

# Church Leader Survey Results

Senior Pastors / Executive Pastors from Barna Group's Church Panel  
March 20-April 27, 2020

Protestant, senior and executive pastors from Barna Group's Church Panel  
Total sample size, n=1,243

Week 1, n=222, March 20-23, 2020

Week 2, n=212, March 24-30, 2020

Week 3, n=195, March 31-April 6, 2020

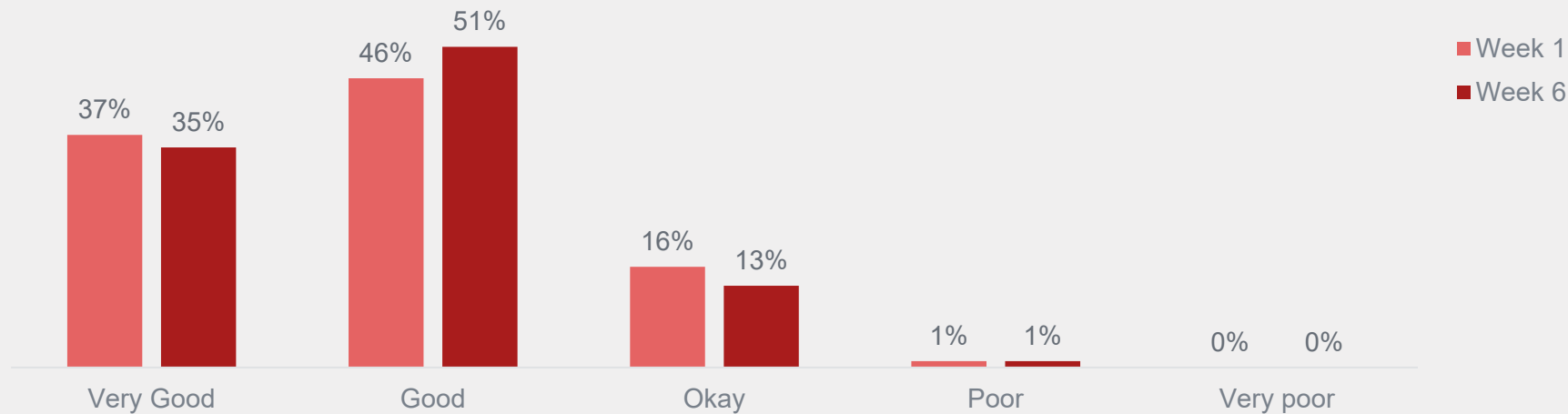
Week 4, n=246, April 7-13, 2020

Week 5, n=204, April 14-20, 2020

Week 6, n=164, April 21-27, 2020

Each week, minimal weighting is used to ensure the data set is nationally representative based on region, church size, and denomination.

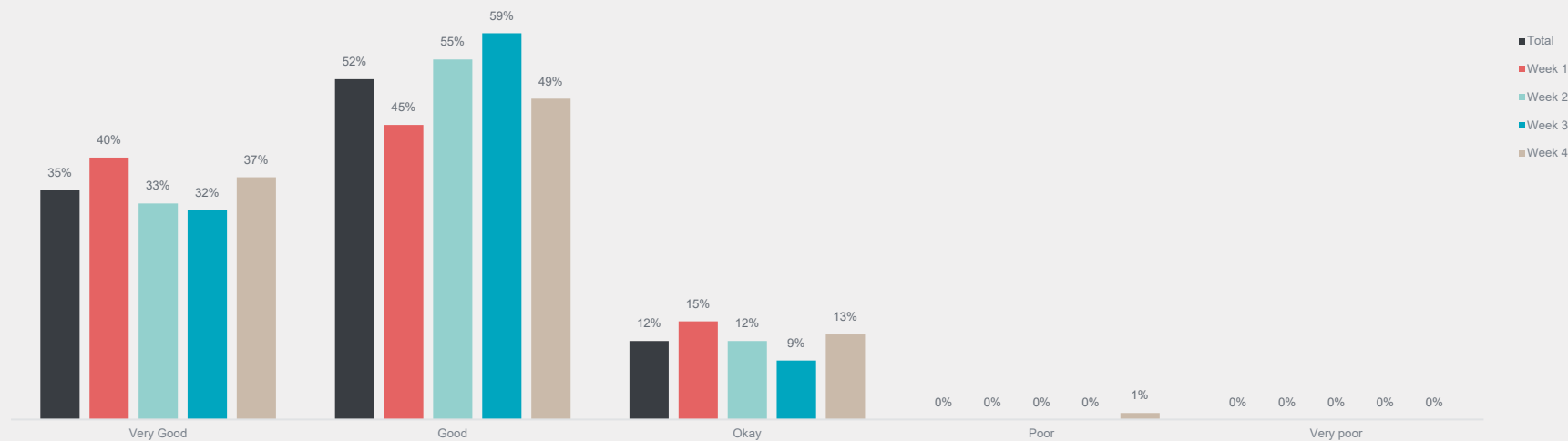
# How are you doing today?



Question: Overall, how are you doing today?

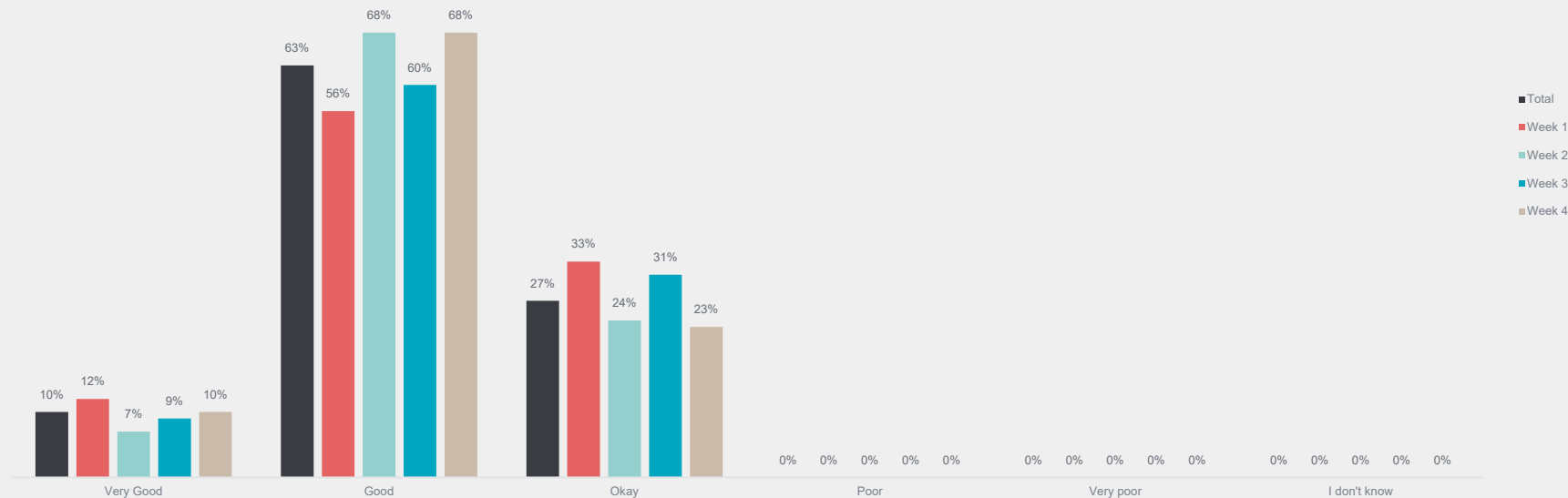
# How is your family doing today?

## NOT ASKED Week 5, 6



# How are the people in your church doing today?

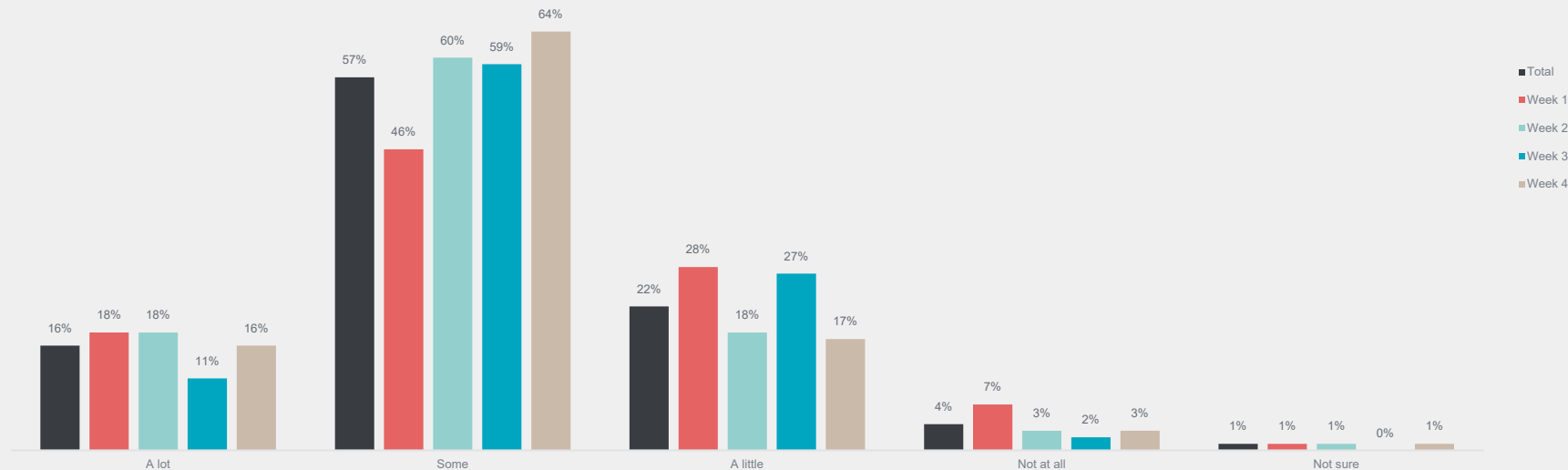
## NOT ASKED Week 5, 6



Question: To the best of your knowledge, how are the people in your church doing today?

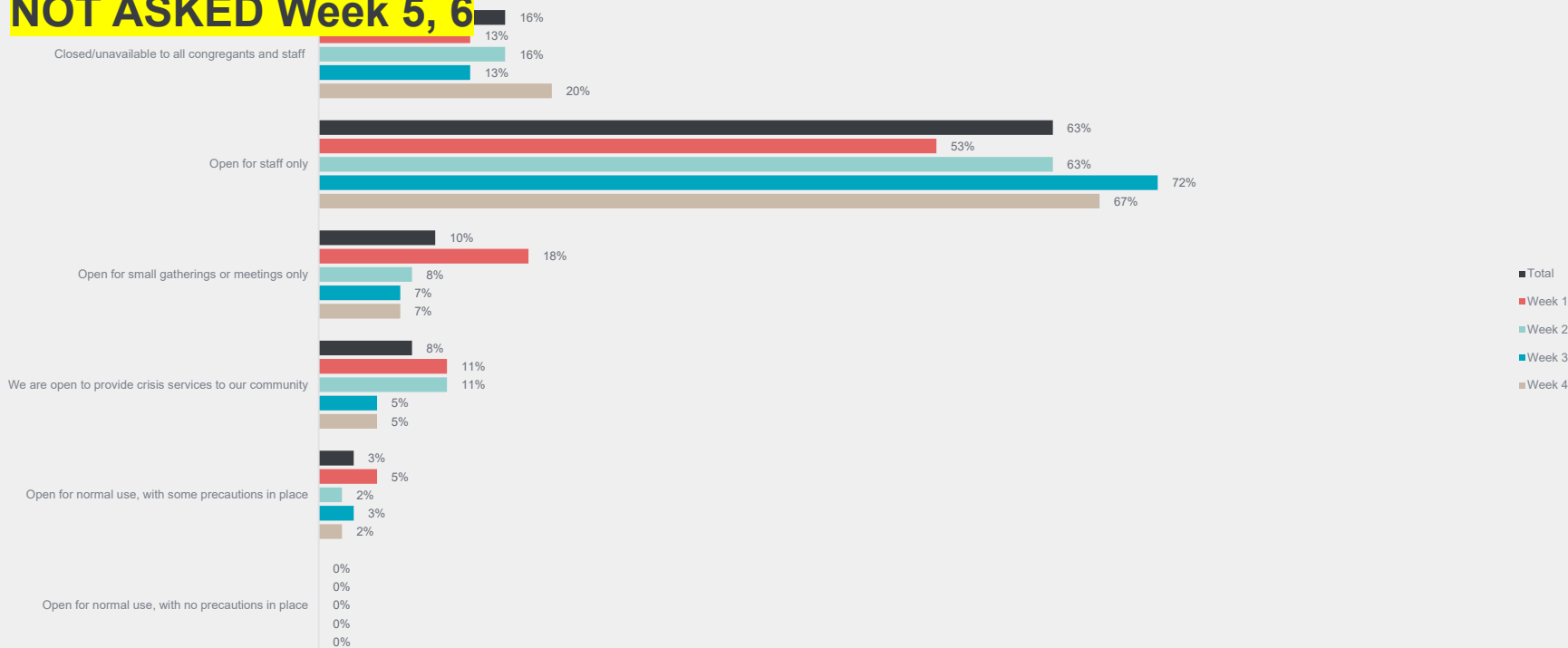
# How much has the COVID-19 pandemic affected the overall well-being of the people in your church?

## NOT ASKED Week 5, 6

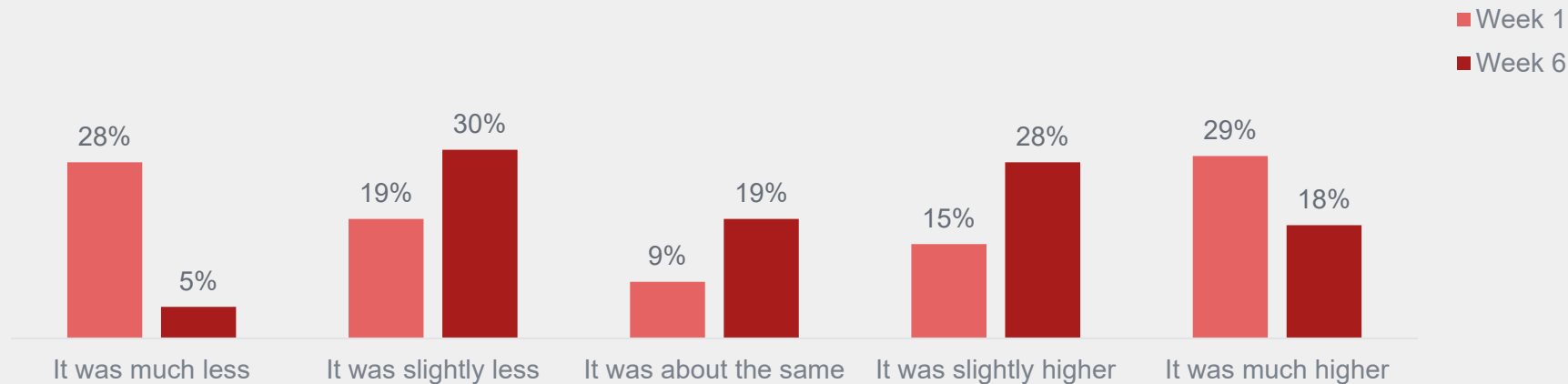


# Our church facilities are currently . . .

**NOT ASKED Week 5, 6**



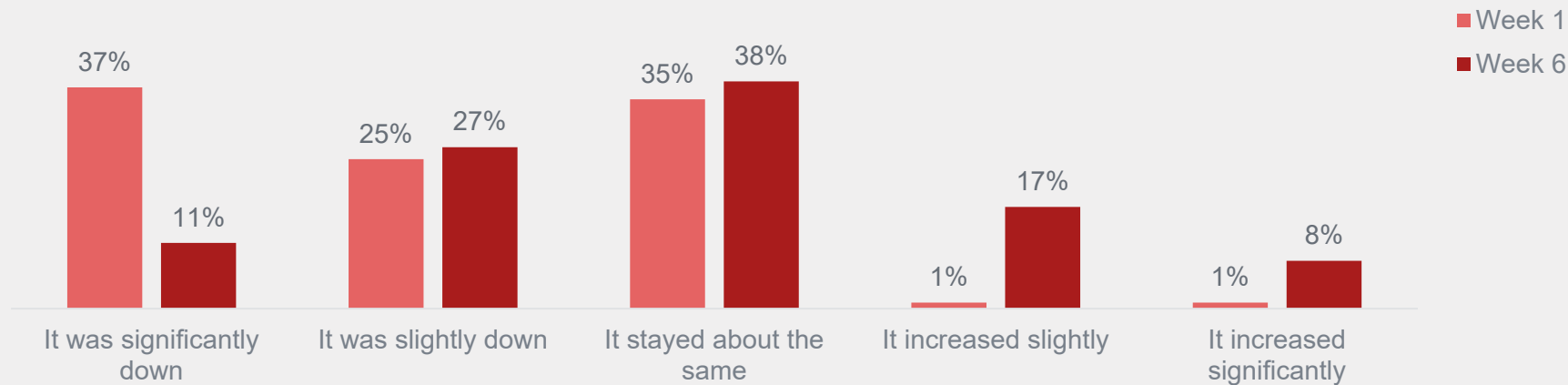
# Last week, how did online participation compare to typical (in person) Sunday attendance?



**Question:** Last week, how did online participation compare to typical (in person) Sunday attendance?  
[base: Don't know / Don't stream removed]

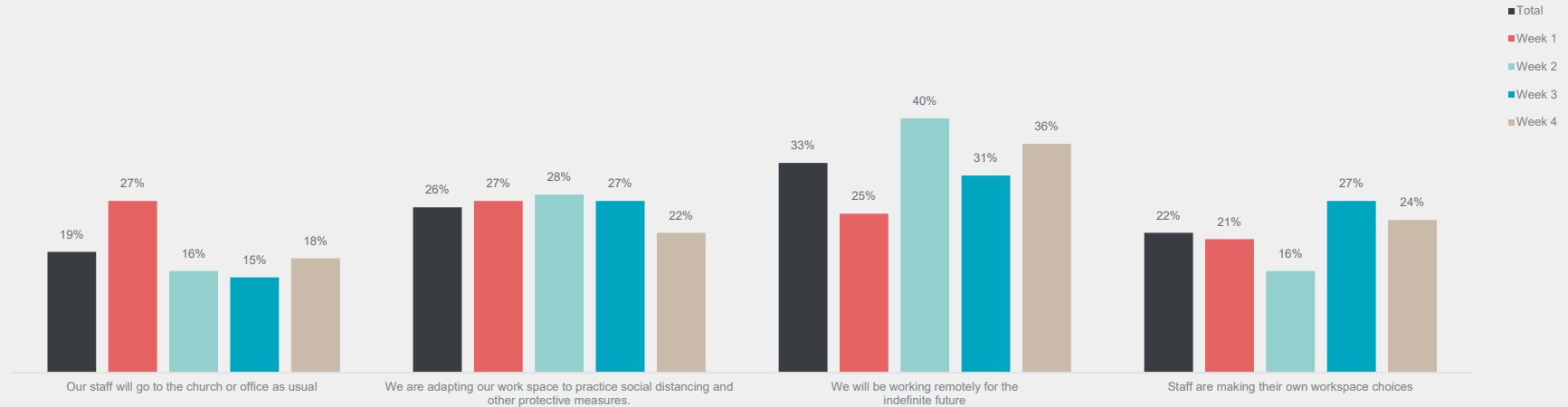


# What happened with financial giving last weekend?



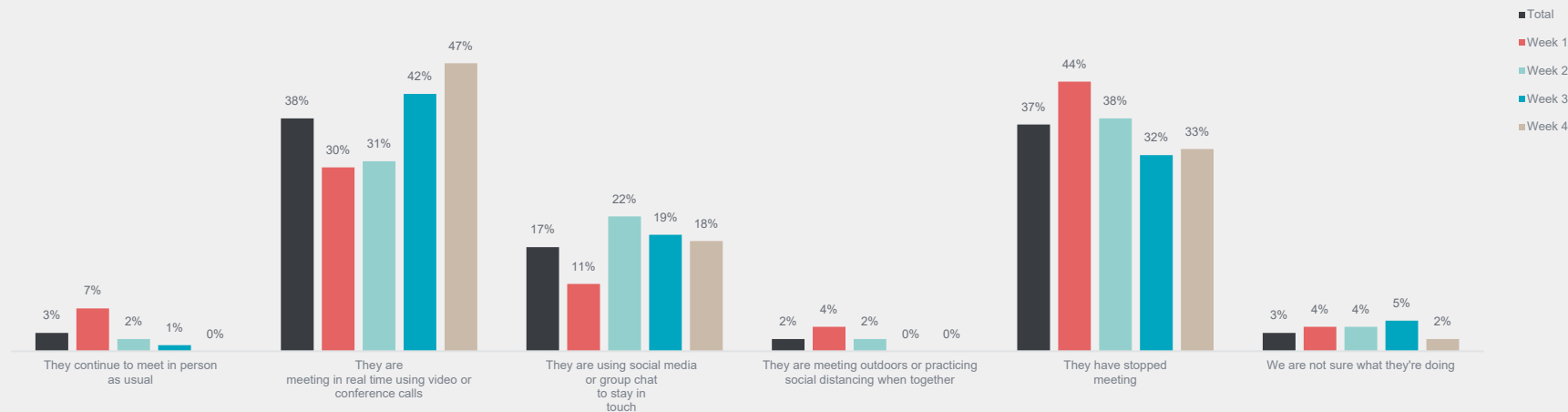
# In the next week, what will work look like for your staff?

## NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6



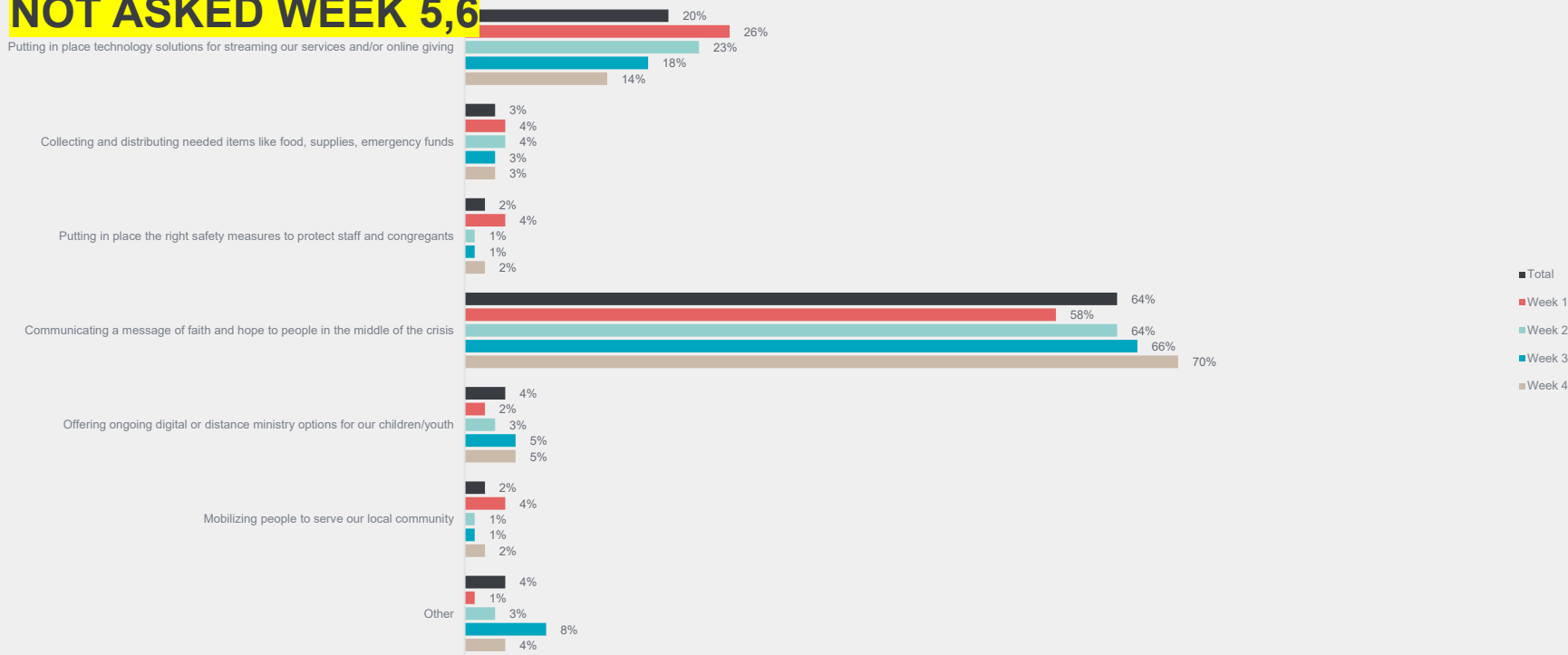
# What's primarily happening with small groups or Bible studies?

## NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6

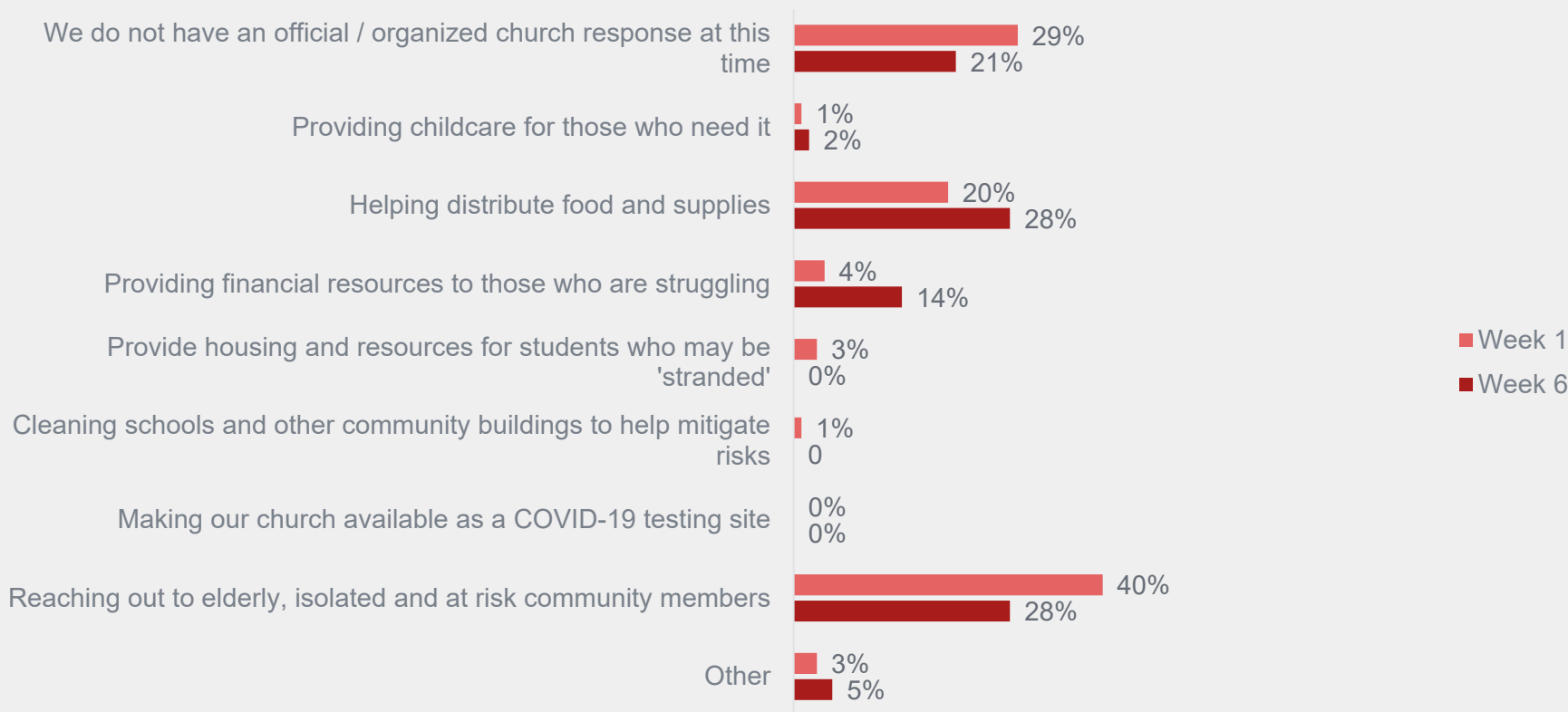


# What is the greatest priority for your church this week?

## NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6

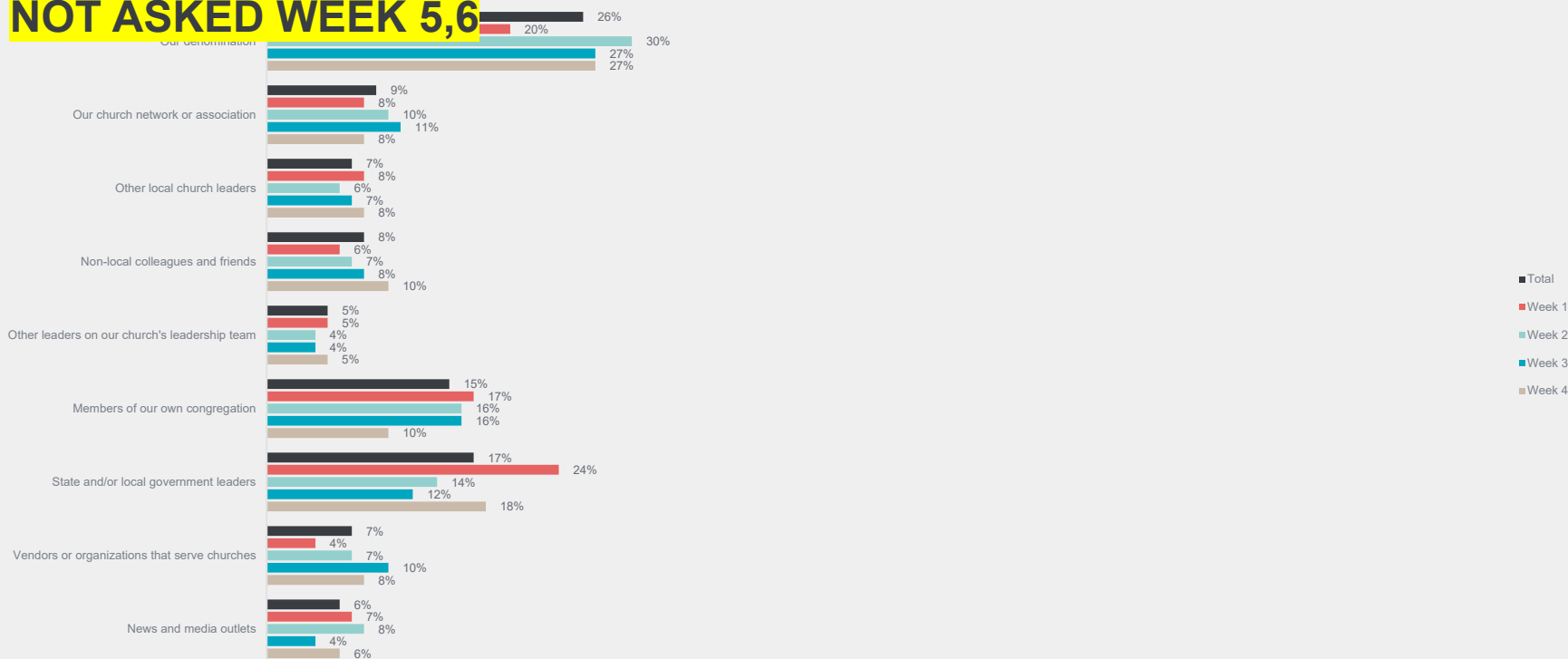


# What is the primary way your church is serving your local community?



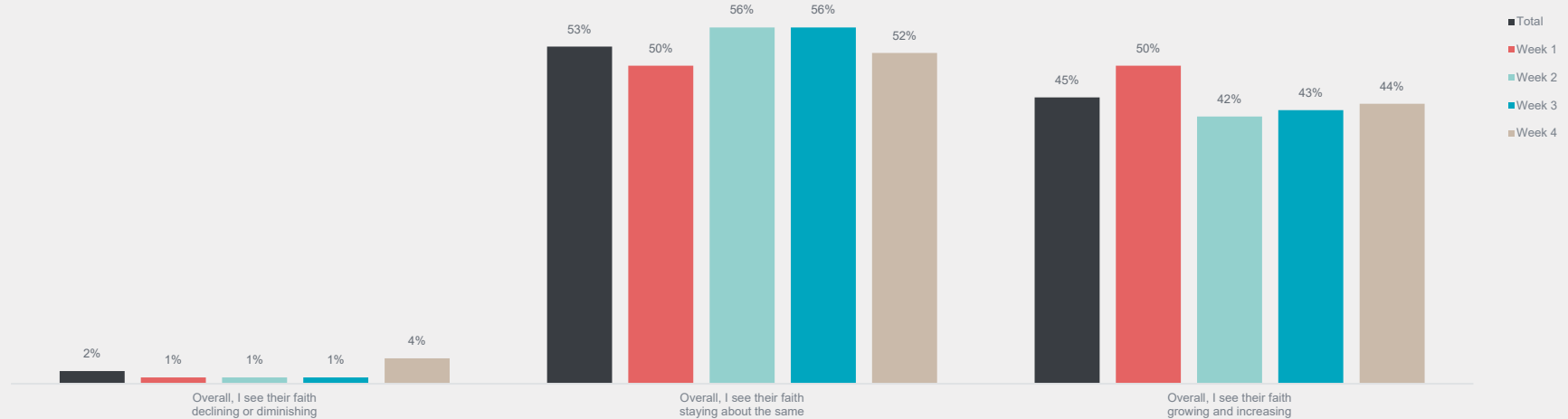
# Who is providing you with the most help in terms of information, tools and resources to deal with this crisis?

**NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6**

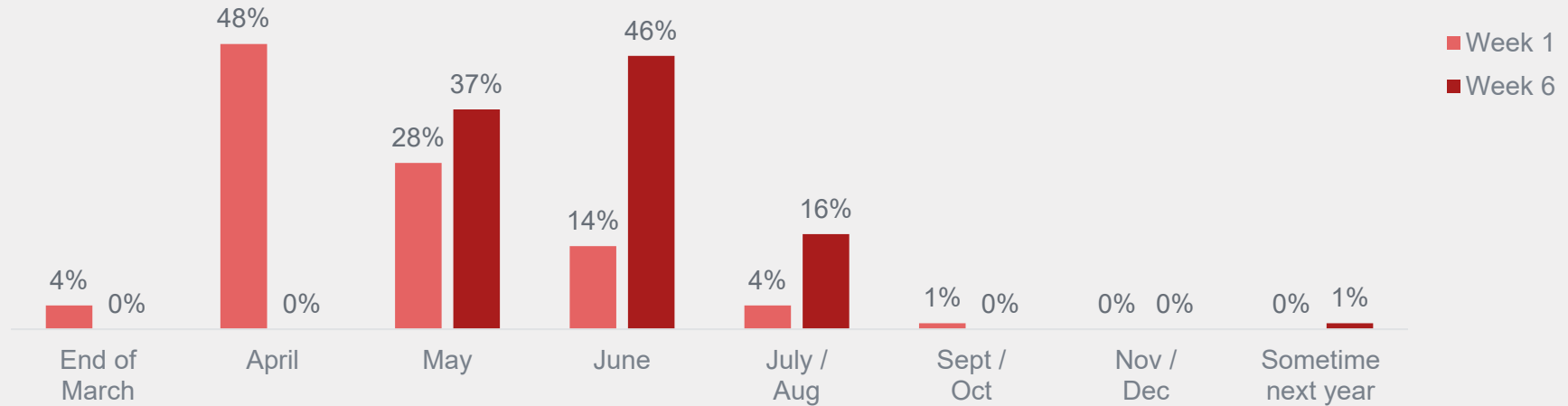


# Currently, what do you see happening with congregants' personal faith journey during this pandemic?

NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6



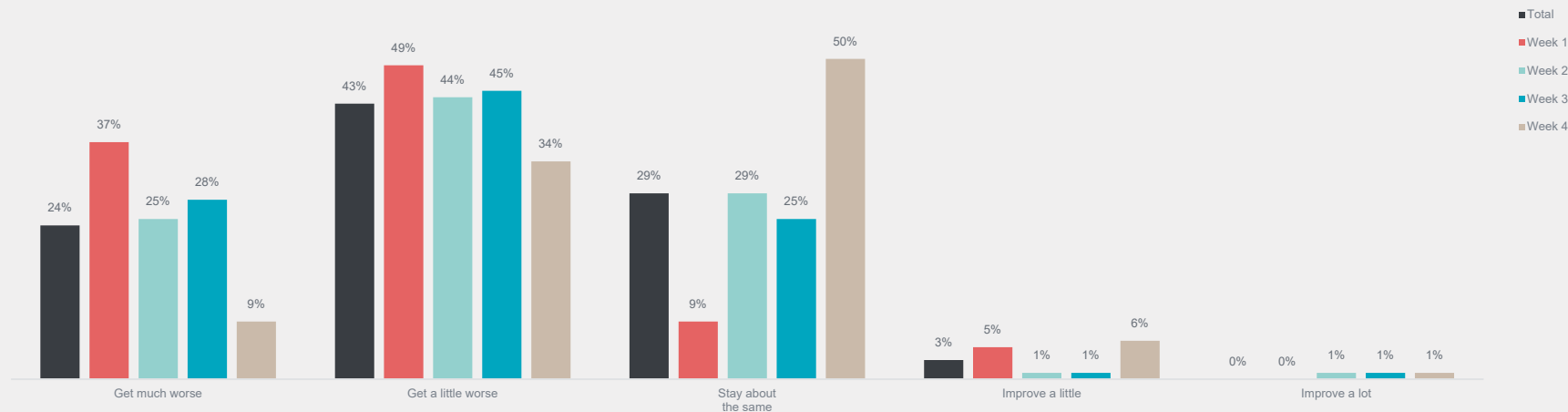
# As of today, when do think you'll be able to host church services again in your usual building / location(s)?





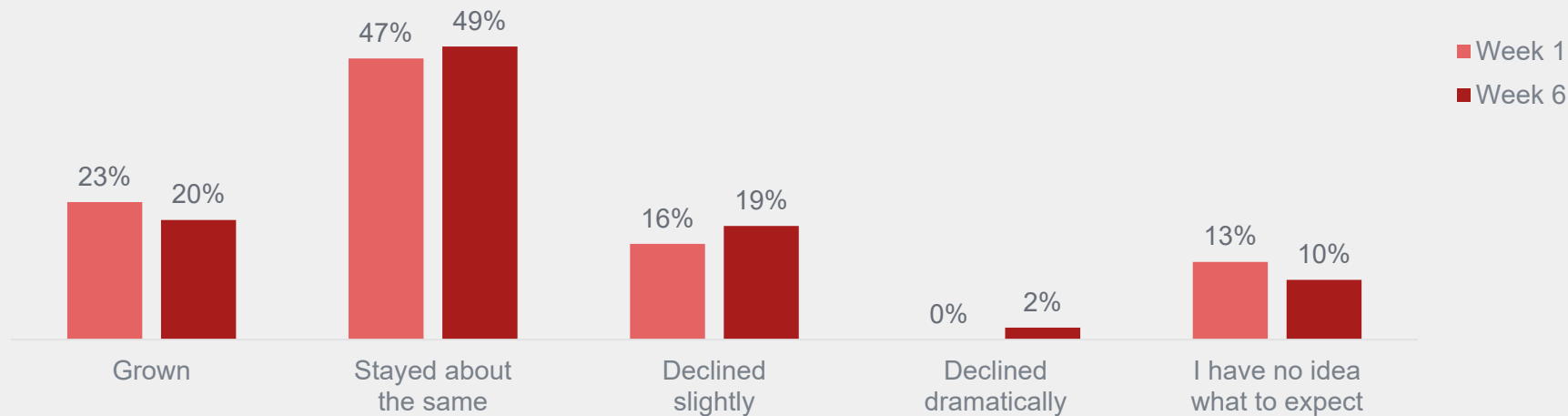
# In the next week, I expect disruptions related to the coronavirus will...

## NOT ASKED WEEK 5,6



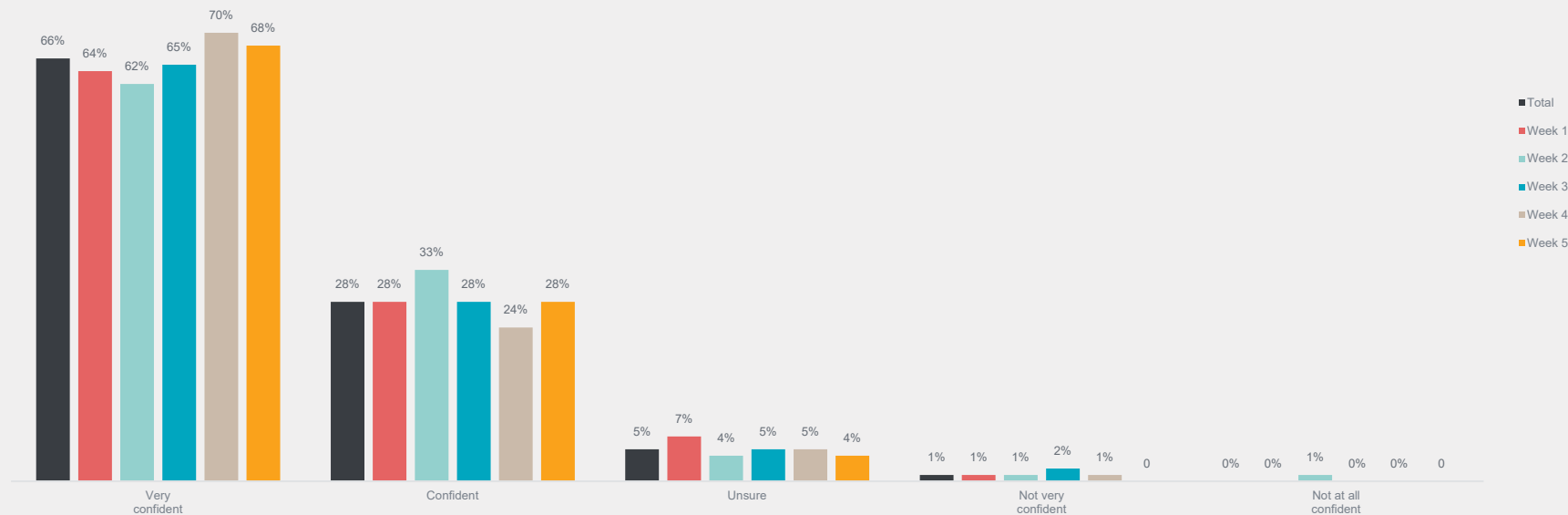
Question: In the next week, I expect disruptions related to the coronavirus will...

# Once this crisis has resolved, I expect our church attendance will have . . .



# Based on everything you're seeing right now, how confident are you that your church will survive?

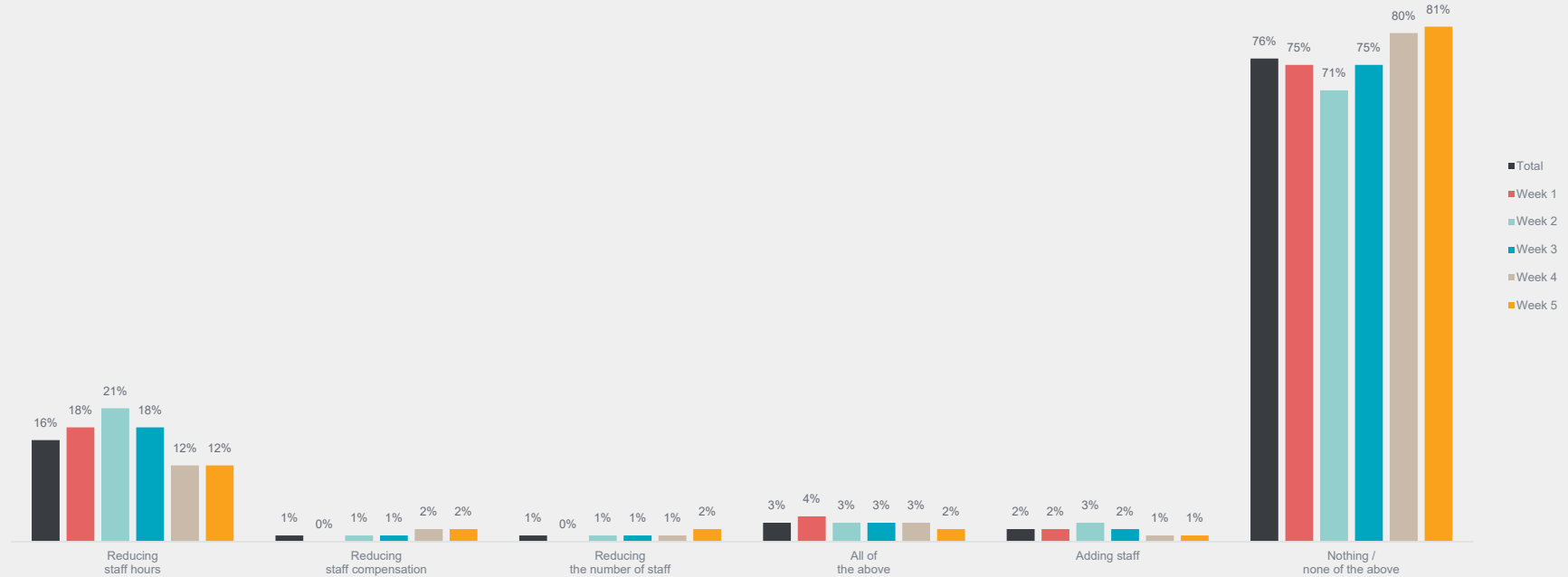
## NOT ASKED WEEK 6



Question: Based on everything you're seeing right now, how confident are you that your church will survive?

# Which of the following describes your staffing decisions in the last week?

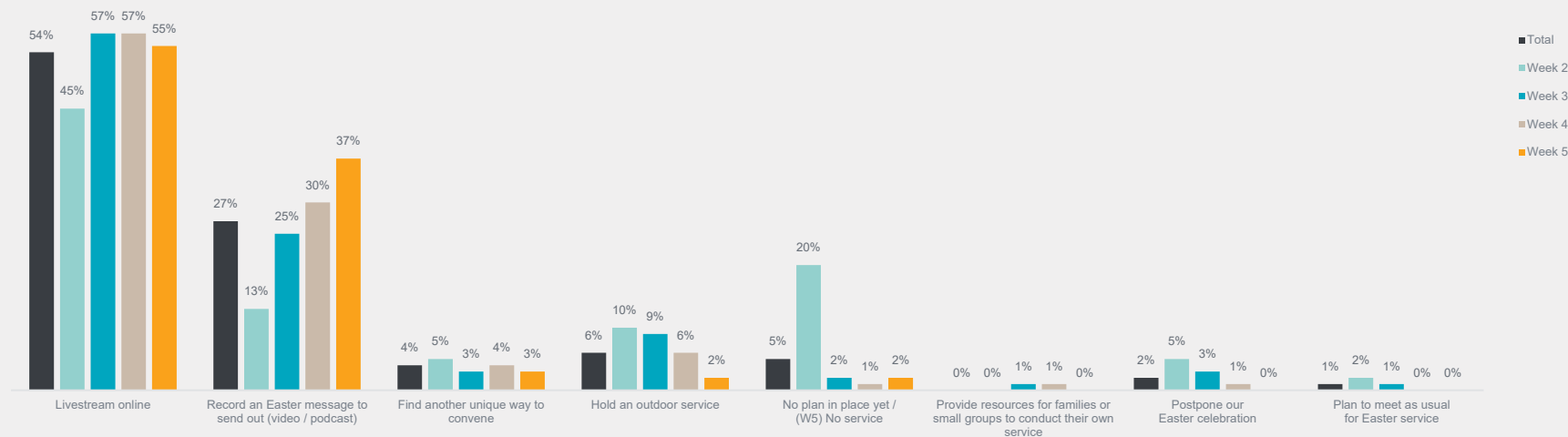
## NOT ASKED WEEK 6



Question: Which of the following describes your staffing decisions in the last week?

# What do you plan to do for Easter service(s) this year?

## NOT ASKED WEEK 1,6

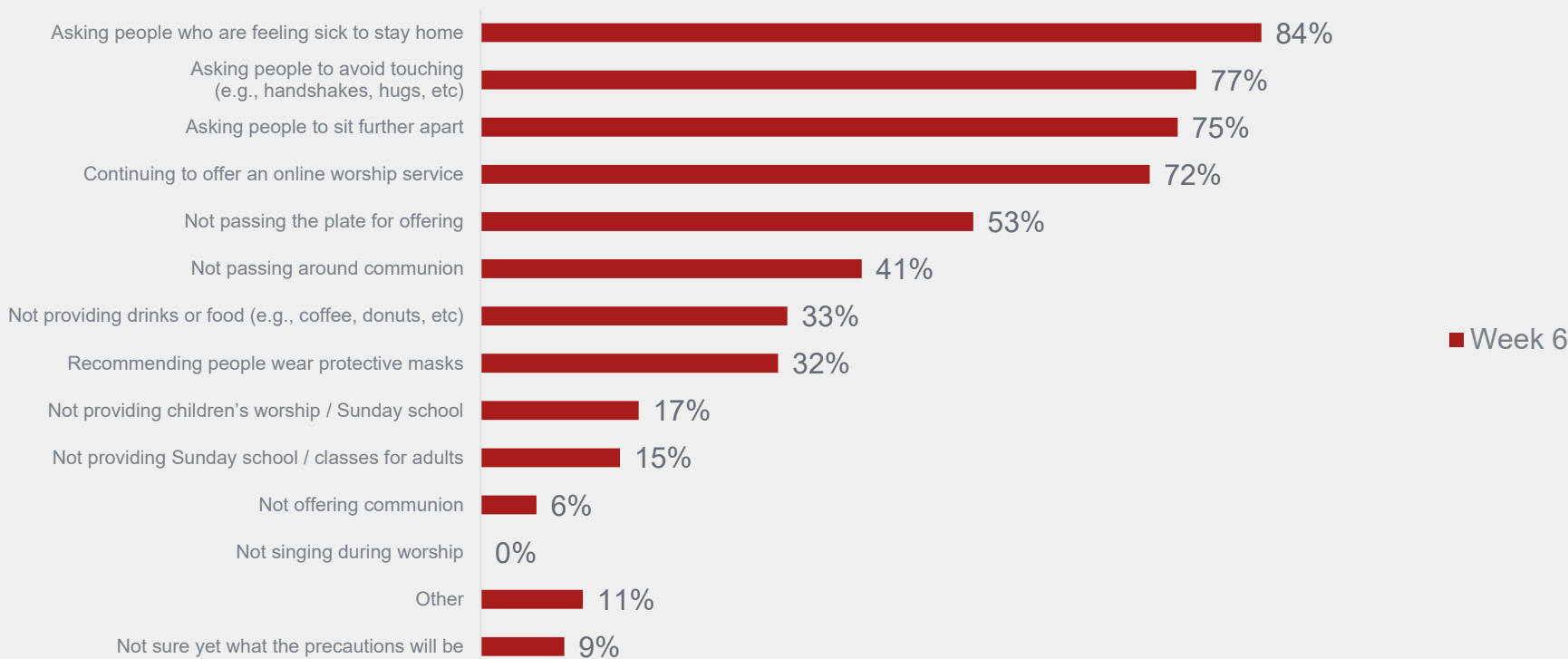


# Week 6 Questions

# Once social distancing guidelines are no longer in place, how is your church planning to structure worship services?

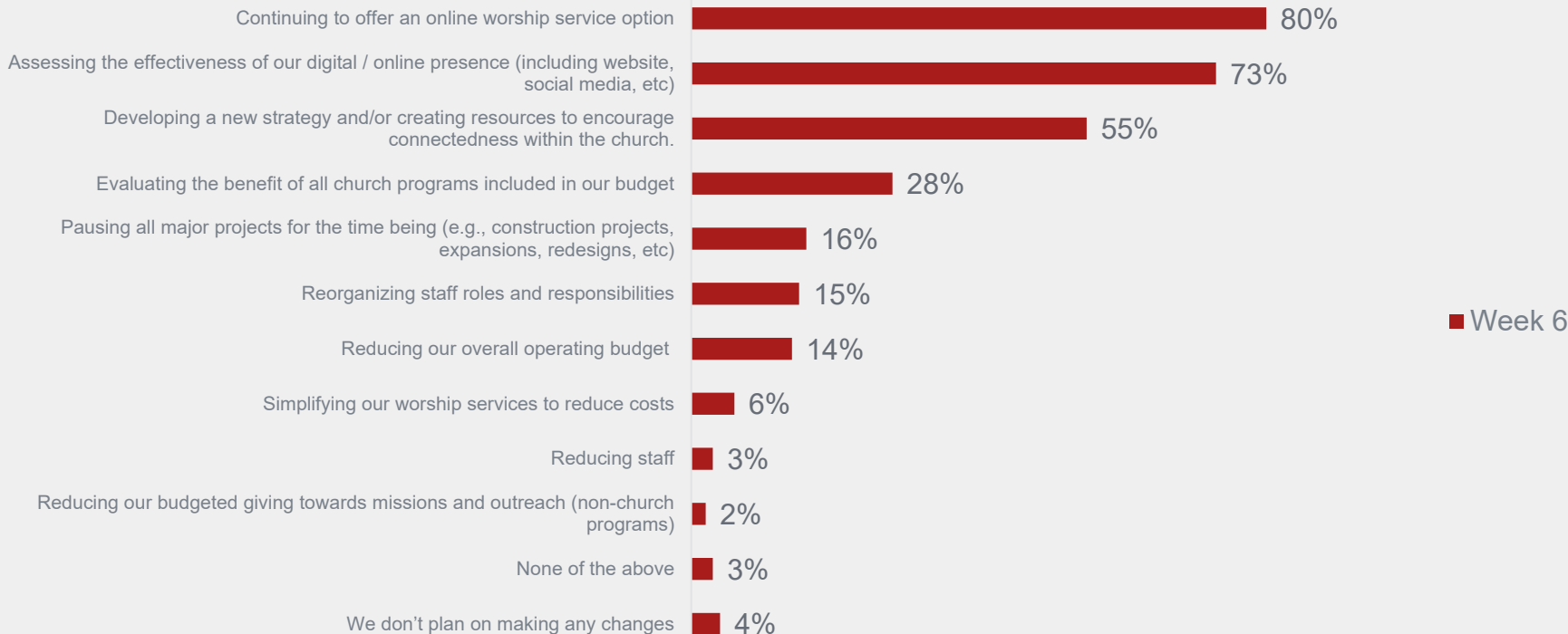


# What will these precautions look like?

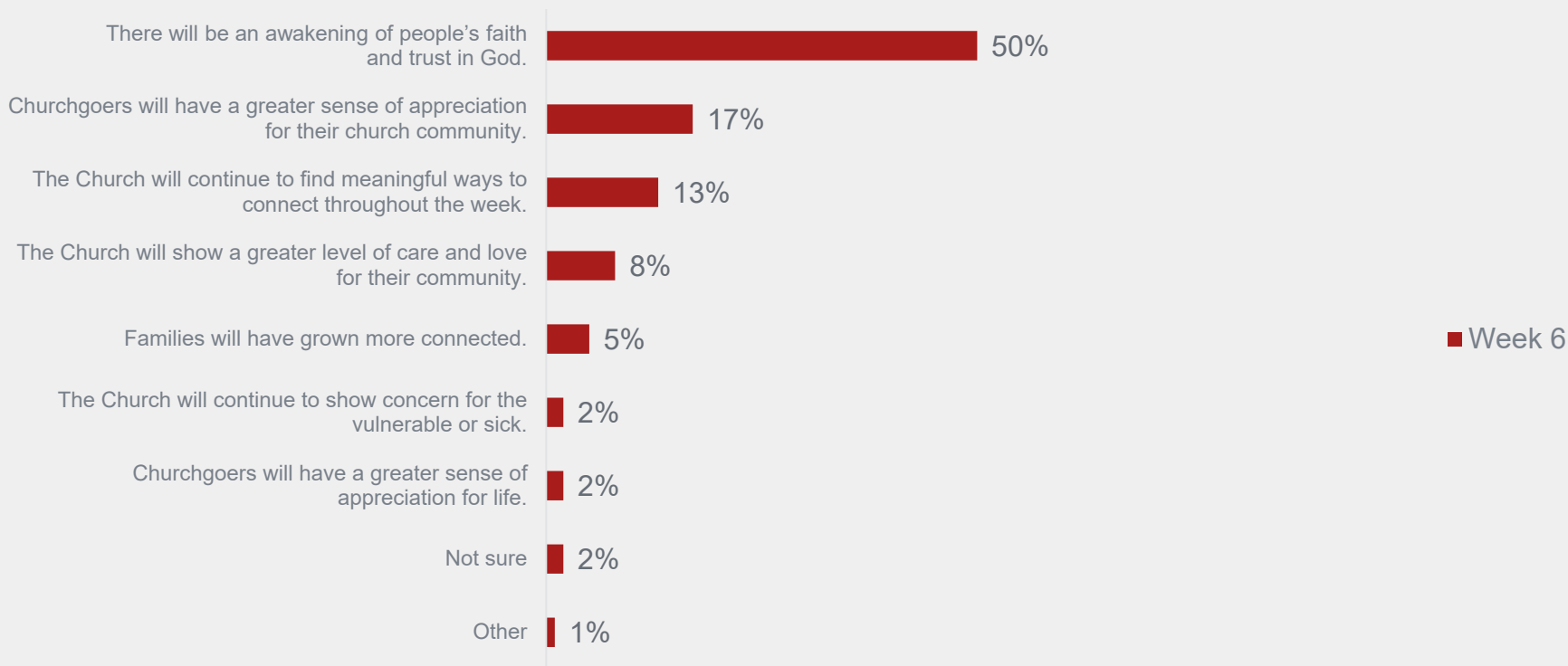




# How is your church rethinking its operations for the future?

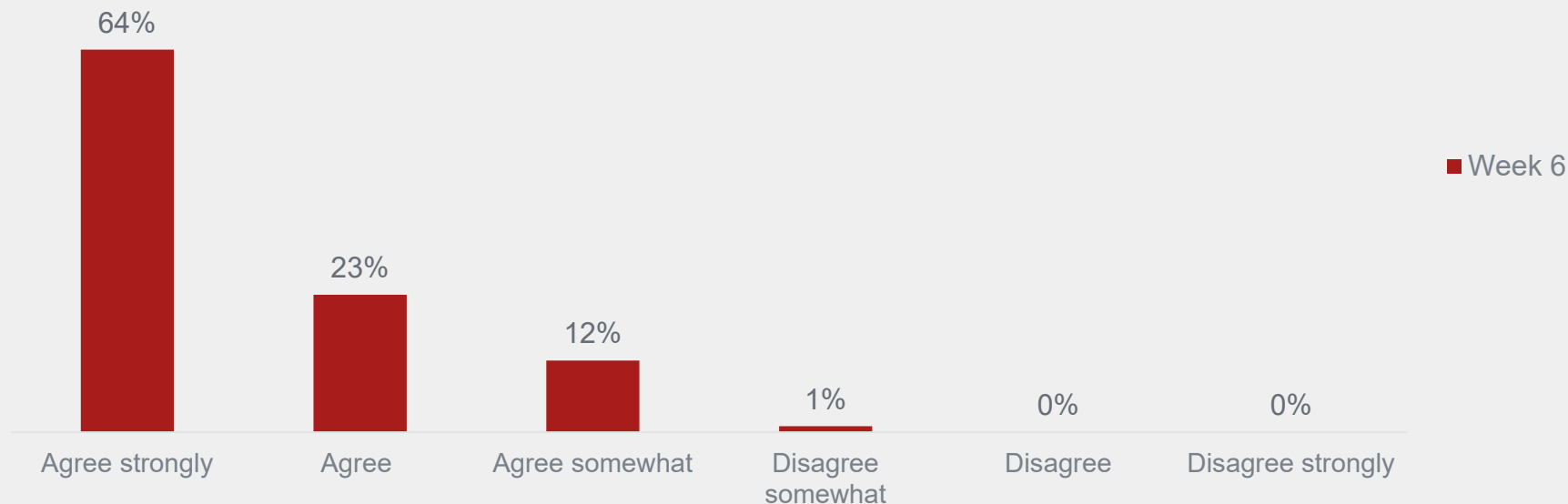


# What is your greatest hope for the Church after COVID?



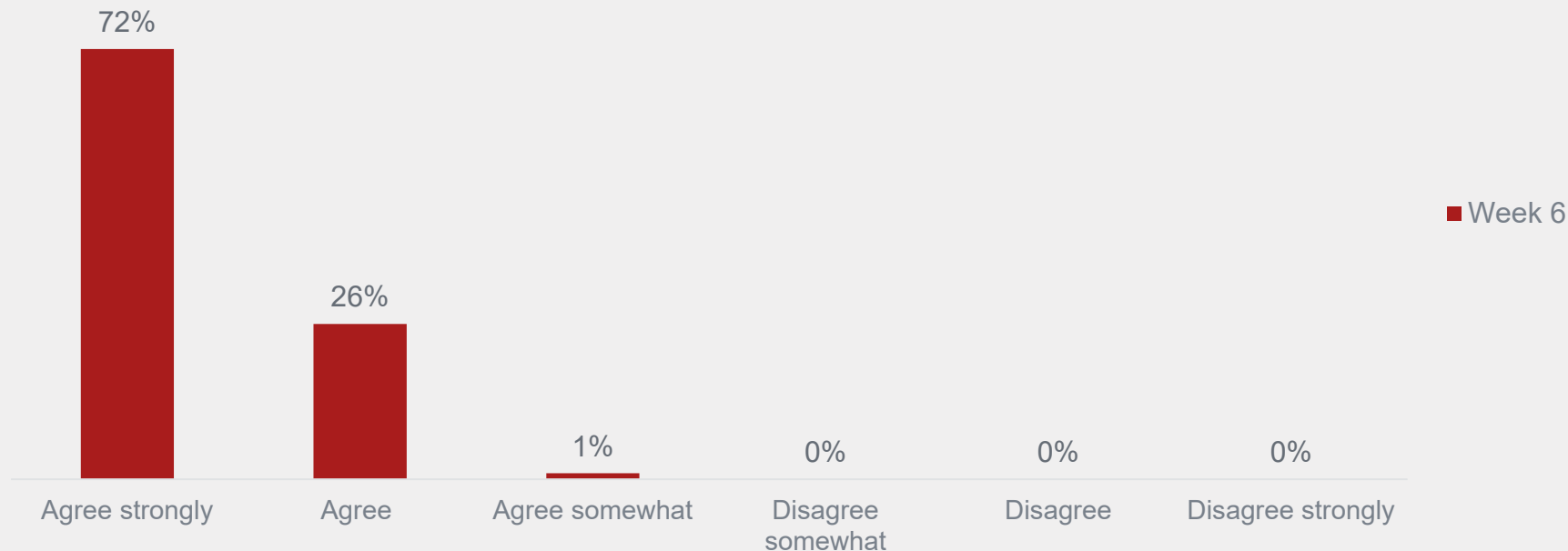
**Question:** What is your greatest hope for the Church after COVID? We understand that many of these may apply. But for the purposes of this research, we are asking that you select only one.

“It is important for me to keep a positive / optimistic outlook to help reassure the people in my church.”



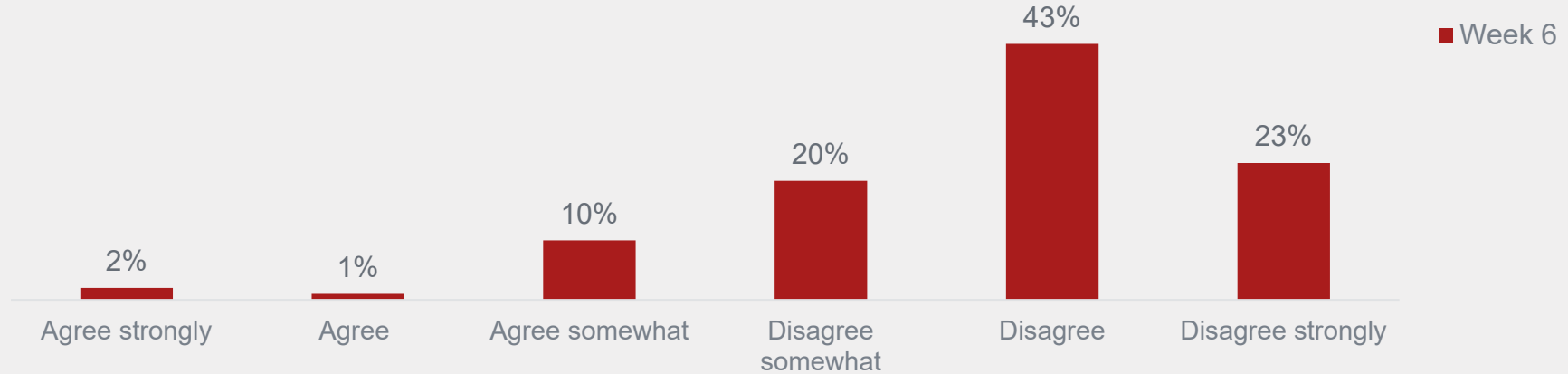
**Question:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. “It is important for me to keep a positive / optimistic outlook to help reassure the people in my church.”

“Leading my church well through this global crisis means acknowledging that I don’t have all the answers.”



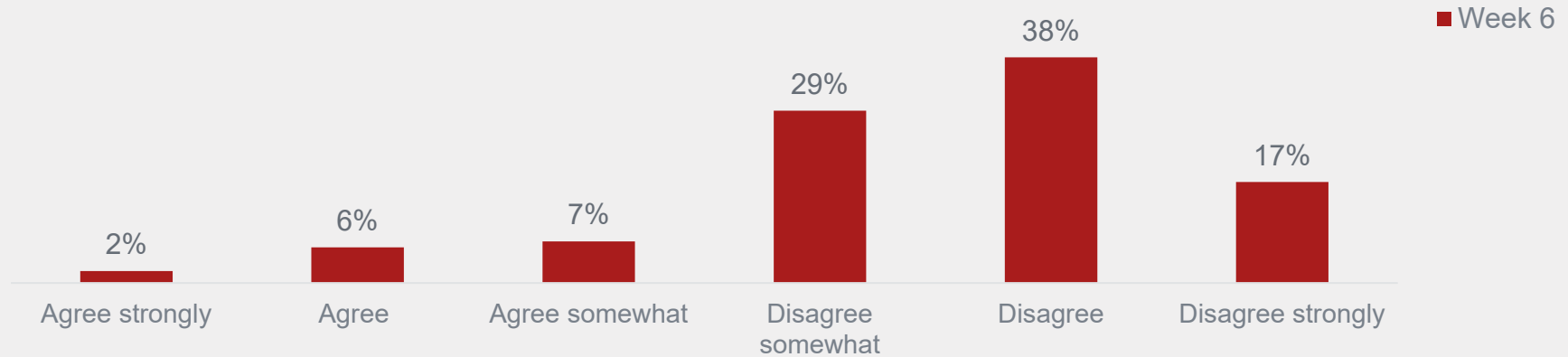
**Question:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. “Leading my church well through this global crisis means acknowledging that I don’t have all the answers.”

“I’m concerned that if I admit to personal struggles related to the current crisis my church will lose confidence in me in me as a leader.”



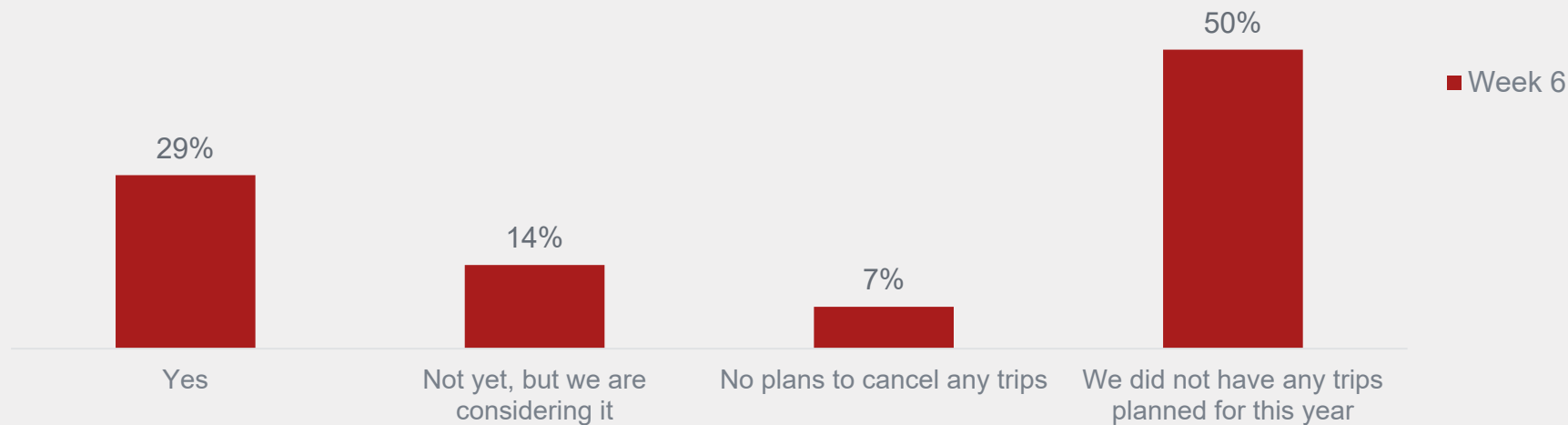
**Question:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. “I’m concerned that if I admit to personal struggles related to the current crisis my church will lose confidence in me in me as a leader.”

“It would not be appropriate for me to share with my church about my own personal struggles as they relate to the current crisis during this time.”



**Question:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. “It would not be appropriate for me to share with my church about my own personal struggles as they relate to the current crisis during this time.”

# Has your church had to cancel any short-term mission trips this year due to COVID-19?

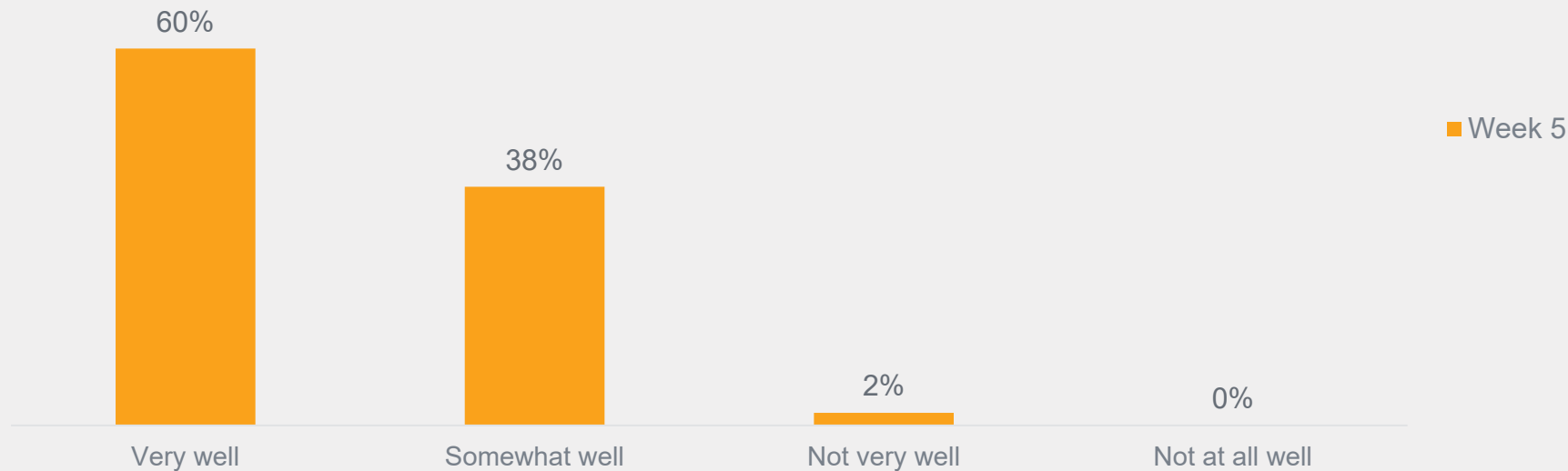


# Week 5 Questions



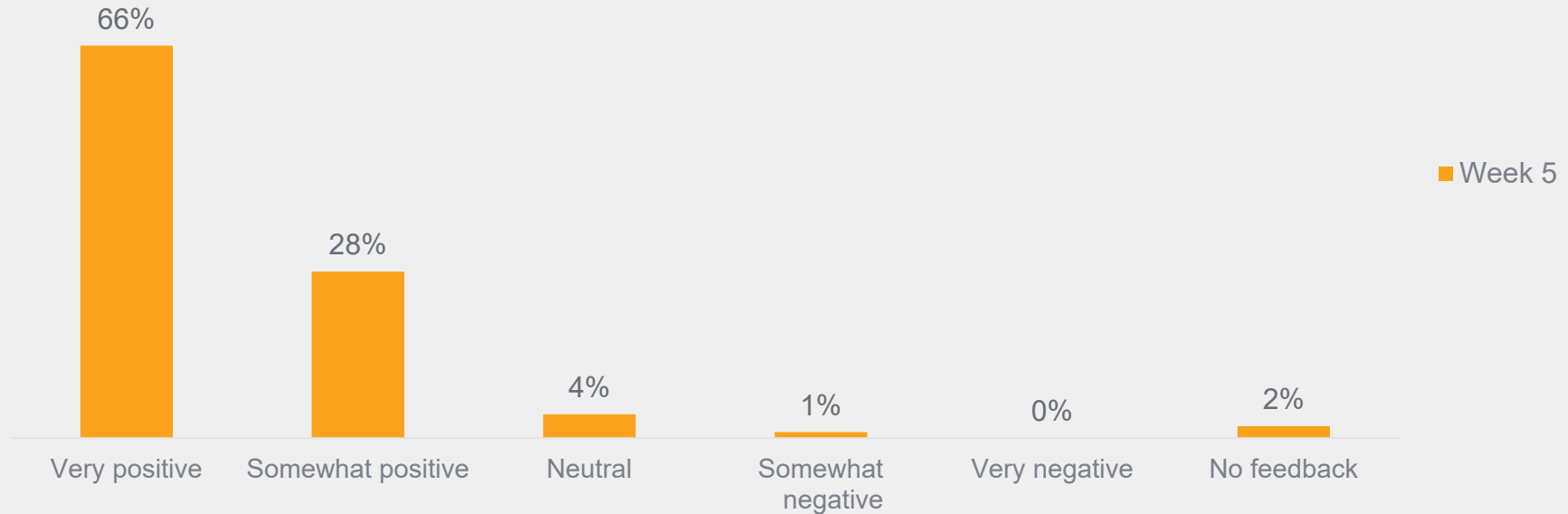
# Overall, how do you feel your church's Easter service(s) went?

Among churches that offered an Easter service

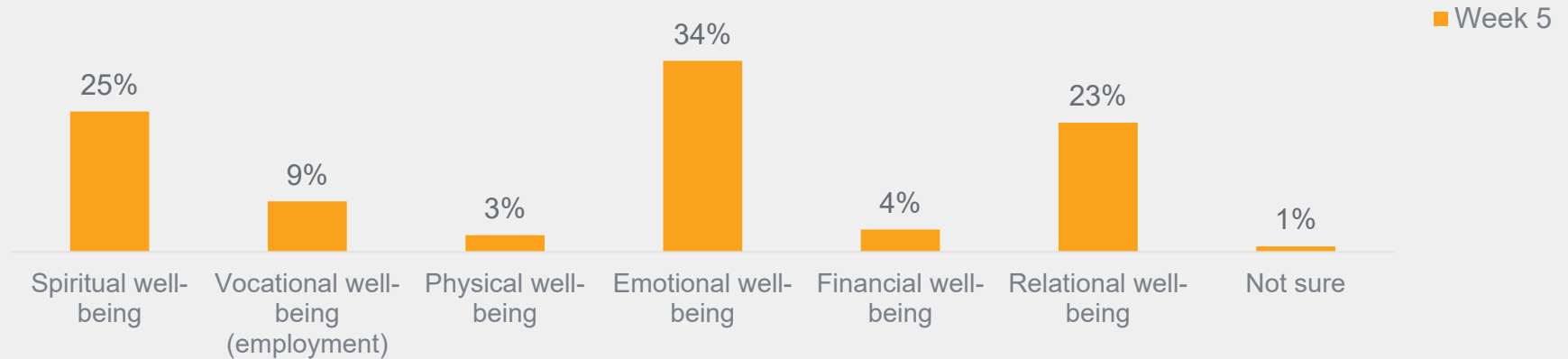


# In general, what sort of feedback, if any, did you receive from your congregation about their experience with the Easter service(s)?

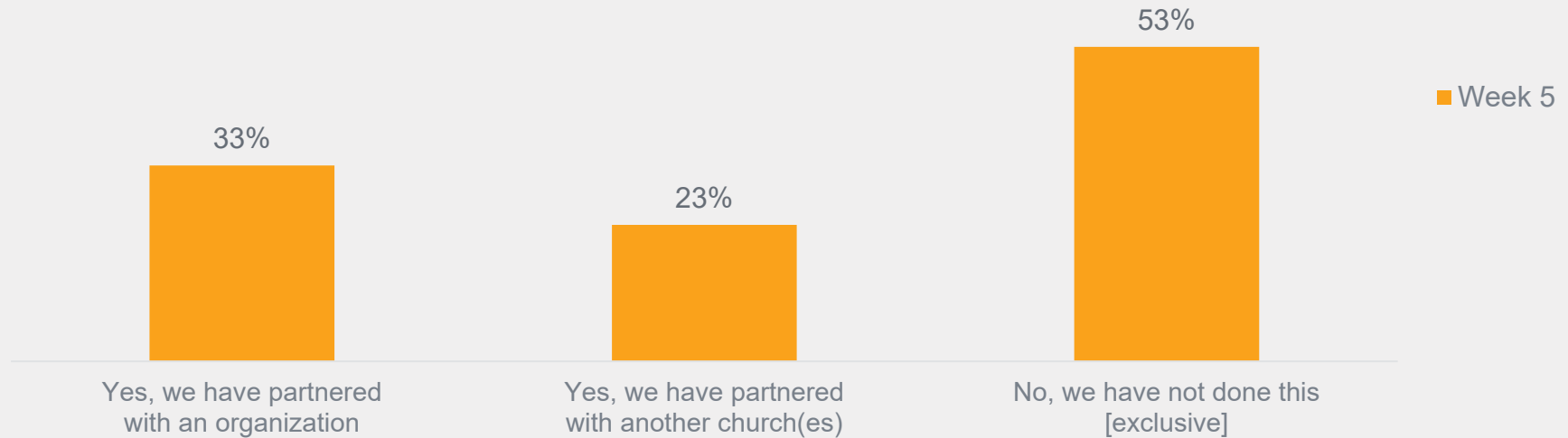
## Among churches that offered an Easter service



# Based on what you have observed, which of the following represents the most immediate need for people in your congregation?

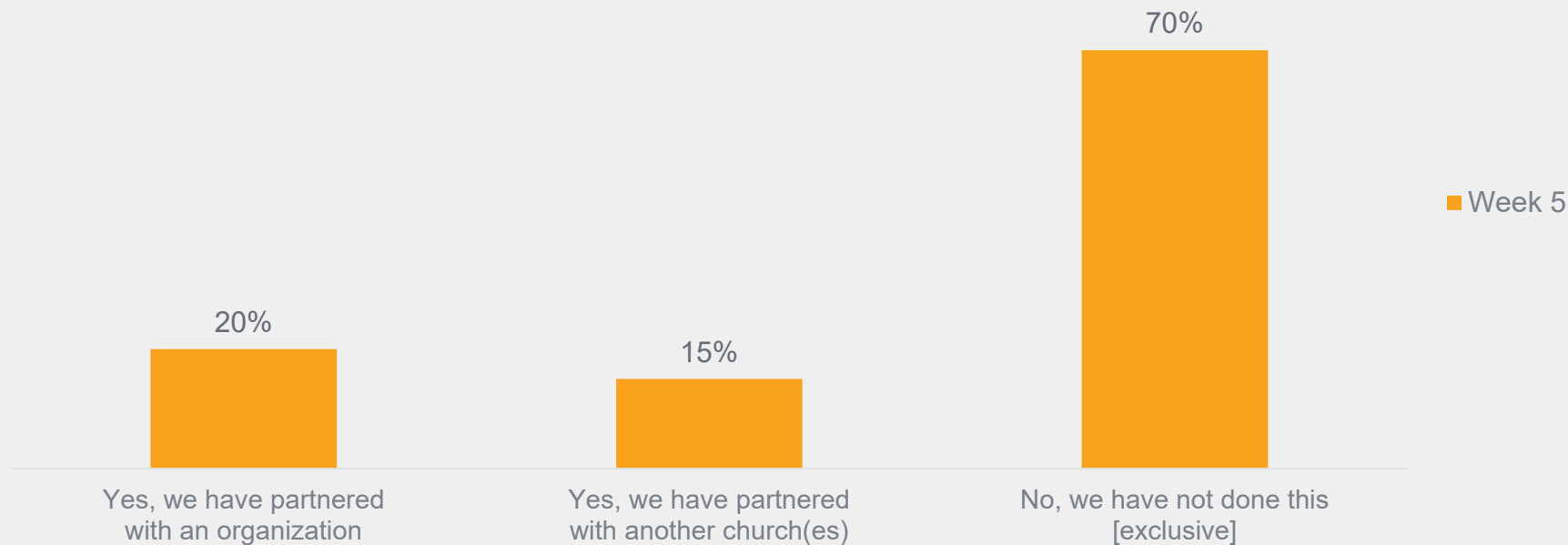


# In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance to your local community?



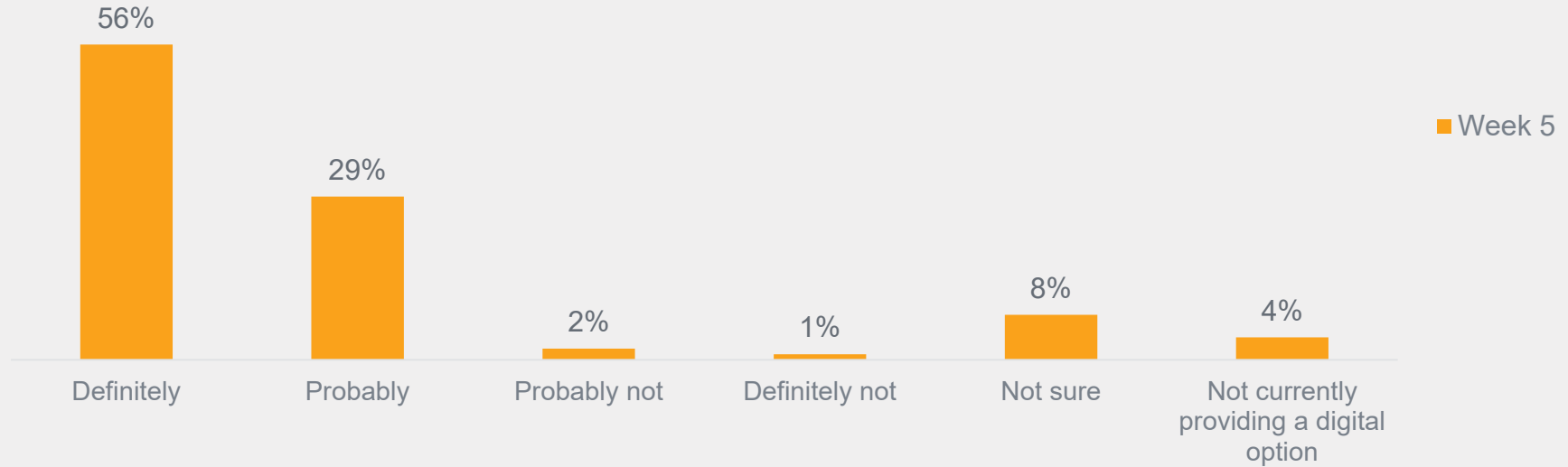
**Question:** In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance to your local community? Select all that apply.

# In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance outside of your local community?

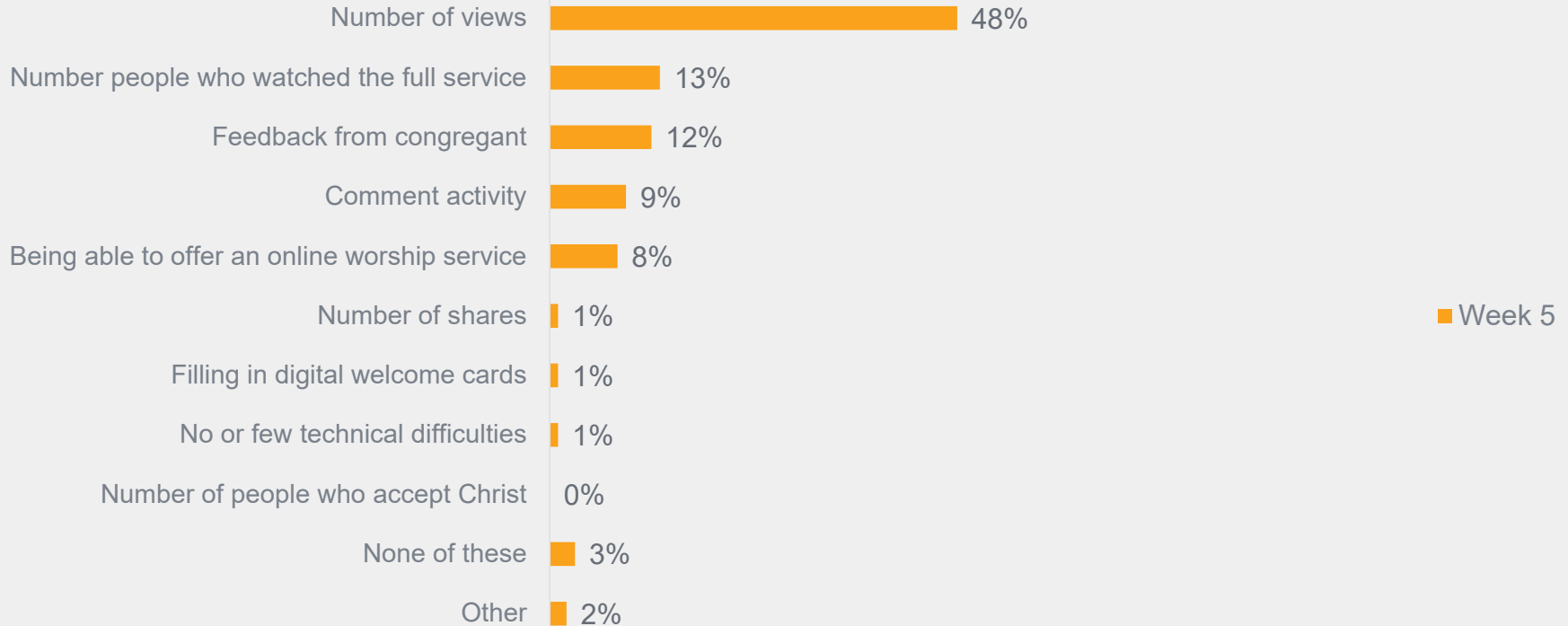


**Question:** In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance outside of your local community? Select all that apply.

# Do you think your church will continue to provide digital options for worship services once social distancing is no longer required?



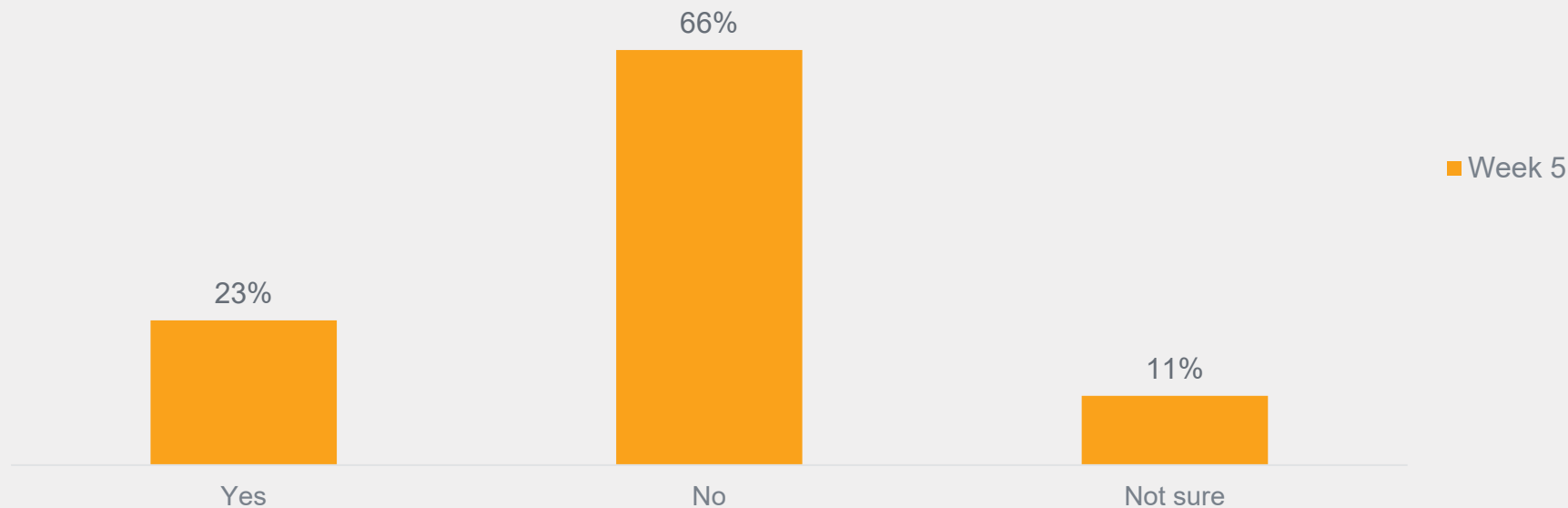
# How is your church measuring the effectiveness of your online worship services? Select the option below which has been most helpful.



**Question:** How is your church measuring the effectiveness of your online worship services? Select the option below which has been most helpful. (base: offering an online worship service)

# Does your church use a multiplier to help measure “attendance” for a worship service?

Average multiplier: 2.31 (base: use a multiplier)



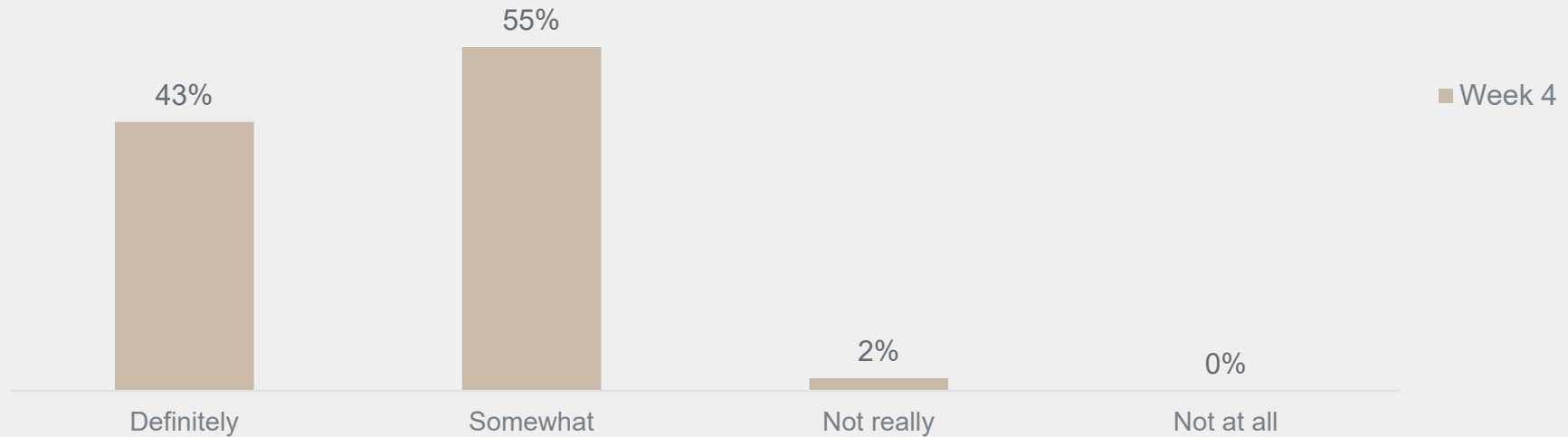
**Question:** Since online “views” might represent multiple viewers in one home or household, some people use a “multiplier” to estimate the total number of people watching an online program or service. Does your church use a multiplier to help measure “attendance” for a worship service? (e.g., 1 digital view counts as 2 people watching the service together)  
(base: offer an online worship service + measure effectiveness by number of views)



# Week 4 Questions

Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

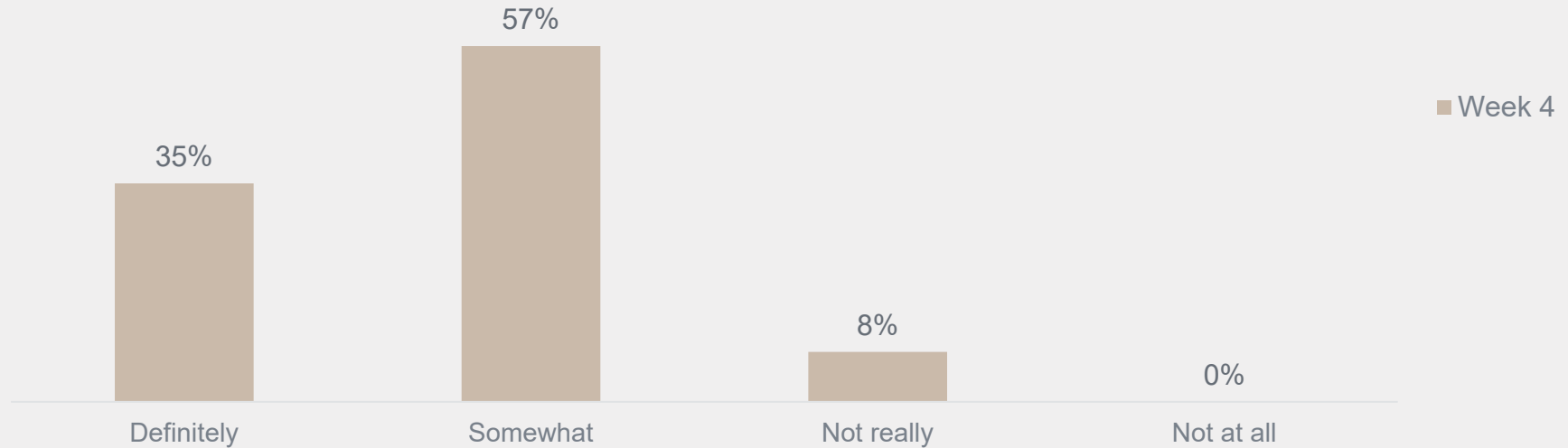
## Spiritual Well-being



**Question:** Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

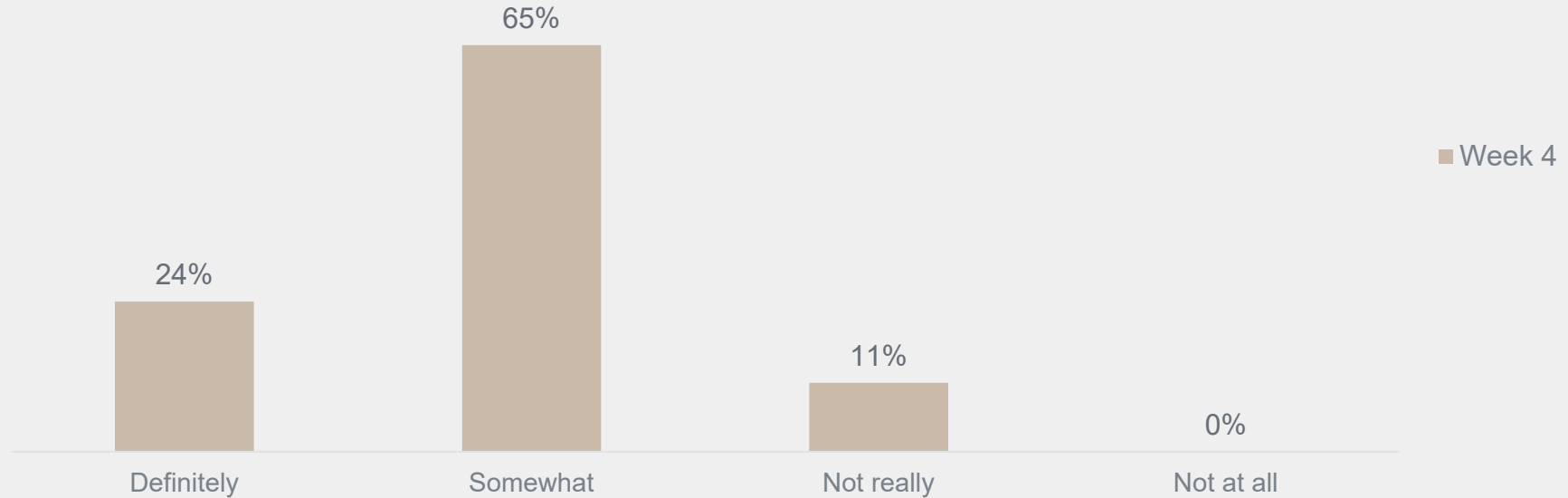
Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

## Physical Well-being



Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

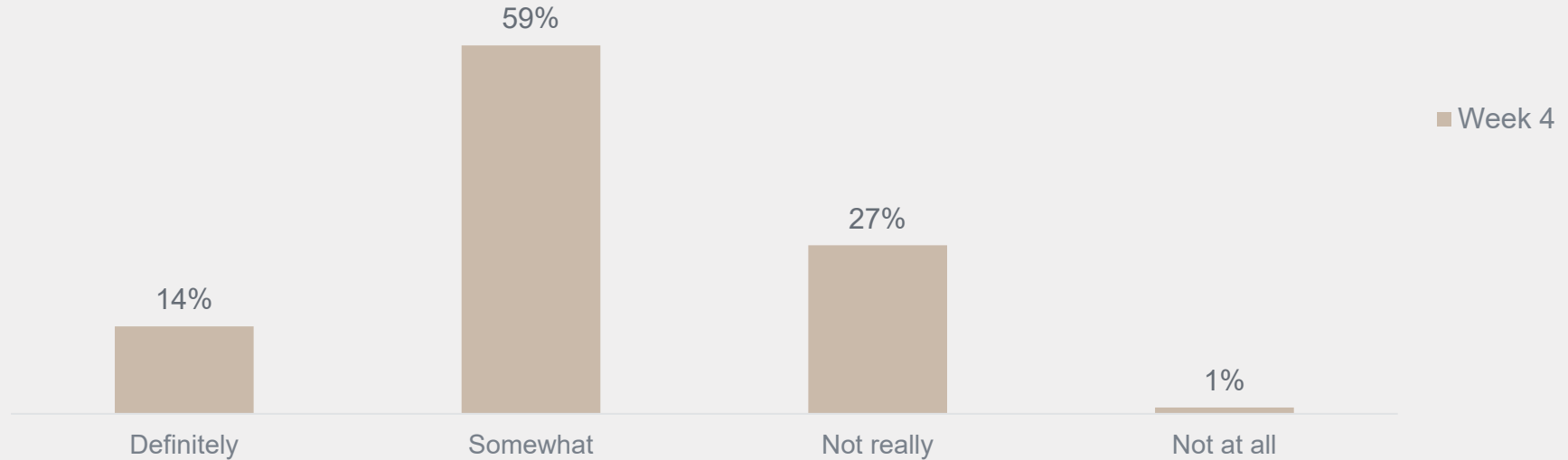
## Mental and Emotional Health



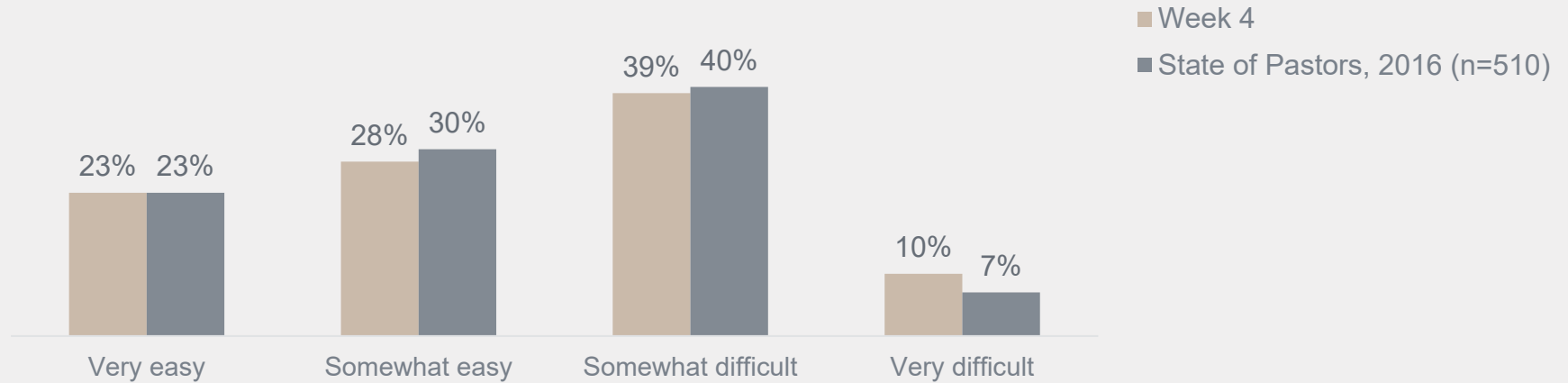
**Question:** Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

## Financial Health



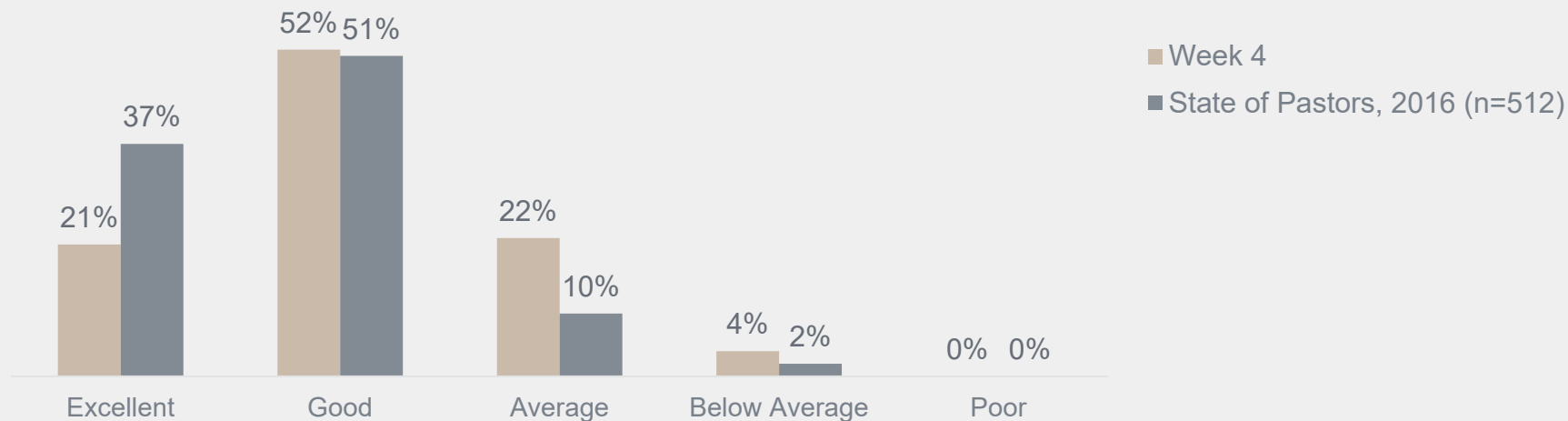
# Considering the new realities you are facing due to COVID-19, how easy or difficult is it for you to find time in your ministry schedule to invest in your own spiritual development?



**Question:** Considering the new realities you are facing due to COVID-19, how easy or difficult is it for you to find time in your ministry schedule to invest in your own spiritual development?

Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

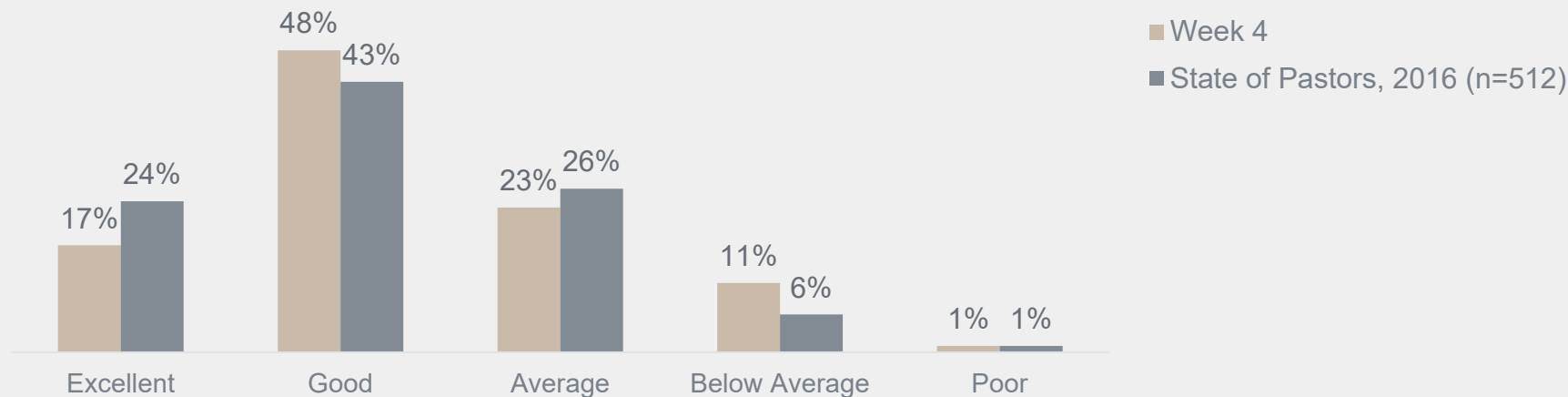
## Spiritual Well-being



Question: Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

## Physical Well-being

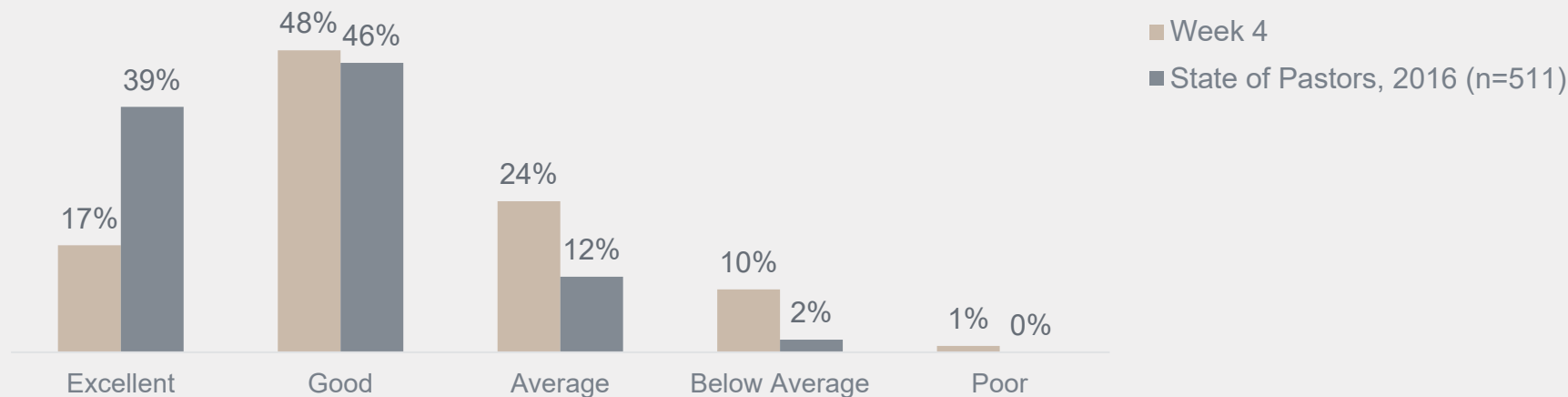


Question: Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.



Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

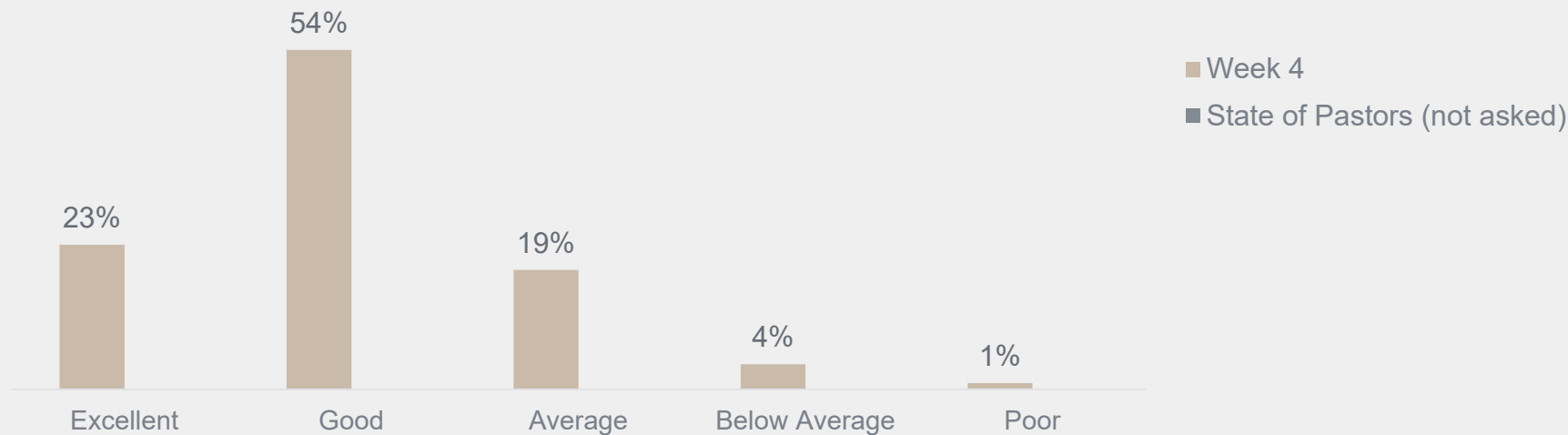
## Mental and Emotional Health



Question: Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

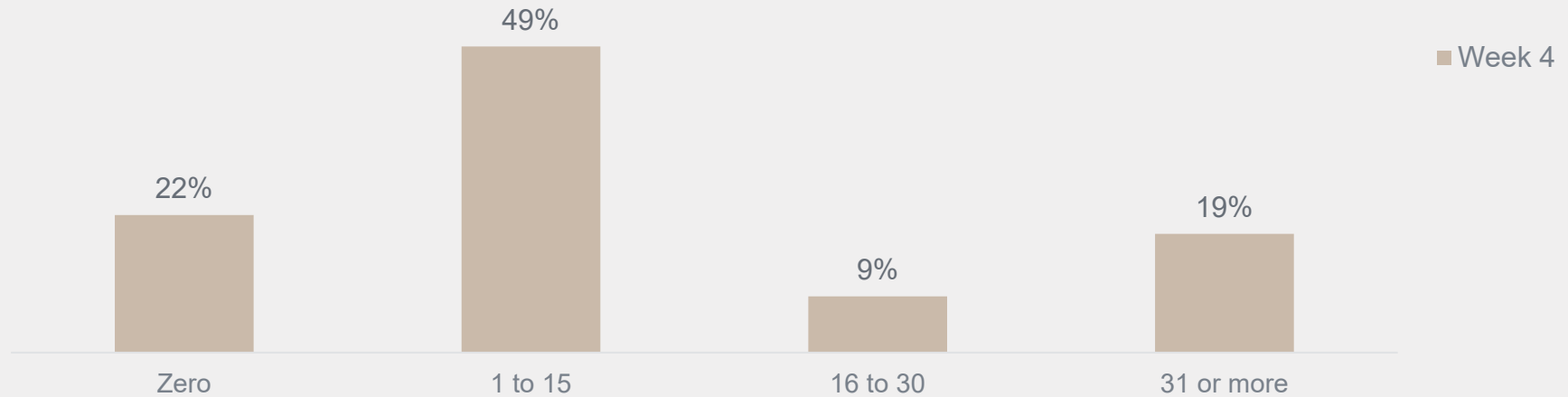
## Financial Health



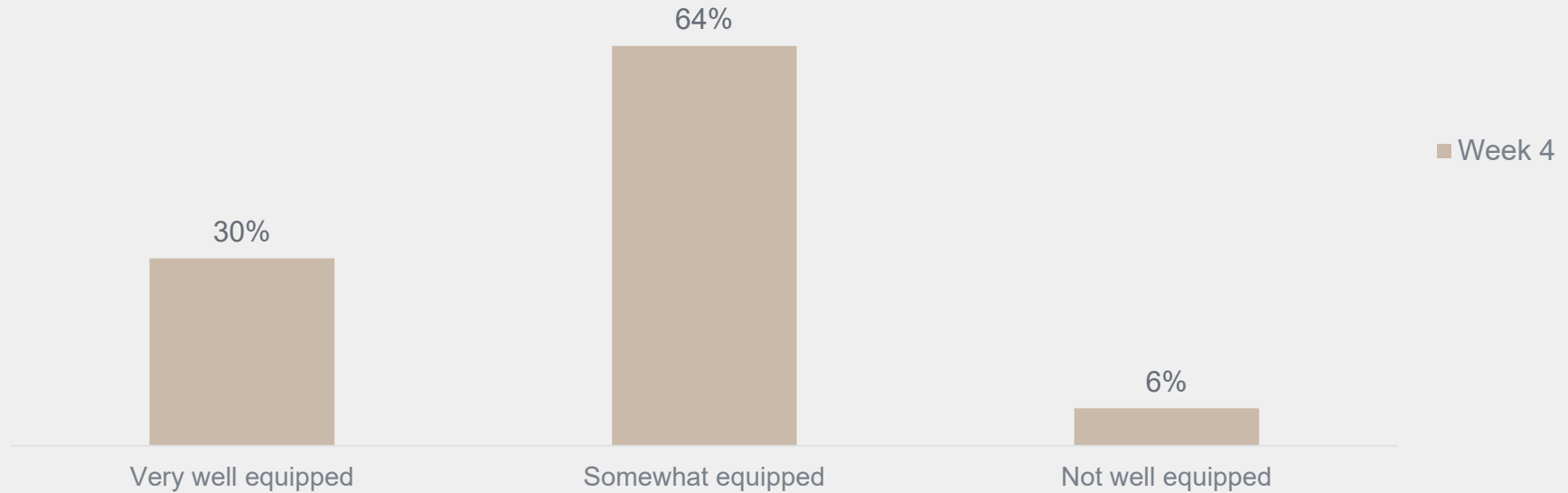
Question: Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

# About how many people, if any, have reached out to your church in the past month, seeking help to cope with the current health and economic crisis?

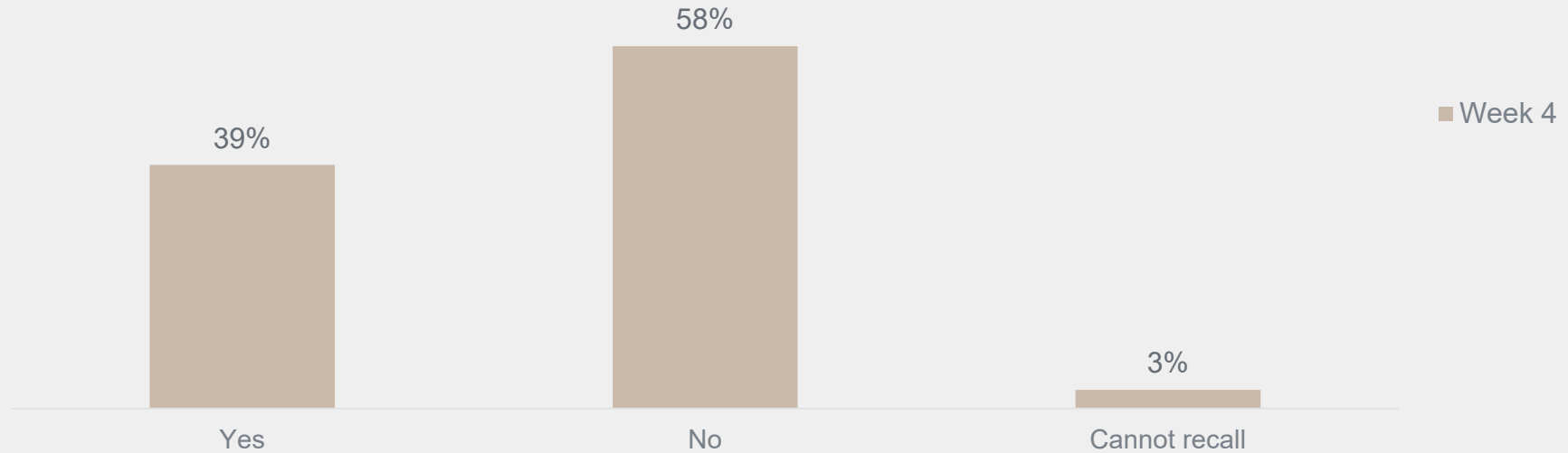
Average = 5 (mean)



# How well equipped do you personally feel to help someone from your congregation deal with matters relating to mental or emotional health?

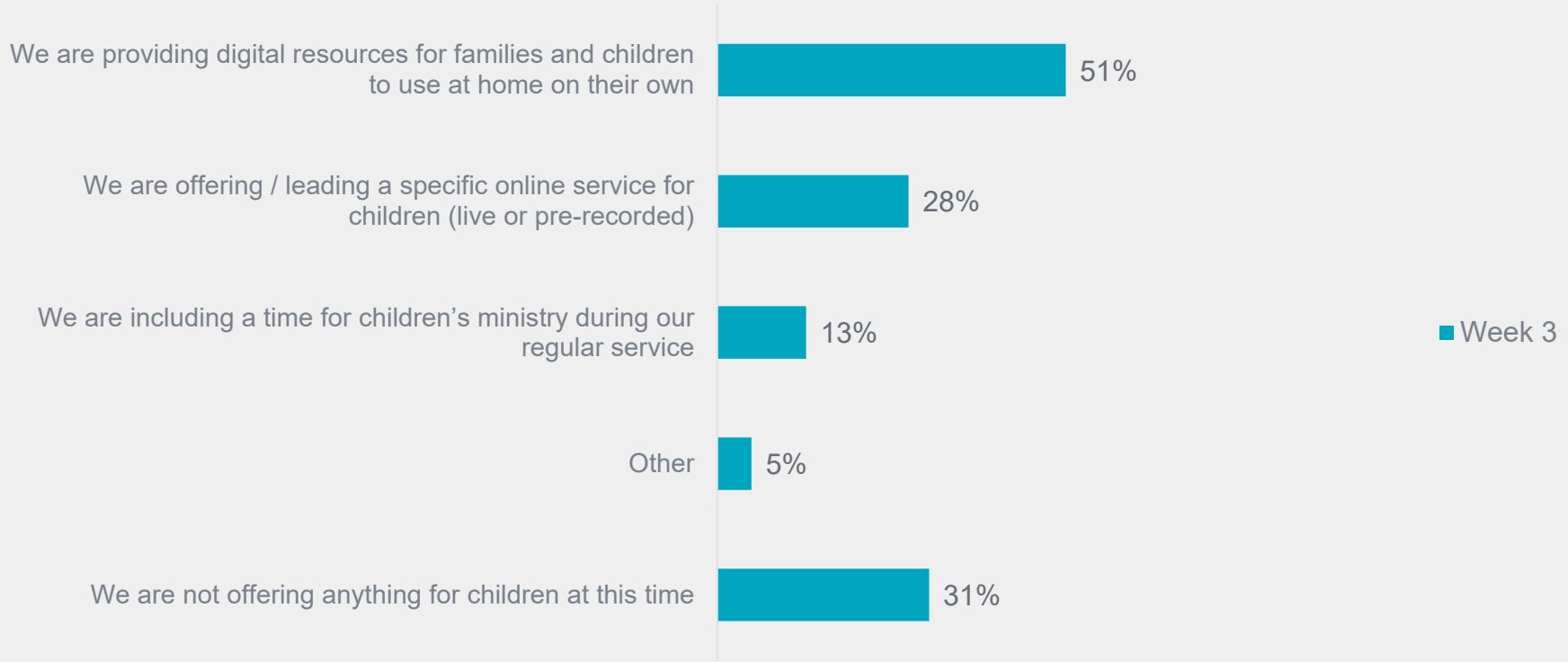


# In the last month, have you or another church staff member preached on the topic of mental or emotional health?



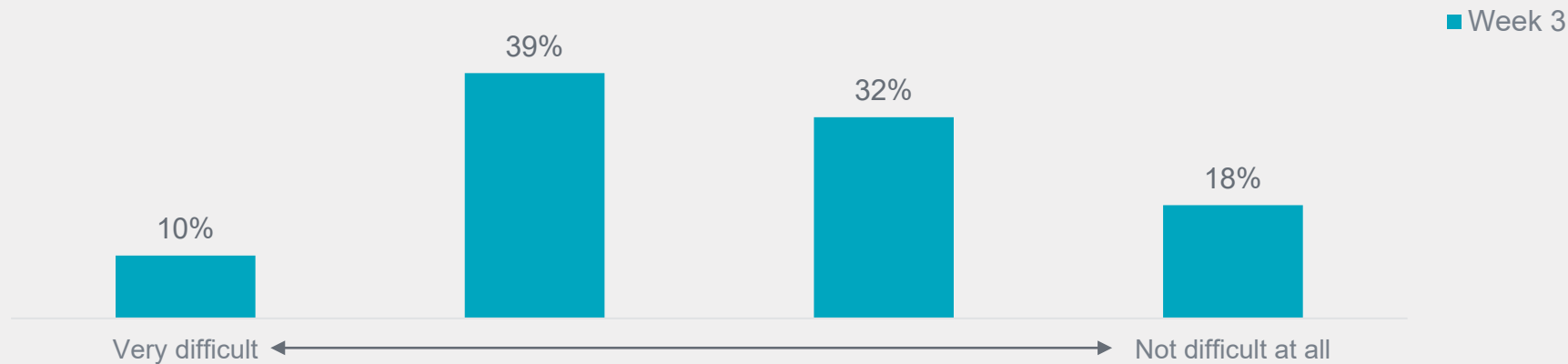
# Week 3 Questions

# In light of the new realities churches are experiencing due to COVID-19, how has your children's ministry transitioned?



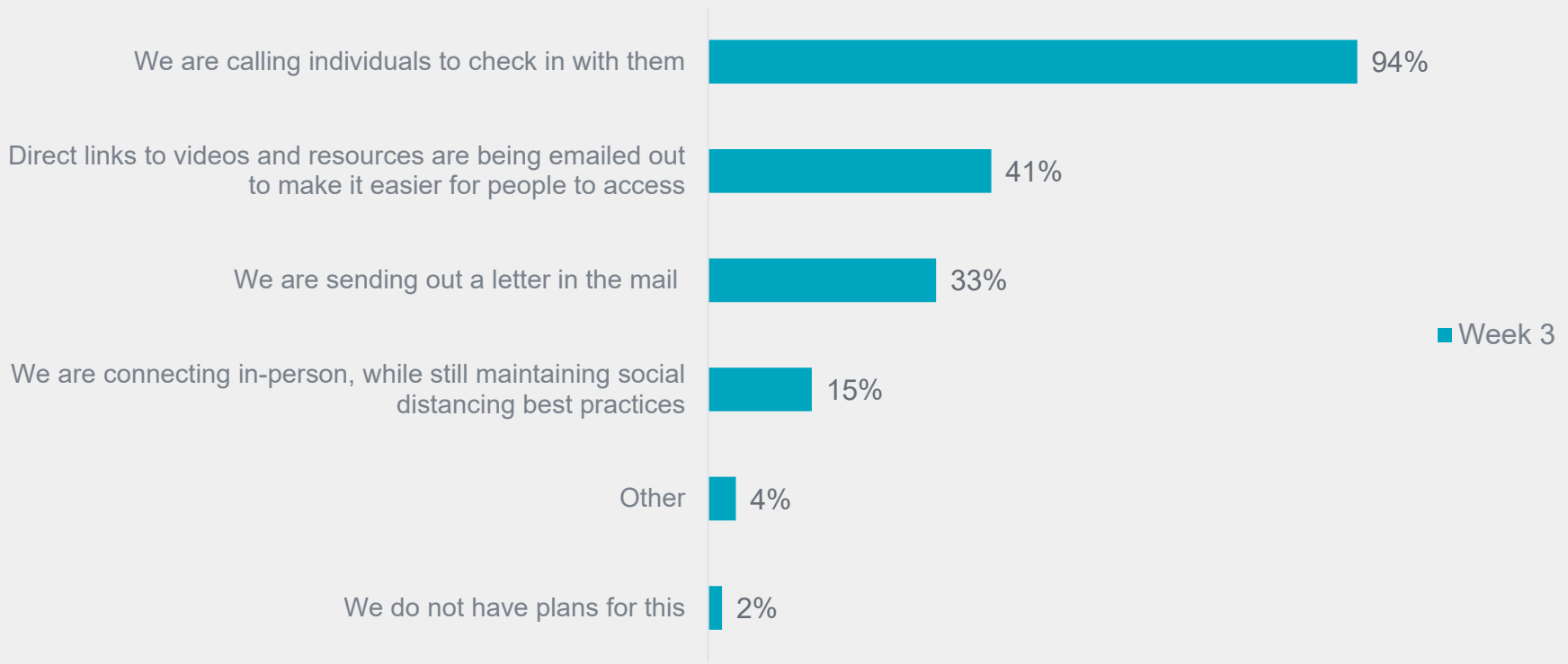
**Question:** In light of the new realities churches are experiencing due to COVID-19, how has your children's ministry transitioned? Select all that apply.

# How difficult has it been to remain connected with the older members of your congregation?



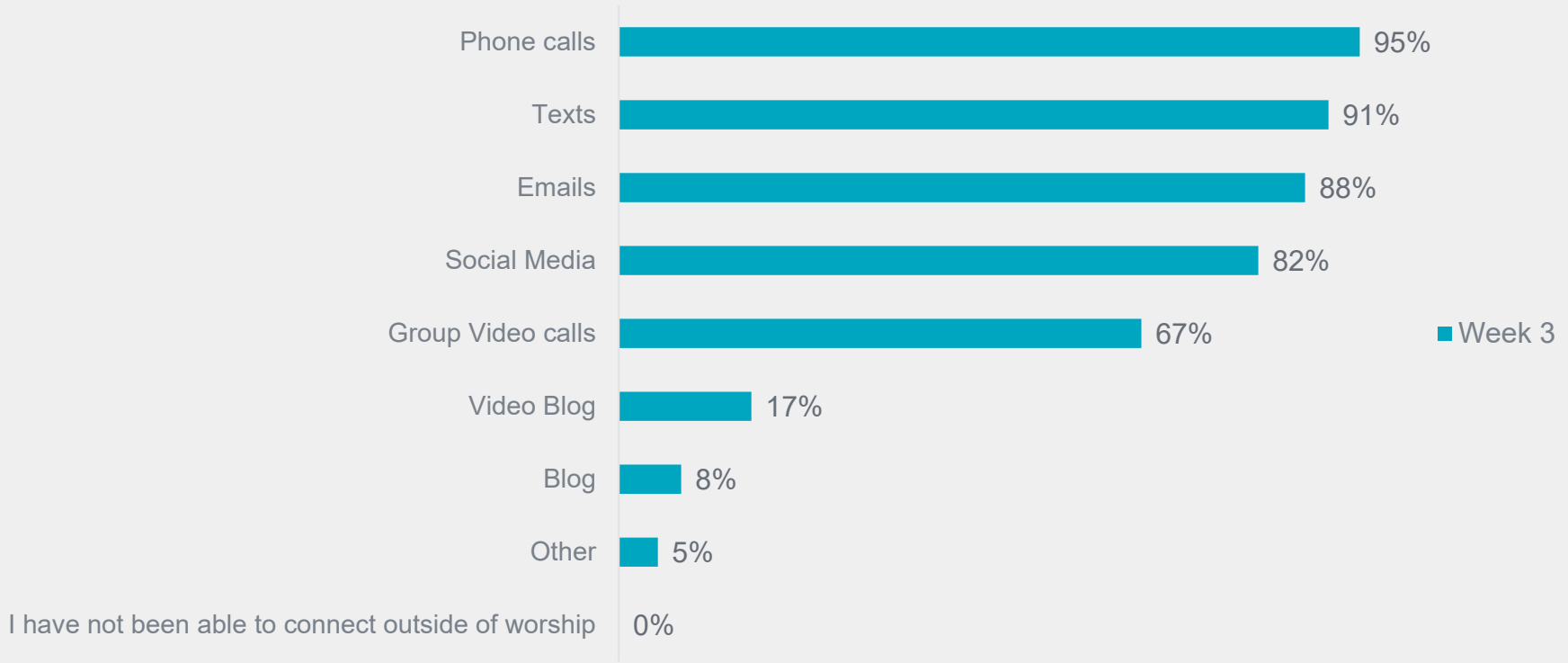


# How is your church planning to reach out to those in your congregation who are less familiar with the technology to access online resources or worship services?



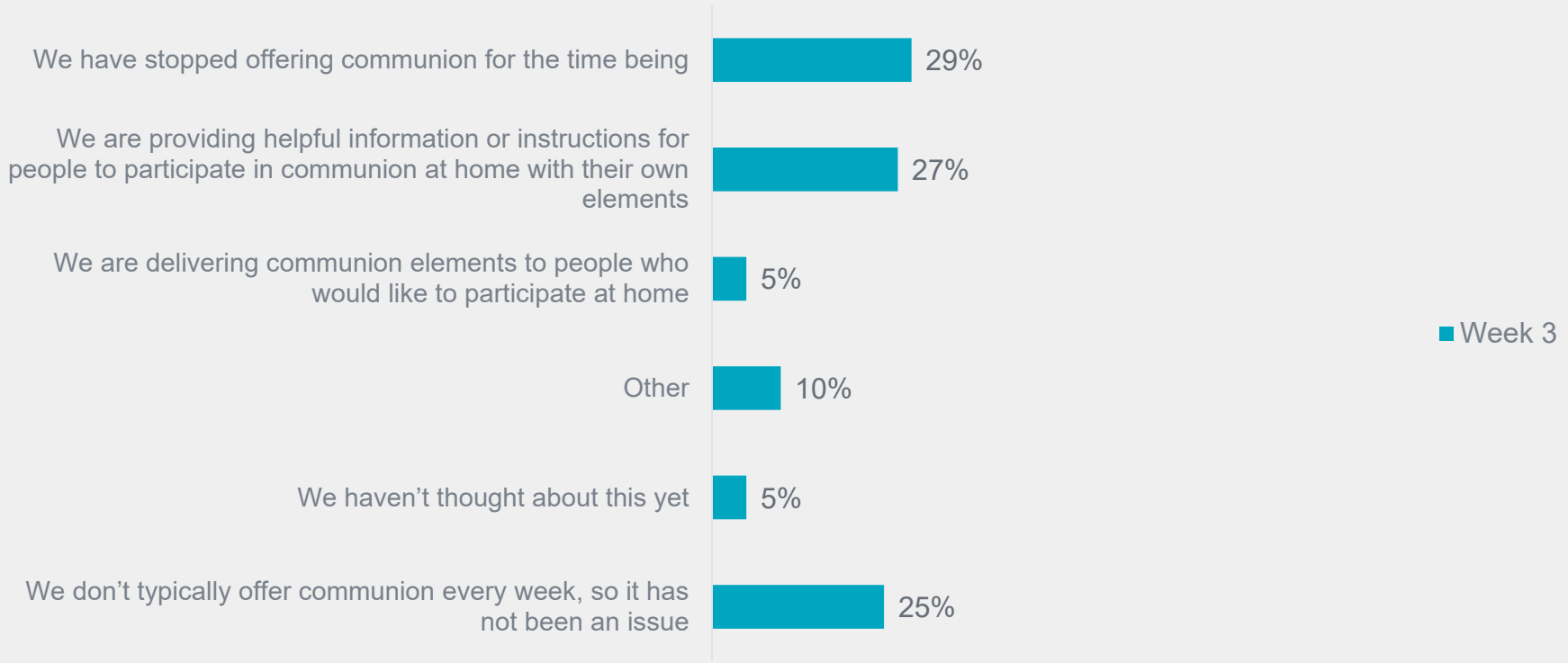
**Question:** How is your church planning to reach out to those in your congregation who are less familiar with the technology to access online resources or worship services? Select all that apply.

# How are you, personally, able to connect with your church community throughout the week, not including any regular worship services?

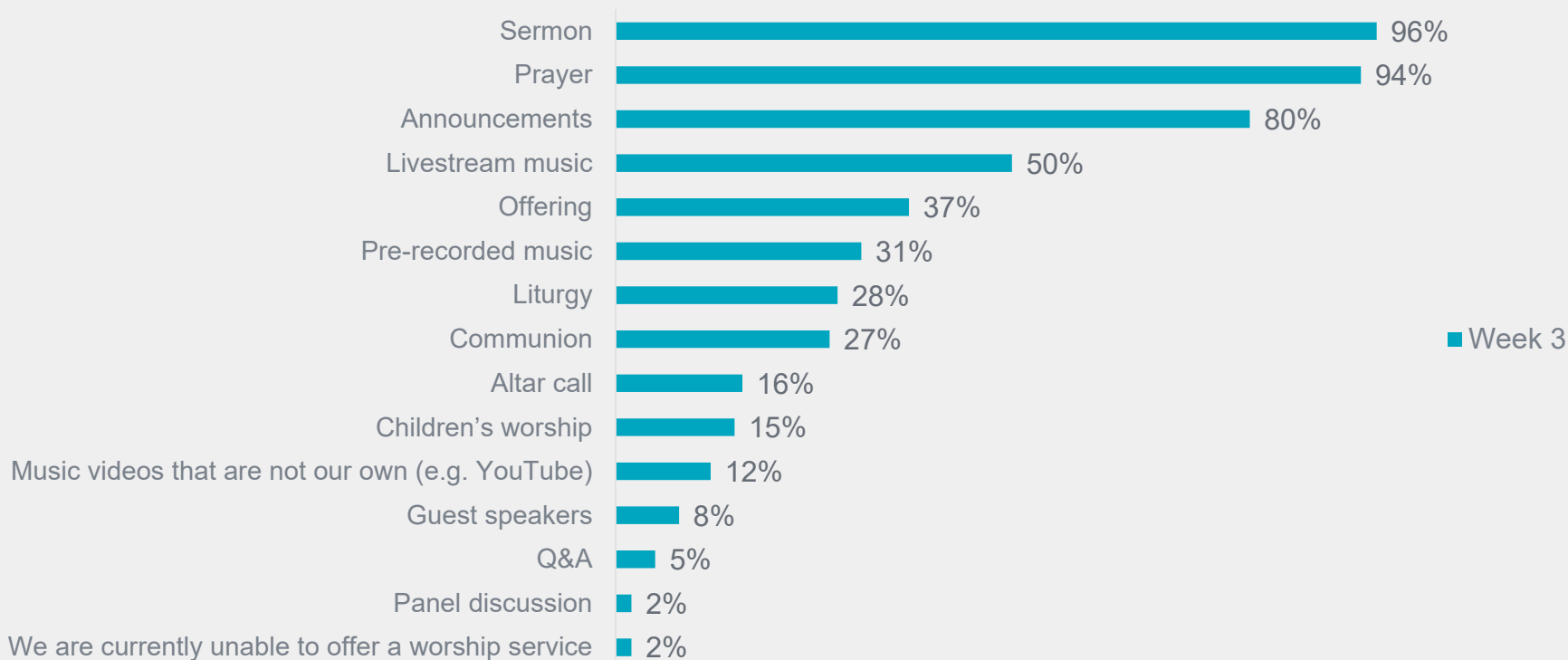


**Question:** How are you, personally, able to connect with your church community throughout the week, not including any regular worship services? Select all that apply.

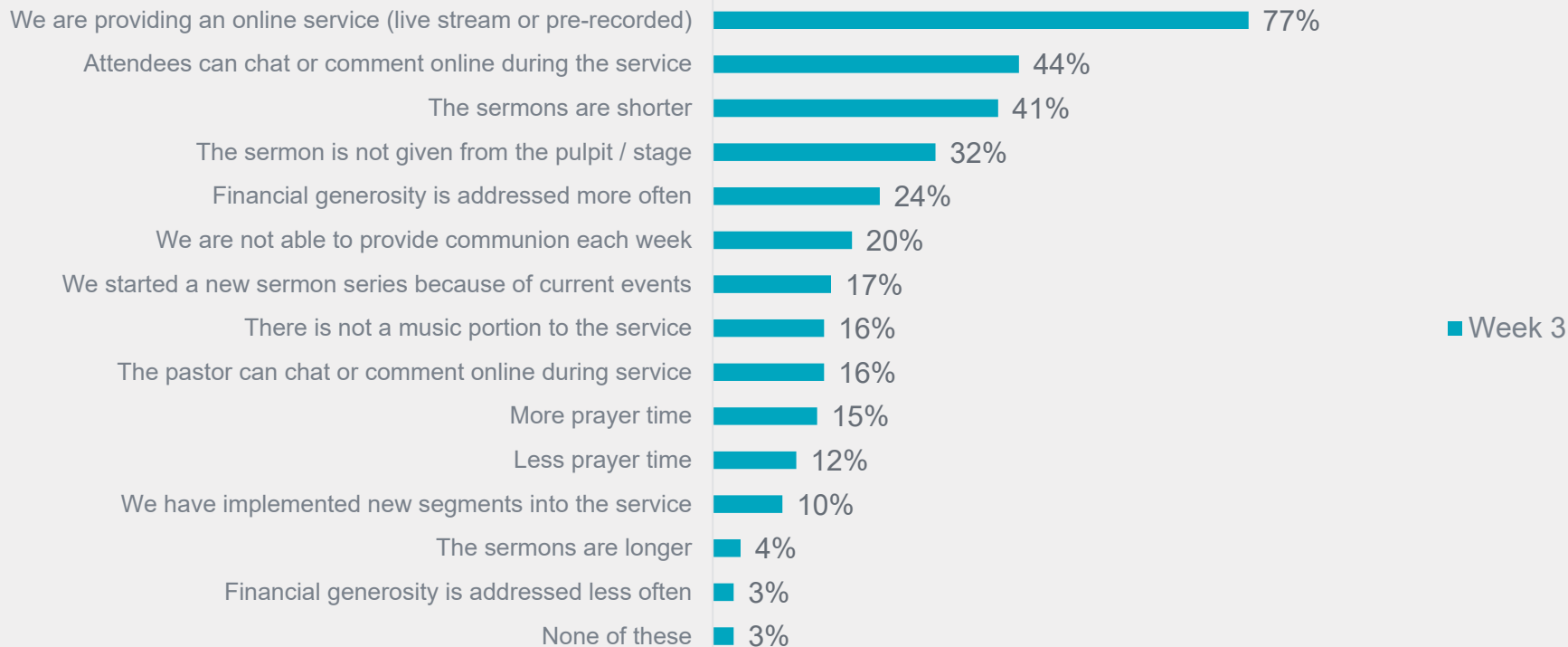
# Which of the following best describes how your church is participating in communion during the COVID-19 crisis?



# Which of the following is your church incorporating into the weekly worship service?

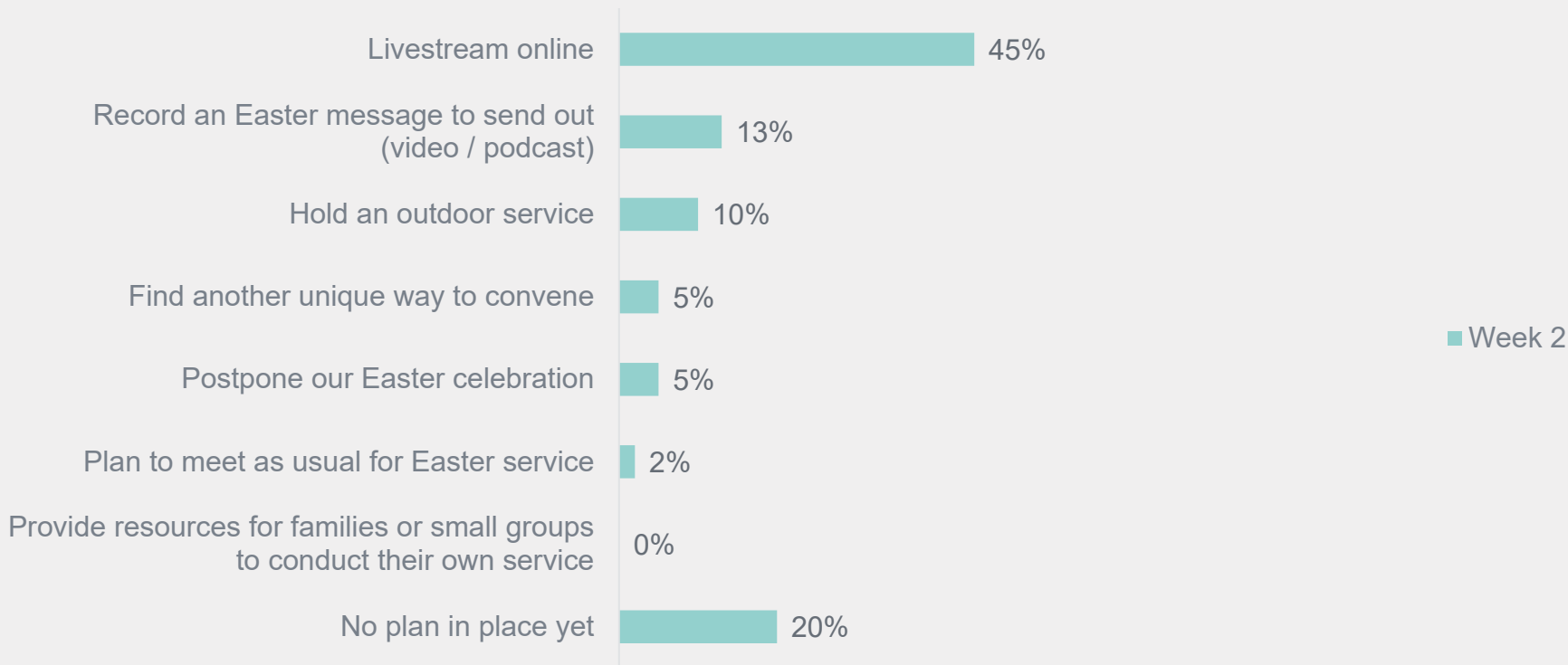


# How has your worship service experience changed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis?

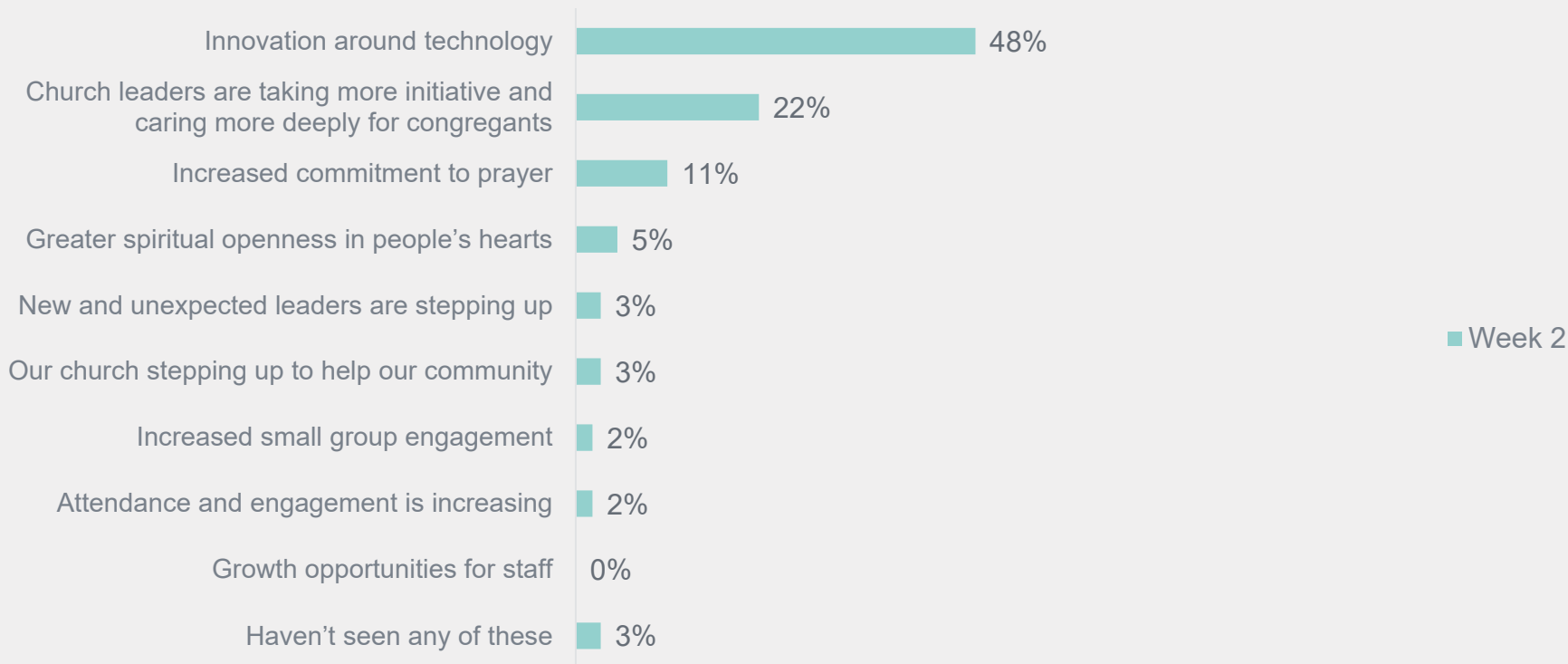


# Week 2 Questions

# What do you plan to do for Easter service(s) this year?

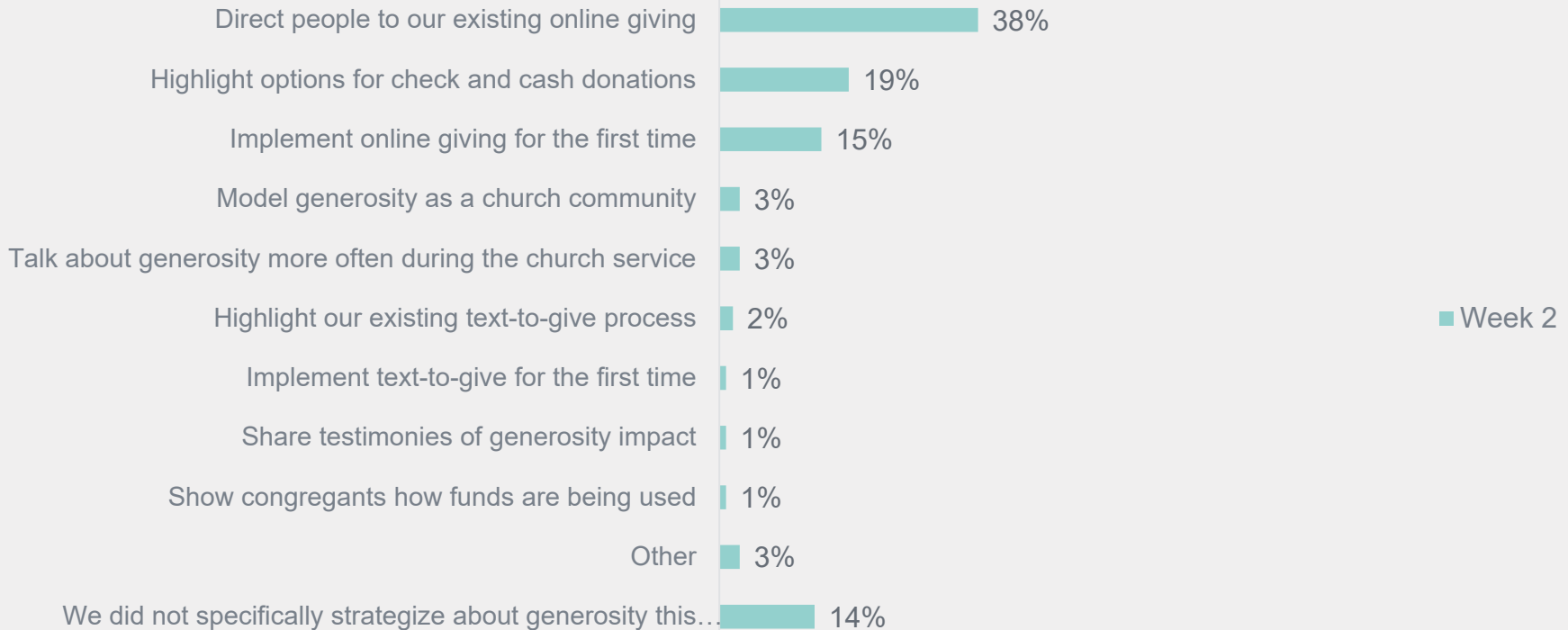


# Where have you seen your church grow most in this unprecedented time?

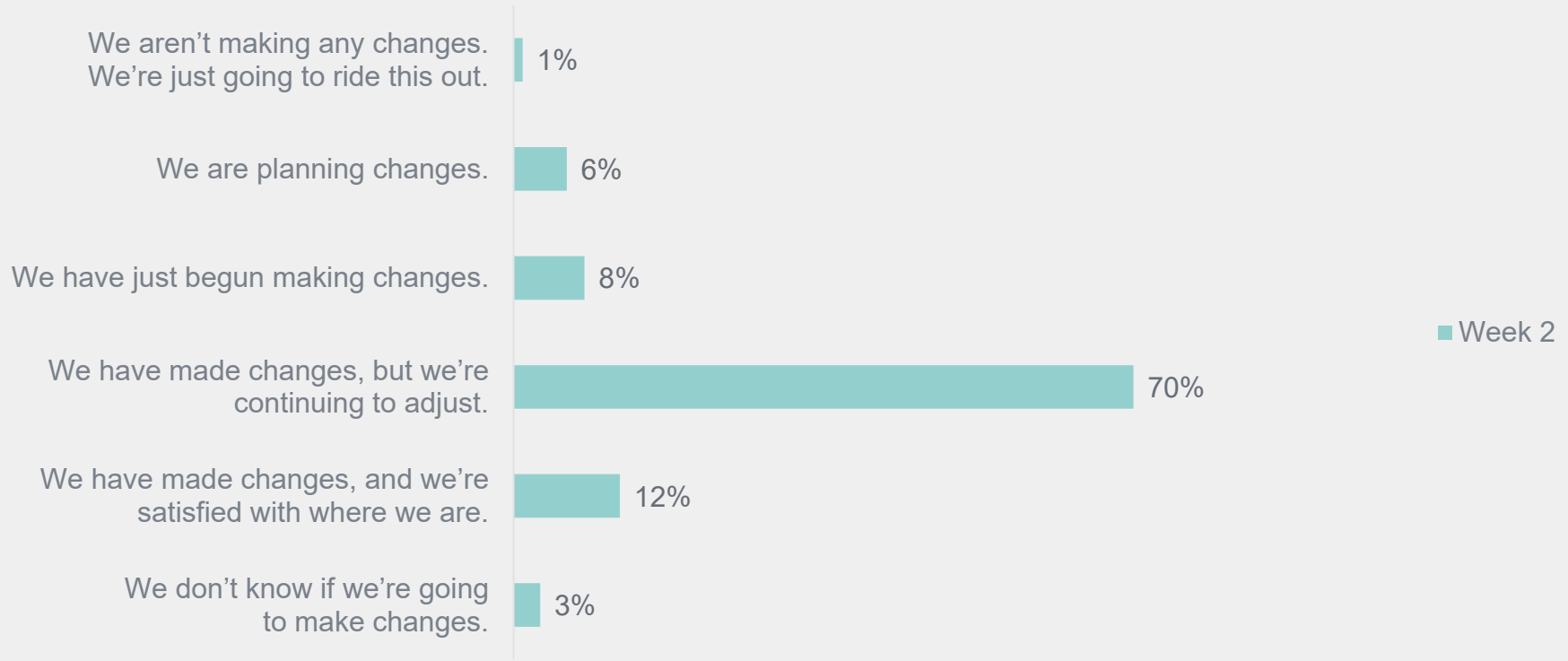




# This week, out of the following, what is your primary strategy to encourage financial generosity to your church?



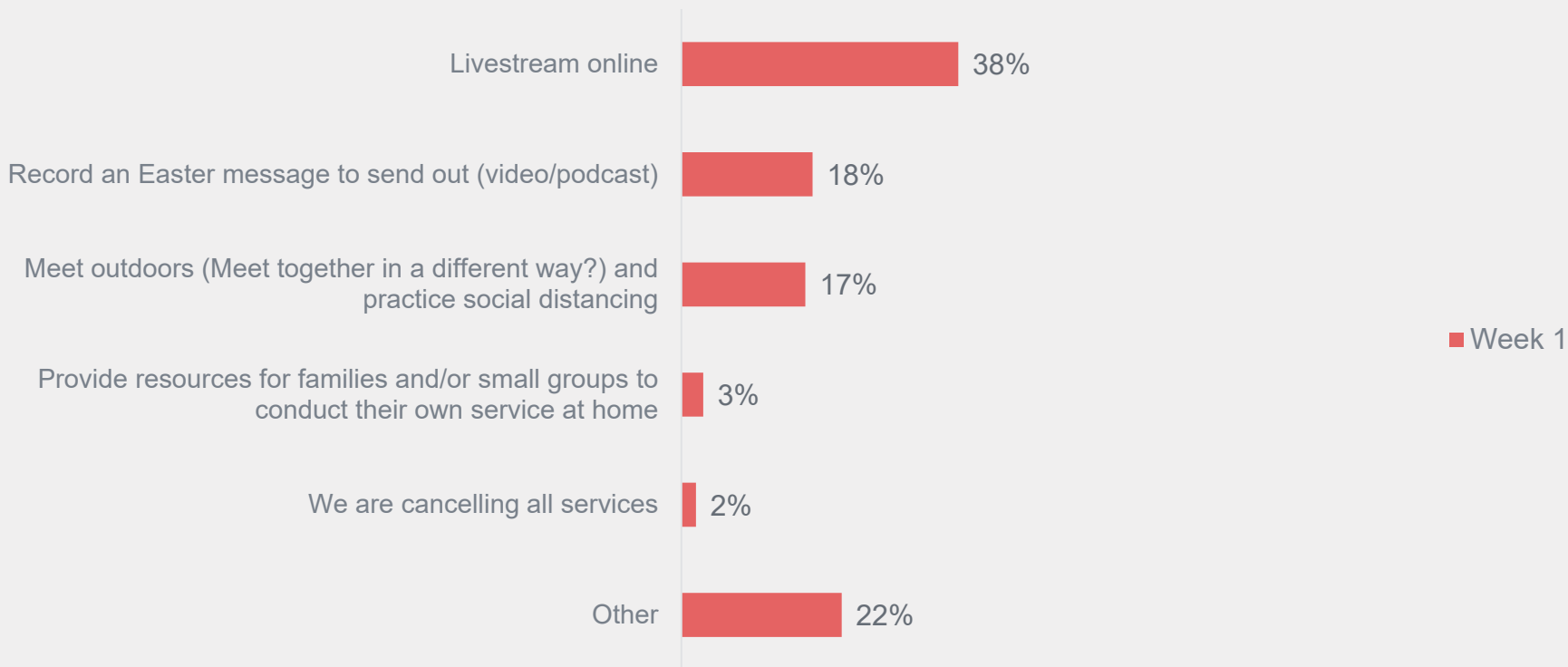
# Where are you at in considering changes related to digital worship and weekend services, and how is it going?



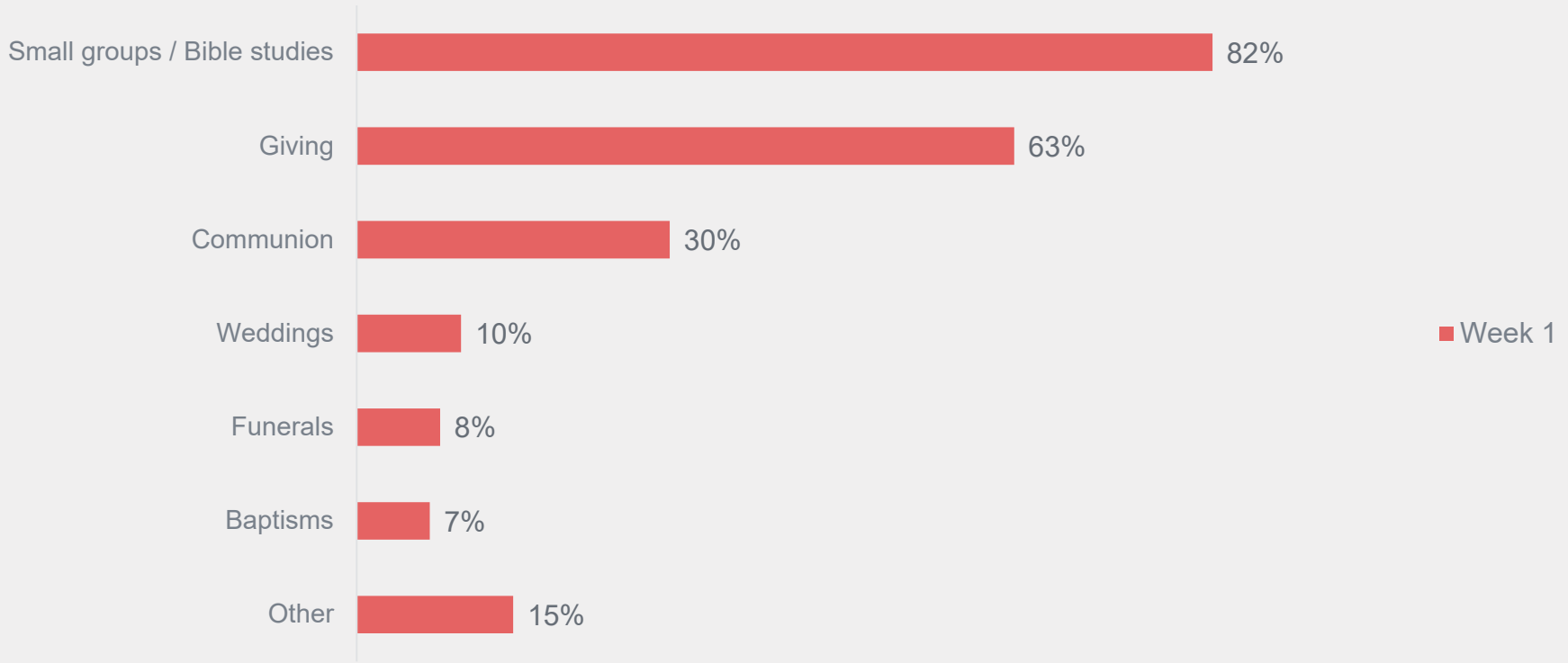
**Question:** Every church is having to consider changes to its methods of ministry, especially related to digital worship and weekend services. Overall, where are you in this transition, and how is it going, in light of the new realities?

# Week 1 Questions

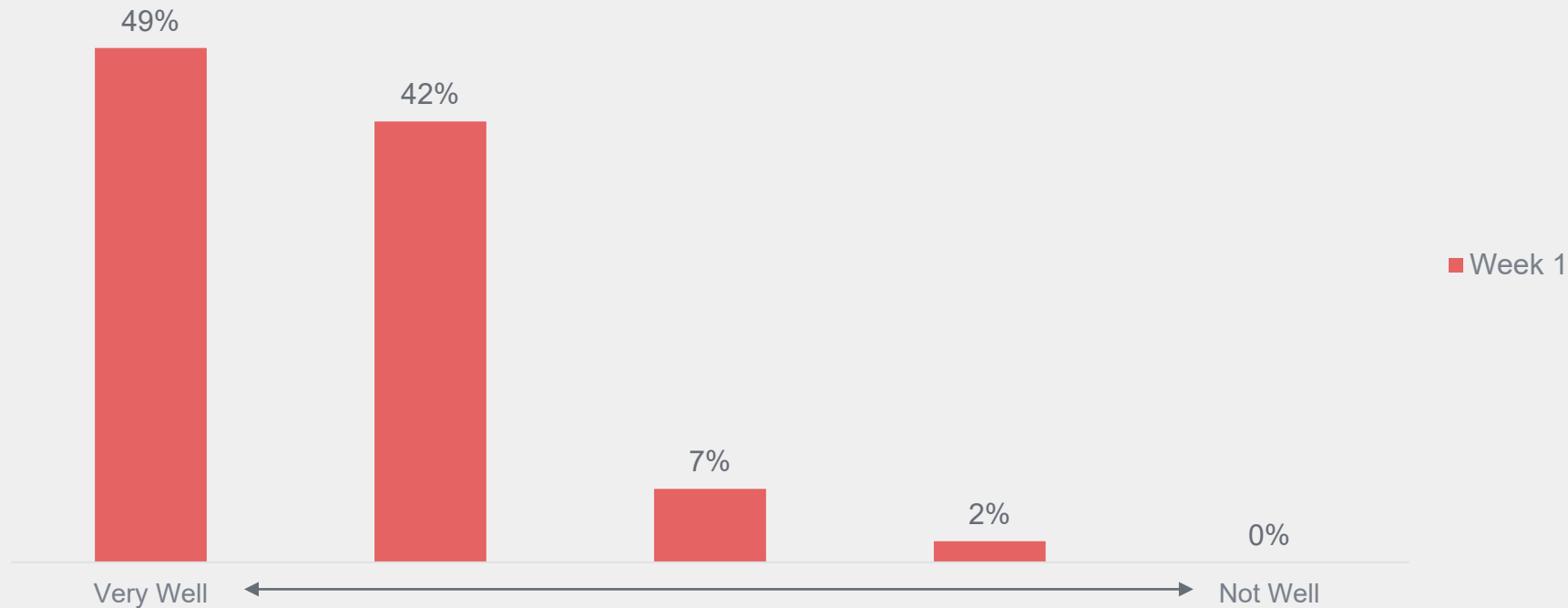
# What do you plan to do about Easter services?



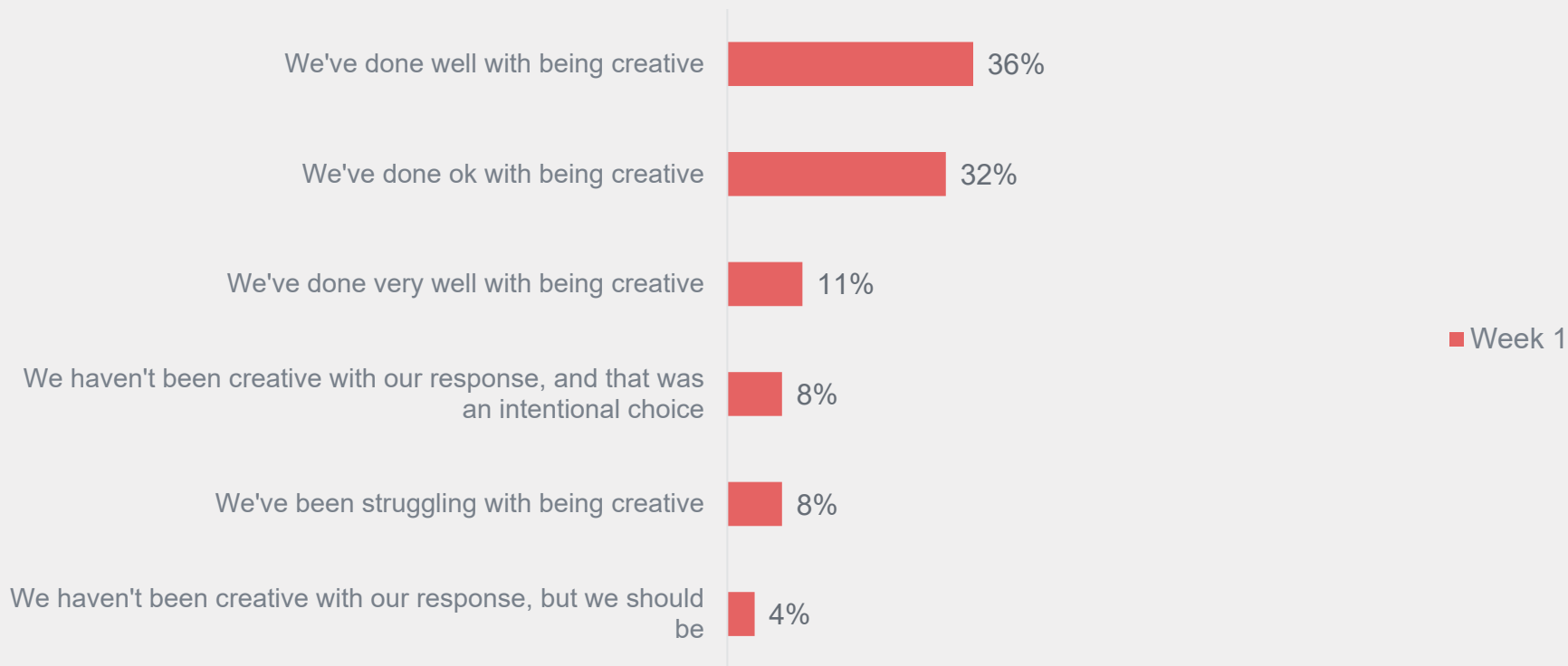
# This week for your church, has \_\_\_\_\_ been impacted by the pandemic?



# On a scale of 1 to 5, how well have your church leaders responded to this crisis?



# Do you think your church leaders have done a good job creatively responding to this crisis?





# Barna

Knowledge to Navigate a Changing World