

The Open Generation

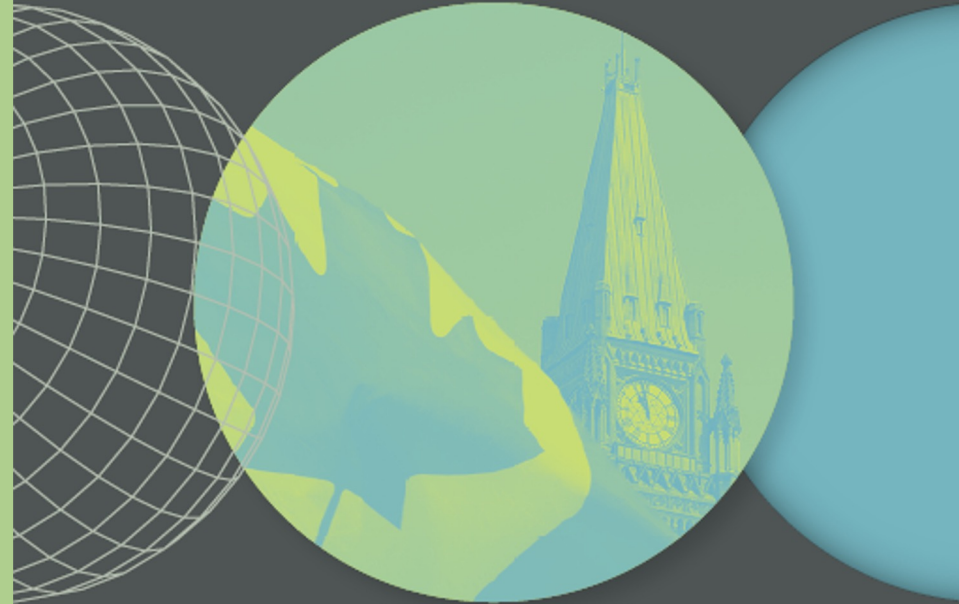
Created in partnership with Biblica, World Vision
and Alpha

How Teens Around the World Relate to Jesus, View the
Bible and Can Make an Impact



A Barna Report Produced in Partnership with
Biblica, World Vision and Alpha

Barna



The Open Generation

A Global Teens Study

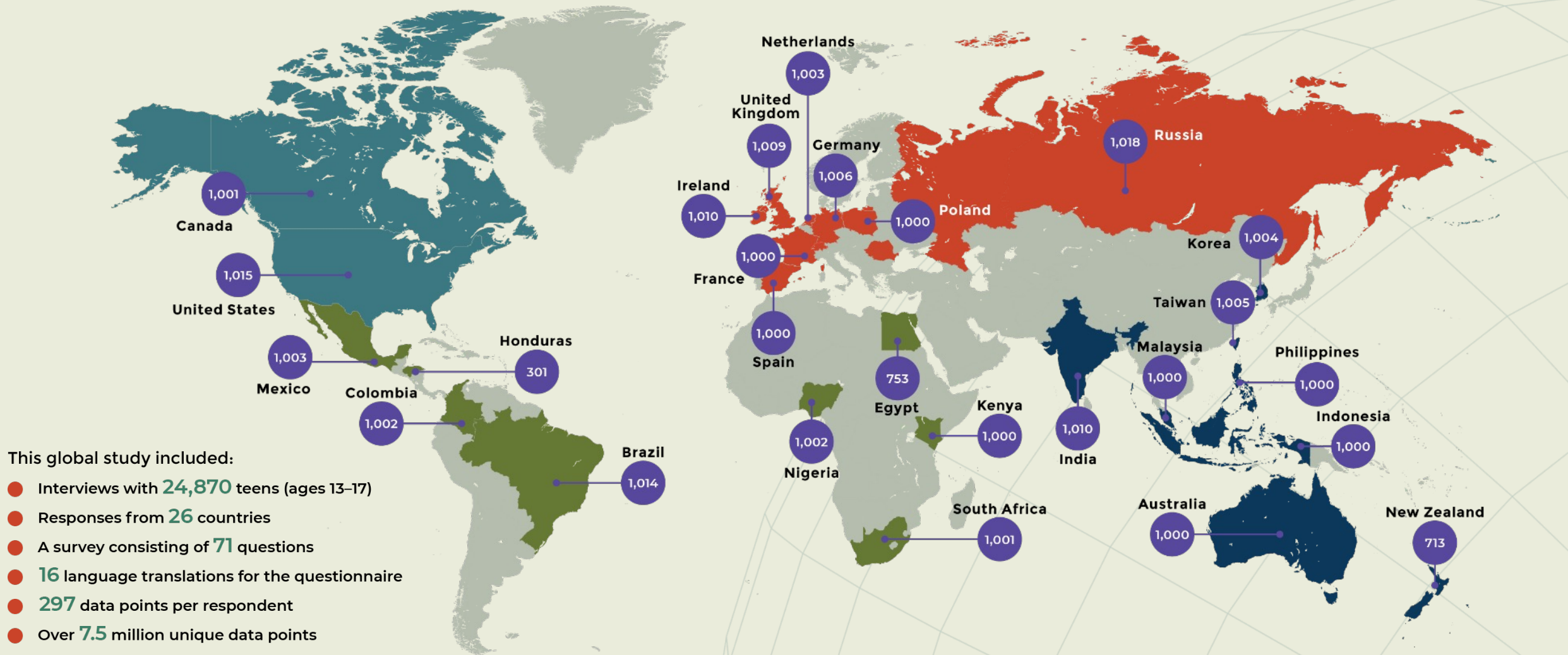
Canada







Meet Today's Teens



This global study included:

- Interviews with **24,870** teens (ages 13–17)
- Responses from **26** countries
- A survey consisting of **71** questions
- **16** language translations for the questionnaire
- **297** data points per respondent
- Over **7.5** million unique data points

The Open Generation

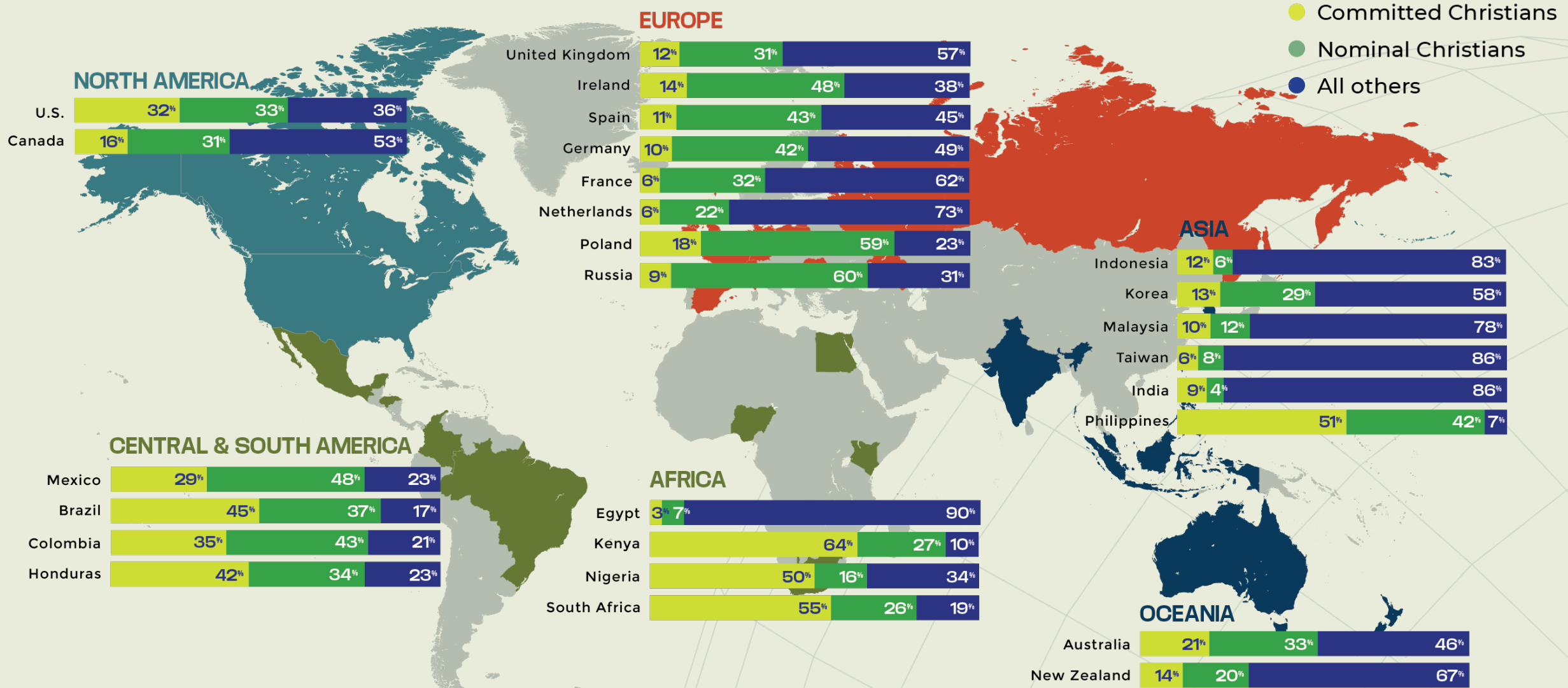
Vol. 01

How Teens Around the World Relate to

Jesus



Today's Teens' Commitment to Jesus



Teens Think Highly of Jesus

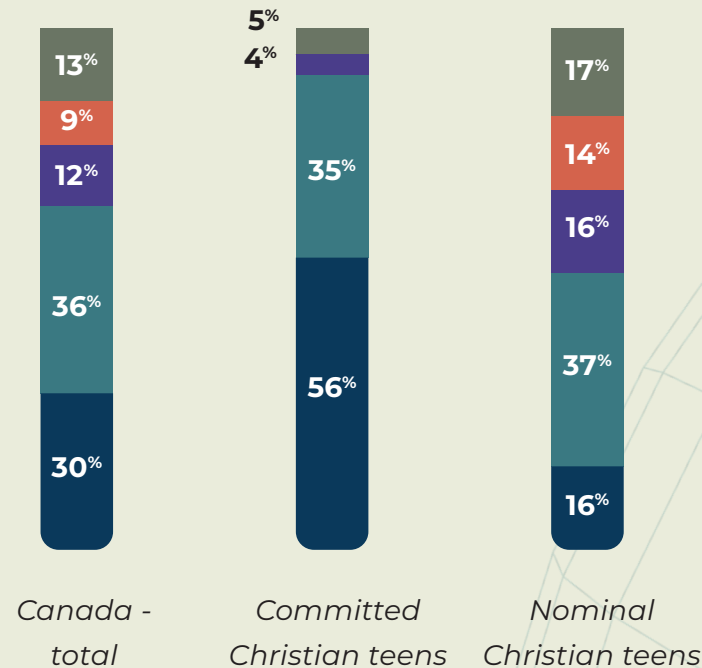
Committed Christians see Jesus as a relevant figure in their life.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

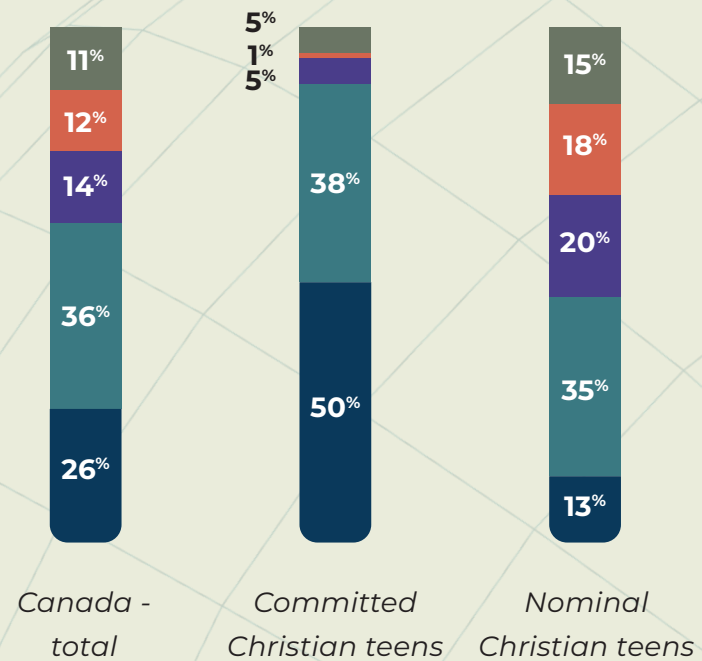
Base: Christians

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly
- I am not sure

“My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction”



“Jesus speaks to me in a way that is relevant to my life”



n=471 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

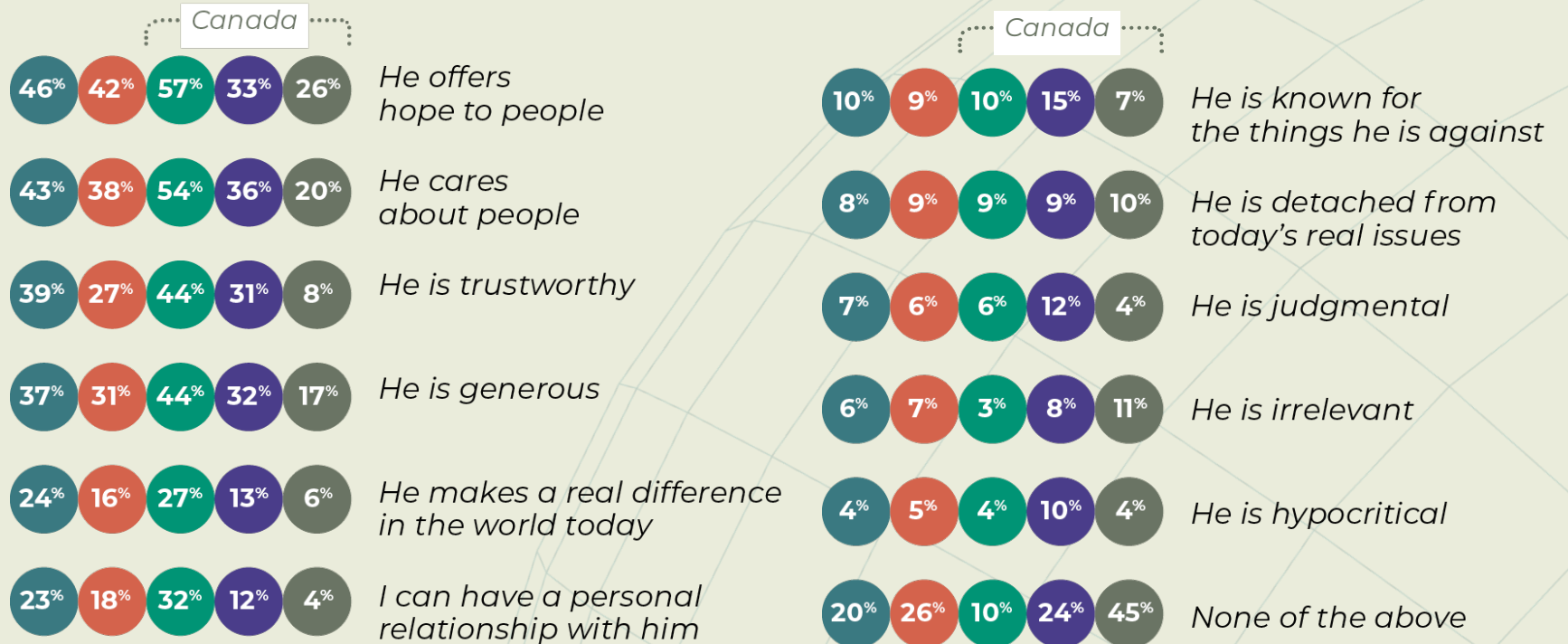
n=13,184 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Teens see Jesus as someone who offers hope and cares for others.

Which of the following do you, personally, believe about Jesus?

Select all that apply.

- Global ● Canada ● Christian
- Other faith ● No faith



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Commitment to Jesus

Only one in six Canadian teens are committed to Jesus.

JESUS COMMITMENT

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS: Teenagers who self-identify as Christian and have made a personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ. *We'll sometimes refer to this group as "Christ-followers."*

NOMINAL CHRISTIANS: Teenagers who self-identify as Christian but have not made a personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ. *Barna has previously used the term "nominal Christians" with similar definitions.*

ALL OTHERS: Teens who are not Christian and hold some other belief about who Jesus is.

Commitment to Jesus

- Committed Christians
- Nominal Christians
- All others

Global



Canada



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Committed Christians see Jesus as a relevant figure in their life.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Base: Christians

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly
- I am not sure

“My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction”



Committed Christian teens



Nominal Christian teens

“Jesus speaks to me in a way that is relevant to my life”



Committed Christian teens



Nominal Christian teens

n=471 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=13,184 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

From Openness to Opportunity

How can we show teens that Jesus imparts truth and promotes good, especially when they know little of scripture or of Him personally?

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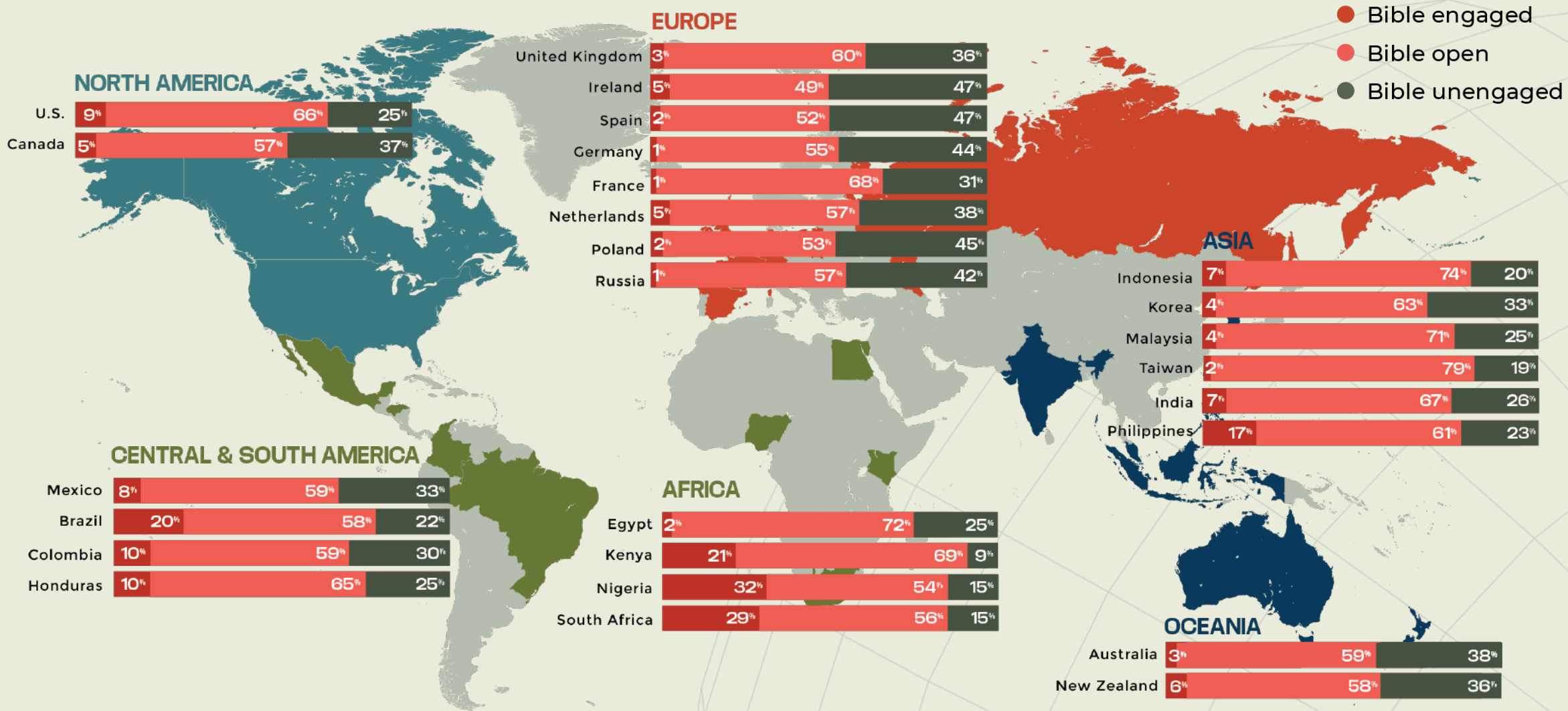
Vol. 02

How Teens Around the World View the

Bible



Today's Teens' Engagement with the Bible



Fewer than one in ten teens are Bible engaged.

Engaged

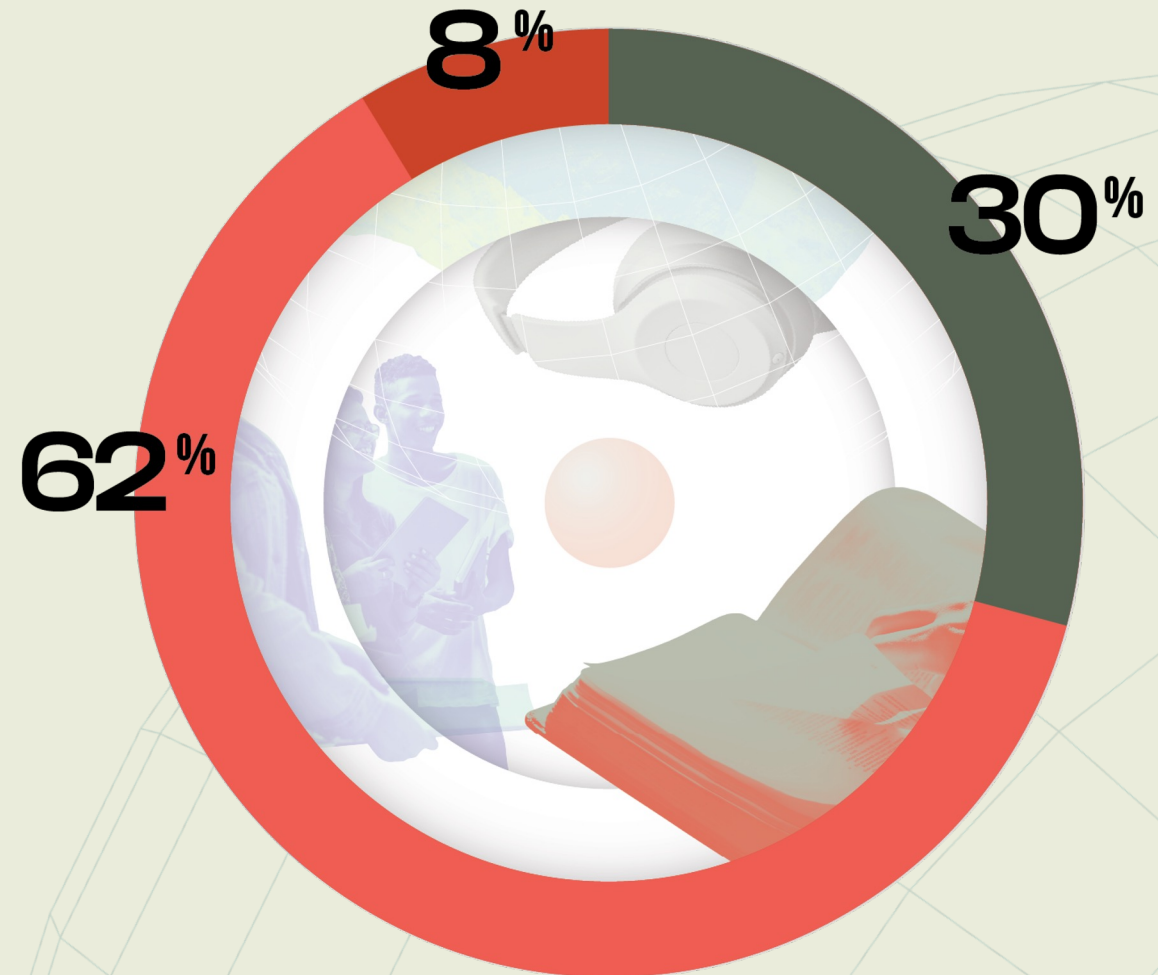
High view of the Bible and read several times a week

Open

High or neutral view of the Bible, but read less than weekly

Disengaged

Skeptics or never read the Bible



Teaching teens to read the Bible is a vital first step toward life-long engagement.

● Bible engaged ● Bible open ● Bible unengaged



On average, a teen who is engaged with scripture has had 4 different people teach them how to read it.



The average Bible open teen has had 1 or 2 people teach them how to read it.



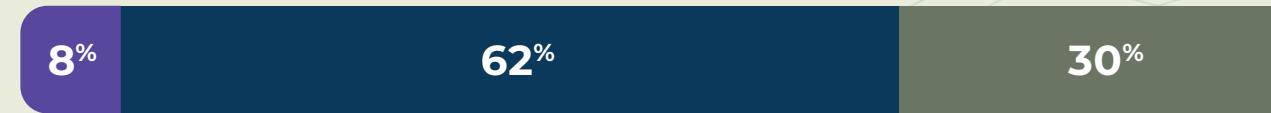
The average Bible unengaged teen has had no one teach them how to read it.

Even among Christians, Bible engagement is rare.

Teens' Engagement with the Bible

- Bible engaged
- Bible open
- Bible unengaged

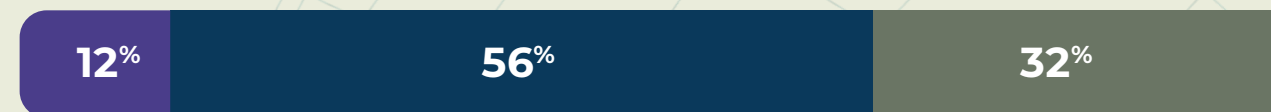
Global



Canada



Christian



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;
n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

An Opportunity and a Problem

We have an opportunity outside the church because so many teens are engaged or open to the Bible.

But, we have a problem inside the church because so few are meaningfully engaged in Scripture.

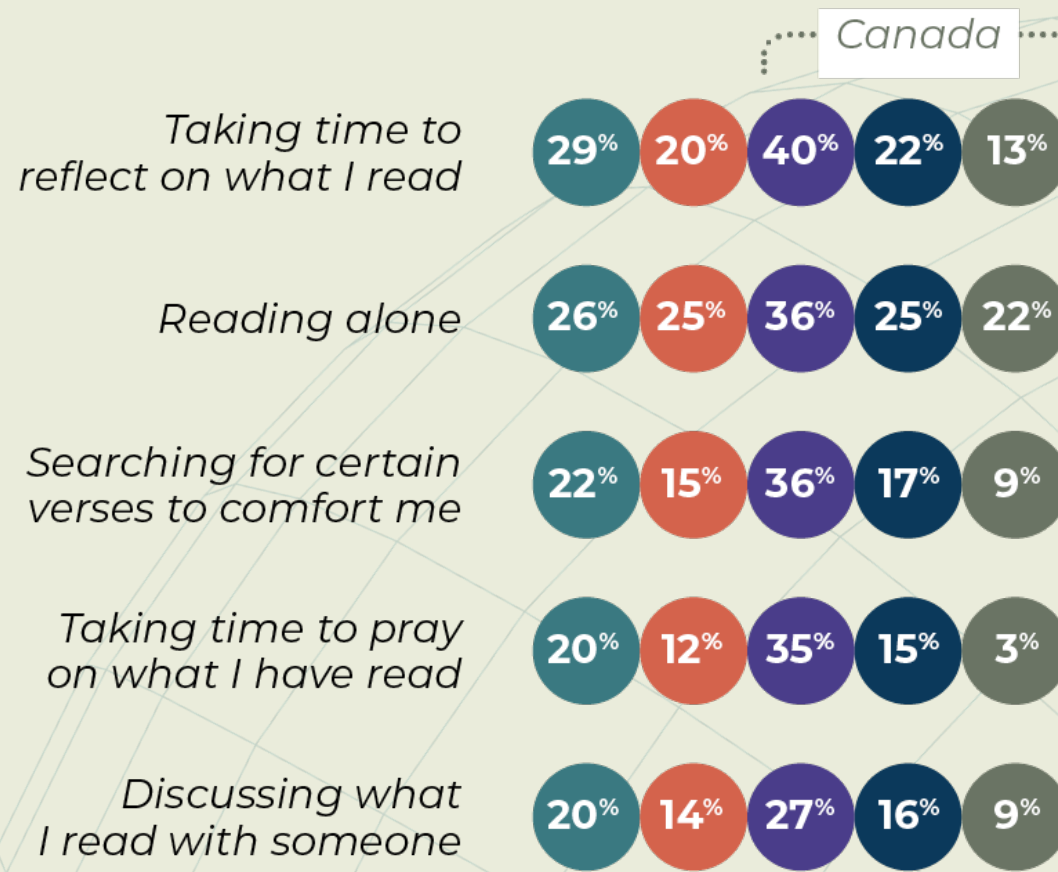
Key Characteristics of Bible-Engaged Teens

Bible-engaged teens have a thoughtful approach to the Bible and are intentional about how they explore scripture.

When you read the Bible, which of the following do you enjoy? Select all that apply.

Base: Bible users / owners or Christians

- Global
- Canada
- Bible engaged
- Bible open
- Bible unengaged



n=672 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;
n=18,118 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

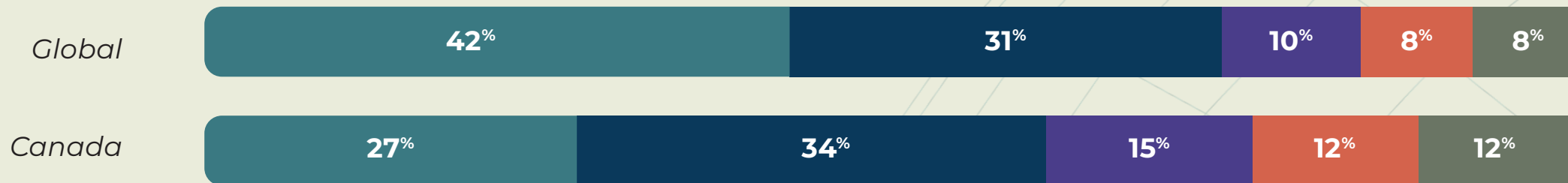
Bible-engaged teens are a part of valuable Church community with supportive mentors.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

“In my church I regularly receive wisdom for how the Bible applies to my life”

Base: Christians

● Agree strongly ● Agree somewhat ● Disagree somewhat ● Disagree strongly ● I am not sure



n=471 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;
n=13,282 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Effective Bible
engagement helps teens
connect their faith to
Jesus in real life.

Spurring on Engagement

As we build Bible-engaged teens, how can we help them connect not only to God's Word, but also to other meaningful practices, communities and causes?

The Open Generation

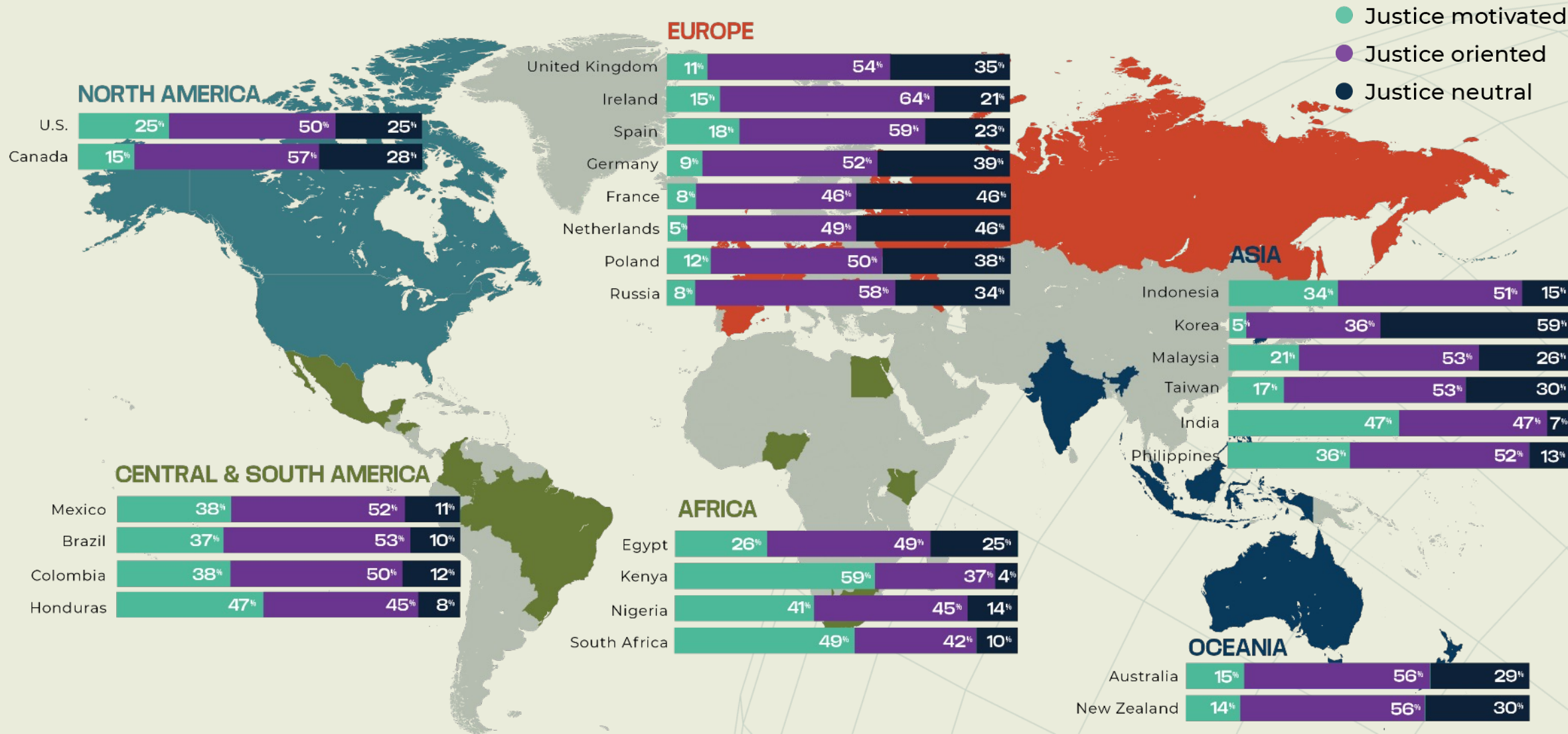
Vol. 03

How Teens Around the World Can Make an

Impact



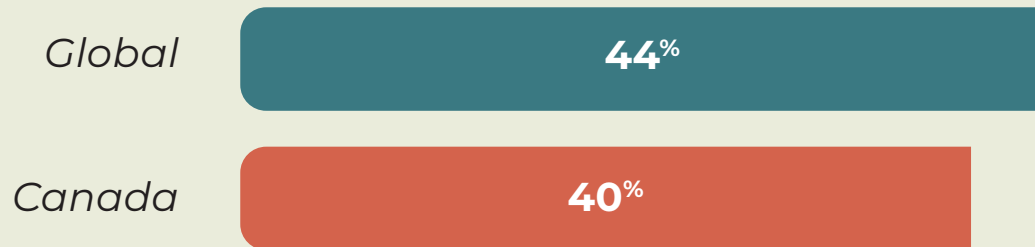
Today's Teens' Motivation Toward Justice



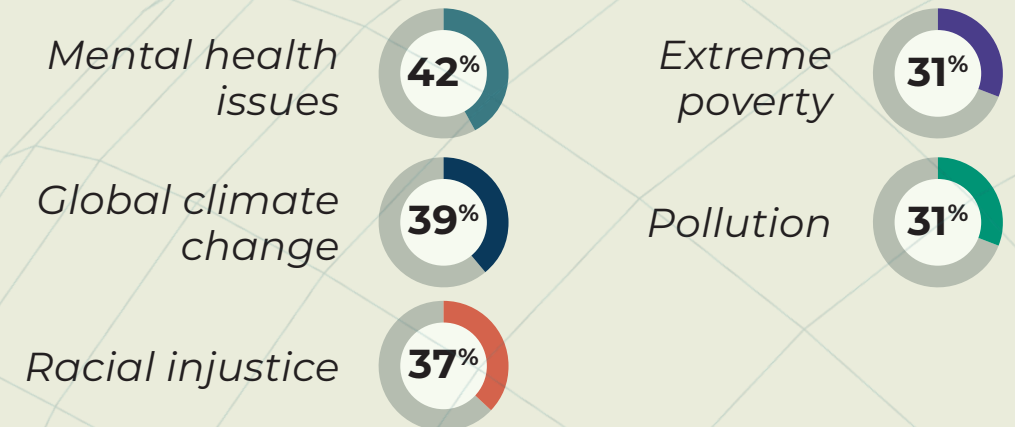
Today's teens are hopeful about the world's future...

“My generation has the ability to make a positive and meaningful impact on the world.”

% agree strongly



5 Greatest Concerns of Teens in Canada



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Justice-Motivated Teens Carry Conviction, Confidence, and Commitment



One in four teens qualify as “justice motivated.”



Teens' Motivation Toward Justice

● Motivated ● Oriented ● Neutral

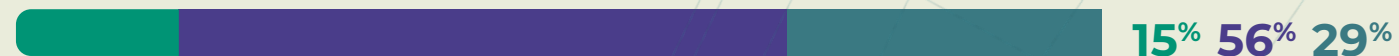
Global



Canada



Canadian Christians



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

● Global ● Canada

Conviction: "I believe it is important to ..."

% agree strongly



Confidence: "I am confident that I can ..."

% agree strongly



Commitment: "In the future, I will ..."

% agree strongly



n=1,001 teens in Canada ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021;

n=24,870 teens ages 13 to 17, July 21–August 24, 2021.

Scriptural Guidance

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

Isaiah 1:17

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

Psalms 82:3–4

“The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please him.”

Proverbs 20:23

“Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

2 Chronicles 19:7

“Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

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Bonus Section

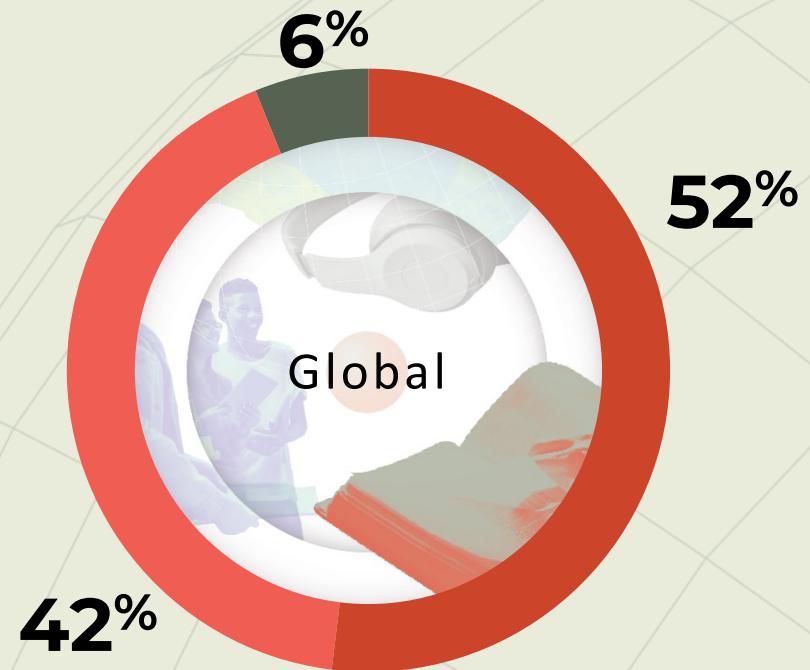
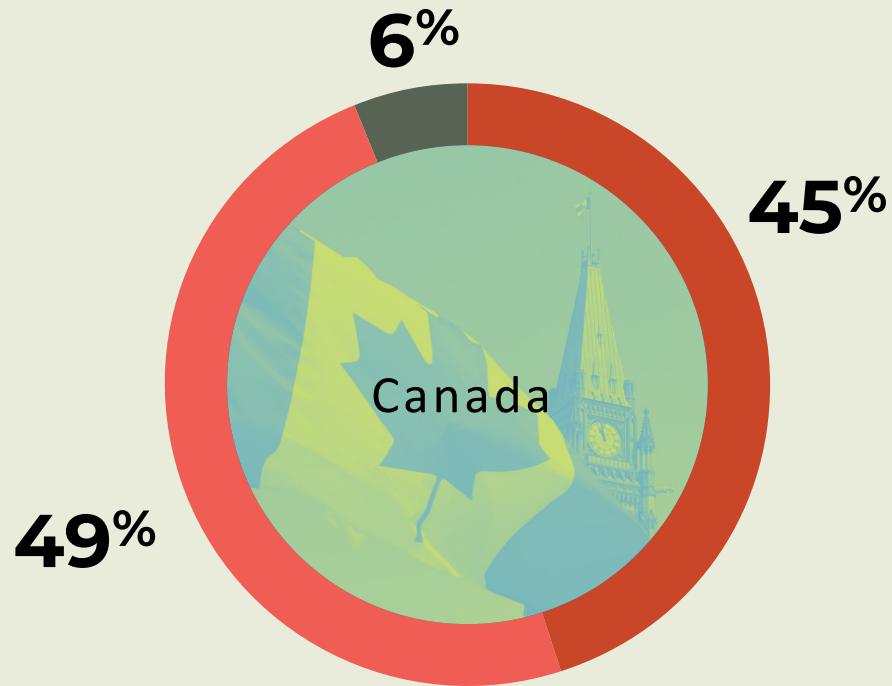
Making an Impact on Teens Through...

Spiritual Mentoring



Spiritual Mentoring Among Christian Teens

- High Mentoring
- Moderate Mentoring
- Low Mentoring



Teens and Spiritual Mentoring

Spiritual Mentoring—Defined by these five statements:

- “There is someone in my life who encourages me to grow spiritually” - strongly agrees
- “I have close personal friends who were adults from my church” - strongly agrees
- “There is someone in my life who models prayer for me” - strongly agrees
- “I regularly attend church to be connected with those older than me” - agrees
- “A spiritual mentor has taught me how to read the Bible” – selects this self-description

Low mentoring = selects 0 of these statements

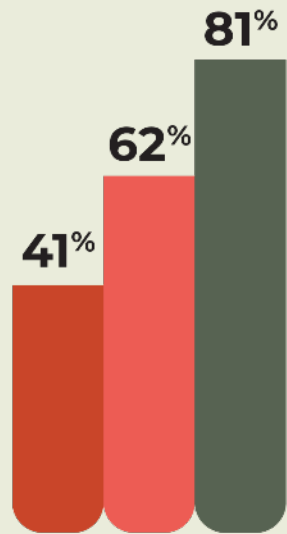
Moderate mentoring = selects 1, 2 or 3 of these statements

High mentoring = Selects 4 or 5 of these statements

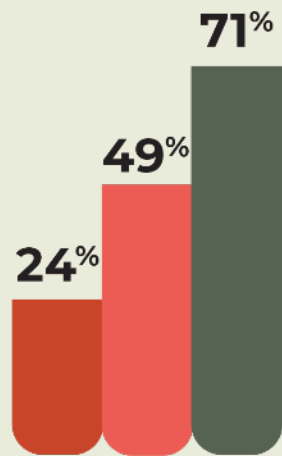
Priorities in Life Correlate with Mentoring

Today, I am actively prioritizing...
% "Agree strongly"

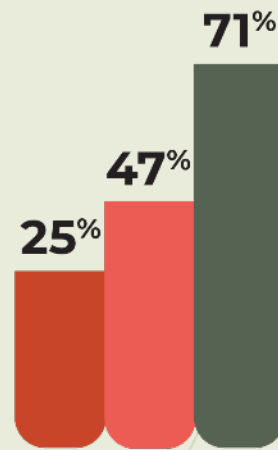
● Low Mentoring ● Moderate Mentoring ● High Mentoring



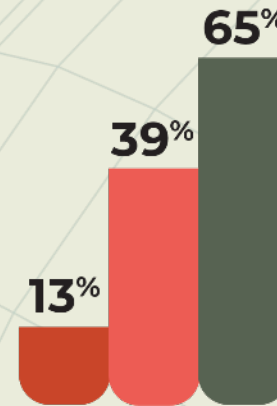
Being close with my family



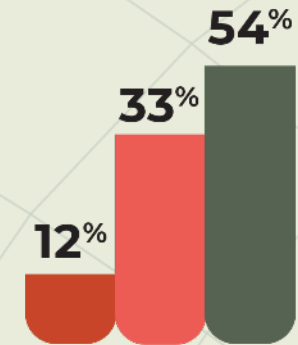
Caring for my emotional health



Understanding my purpose



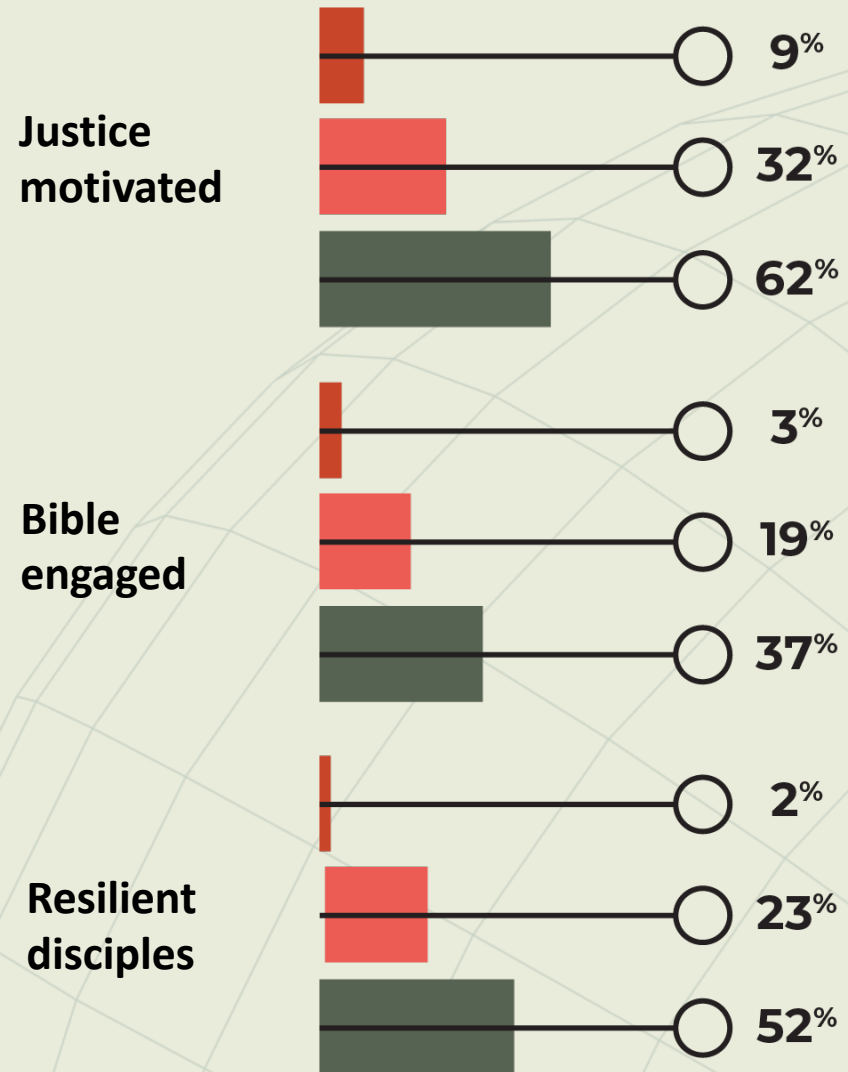
Caring for people in poverty



Being generous with my money

Mentoring Connects to Positive Outcomes

- Low Mentoring
- Moderate Mentoring
- High Mentoring



Who are the young leaders in your community and how can you empower them?

The Heart of Mentoring

“I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:5-7(NLT)