



Talking Jesus

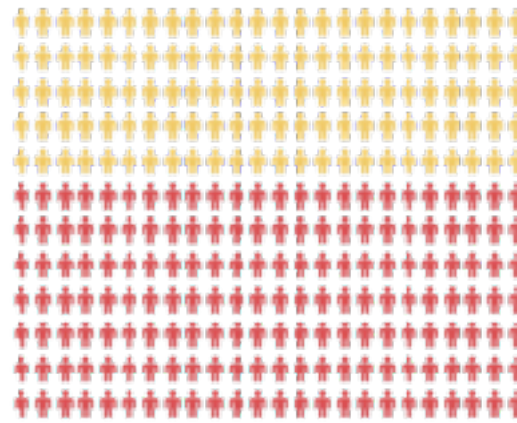
PERCEPTIONS OF JESUS,
CHRISTIANS & EVANGELISM
AMONGST 11-18 YEAR OLDS

Summary Findings

Objectives

The key aims of this research were to:

- Understand broad perceptions of Jesus among 11-18 year olds.
- Understand how frequently Christians and non-Christians have conversations about faith in Jesus.
- Explore how Christians feel about talking to non-Christians about their faith in Jesus.
- Explore how non-Christians feel when Christians talk to them about their faith in Jesus.
- Understand the reasons why young people become Christians.



Sample

ComRes surveyed 2000 11-18 year olds in England online.

Christians: 831

Non-Christians: 1169

Interpretation

Data have been weighted by age, gender and region to be representative of all 11-18 year olds in England.

Findings marked with an asterisk (*) indicate a low base size. These results should be treated with caution.



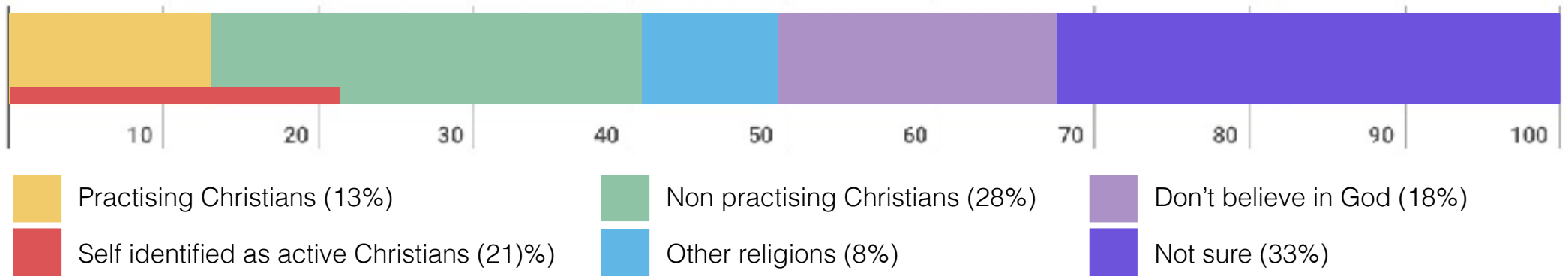
Fieldwork dates

7th – 19th December 2016

PROFILE OF CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLE



Who is in the team?



'Practising Christians' are defined as those who identify as Christian, say they attend Church at least once a month, pray at least once a week and read / listen the Bible at least once a week.

'Church' was not defined in the original question and so may include church services undertaken in schools, as well as informal services interpreted by young people as 'going to church'.



13% of all 11-18 year olds
are practicing Christians with **21%**
of all 11-18 year olds self identifying as
active followers of Jesus

Almost unbelievable!

However the
Gen Z 'rethinking Culture' research
19% found similar results with
of young people considering
themselves a follower of Jesus

PERCEPTIONS OF JESUS



Over half of English young people say Jesus was a real person

Jesus was a real person who
actually lived

54%

18-34: 57% 35+: 62%

Jesus is a mythical or
fictional character

27%

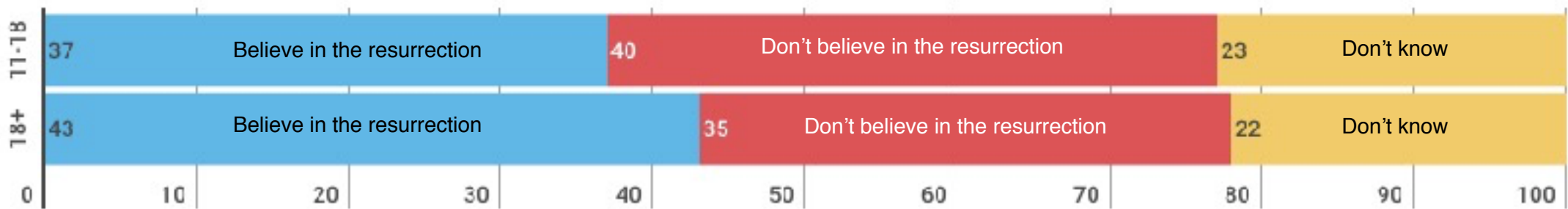
18-34: 25% 35+: 20%

Don't
Know

19%

18-34: 18% 35+: 18%

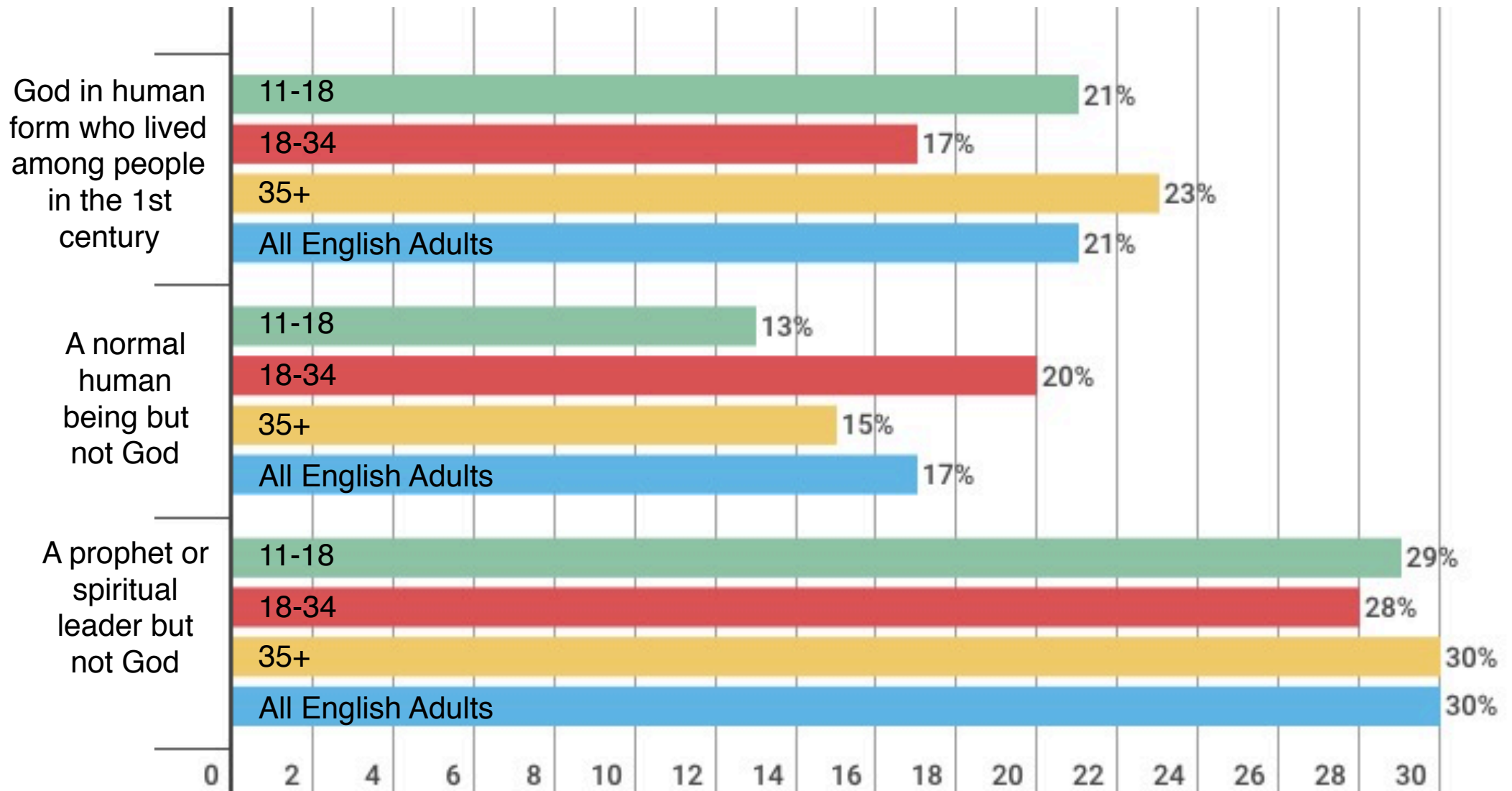
37% of Young People believe in the resurrection



Q11. How would you describe Jesus? All respondents (2000).

Q14. At Easter, Christians around the world celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. This story is known as 'The Resurrection'. Which, if any, of the following statements best reflects how you understand this? Base: all respondents (n=2000)

42% of English young people say Jesus was a real person but not God



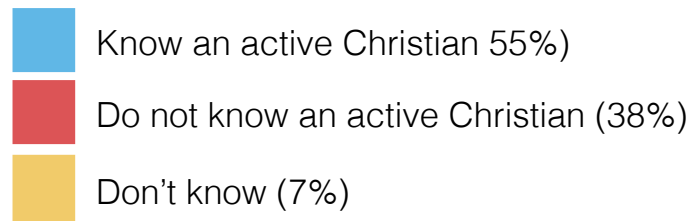
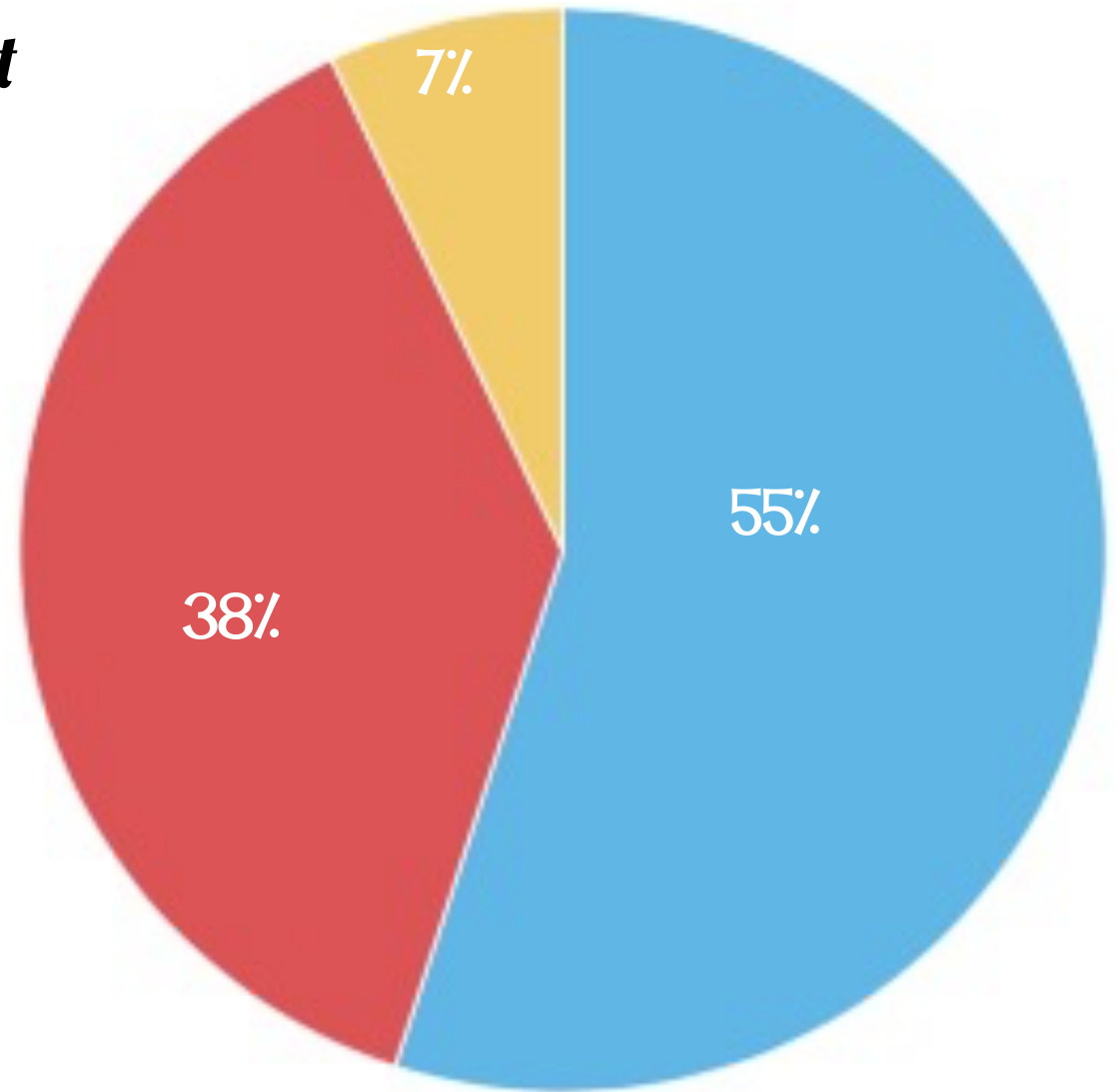
Q11. Would you describe Jesus as...? Young people who describe Jesus as a real person who actually lived, or say that they don't know how they would describe him (1466)

NON CHRISTIANS' PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS



45% of all young people do not know an active Christian

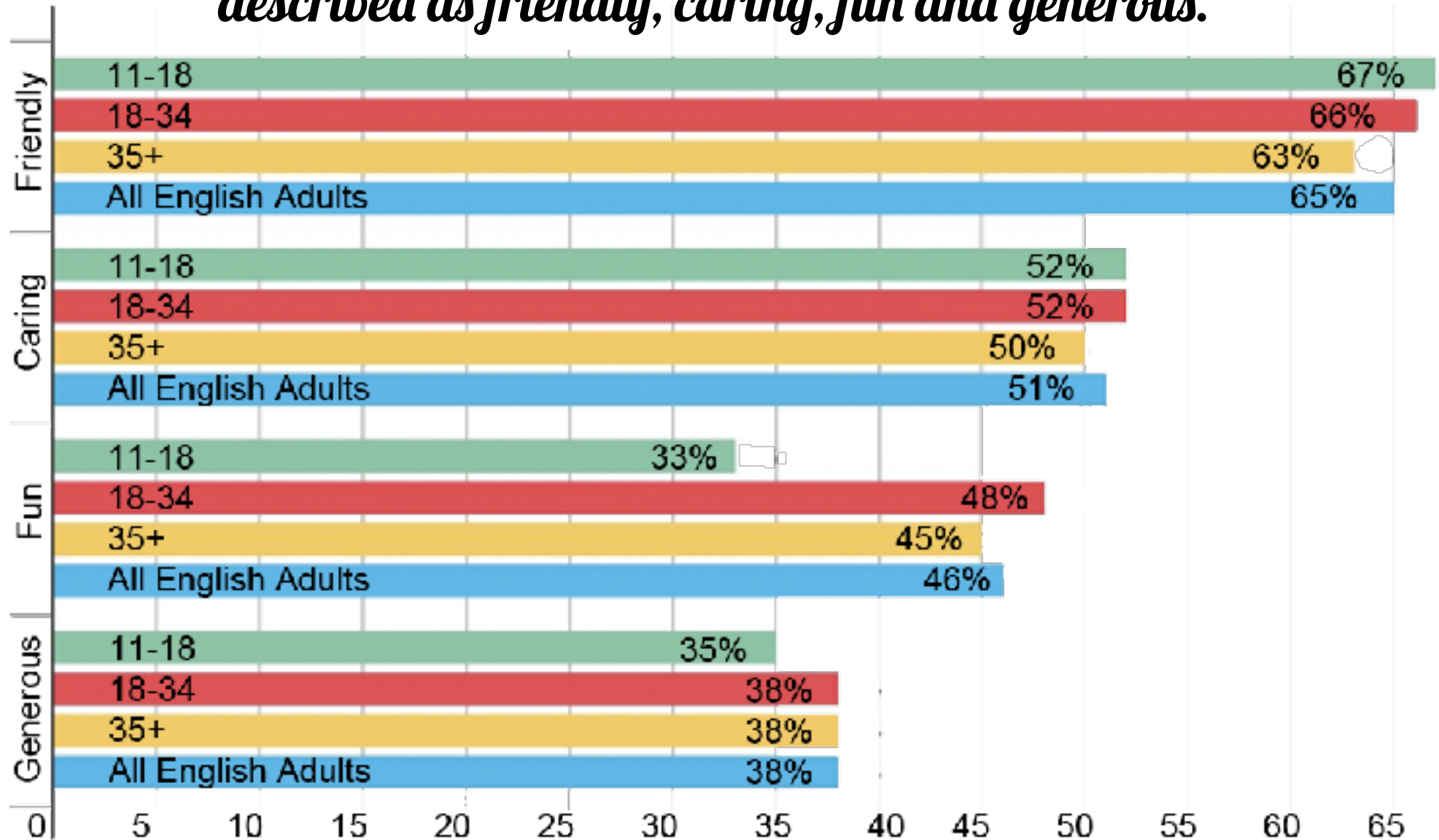
55% of young people in England say that they personally know an active Christian – someone who follows Jesus, with two in five (38%) saying they do not. Just fewer than one in ten (7%) say they don't know.



Q13. Do you personally know anyone who is an active Christian who follows Jesus – i.e. this means they could go to church regularly?

Base; all non-Christians (1169)

Christians are well thought of, most popularly being described as friendly, caring, fun and generous.



Q13. Thinking about the first active Christian you thought of, how would you describe your relationship with this person?
Base: all non-Christians who know an active Christian (n=647)

NON CHRISTIANS' EXPERIENCES OF EVANGELISM



Similar proportions of adults and young people feel sad they do not share our faith

Of the 57% of English non-Christian **adults** who had a conversation with a christian about their faith:

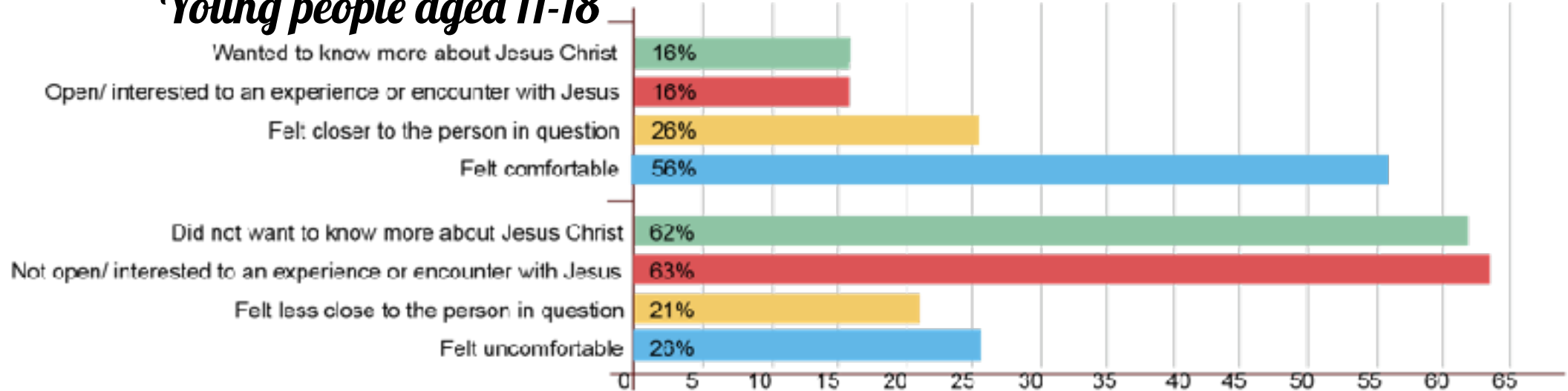


Of the 49% of English non-Christian **young people** who had a conversation with a christian about their faith:

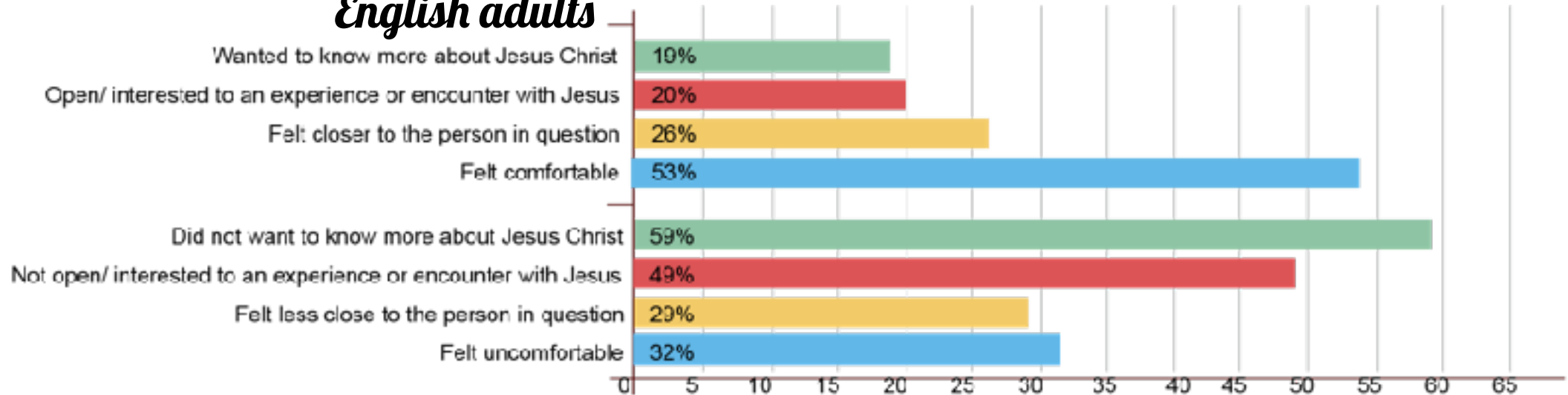


At least 1 in 6 young people wanted to know more about Jesus or were interested in a spiritual experience

Young people aged 11-18



English adults



CHRISTIANS' EXPERIENCES OF EVANGELISM



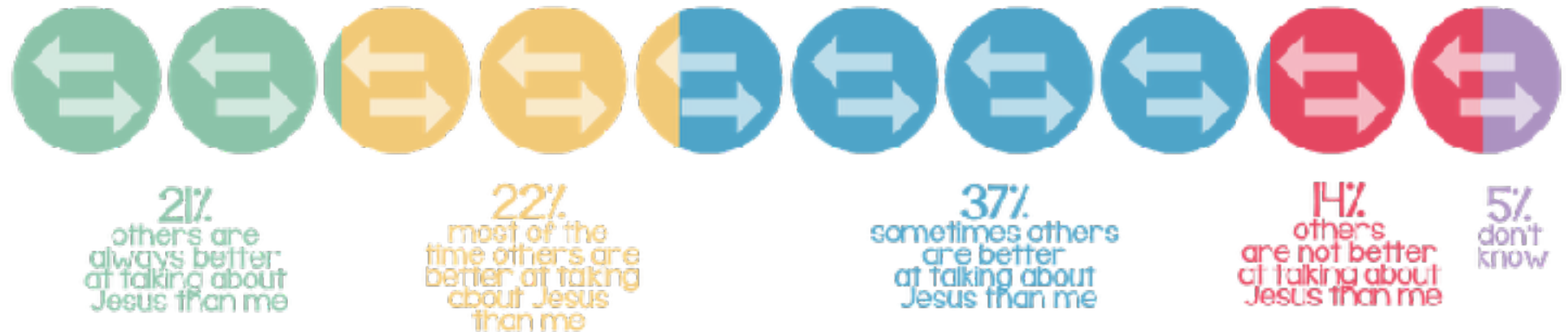
12% of young practising Christians do not feel comfortable talking about faith



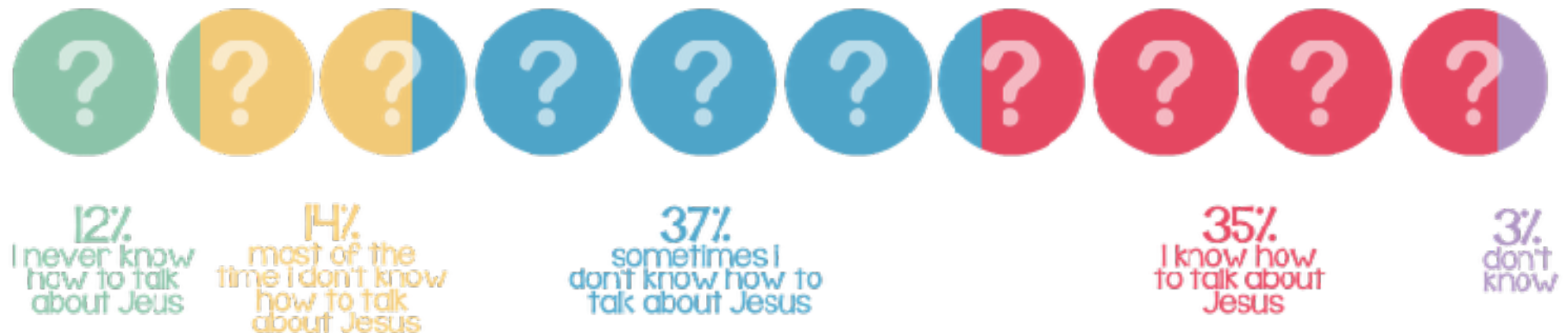
1 in 4 young people admit they are afraid of causing offence all or most of the time



43% of young people think that most, if not all of the time, others would be better than them at talking to non christians about Jesus,



29% of young people do not know how to talk to non-Christian about Jesus, most or all of the time

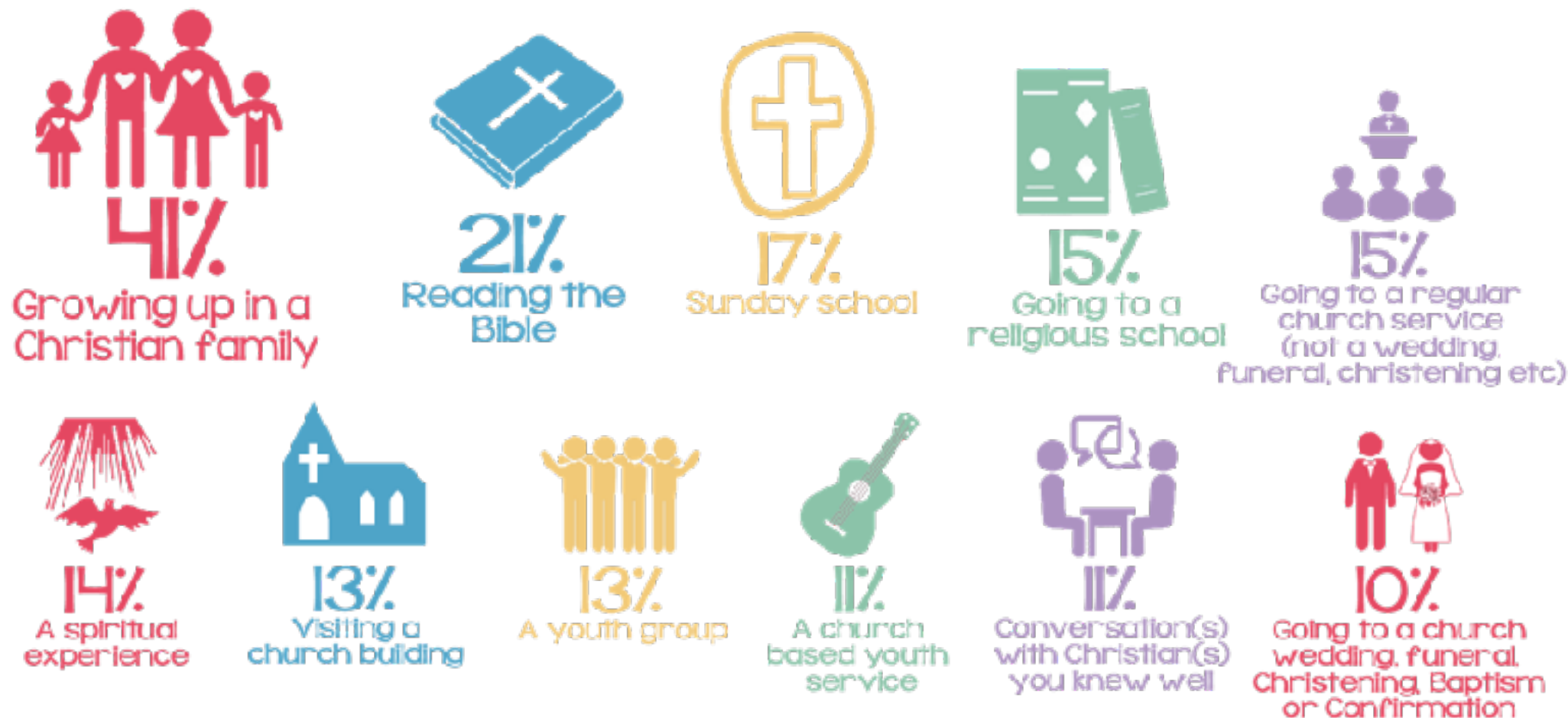


Q24: Thinking about talking to people who are not Christians about Jesus, to what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
Active Christians (b=262)

CHRISTIAN FAITH JOURNEY



When asked which two or three reasons were most important in bringing practicing young people to faith, family was the biggest influencer

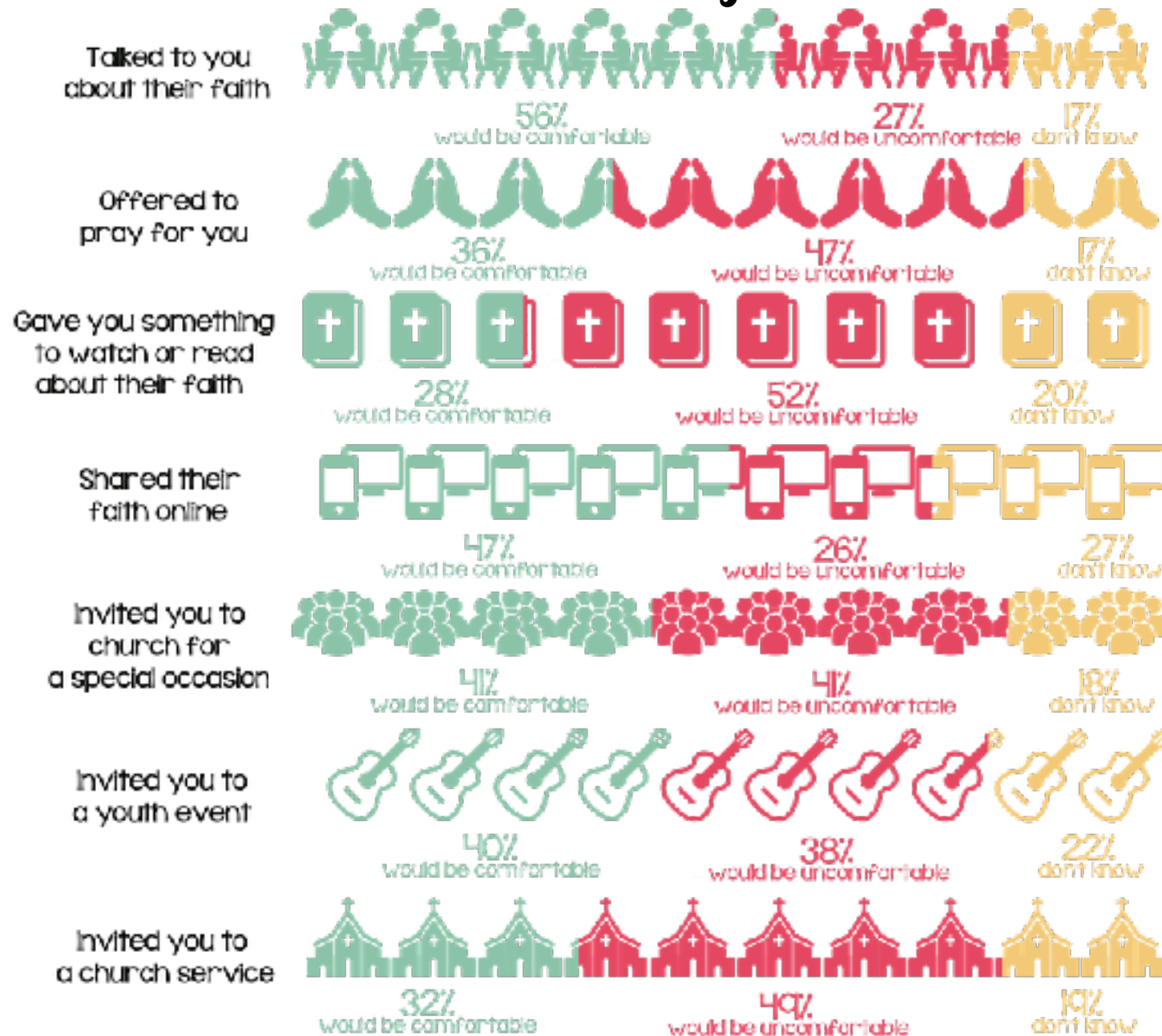


Q32. When you think about the reasons you became a Christian which two or three of the following, if any, were most important for you?
Active Christians (n=262)



Q32. When you think about the reasons you became a Christian which two or three of the following, if any, were most important for you?
Active Christians (n=262)

Over half of non Christian young people feel comfortable being talked to about faith



Q19. Would you be comfortable or uncomfortable if a Christian you knew well? Base: All Non-Christians (n=1169)



Talking Jesus: Perceptions of Jesus, Christians & Evangelism amongst 11-18 year olds was commissioned by the HOPE Revolution Partnership: HOPE, Church of England, Soul Survivor, Urban Saints, Tearfund, Message Trust, Elim, Youth For Christ, Pais Movement,

