0.38%	1
United Church of Canada	0.38%	1
Assemblies of God	0.00%	0
Catholic	0.00%	0
Cumberland Presbyterian	0.00%	0
Free Methodist Church USA	0.00%	0
Friends United Meeting	0.00%	0
Reformed Church in America	0.00%	0
TOTAL	264	

Q5: Primary Role

Answered: 264 Skipped: 0



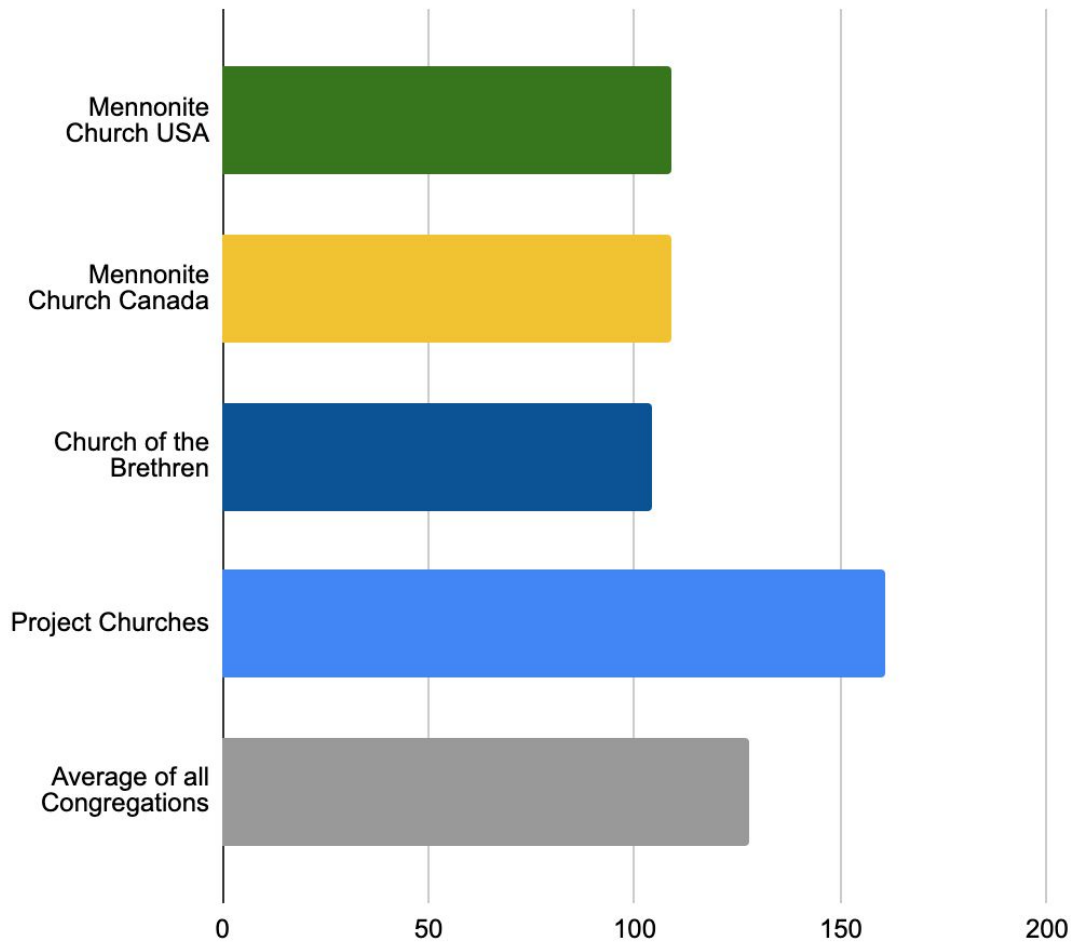
"Other" Roles



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Pastor	37.88%	100
Administrator/secretary	10.61%	28
Committee chair	10.61%	28
Other (please specify role)	40.91%	108
TOTAL		264

Q6. How many people typically attend your congregation on a regular basis? (i.e. “regular attenders”)

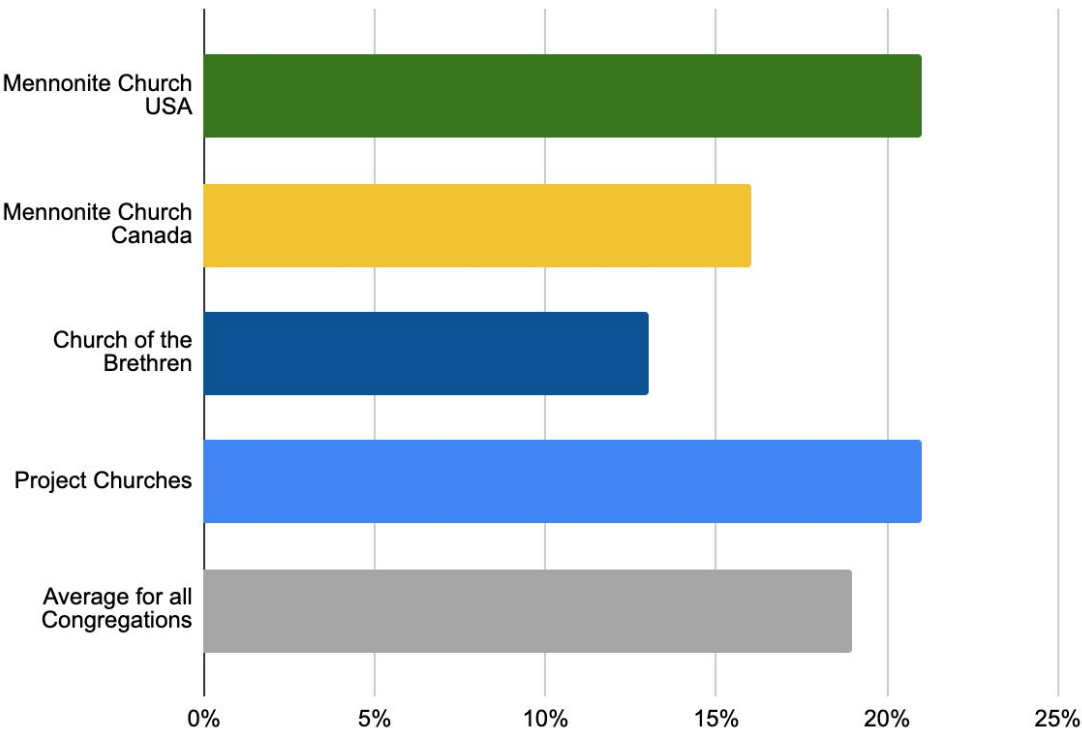
Answered: 251 Skipped: 13



Affiliation	Average # of Regular Attenders
Mennonite Church USA	109
Mennonite Church Canada	109
Church of the Brethren	104
Project Churches	161
Average for all Congregations	128

Q7. Approximately what percentage of your regular attenders are under the age of 18?

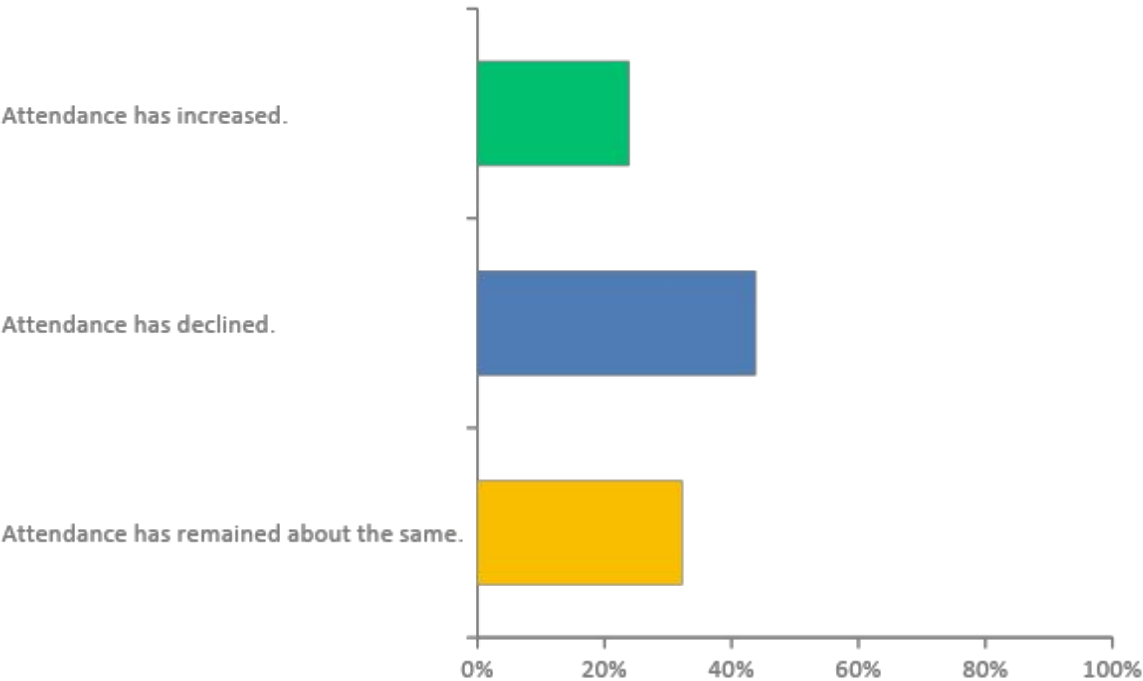
Answered: 251 Skipped: 13



Affiliation	Average % of Regular Attenders under 18
Mennonite Church USA	21%
Mennonite Church Canada	16%
Church of the Brethren	13%
Project Churches	21%
Average for all Congregations	19%

Q8: How has regular attendance changed since 2019?

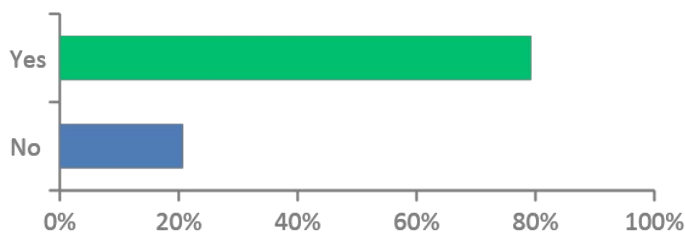
Answered: 251 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Attendance has increased.	23.90%	60
Attendance has declined.	43.82%	110
Attendance has remained about the same.	32.27%	81
TOTAL		251

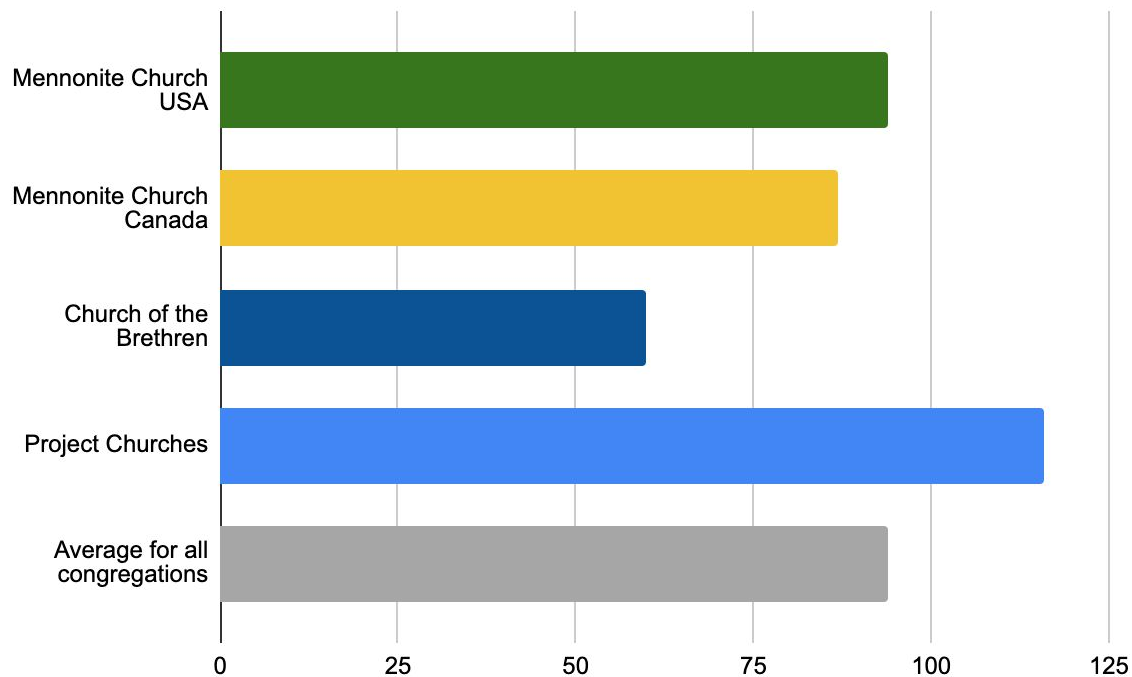
Q9: Do you officially record worship attendance?

Answered: 251 Skipped: 13



Q10/11: What is the average Sunday attendance for the main worship meeting (excluding religious holidays)?

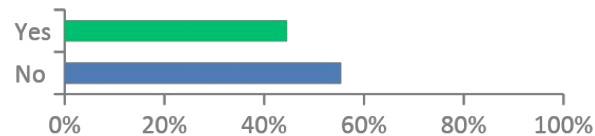
Recorded: 198 Estimated: 54



Affiliation	Average Sunday Attendance
Mennonite Church USA	94
Mennonite Church Canada	87
Church of the Brethren	60
Project Churches	116
Average for all congregations	94

Q12: Do you officially record Sunday school attendance?

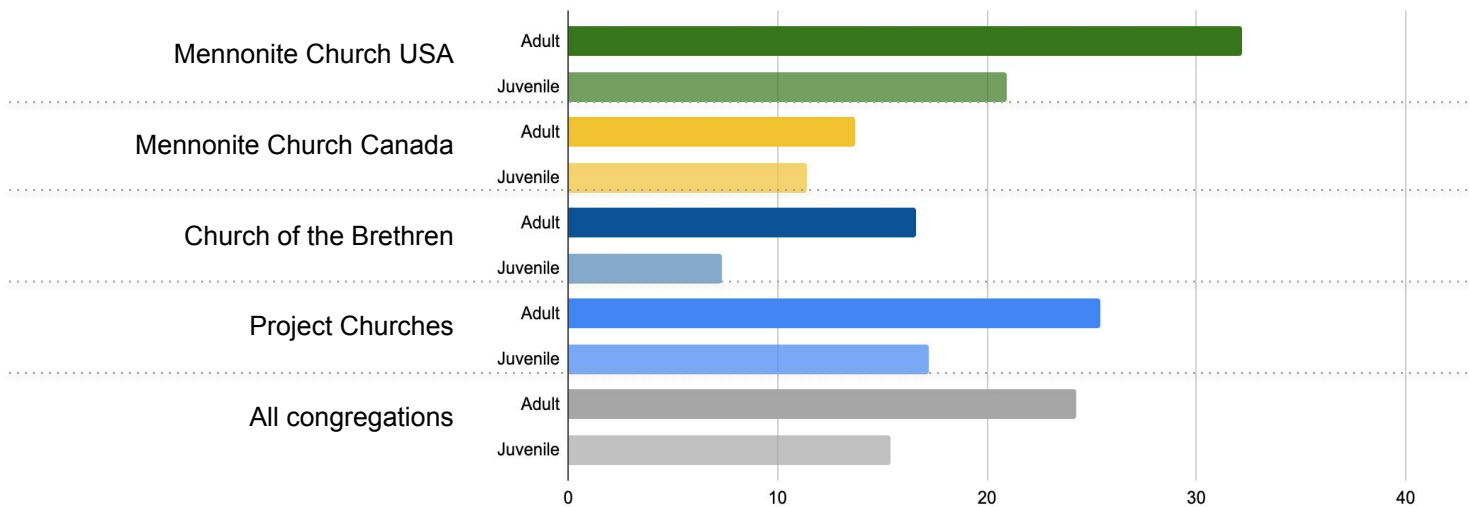
Answered: 249 Skipped: 15



Q13/15: What is the average adult Sunday school attendance?

Q14/16: What is the average juvenile Sunday school attendance?

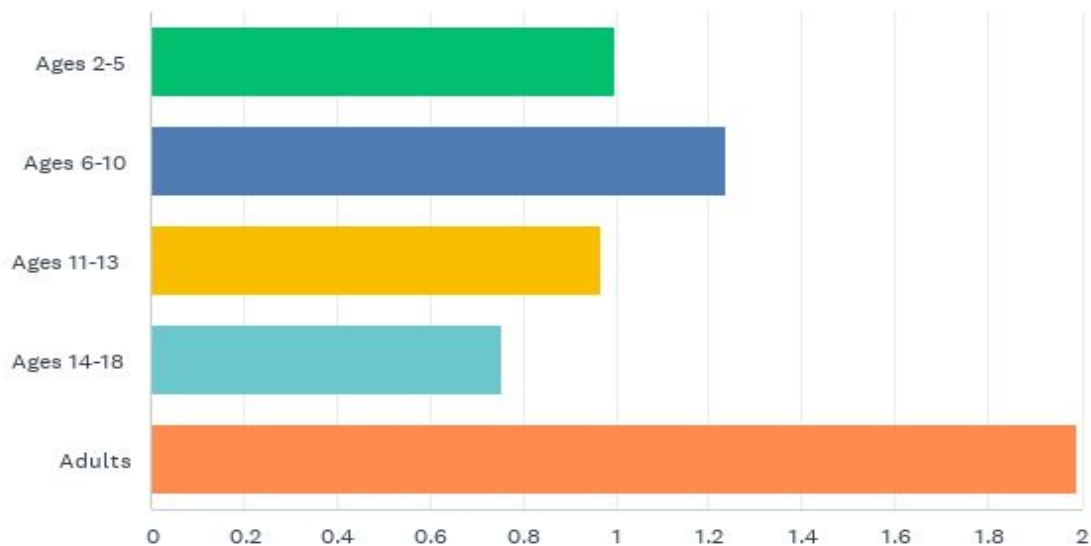
Recorded: 107 Estimated: 137



Affiliation	Age group	Average Sunday school attendance
Mennonite Church USA	Adult	32
	Juvenile	21
Mennonite Church Canada	Adult	14
	Juvenile	11
Church of the Brethren	Adult	17
	Juvenile	7
Project Churches	Adult	25
	Juvenile	17
All congregations	Adult	24
	Juvenile	15

Q17: How many Sunday school classes are offered for each age group:

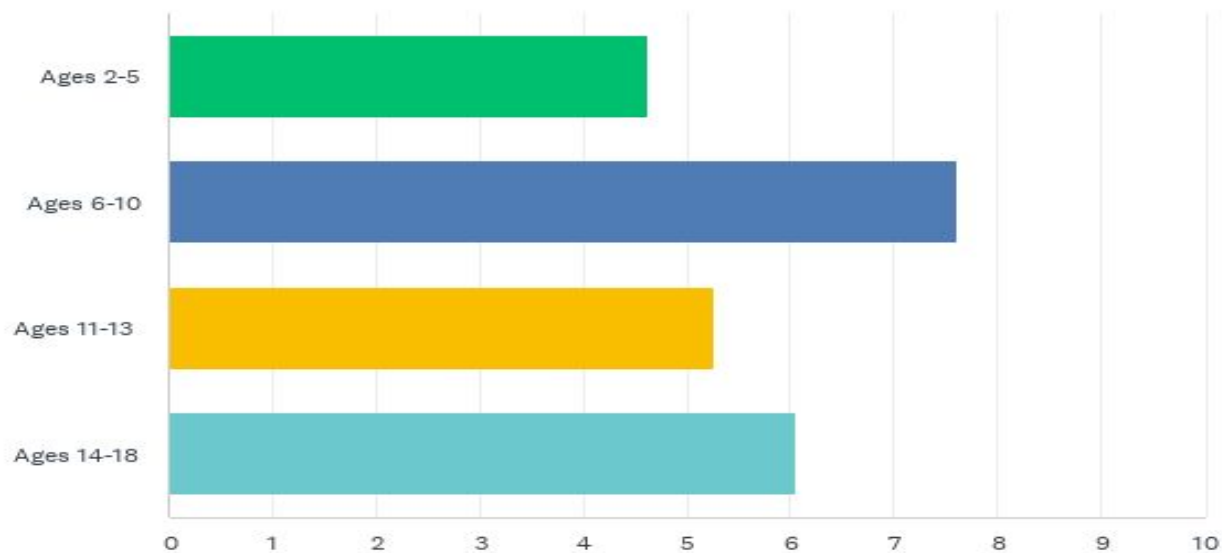
Answered: 239 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Ages 2-5	1	215	215
Ages 6-10	1	282	228
Ages 11-13	1	201	208
Ages 14-18	1	157	208
Adults	2	442	222
Total Respondents: 239			

Q18: How many children (under the age of 18) participate in Sunday school at least six times a year, by age range:

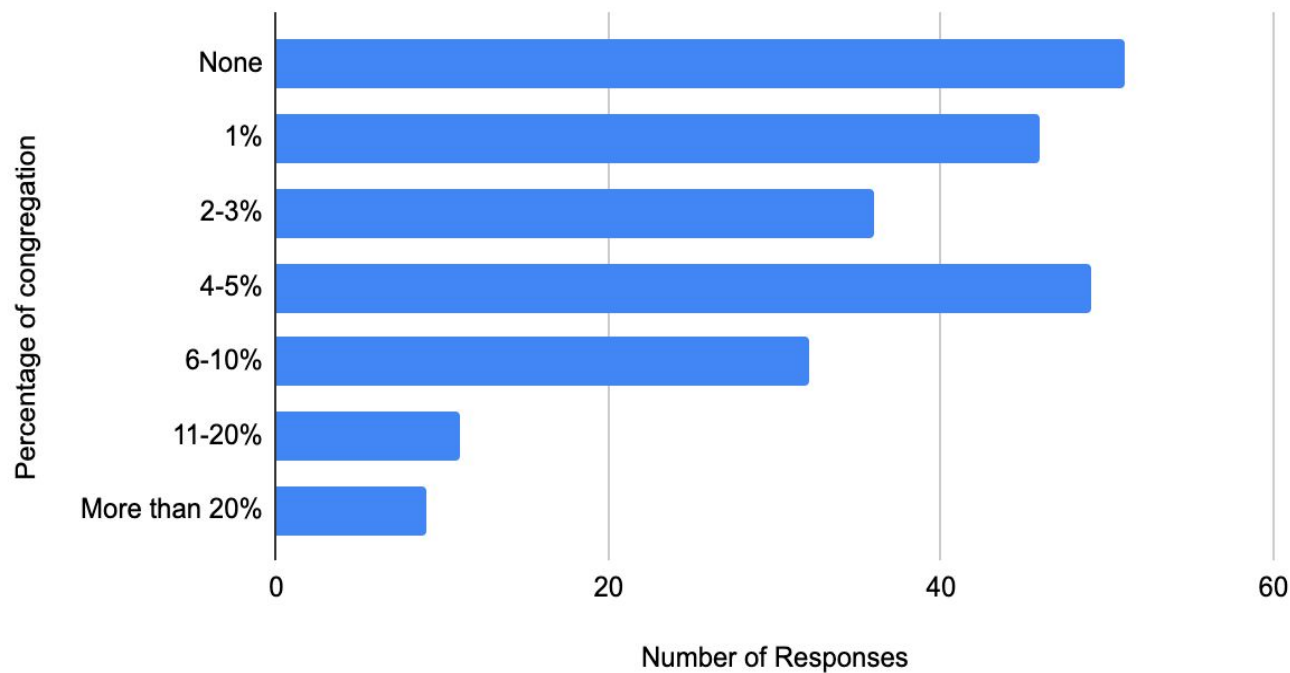
Answered: 239 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Ages 2-5	5	1,049	227
Ages 6-10	8	1,772	233
Ages 11-13	5	1,169	222
Ages 14-18	6	1,266	209
Total Respondents: 239			

Q19. Approximately what percentage of congregational households are led by a single-parent?

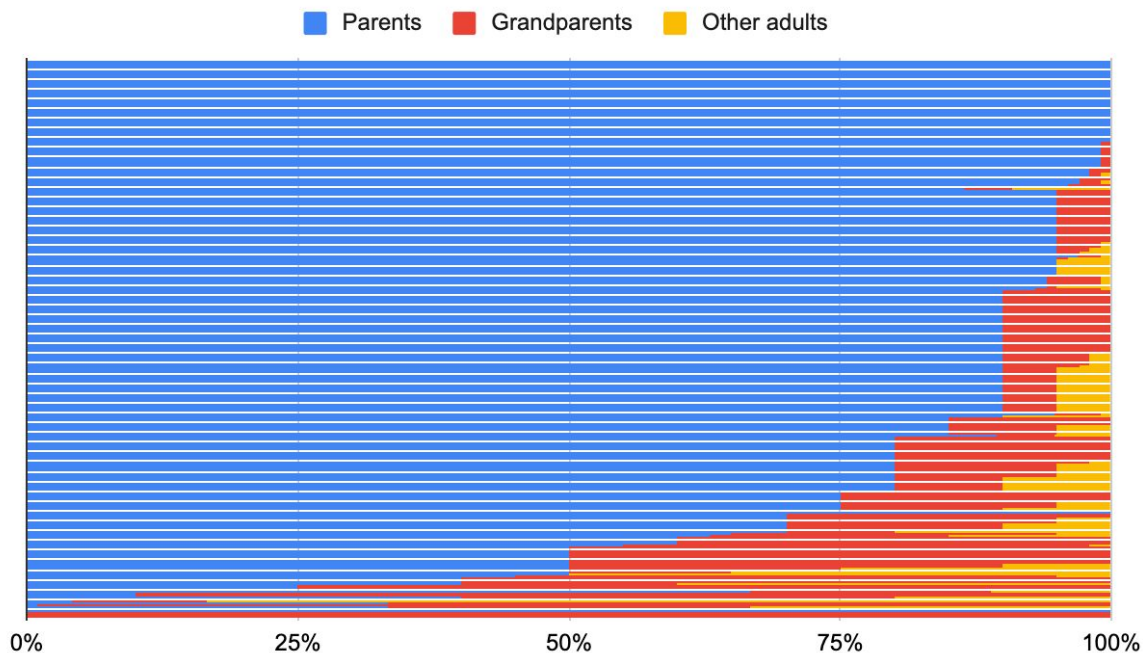
Answered: 234 Skipped: 30



Q20. Who are children mostly likely to come to church with? Indicate an estimated percentage in each box below, totaling 100 (ex: 80, 15, 5).

Answered: 234 Skipped: 30

Nearly 15%
of congregations reported that
children only come
to church with parents.

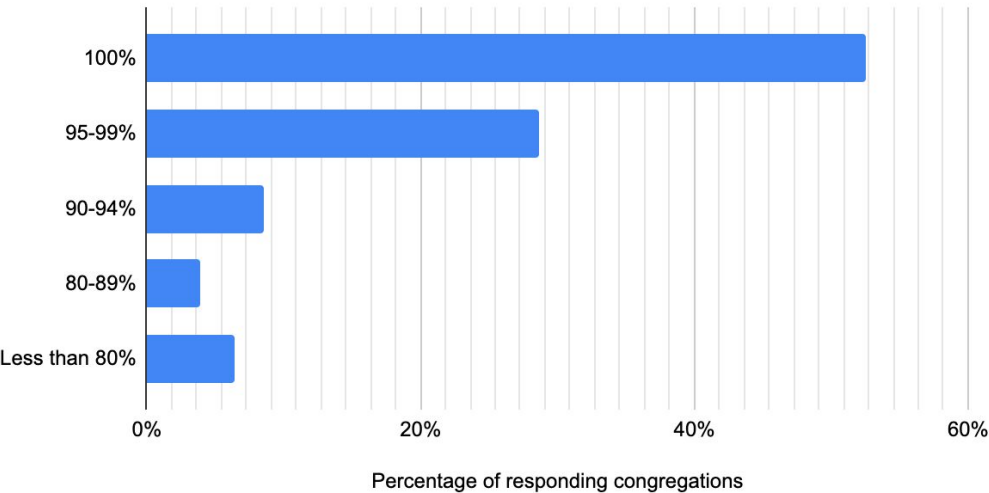


Average Congregation Response	
Parents	82%
Grandparents	13%
Other adults	3%

Q21: Approximately what percentage of your regular attenders speak English as their FIRST language?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 30

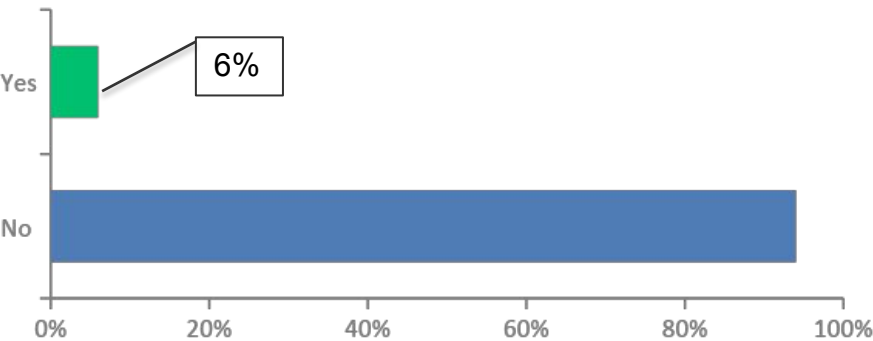
Percentage of the congregation speaks English as first language



More than half of the congregations report that 100% of their constituents are native English speakers. Only 6% provide translation services.

Q22: Do you provide translation for people attending worship services whose first language is not English?

Answered: 234 Skipped: 30



Q 23. What are the biggest challenges you face as a congregational leader?

Answered: 228 Skipped: 36

The most common challenges ranked by frequency of mention:

1. Inconsistent/Declining Attendance (Most Frequent)

- Sporadic attendance patterns, with families attending 1-2 times per month instead of weekly
- Competition with sports, travel, and other weekend activities
- Post-COVID attendance hasn't fully recovered
- Many families attend worship but skip Sunday school, or vice versa

2. Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

- Difficulty finding Sunday school teachers and program leaders
- Same small group of people doing most of the work (80/20 rule)
- Volunteers unable to commit consistently or show up as scheduled
- Parents reluctant to teach due to faith deconstruction or theological uncertainty

3. Busy Family Schedules and Competing Priorities

- Church seen as just one of many activities rather than a priority
- Children's sports and activities increasingly scheduled on Sunday mornings
- Families overscheduled with multiple commitments
- Work demands, especially healthcare workers with varying schedules

4. Small Congregation Size Challenges

- Limited resources and capacity for programming
- Multi-age classrooms with wide developmental ranges (ages 3-11 in one class)
- Not enough children for sustainable programs
- Rural and small-town location barriers

5. Programming and Curriculum Issues

- Difficulty planning for unpredictable attendance numbers
- Creating age-appropriate content for mixed-age groups
- Finding curriculum that matches church's theological values
- Building meaningful relationships when children attend irregularly

6. Generational and Cultural Transitions

- Tension between traditional expectations and current realities
- Aging congregations with fewer young families
- Resistance to change from established members
- Adapting from 1990s-style programming to missional models

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Q 23. What are the biggest challenges you face as a congregational leader?

Answered: 228 Skipped: 36

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7. Financial and Resource Constraints

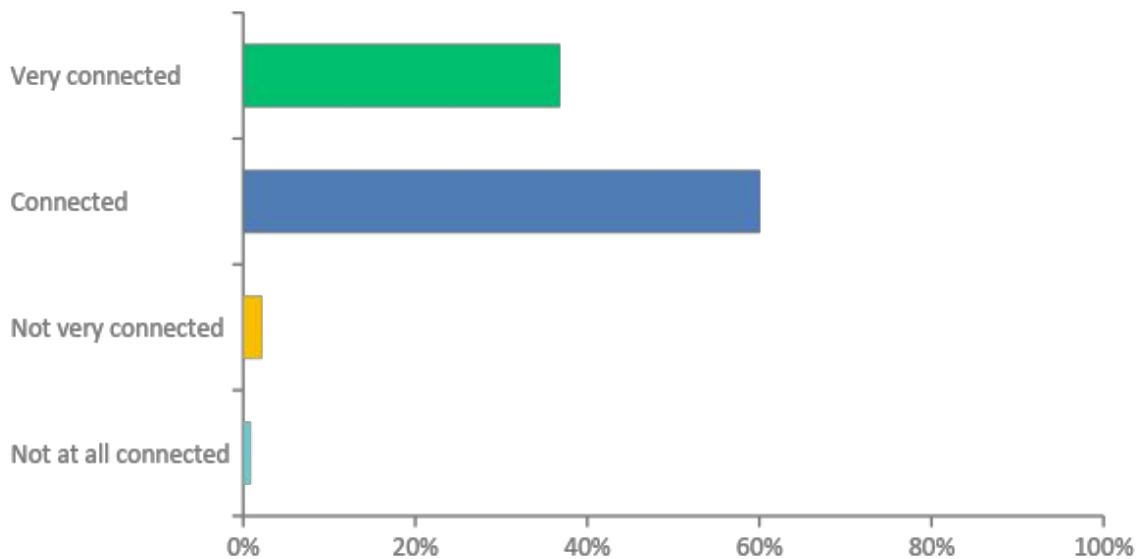
- Budget pressures from declining membership
- Limited funding for supplies, curriculum, and programming
- Administrative burdens competing with ministry time
- Building and facility limitations

8. Leadership and Pastoral Challenges

- Pastor transitions and searches
- Work-life balance for church leaders
- Feeling isolated in ministry roles
- Balancing multiple responsibilities (pastoral care, administration, outreach)

Q24: Based upon your knowledge of the individuals and families in your congregation (specifically, the frequency in which they attend worship, the relationships they have with other congregation members, the roles they play in the congregation, etc.) how connected do you think most feel to the congregation?

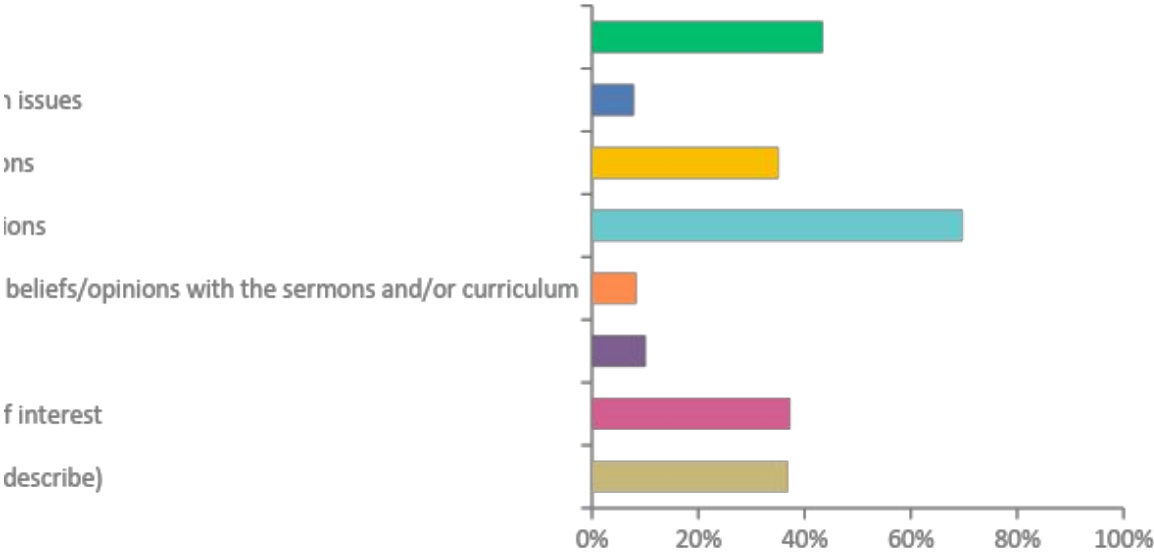
Answered: 228 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Ages 2-5	5	1,049	227
Ages 6-10	8	1,772	233
Ages 11-13	5	1,169	222
Ages 14-18	6	1,266	209
Total Respondents: 239			

Q25: Based upon your knowledge of the individuals and families in your congregation, what do you think are the biggest challenges to church attendance? Select up to 3.

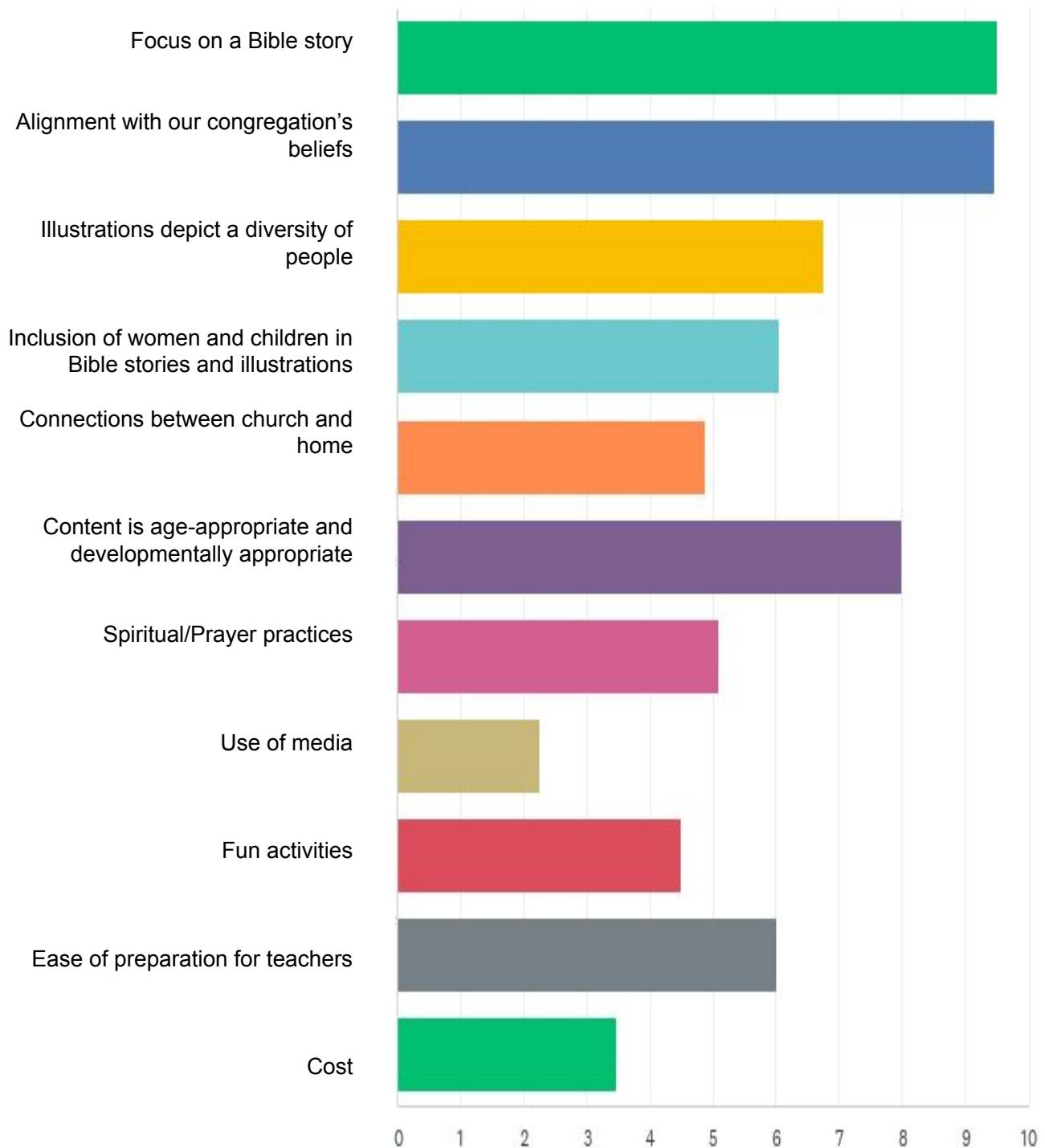
Answered: 228 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Health issues	43.42%	99
Transportation issues	7.89%	18
Work obligations	35.09%	80
Family obligations	69.74%	159
Differences in beliefs/opinions with the sermons and/or curriculum	8.33%	19
Time of day	10.09%	23
General lack of interest	37.28%	85
Other (please describe)	36.84%	84
TOTAL		567

Q27: What criteria is most important when selecting curriculum and resources? Use the selection criteria listed below and move them so that the most important selection criterion is at the top and the least important is at the bottom.

Answered: 217 Skipped: 47



Q27: What criteria is most important when selecting curriculum and resources? Use the selection criteria listed below and move them so that the most important selection criterion is at the top and the least important is at the bottom.

Answered: 217 Skipped: 47

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL	SCORE
Focus on a Bible story	43.32% 94	21.66% 47	11.98% 26	9.22% 20	3.23% 7	5.53% 12	1.84% 4	1.38% 3	0.92% 2	0.92% 2	0.00% 0	217	9.50
Alignment with our congregation's beliefs	39.63% 86	29.03% 63	10.60% 23	6.45% 14	4.61% 10	2.30% 5	2.76% 6	1.84% 4	1.38% 3	0.92% 2	0.46% 1	217	9.47
Illustrations depict a diversity of people	1.84% 4	12.90% 28	15.67% 34	16.59% 36	10.14% 22	11.06% 24	8.76% 19	10.14% 22	6.91% 15	3.69% 8	2.30% 5	217	6.75
Inclusion of women and children in Bible stories and illustrations	0.46% 1	4.61% 10	13.36% 29	13.82% 30	15.67% 34	11.06% 24	13.36% 29	7.83% 17	11.98% 26	5.99% 13	1.84% 4	217	6.06
Connections between church and home	1.38% 3	0.92% 2	4.15% 9	8.76% 19	11.52% 25	14.29% 31	11.98% 26	14.29% 31	14.75% 32	11.52% 25	6.45% 14	217	4.89
Content is age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate	5.07% 11	17.97% 39	21.66% 47	16.13% 35	17.97% 39	11.06% 24	8.29% 18	0.46% 1	0.92% 2	0.46% 1	0.00% 0	217	7.99
Spiritual/Prayer practices	1.38% 3	3.69% 8	2.30% 5	5.99% 13	12.44% 27	10.60% 23	21.66% 47	15.67% 34	16.13% 35	8.29% 18	1.84% 4	217	5.09
Use of media	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.46% 1	0.92% 2	0.92% 2	3.23% 7	4.15% 9	11.52% 25	7.37% 16	27.65% 60	43.78% 95	217	2.25
Fun activities	0.46% 1	0.92% 2	5.07% 11	7.37% 16	7.37% 16	10.60% 23	11.52% 25	14.29% 31	22.58% 49	13.82% 30	5.99% 13	217	4.50
Ease of preparation for teachers	5.99% 13	6.45% 14	11.52% 25	11.06% 24	9.22% 20	12.44% 27	9.68% 21	9.68% 21	9.22% 20	11.06% 24	3.69% 8	217	6.02
Cost	0.46% 1	1.84% 4	3.23% 7	3.69% 8	6.91% 15	7.83% 17	5.99% 13	12.90% 28	7.83% 17	15.67% 34	33.64% 73	217	3.47

Q28. Are there other criteria for selecting curriculum and resources that are very important to your congregation that weren't listed above? If so, please describe.

Answered: 121 Skipped: 143

Top Priority Themes (Quantified)

1. Anabaptist/Mennonite Identity & Theology (21 mentions)

- Strong emphasis on peace, justice, and community values
- Denominational alignment and support for MennoMedia
- Historical Anabaptist perspectives and social justice responses
- Service-oriented theology

2. Inclusive Language & Representation (18 mentions)

- LGBTQIA+ affirming content (8 specific mentions)
- Non-gendered/inclusive language for God (6 mentions)
- BIPOC representation and anti-racism (4 mentions)
- Welcoming to immigrants, diverse family structures, and disabilities

3. Biblical Foundation & Literacy (16 mentions)

- Scripture-based lessons with strong biblical content
- Age-appropriate biblical literacy development
- Specific translation preferences (NRSV, NIV preferred; ESV avoided)
- Stories that help children "know God, not just know about God"

4. Flexibility & Adaptability (15 mentions)

- Multi-age compatibility (one-room schoolhouse model)
- Standalone lessons for rotating attendance
- Editable/adaptable content for local contexts
- Small group functionality (1-5 students)

5. Social Justice & Progressive Theology (14 mentions)

- Current events connections
- Environmental/creation justice
- Anti-patriarchal approaches
- Intellectual integrity with serious but non-literal biblical interpretation

Secondary Priorities

Teaching Methods & Engagement (12 mentions)

- Hands-on, active learning approaches
- Discovery and wonder-based methods
- Multimedia options and technology integration
- Multiple learning modalities

Practical Considerations (11 mentions)

- Downloadable materials only
- No additional purchases required
- Teacher-friendly resources with good guidance
- Appropriate for volunteer teachers without formal training

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Q28. Are there other criteria for selecting curriculum and resources that are very important to your congregation that weren't listed above? If so, please describe.

Answered: 121 Skipped: 143

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Secondary Priorities

Theological Concerns to Avoid (9 mentions)

- Penal substitutionary atonement theory
- Antisemitic themes
- Heteronormative assumptions
- Patriotic/paternalistic messaging
- Political party alignment

Unique Requirements

Lectionary Alignment

- Narrative Lectionary preference (3 mentions)
- Revised Common Lectionary compatibility desired
- Liturgical calendar following

Age-Specific Needs

- PreK-Elementary focus with creative activities
- Multi-generational resources
- Neurodivergent youth accommodation

Language & Cultural Needs

- Spanish translations
- Cross-cultural connections beyond surface representation
- Global church community emphasis

Key Insights

Most Critical Factor: Theological alignment with Anabaptist values appears most frequently, but inclusivity and biblical foundation are nearly equally important.

Flexibility is Essential: The predominance of multi-age, small group settings makes adaptability a practical necessity rather than preference.

Quality Over Quantity: Respondents prefer fewer, higher-quality resources that align with their values rather than comprehensive packages that require significant adaptation.

Teacher Support: Many congregations rely on volunteer teachers, making user-friendly materials with good guidance crucial for success.

Avoiding Repetition: Several congregations specifically mentioned fatigue with cyclical curricula, preferring variety and fresh approaches to familiar stories.

Q29. What is your approximate curriculum resource budget, per year?

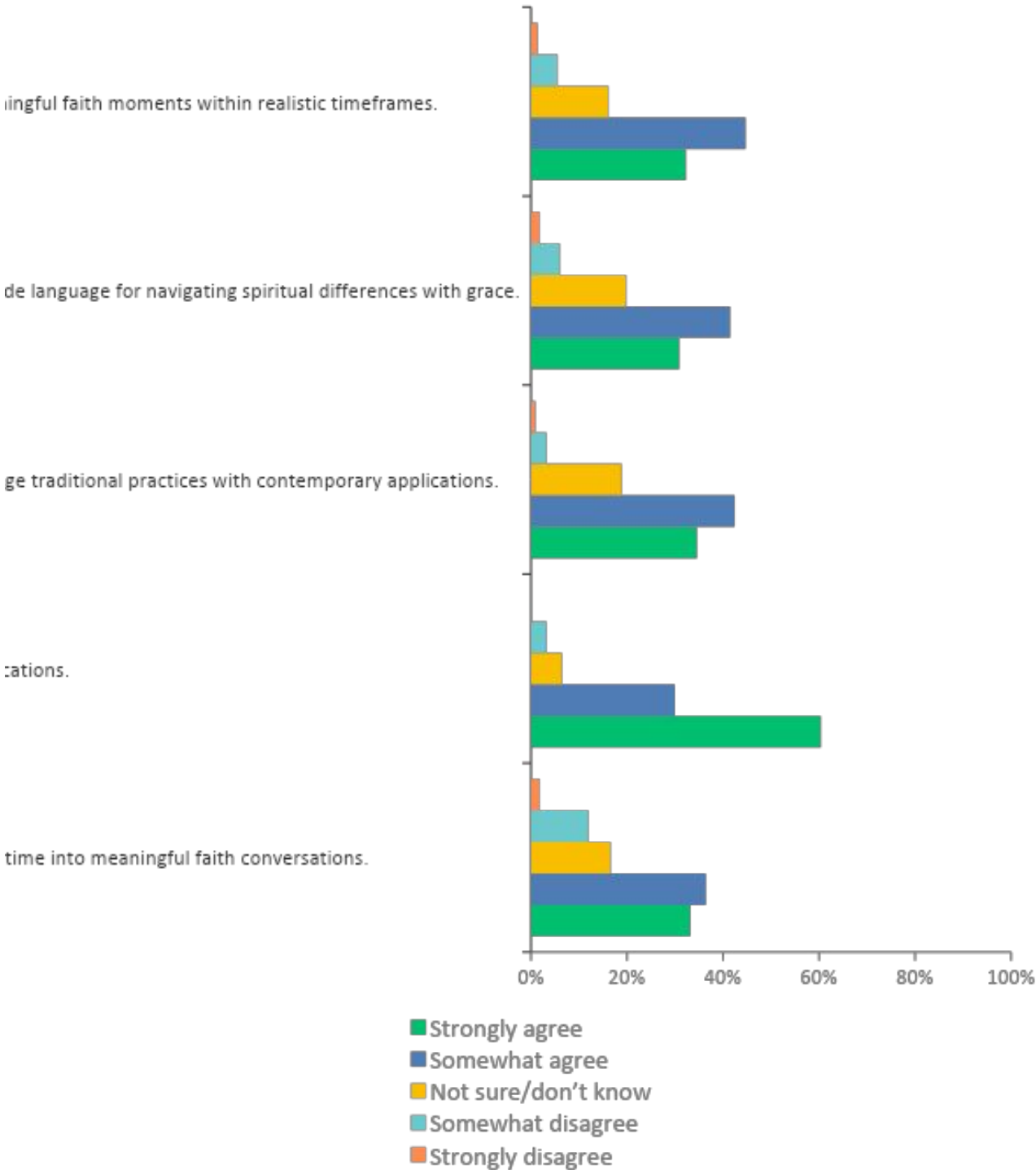
Answered: 217 Skipped: 47

Affiliation	Budget
Mennonite Church USA	\$1,625
Mennonite Church Canada	\$1,076
Church of the Brethren	\$1,032
Project Churches	\$1,868
Average of all congregations	\$1,521

Note: One congregation reported an annual curriculum resource budget of \$300,000. This data was removed from the above calculations as an outlier, and likely a respondent input error.

Q30: Below are several statements that represent how you might feel about at-home faith formation resources for different family structures. These statements may mention attributes or features that make these resources easier to use within different family structures. For each statement, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

Answered: 217 Skipped: 47



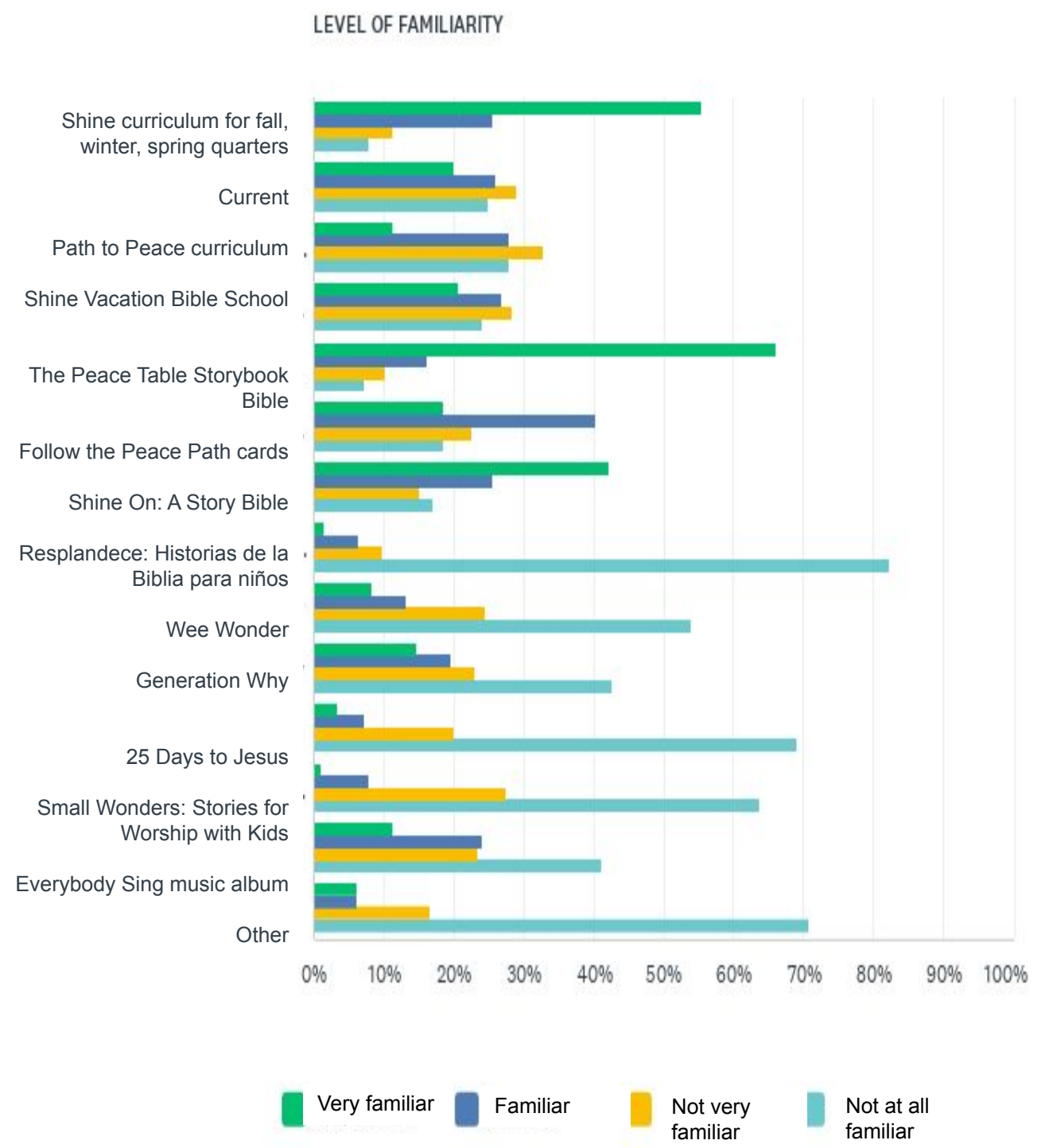
Q30: Below are several statements that represent how you might feel about at-home faith formation resources for different family structures. These statements may mention attributes or features that make these resources easier to use within different family structures. For each statement, please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

Answered: 217 Skipped: 47

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NOT SURE/ DON'T KNOW	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
We need resources that acknowledge single parents' time constraints and emotional bandwidth. Effective materials are concise, require minimal preparation, and offer flexibility for irregular schedules while creating meaningful faith moments within realistic timeframes.	32.26% 70	44.70% 97	16.13% 35	5.53% 12	1.38% 3	217
Resources for blended families must respect complex dynamics between households with different approaches to faith. We need materials that build common ground, address step-family integration sensitively, and provide language for navigating spiritual differences with grace.	30.88% 67	41.47% 90	19.82% 43	5.99% 13	1.84% 4	217
The best resources for multigenerational families incorporate the wisdom of grandparents while respecting parents' authority. They create dialogue between generations, honor different expressions of faith, and help bridge traditional practices with contemporary applications.	34.56% 75	42.40% 92	18.89% 41	3.23% 7	0.92% 2	217
Inclusive faith formation requires adaptable resources that accommodate different learning styles and abilities. We wish for materials that support parents of children with special needs without requiring extensive modifications.	60.37% 131	29.95% 65	6.45% 14	3.23% 7	0.00% 0	217
Today's families need hybrid resources that integrate digital and physical elements. Effective materials include short video prompts, mobile accessibility for busy parents, and interactive components that transform screen time into meaningful faith conversations.	33.18% 72	36.41% 79	16.59% 36	11.98% 26	1.84% 4	217

Q31: Indicate your level of familiarity with the following Shine product lines. Select from the drop-down options to select for each product line. In the second column note if the product lines have been used in your congregation.

Answered: 204 Skipped: 60



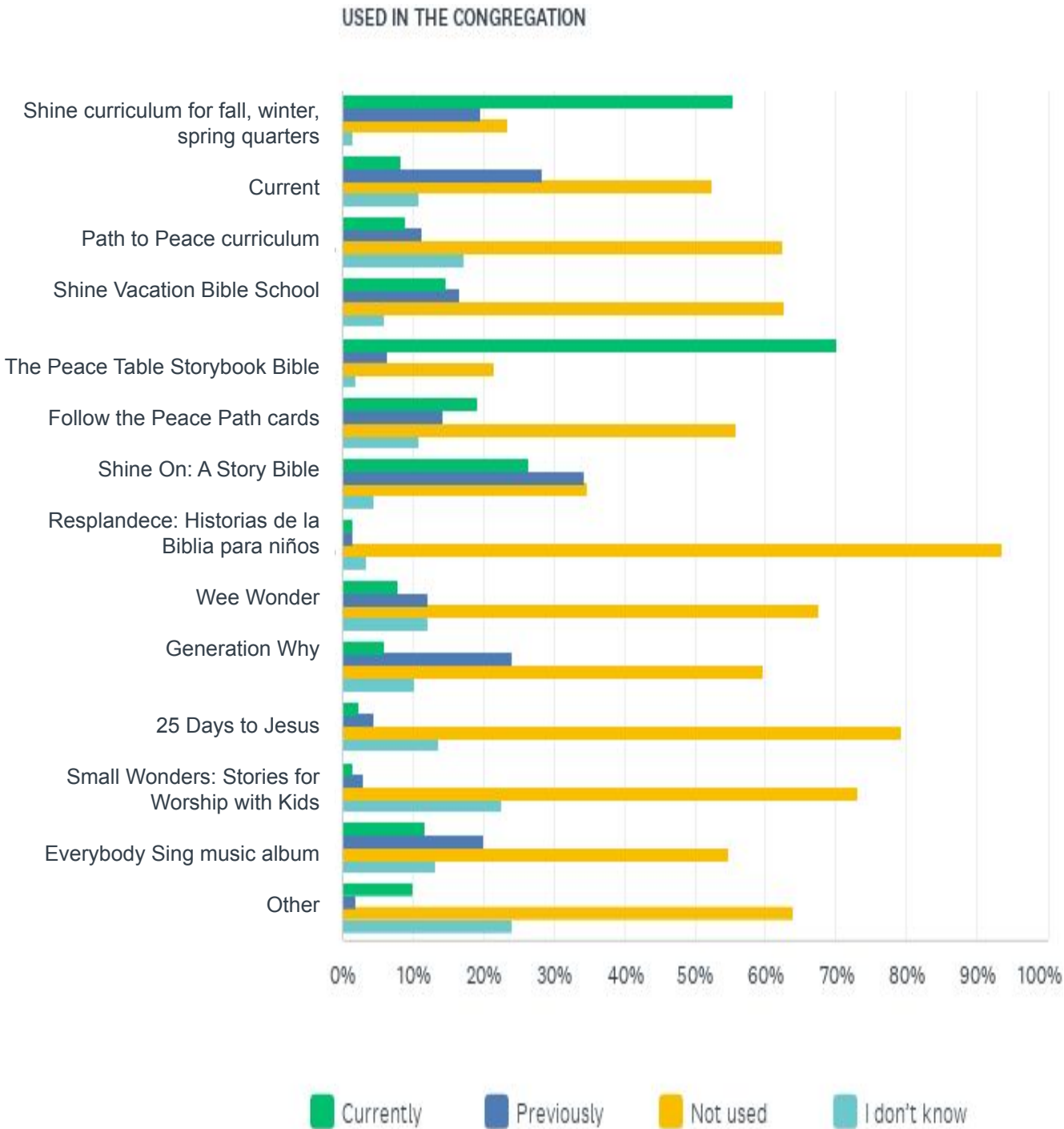
Q31: Indicate your level of familiarity with the following Shine product lines. Select from the drop-down options to select for each product line. In the second column note if the product lines have been used in your congregation.

Answered: 204 Skipped: 60

LEVEL OF FAMILIARITY					
	VERY FAMILIAR	FAMILIAR	NOT VERY FAMILIAR	NOT AT ALL FAMILIAR	TOTAL
Shine curriculum for fall, winter, spring quarters (PreK-K, Elementary, Junior Youth)	55.39% 113	25.49% 52	11.27% 23	7.84% 16	204
Current (Seeking Justice Together, Seeking God Together, Seeking Peace Together)	20.10% 41	25.98% 53	28.92% 59	25.00% 51	204
Path to Peace curriculum	11.27% 23	27.94% 57	32.84% 67	27.94% 57	204
Shine Vacation Bible School	20.59% 42	26.96% 55	28.43% 58	24.02% 49	204
The Peace Table Storybook Bible	66.18% 135	16.18% 33	10.29% 21	7.35% 15	204
Follow the Peace Path cards	18.63% 38	40.20% 82	22.55% 46	18.63% 38	204
Shine On: A Story Bible	42.16% 86	25.49% 52	15.20% 31	17.16% 35	204
Resplandece: Historias de la Biblia para niños	1.47% 3	6.37% 13	9.80% 20	82.35% 168	204
Wee Wonder	8.33% 17	13.24% 27	24.51% 50	53.92% 110	204
Generation Why	14.71% 30	19.61% 40	23.04% 47	42.65% 87	204
25 Days to Jesus	3.43% 7	7.35% 15	20.10% 41	69.12% 141	204
Small Wonders: Stories for Worship with Kids	0.98% 2	7.84% 16	27.45% 56	63.73% 130	204
Everybody Sing music album	11.27% 23	24.02% 49	23.53% 48	41.18% 84	204
Other	6.25% 3	6.25% 3	16.67% 8	70.83% 34	48

Q31: Indicate your level of familiarity with the following Shine product lines. Select from the drop-down options to select for each product line. In the second column note if the product lines have been used in your congregation.

Answered: 204 Skipped: 60



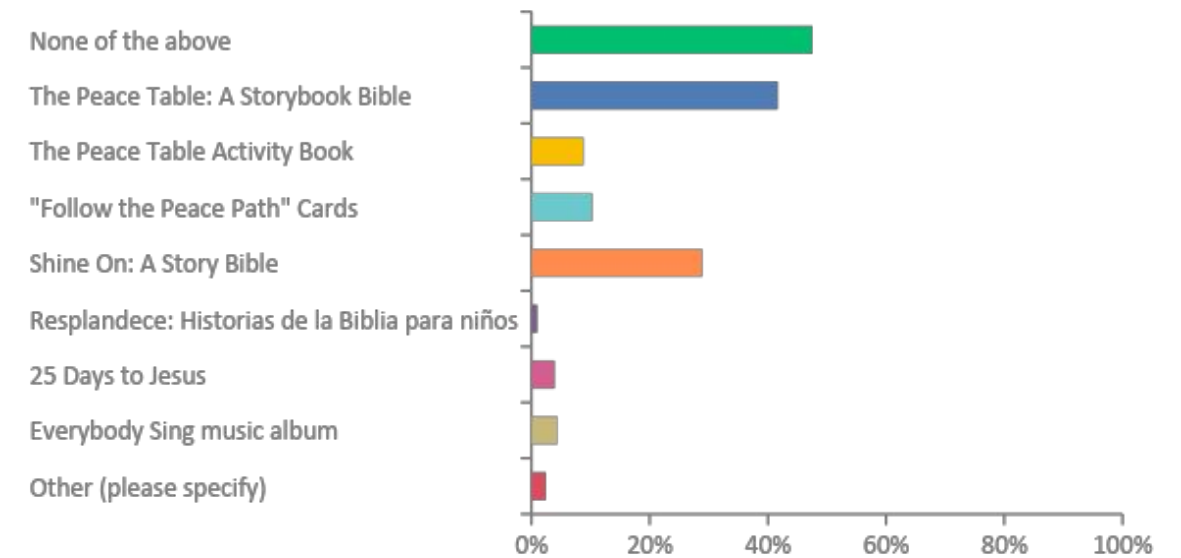
Q31: Indicate your level of familiarity with the following Shine product lines. Select from the drop-down options to select for each product line. In the second column note if the product lines have been used in your congregation.

Answered: 204 Skipped: 60

USED IN THE CONGREGATION					
	CURRENTLY	PREVIOUSLY	NOT USED	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Shine curriculum for fall, winter, spring quarters (PreK-K, Elementary, Junior Youth)	55.39% 113	19.61% 40	23.53% 48	1.47% 3	204
Current (Seeking Justice Together, Seeking God Together, Seeking Peace Together)	8.33% 17	28.43% 58	52.45% 107	10.78% 22	204
Path to Peace curriculum	8.87% 18	11.33% 23	62.56% 127	17.24% 35	203
Shine Vacation Bible School	14.71% 30	16.67% 34	62.75% 128	5.88% 12	204
The Peace Table Storybook Bible	70.10% 143	6.37% 13	21.57% 44	1.96% 4	204
Follow the Peace Path cards	19.12% 39	14.22% 29	55.88% 114	10.78% 22	204
Shine On: A Story Bible	26.47% 54	34.31% 70	34.80% 71	4.41% 9	204
Resplandece: Historias de la Biblia para niños	1.47% 3	1.47% 3	93.63% 191	3.43% 7	204
Wee Wonder	7.84% 16	12.25% 25	67.65% 138	12.25% 25	204
Generation Why	5.88% 12	24.02% 49	59.80% 122	10.29% 21	204
25 Days to Jesus	2.45% 5	4.41% 9	79.41% 162	13.73% 28	204
Small Wonders: Stories for Worship with Kids	1.47% 3	2.94% 6	73.04% 149	22.55% 46	204
Everybody Sing music album	11.76% 24	20.10% 41	54.90% 112	13.24% 27	204
Other	10.00% 5	2.00% 1	64.00% 32	24.00% 12	50

Q32: Has your congregation purchased any of these products to send home with families?

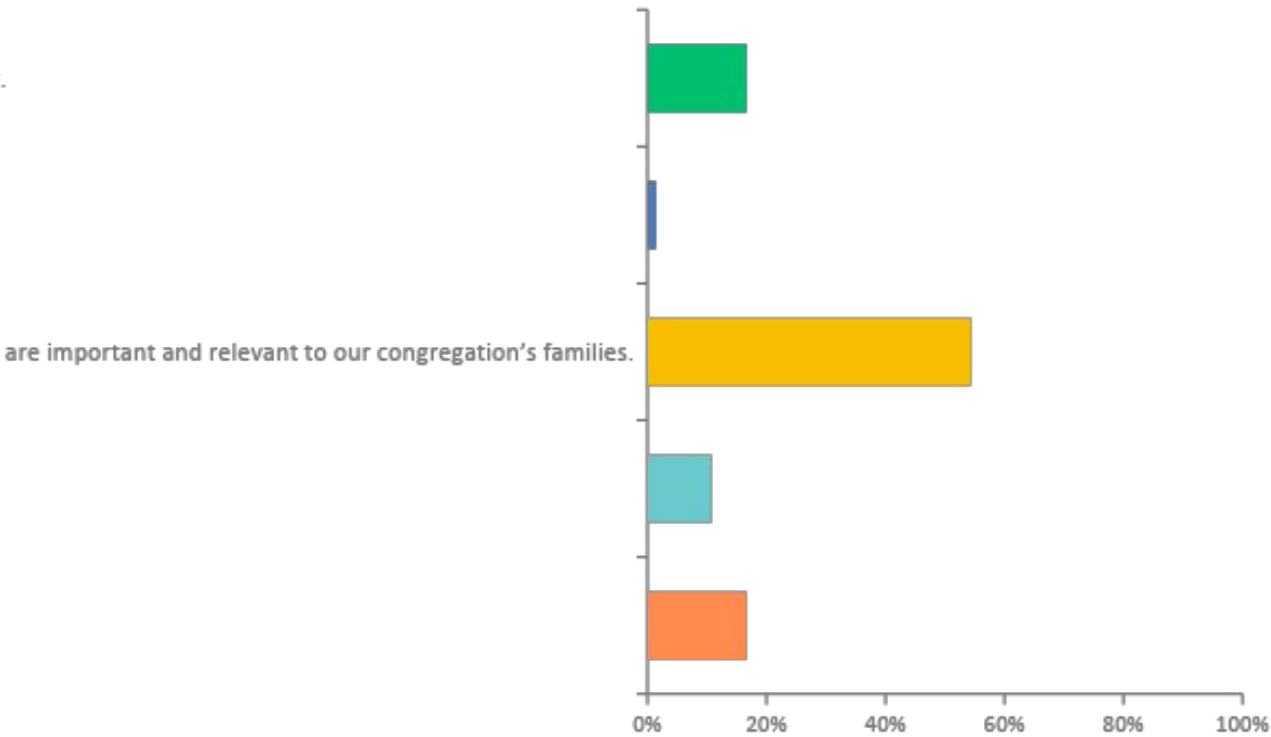
Answered: 204 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	47.55%	97
The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible	41.67%	85
The Peace Table Activity Book	8.82%	18
"Follow the Peace Path" Cards	10.29%	21
Shine On: A Story Bible	28.92%	59
Resplandece: Historias de la Biblia para niños	0.98%	2
25 Days to Jesus	3.92%	8
Everybody Sing music album	4.41%	9
Other (please specify)	2.45%	5
TOTAL		304

Q33: Below are several statements that represent how you might currently feel about the quality and utility of Shine products. These statements may not represent your exact feelings about these products or product lines, but please select the statement that comes closest to describing your current feelings about Shine. If none of these statements comes close to describing how you feel, please summarize your thoughts and feelings using the “Other” box.

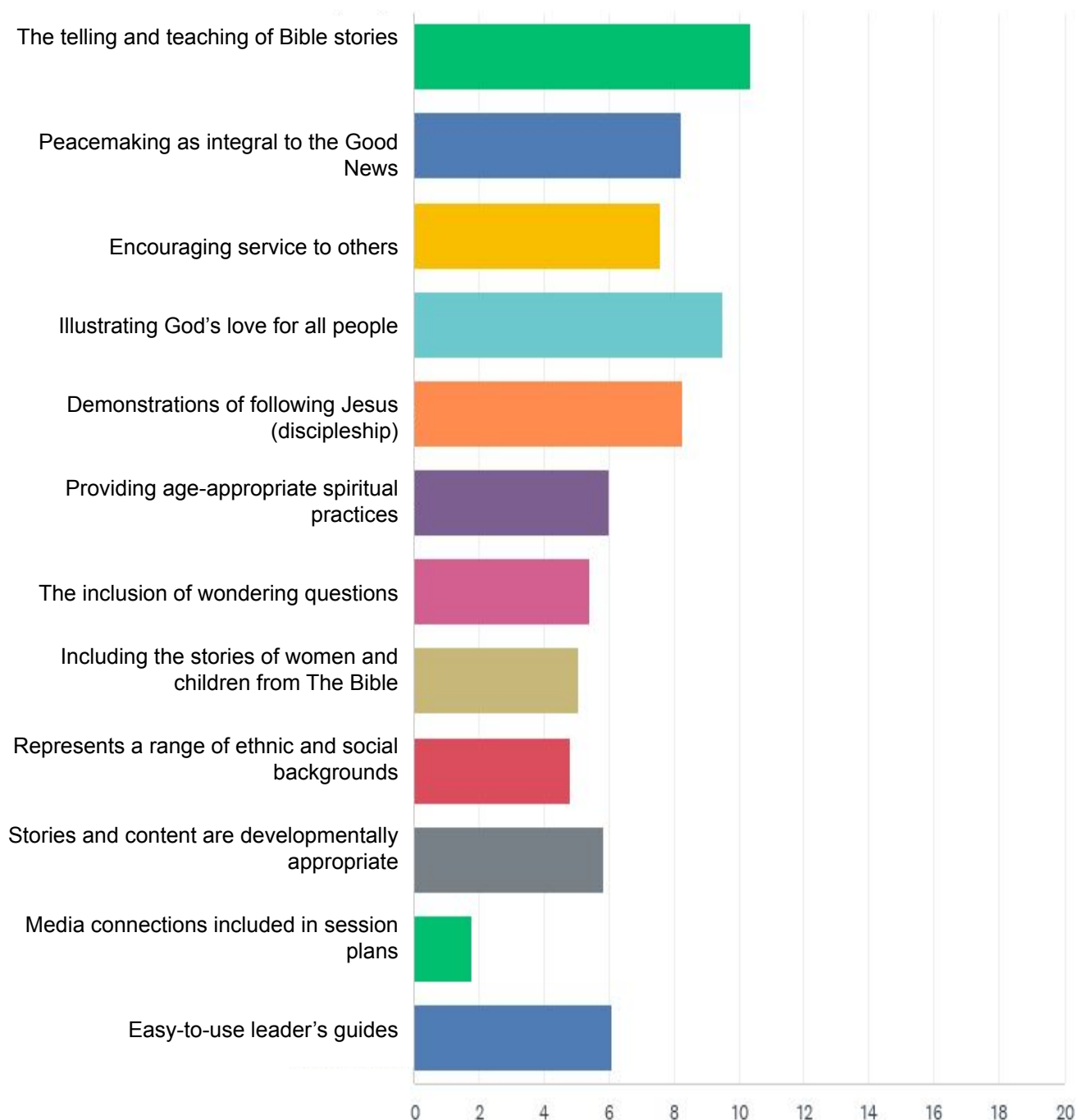
Answered: 204 Skipped: 60



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
While I am to some degree familiar with Shine products, I do not feel I have enough experience with them to make a qualified statement about their quality and utility.	16.67%	34
I do not think the content and approach of Shine products are a good choice for our congregation.	1.47%	3
I have a highly favorable opinion of Shine products and try to use them when we can because the content and approach reflects the values, concepts, and lessons that are important and relevant to our congregation’s families.	54.41%	111
I have an overall positive feeling about Shine products. But our congregation's budget does not allow us to use these products as much as we would like.	10.78%	22
Other (please describe)	16.67%	34
TOTAL		204

Q34: Based on your knowledge of the congregation, what specific features of Shine products are most valued? Please rank the features moving them so the most valued is at the top of the list. If you are unfamiliar with a specific feature, please check that box and leave the feature near the bottom of the list. If you are unfamiliar with Shine products in general, click the "unfamiliar" box for all features.

Answered: 197 Skipped: 67



Q34: Based on your knowledge of the congregation, what specific features of Shine products are most valued? Please rank the features moving them so the most valued is at the top of the list. If you are unfamiliar with a specific feature, please check that box and leave the feature near the bottom of the list. If you are unfamiliar with Shine products in general, click the "unfamiliar" box for all features.

Answered: 197 Skipped: 67

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	I'm unfamiliar with this feature.	Total	Score
The telling and teaching of Bible stories	39.8% 78	14.29% 28	9.69% 19	5.61% 11	3.06% 6	4.59% 9	2.04% 4	3.57% 7	0.51% 1	0.51% 1	0% 0	0.51% 1	15.82% 31	196	10.37
Peacemaking as integral to the Good News	6.67% 13	18.97% 37	8.72% 17	9.23% 18	7.18% 14	9.23% 18	8.72% 17	5.13% 10	4.62% 9	1.03% 2	2.56% 5	1.54% 3	16.41% 32	195	8.22
Encouraging service to others	2.05% 4	5.64% 11	13.85% 27	9.74% 19	16.41% 32	10.77% 21	8.21% 16	5.13% 10	3.08% 6	6.15% 12	1.54% 3	0.51% 1	16.92% 33	195	7.57
Illustrating God's love for all people	18.46% 36	16.41% 32	15.9% 31	12.31% 24	6.67% 13	3.59% 7	6.15% 12	2.05% 4	0.51% 1	1.54% 3	0.51% 1	0.51% 1	15.38% 30	195	9.52
Demonstrations of following Jesus (discipleship)	5.1% 10	8.67% 17	13.27% 26	21.43% 42	10.71% 21	6.12% 12	6.12% 12	5.61% 11	3.06% 6	0.51% 1	2.55% 5	1.02% 2	15.82% 31	196	8.26
Providing age-appropriate spiritual practices	1.03% 2	1.54% 3	4.1% 8	5.13% 10	13.85% 27	11.79% 23	13.85% 27	7.18% 14	7.18% 14	8.21% 16	5.64% 11	3.08% 6	17.44% 34	195	6.01
The inclusion of wondering questions	0.51% 1	3.08% 6	5.64% 11	4.1% 8	6.67% 13	7.18% 14	10.26% 20	9.74% 19	13.85% 27	5.13% 10	11.28% 22	5.13% 10	17.44% 34	195	5.4
Including the stories of women and children from the Bible	0.51% 1	1.02% 2	1.02% 2	3.57% 7	5.61% 11	6.12% 12	9.18% 18	19.9% 39	16.84% 33	14.29% 28	4.59% 9	0.51% 1	16.84% 33	196	5.07
Represents a range of ethnic and social backgrounds	0% 0	3.61% 7	2.06% 4	5.15% 10	1.55% 3	7.22% 14	7.73% 15	9.28% 18	17.53% 34	12.37% 24	11.86% 23	4.12% 8	17.53% 34	194	4.82
Stories and content are developmentally appropriate	4.59% 9	4.08% 8	5.1% 10	4.59% 9	6.63% 13	9.18% 18	5.61% 11	7.65% 15	8.16% 16	17.35% 34	10.2% 20	0% 0	16.84% 33	196	5.85
Media connections included in session plans	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	1.53% 3	1.53% 3	1.02% 2	3.57% 7	6.12% 12	18.88% 37	44.39% 87	22.96% 45	196	1.81
Easy-to-use leader's guides	7.22% 14	7.73% 15	5.67% 11	4.12% 8	6.7% 13	7.22% 14	4.12% 8	6.7% 13	3.61% 7	7.73% 15	8.76% 17	11.86% 23	18.56% 36	194	6.08

Q35. Is there another feature of Shine products, not listed above, that you find particularly valuable? If so, please describe it below:[optional]

Answered: 39 Skipped: 225

Summary:

Comprehensive Biblical Coverage: Follows the lectionary and provides equal time to Old and New Testaments, covering major Bible themes and storylines

Flexibility and Adaptability: Multiple activity options allow teachers to customize lessons for their specific groups and time constraints

Visual Appeal: Engaging, visually pleasing materials that children enjoy

Educational Resources: Valuable teacher preparation materials, biblical background information, and downloadable features

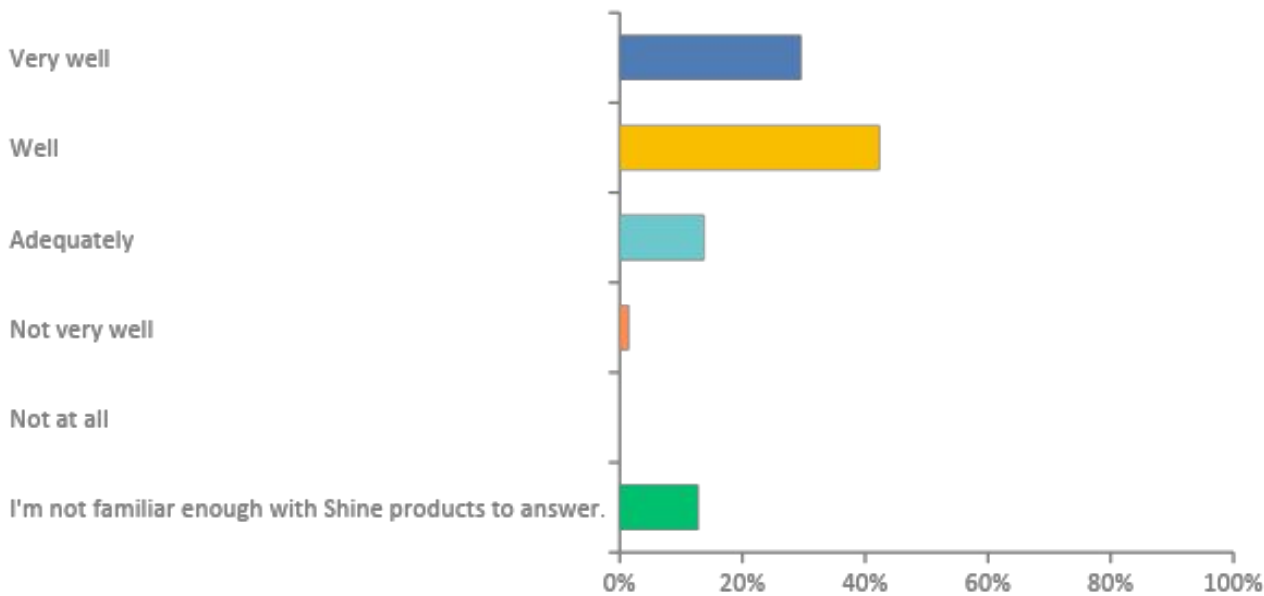
Anabaptist Perspective: Appreciated for its peace witness and collaborative rather than competitive approach

Diverse Formats: Multiple storytelling options (story cards, YouTube, figures, acting) accommodate different teaching styles

Special Programs: Strong satisfaction with Vacation Bible School curriculum and Generation Why youth materials

Q36: Based upon what you know about the individuals and families in your congregation, how well do you think Shine products meet their needs for faith-based resources?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 61



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very well	29.56%	60
Well	42.36%	86
Adequately	13.79%	28
Not very well	1.48%	3
Not at all	0.00%	0
I'm not familiar enough with Shine products to answer.	12.81%	26
TOTAL		203

Q37. What recommendations would you make about how to improve Shine products to better serve the needs of individuals and families in your congregation?

Answered: 203 Skipped: 61

Common themes found in the comments:

Cost and Budget Concerns

Many congregations find Shine products too expensive, especially smaller churches with limited budgets and fluctuating attendance. There's frequent mention of needing more affordable options, small church bundles, and difficulty justifying costs when attendance varies.

Digital Resources and Accessibility

Strong demand for digital versions of materials, especially student workbooks and reproducible resources. Many want to reduce paper usage and need flexibility for varying attendance numbers.

Home-Church Connection

Significant interest in better resources for connecting church learning with home faith practices. Many note that current "at home" resources require too many steps to access, and families prefer simpler, more direct ways to continue conversations at home.

Ease of Use for Volunteers

Repeated emphasis on making materials extremely teacher-friendly with minimal preparation required. Many congregations rely on volunteers who need simple, straightforward lesson plans.

Age-Appropriate Content

Concerns about materials being too childish for older elementary students (especially 5th graders) and requests for better multi-age adaptability.

Diverse Learning Needs

Requests for more active, movement-based activities rather than primarily sit-down learning. Also calls for accommodating neurodivergent learners and various learning styles.

Liturgical Calendar Alignment

Several congregations want curriculum that follows the liturgical calendar and aligns with the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).

Inclusive Representation

Multiple requests for better representation of diverse families, including same-sex parents, and various racial/ethnic backgrounds.

Video and Media Resources

Strong interest in quality videos that accompany lessons, similar to other popular curricula, while maintaining Shine's theological perspective.

Comprehensive Annual Coverage

Desire for 52-week programs that don't require supplementing with other materials during summer months.