

Church Leader Survey Results

Senior Pastors / Executive Pastors from Barna Group's Church Panel
March 20-July 26, 2020

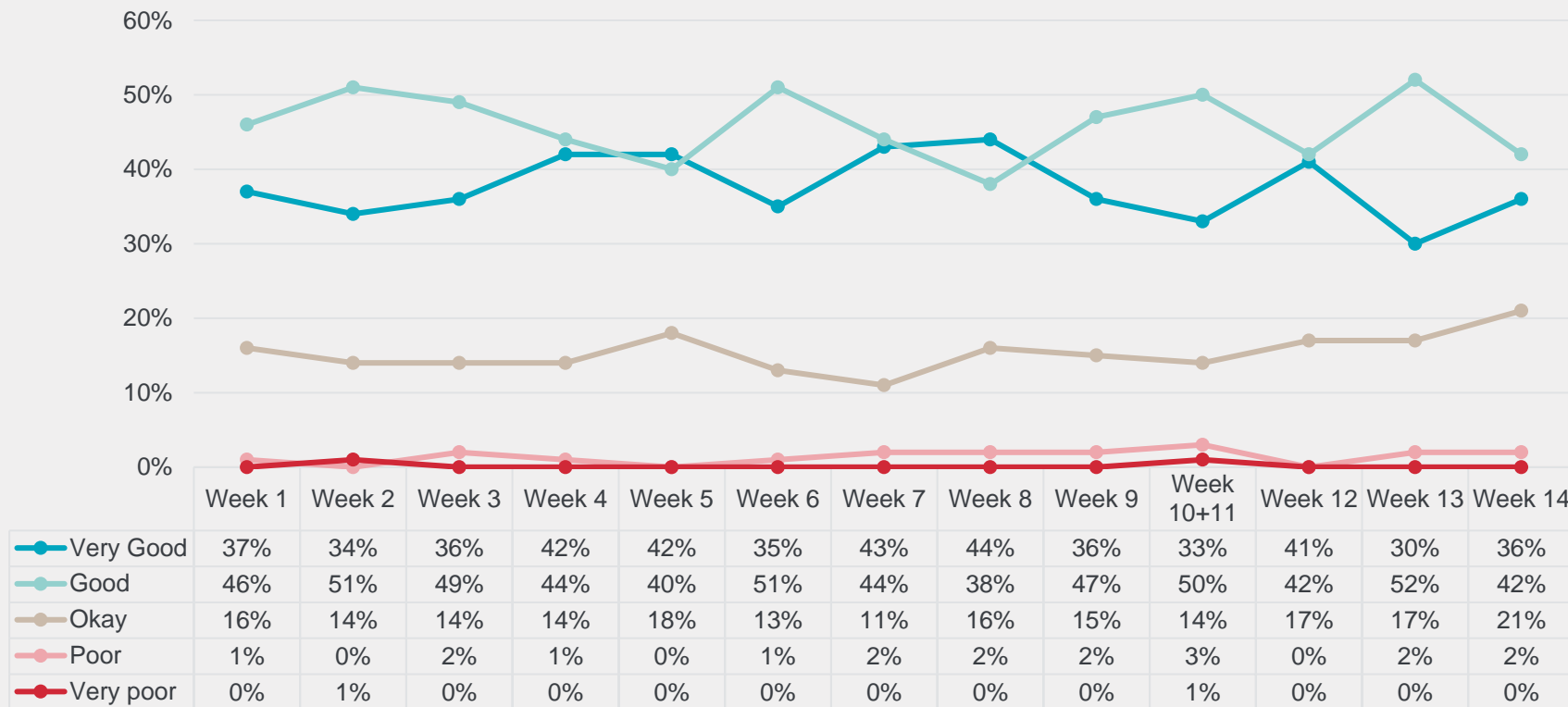
Protestant, senior and executive pastors from Barna Group's Church Panel
Surveys completed, n=2,409

- 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
- Week 7, n=167, April 28-May 4, 2020
- Week 8, n=165, May 5-11, 2020
- Week 9, n=184, May 12-18, 2020
- Week 10-11, n=191, May 19-June 1, 2020
- Week 12, n=203, June 26-29, 2020
- Week 13, n=256, July 9-14, 2020
- Week 14, n=285, July 24-26, 2020

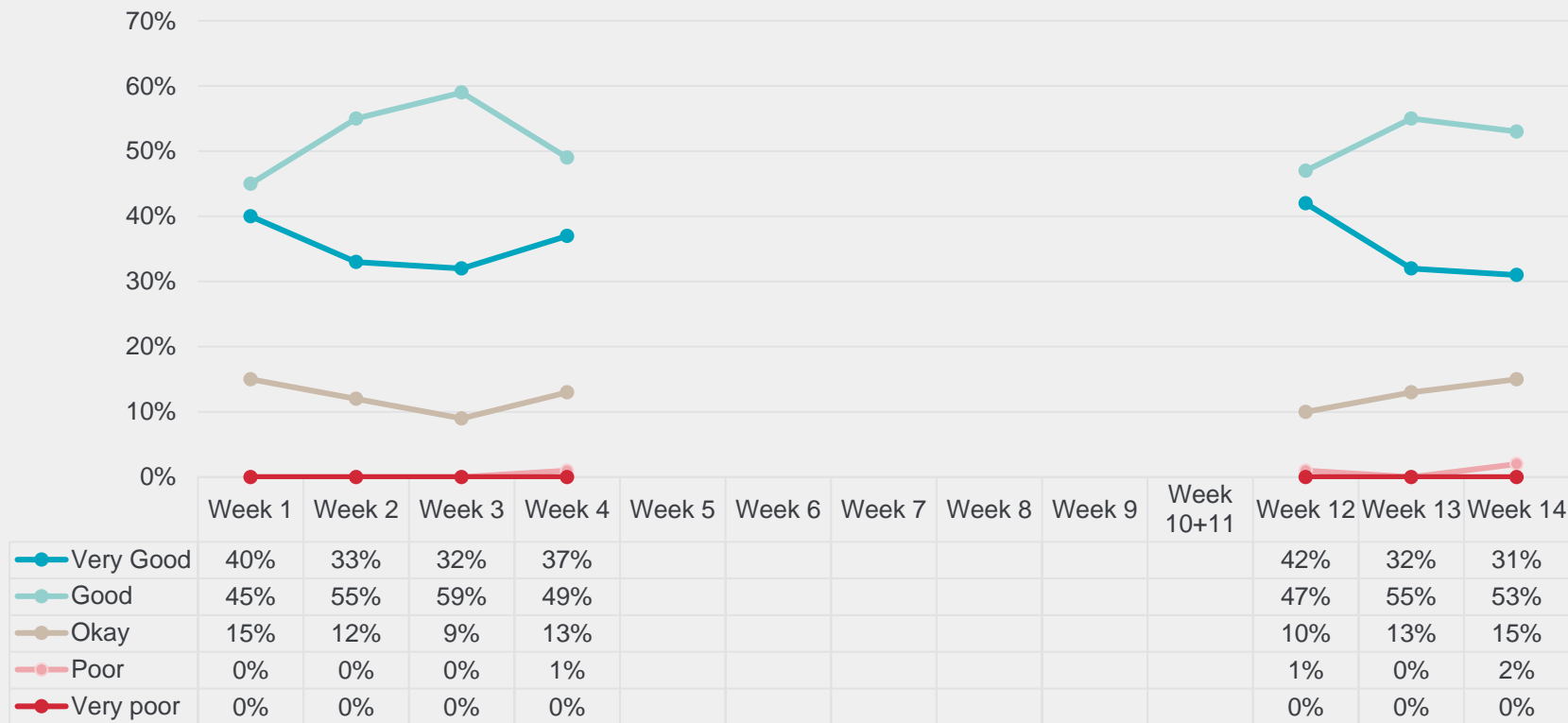
Each week minimal weighting is used to ensure the data set is nationally representative based on region, church size, and denomination.

The margin of error for this study is calculated per week based on the sample size (n=). The margin of error for this project ranges from 6.12% to 7.65%

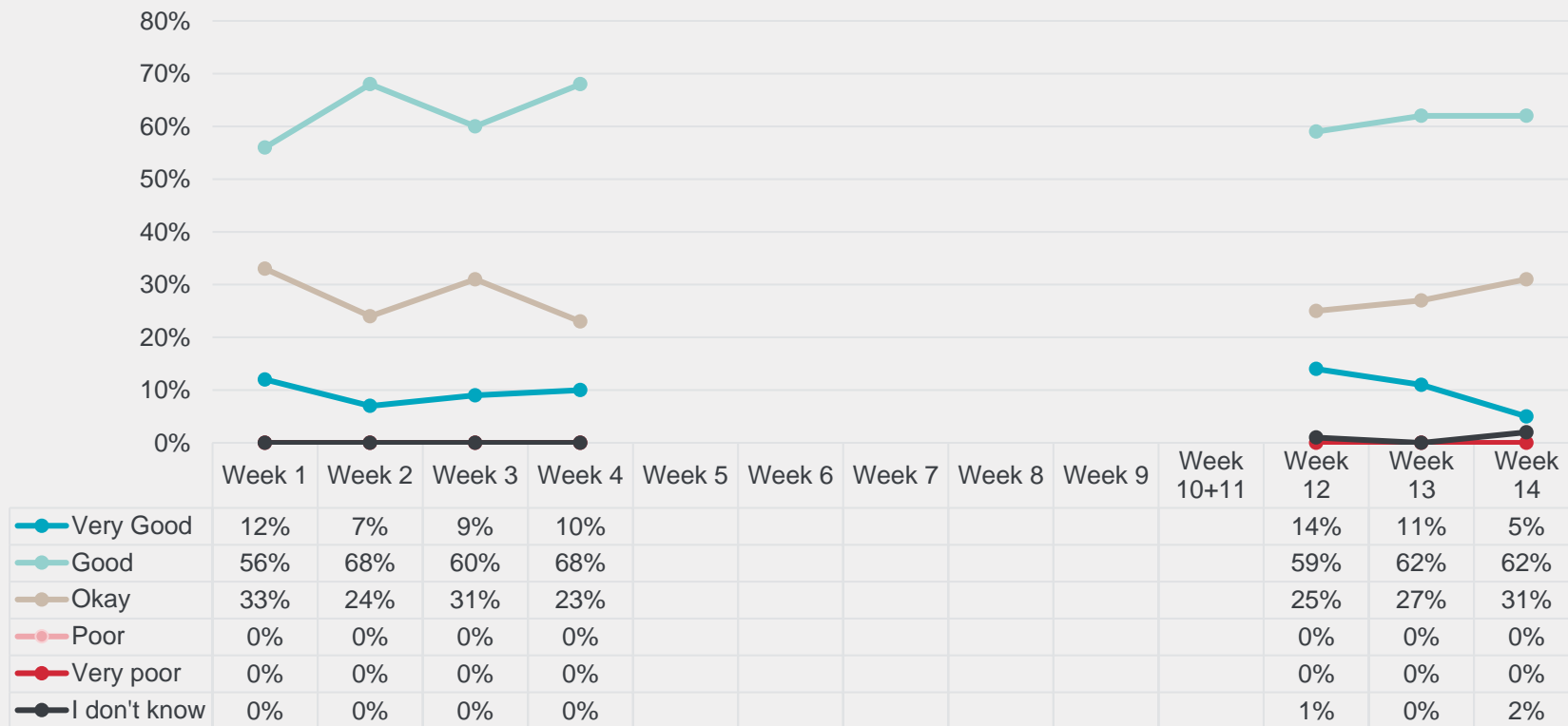
How are you doing today?



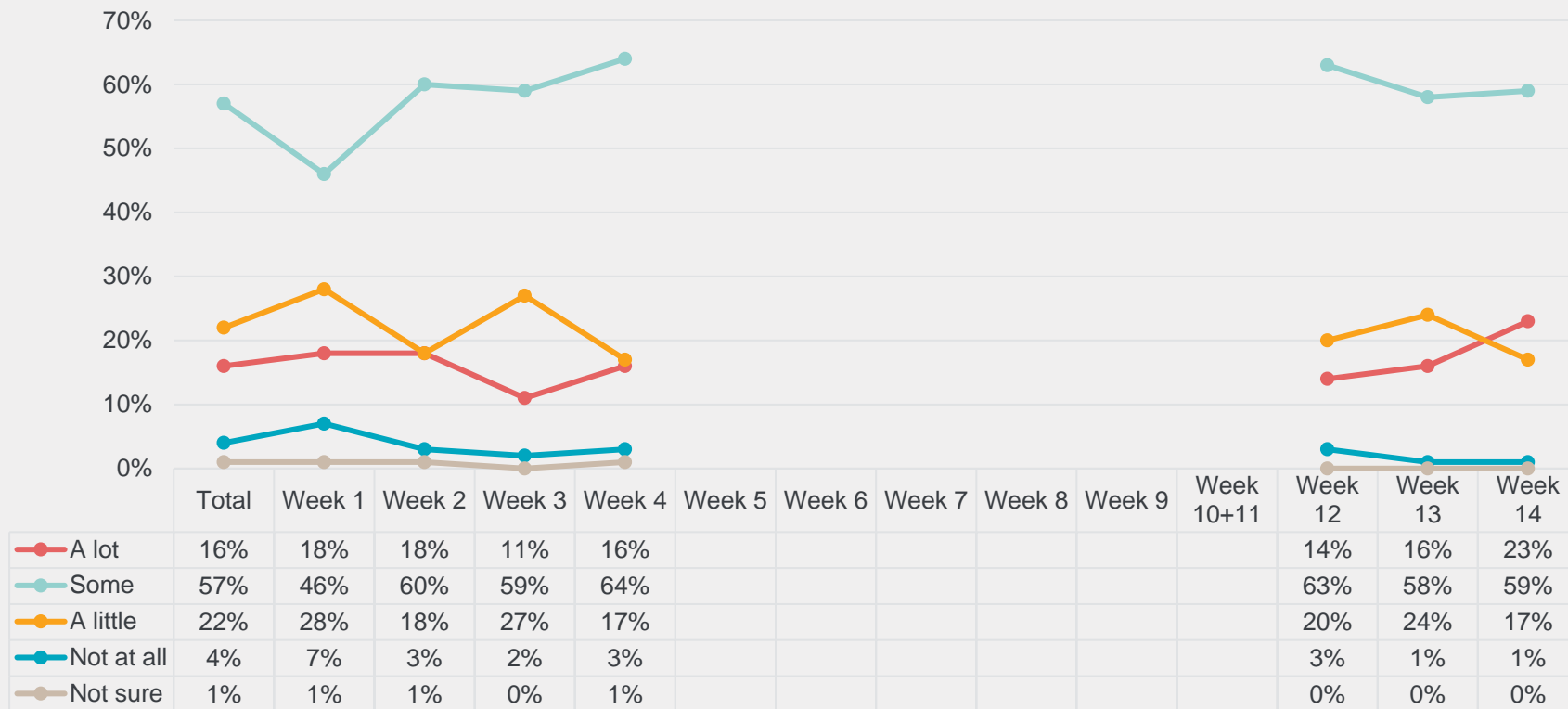
How is your family doing today?



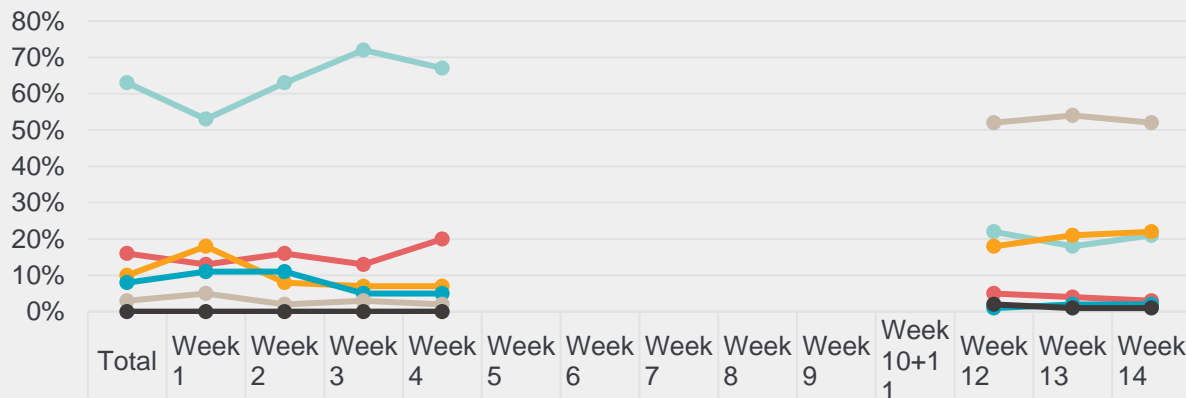
How are the people in your church doing today?



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

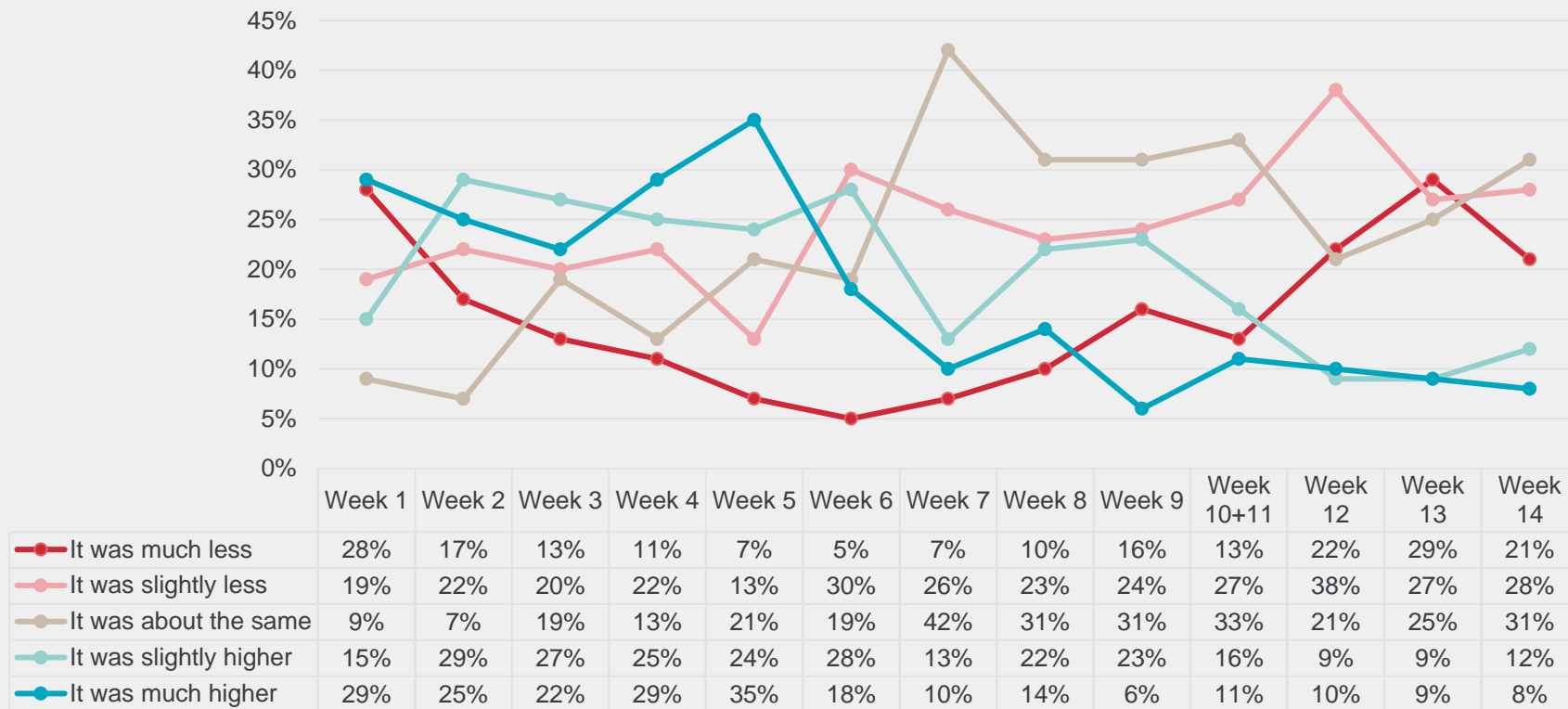


Our church facilities are currently . . .

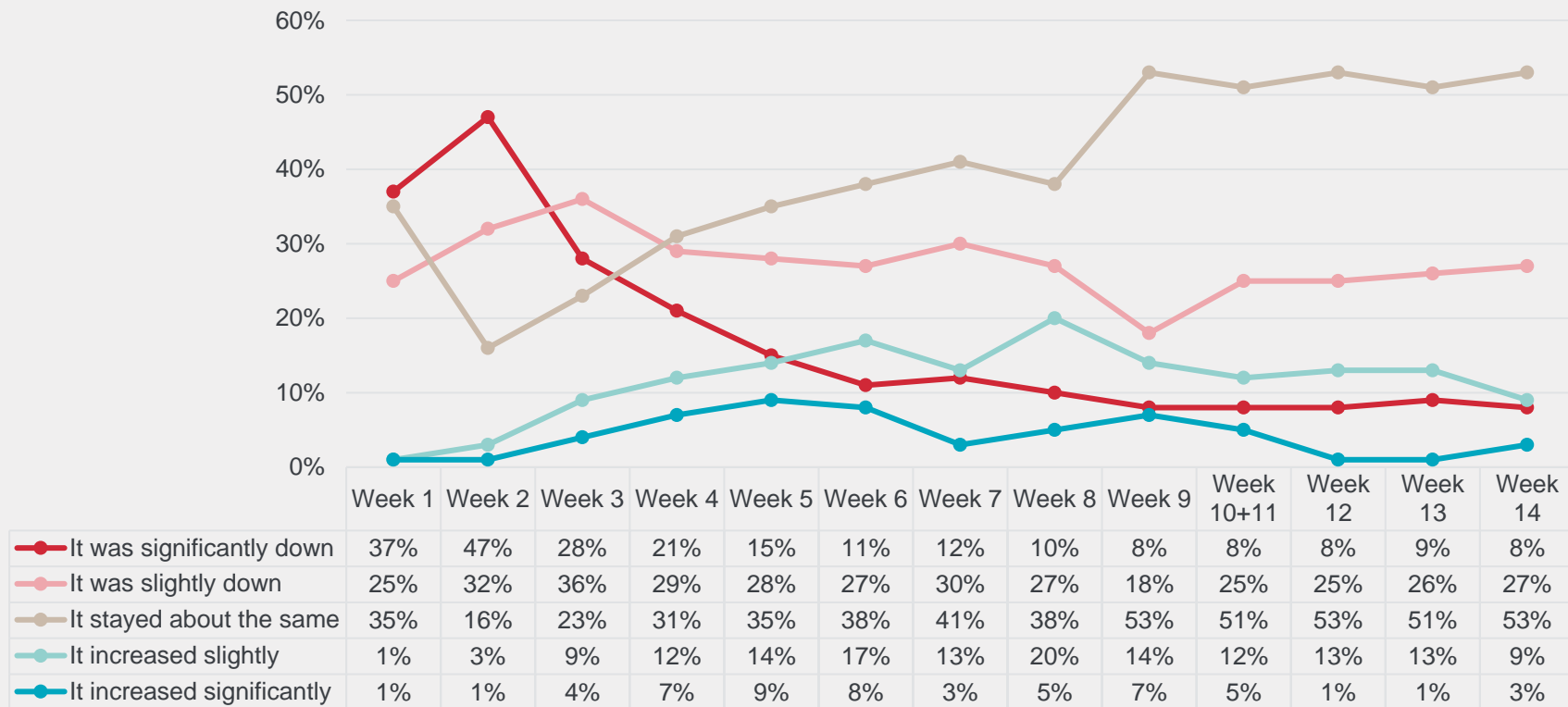


● Closed/unavailable to all congregants and staff	16%	13%	16%	13%	20%								5%	4%	3%
● Open for staff only	63%	53%	63%	72%	67%								22%	18%	21%
● Open for small gatherings or meetings only	10%	18%	8%	7%	7%								18%	21%	22%
● We are open to provide crisis services to our community	8%	11%	11%	5%	5%								1%	2%	2%
● Open for normal use, with some precautions in place	3%	5%	2%	3%	2%								52%	54%	52%
● Open for normal use, with no precautions in place	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%								2%	1%	1%

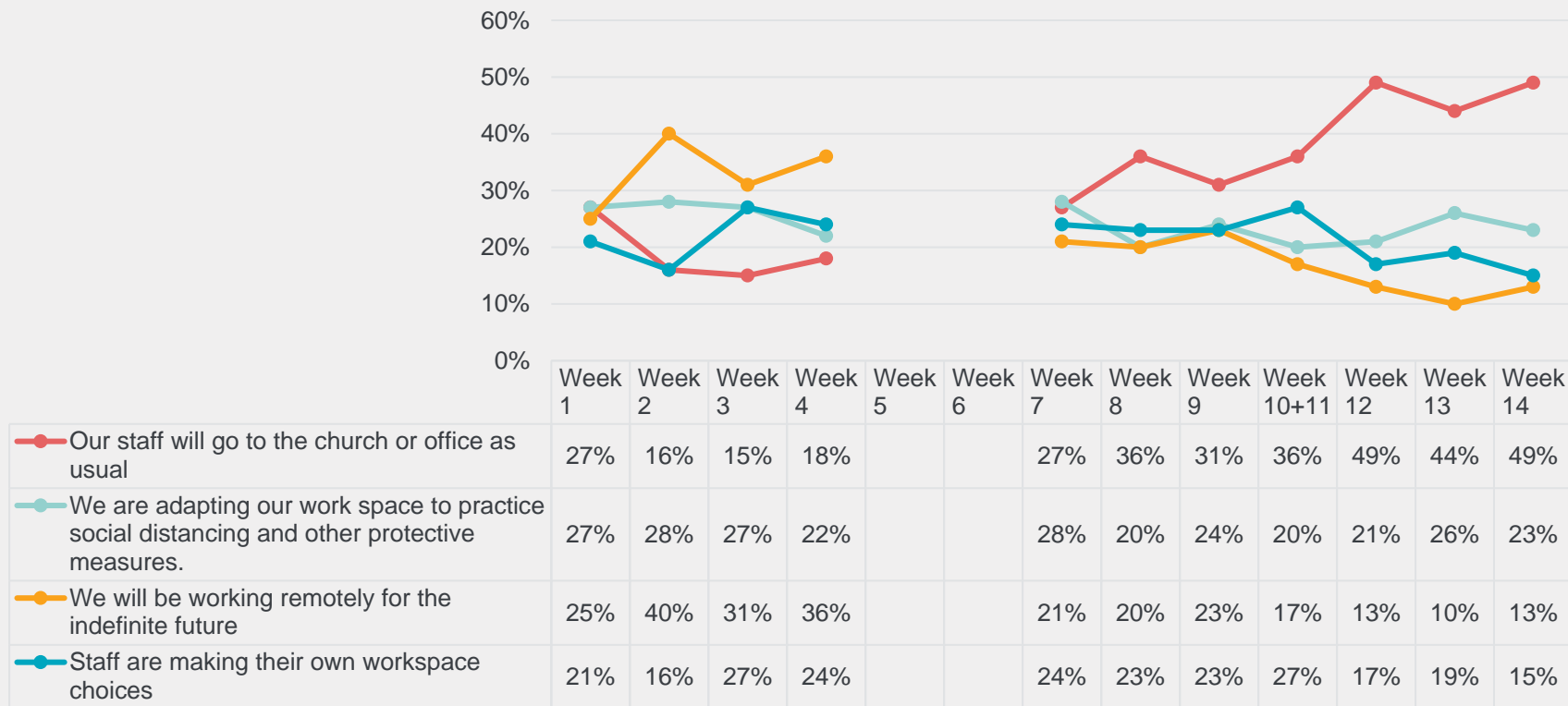
Last week, how did online participation compare to typical (in person) Sunday attendance?



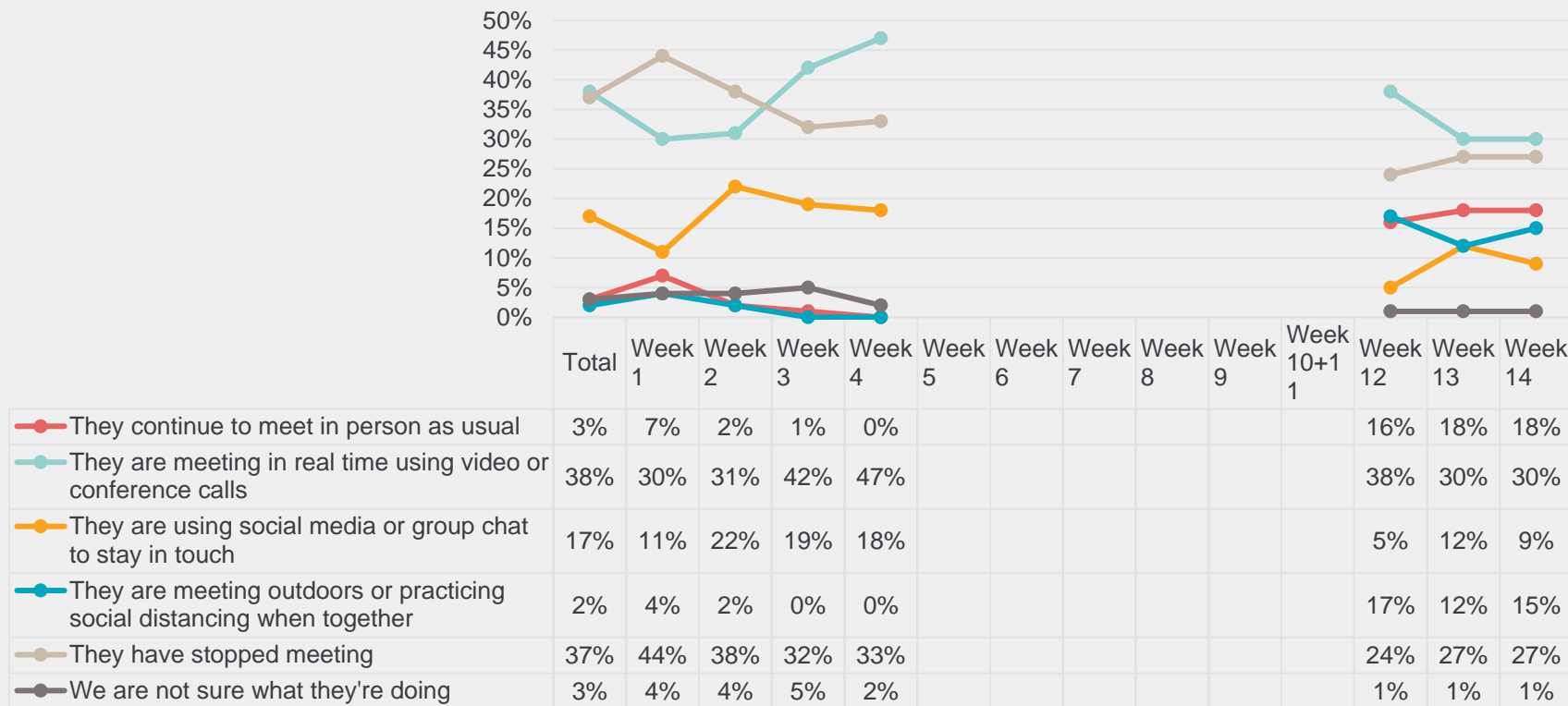
What happened with financial giving last weekend?



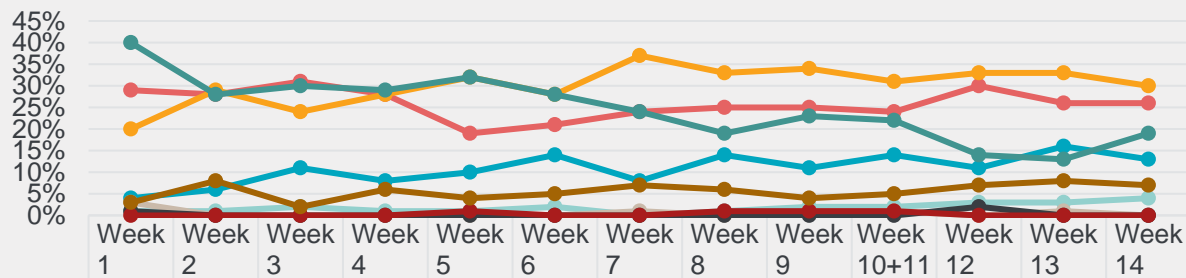
In the next week, what will work look like for your staff?



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

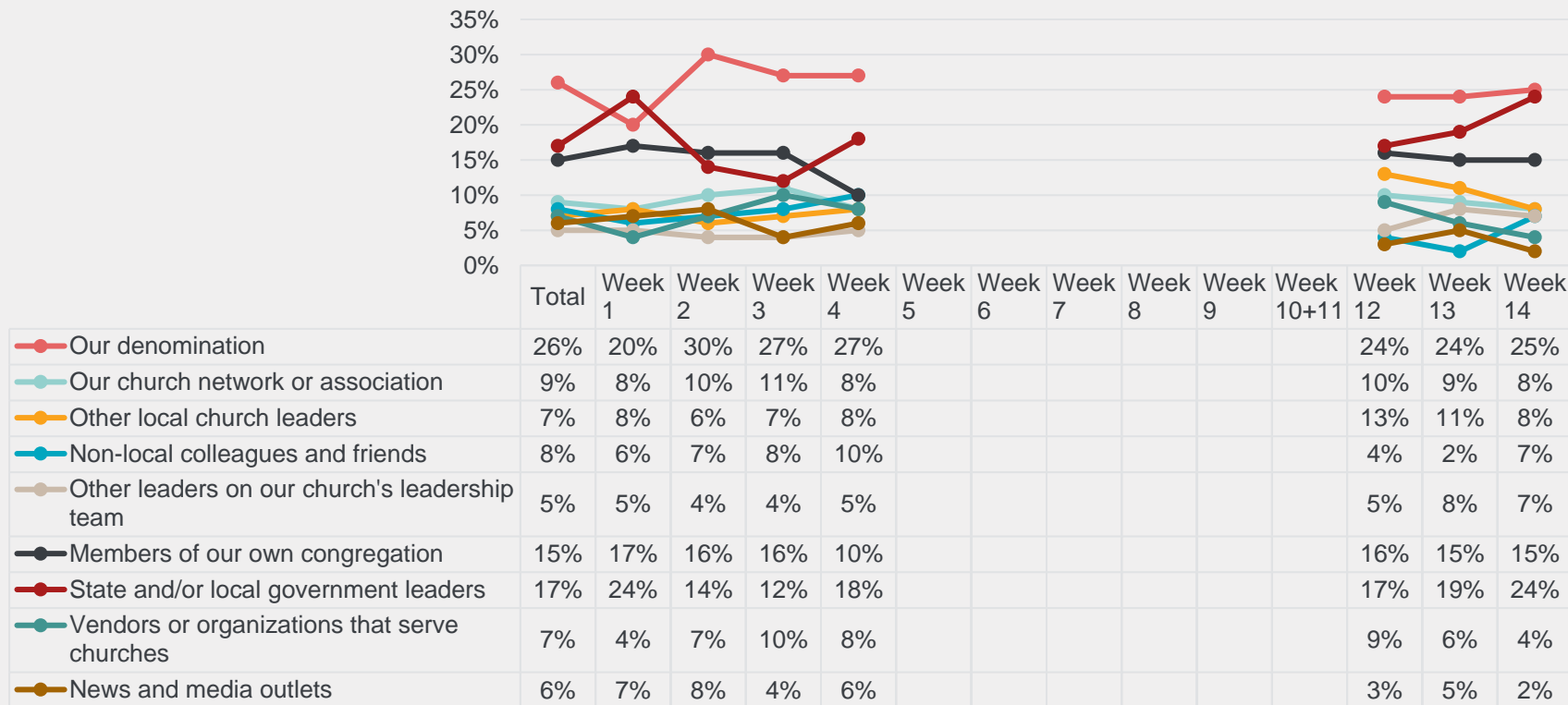


What is the primary way your church is serving your local community?

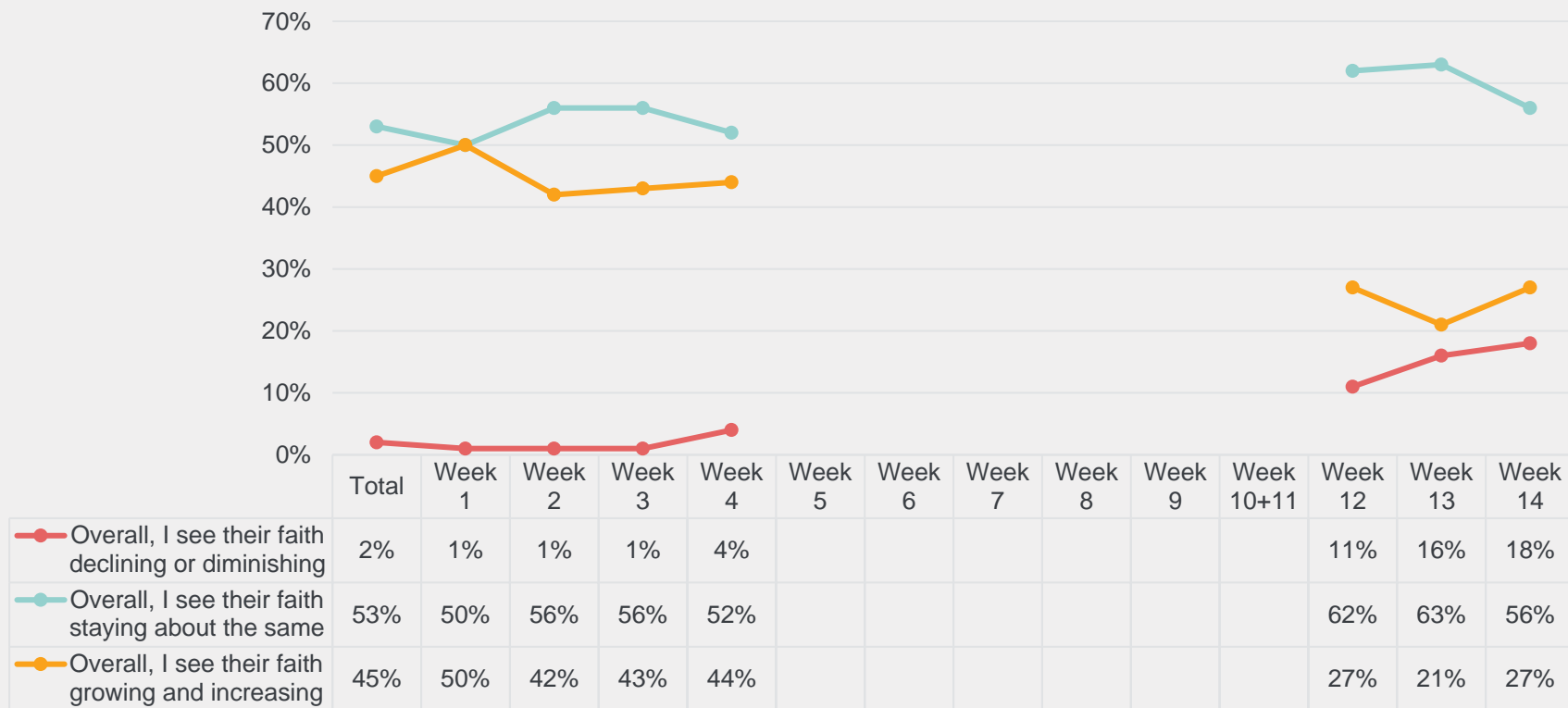


● We do not have an official / organized church response at this time	29%	28%	31%	28%	19%	21%	24%	25%	25%	24%	30%	26%	26%
● Providing childcare for those who need it	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%
● Helping distribute food and supplies	20%	29%	24%	28%	32%	28%	37%	33%	34%	31%	33%	33%	30%
● Providing financial resources to those who are struggling	4%	6%	11%	8%	10%	14%	8%	14%	11%	14%	11%	16%	13%
● Provide housing and resources for students who may be 'stranded'	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
● Cleaning schools and other community buildings to help mitigate risks	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
● Making our church available as a COVID-19 testing site	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
● Reaching out to elderly, isolated and at risk community members	40%	28%	30%	29%	32%	28%	24%	19%	23%	22%	14%	13%	19%
● Other	3%	8%	2%	6%	4%	5%	7%	6%	4%	5%	7%	8%	7%

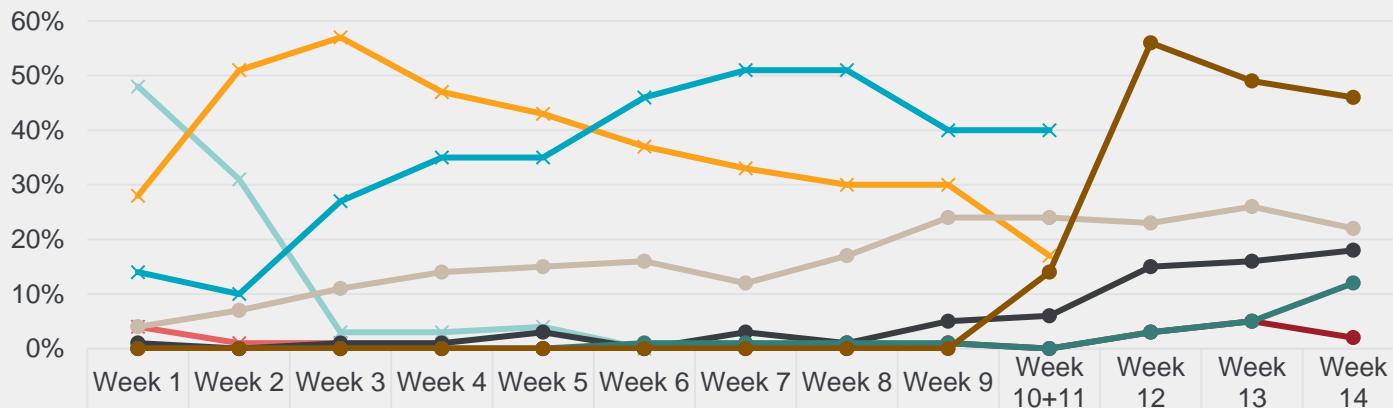
Who is providing you with the most help in terms of information, tools and resources to deal with this crisis?



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

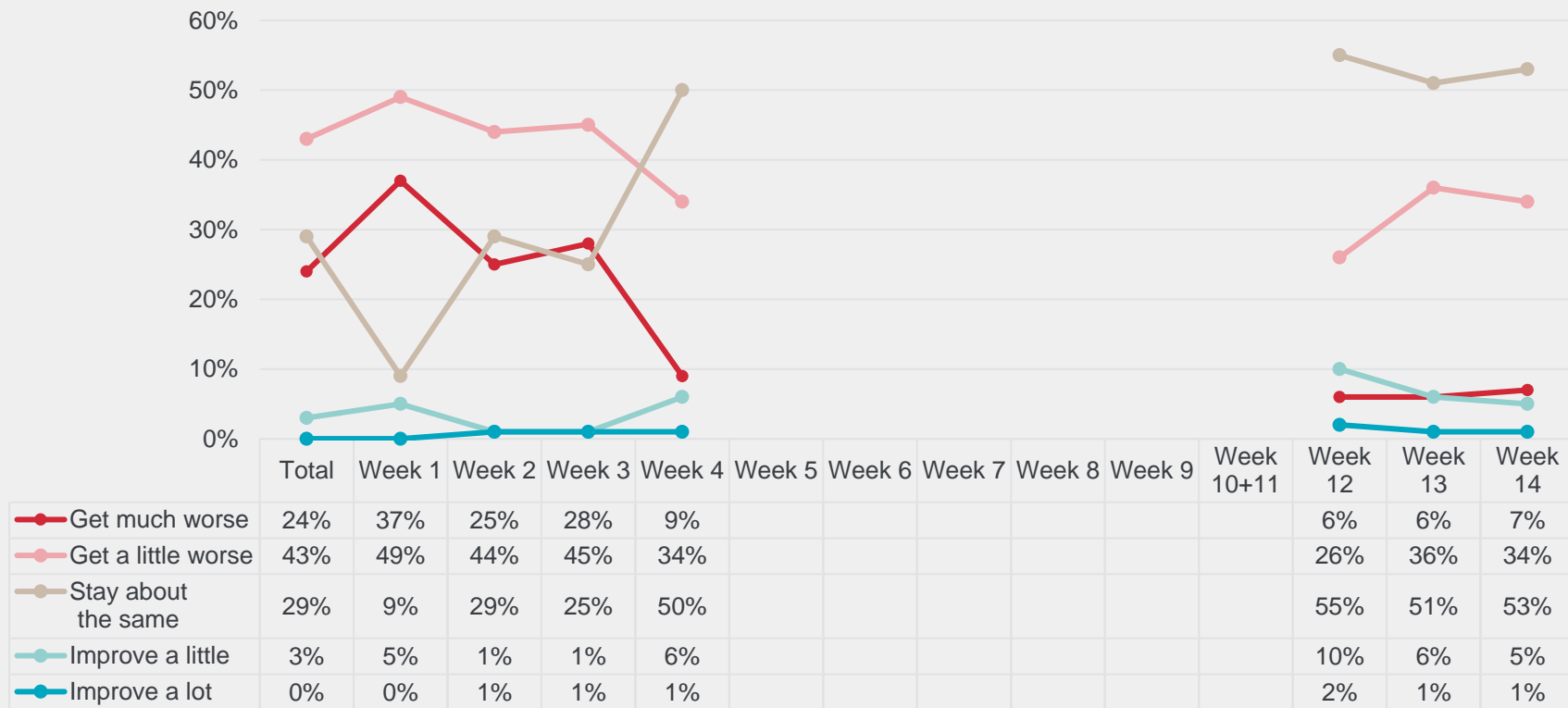


As of today, when do think you'll be able to host church services again in your usual building / location(s)?

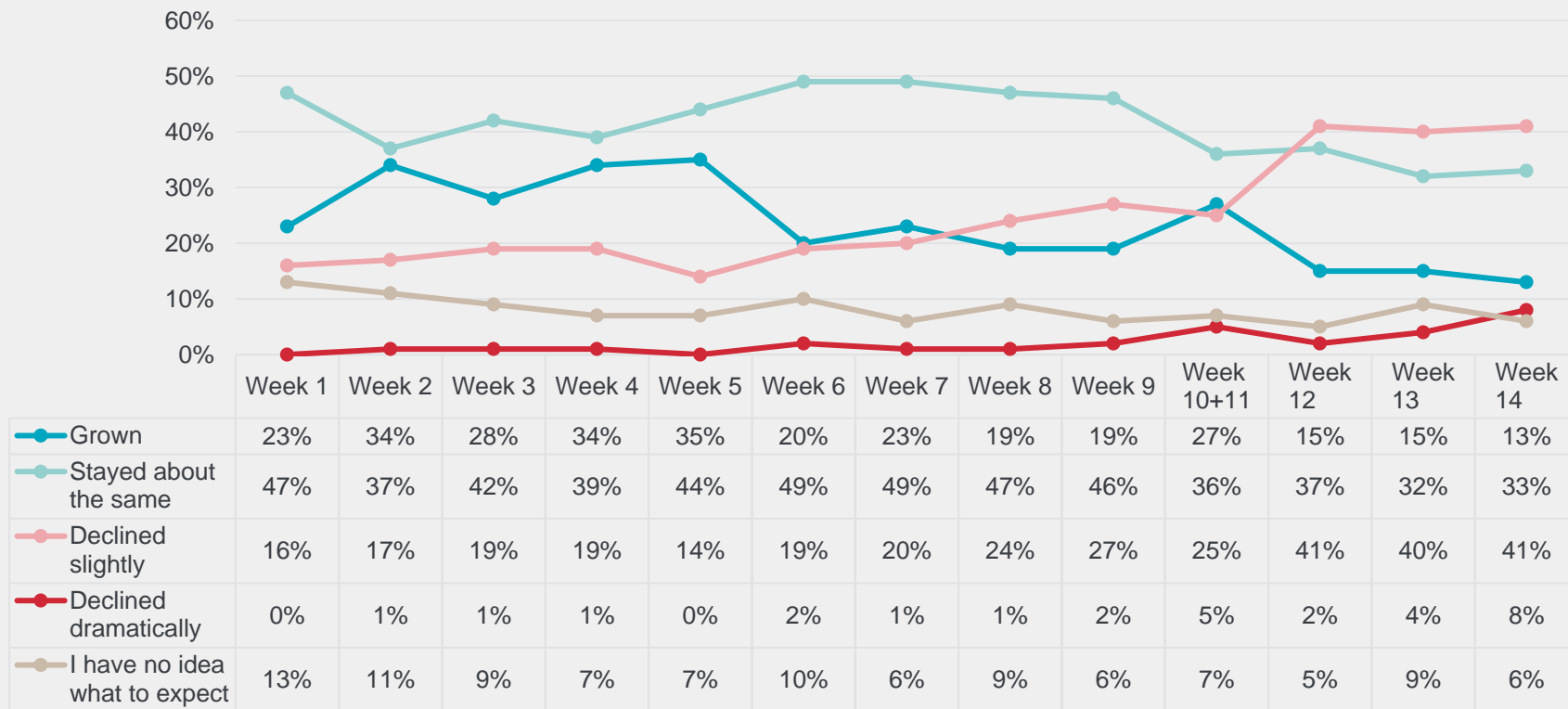


End of March	4%	1%	1%										
April	48%	31%	3%	3%	4%	0%							
May	28%	51%	57%	47%	43%	37%	33%	30%	30%	17%			
June	14%	10%	27%	35%	35%	46%	51%	51%	40%	40%			
July / Aug	4%	7%	11%	14%	15%	16%	12%	17%	24%	24%	23%	26%	22%
Sept / Oct	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	0%	3%	1%	5%	6%	15%	16%	18%
Nov / Dec	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	3%	5%	2%
Sometime next year	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	3%	5%	12%
We are already doing this	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	14%	56%	49%	46%

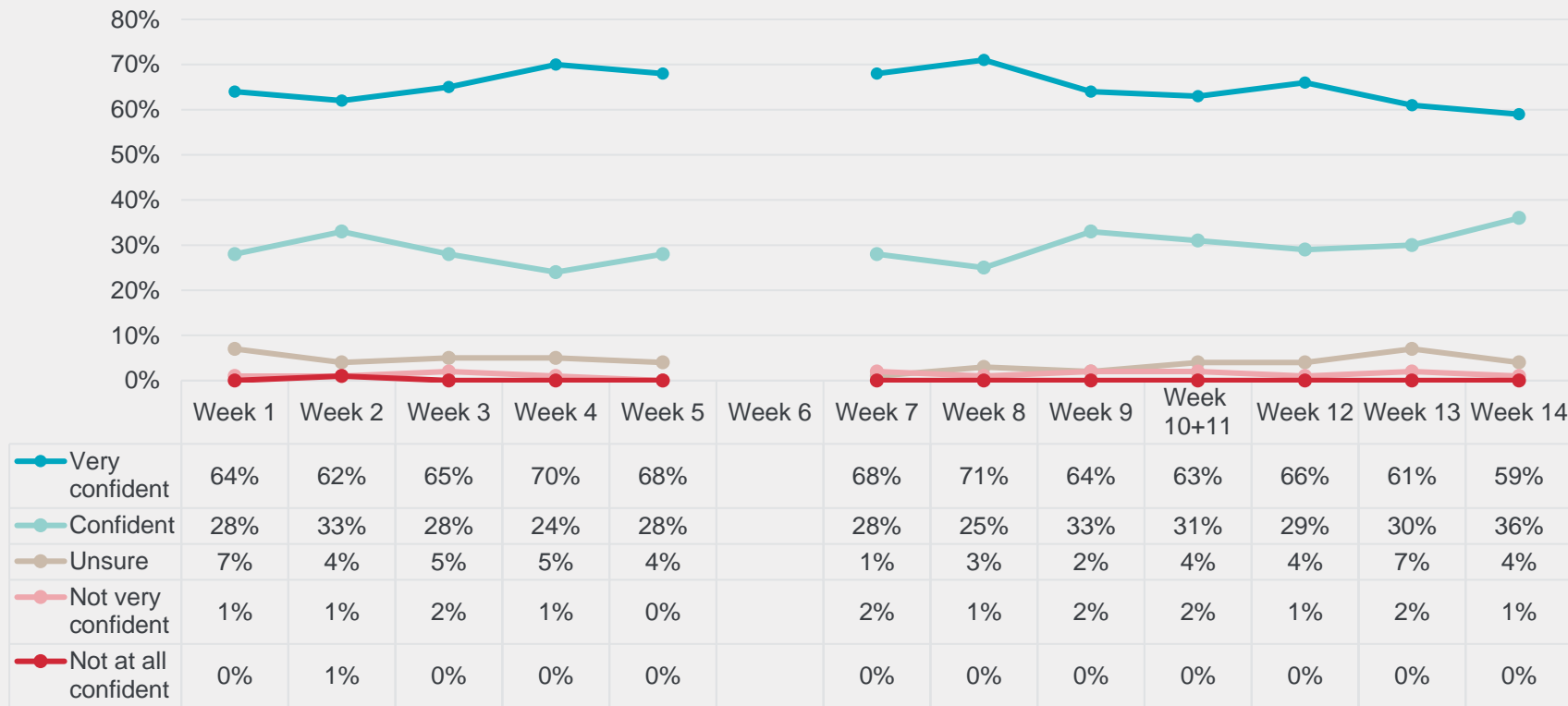
In the next week, I expect disruptions related to the coronavirus will...



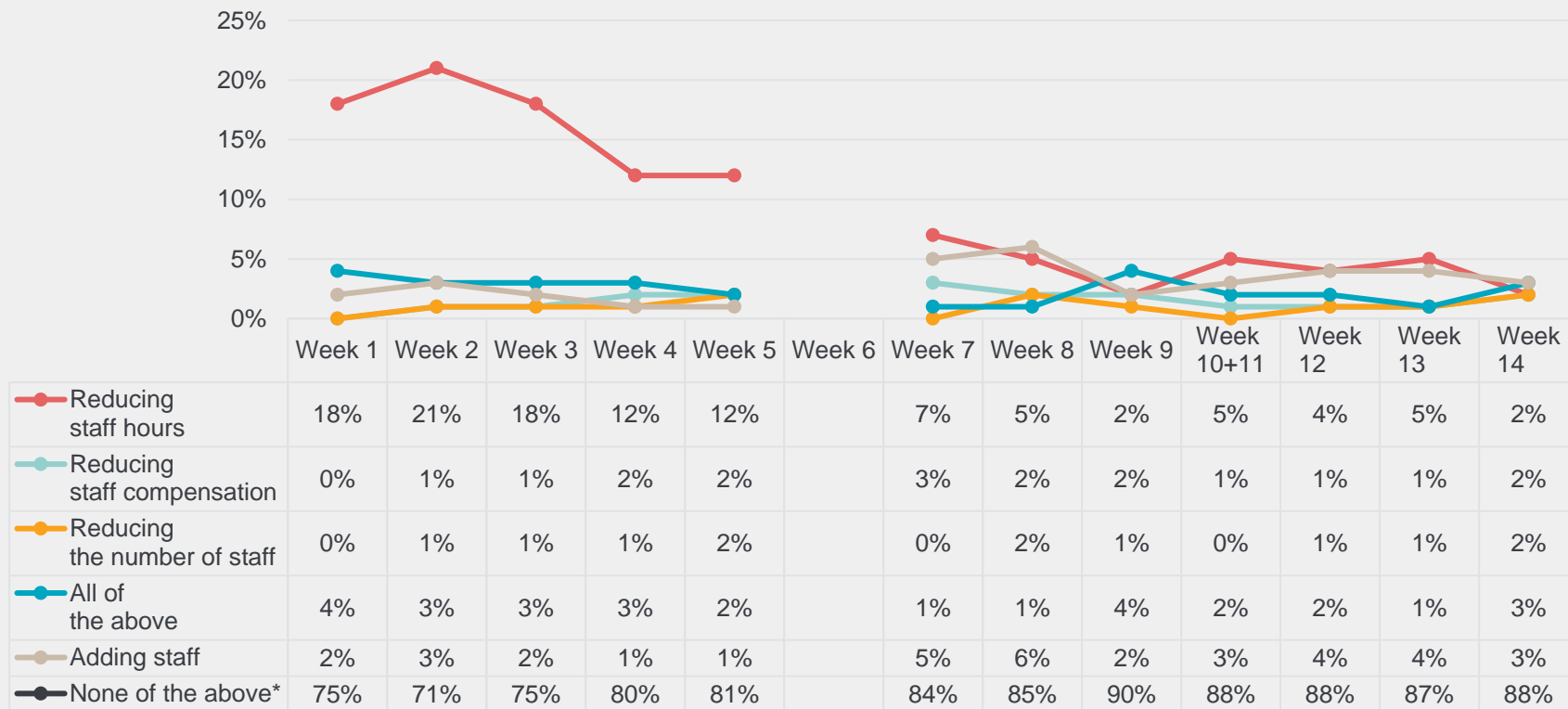
Once this crisis has resolved, I expect our church attendance will have . . .



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



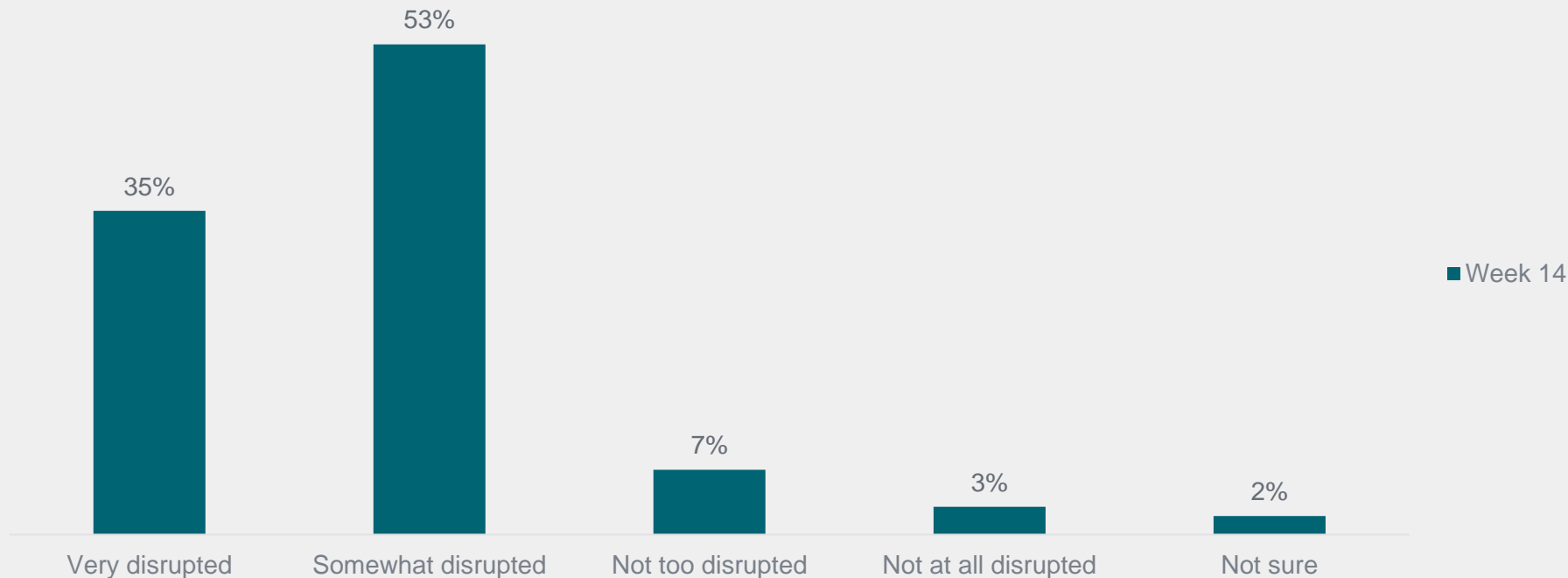
Which of the following describes your staffing decisions in the last week?



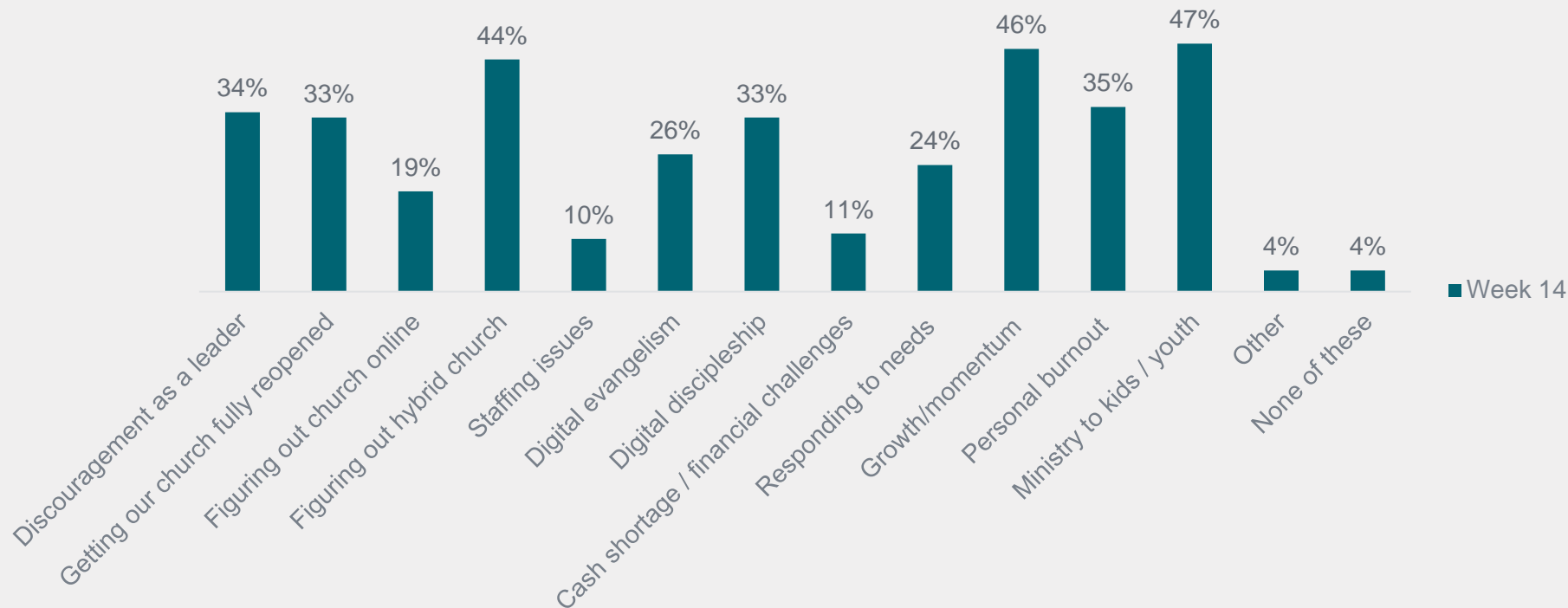
* Not shown in chart above.

Week 14

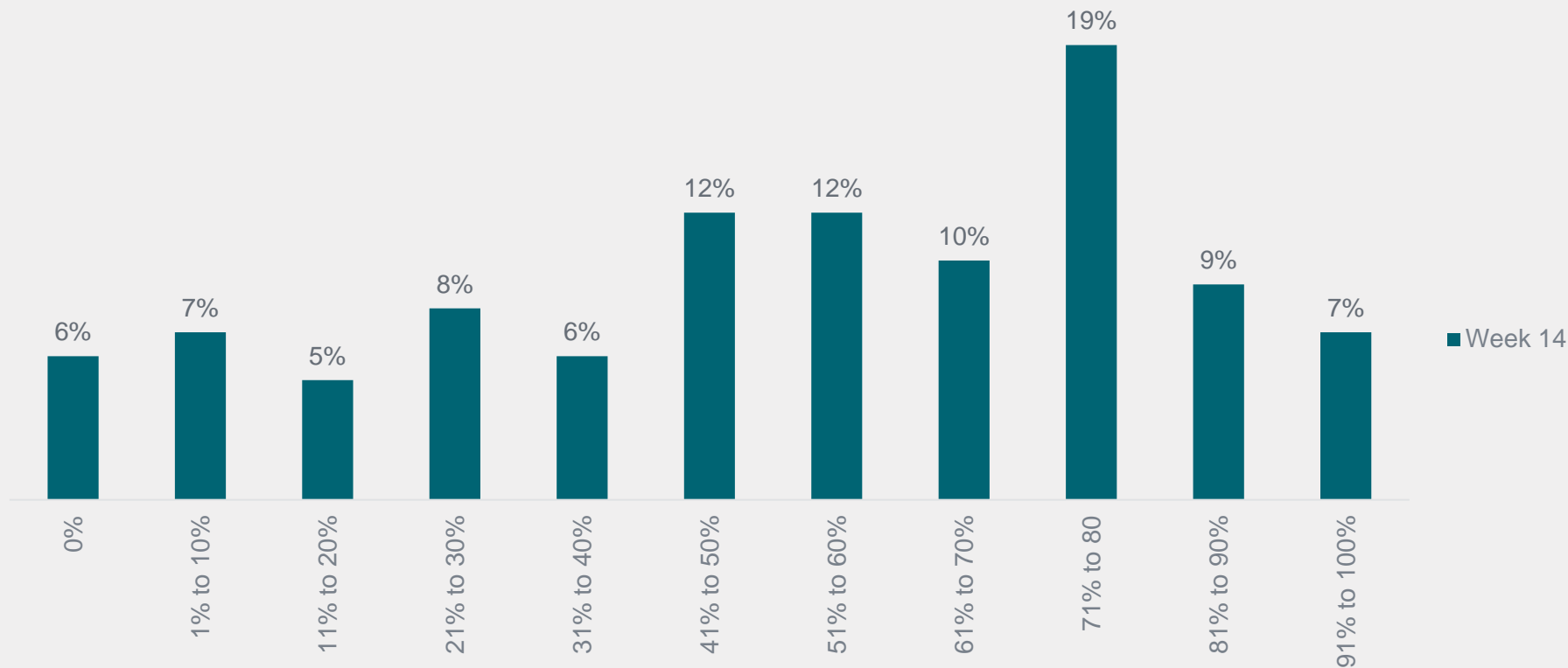
Thinking about upcoming fall activities, do you expect your evangelism and outreach efforts to be disrupted this fall or not?



What's the biggest challenges you're facing right now?

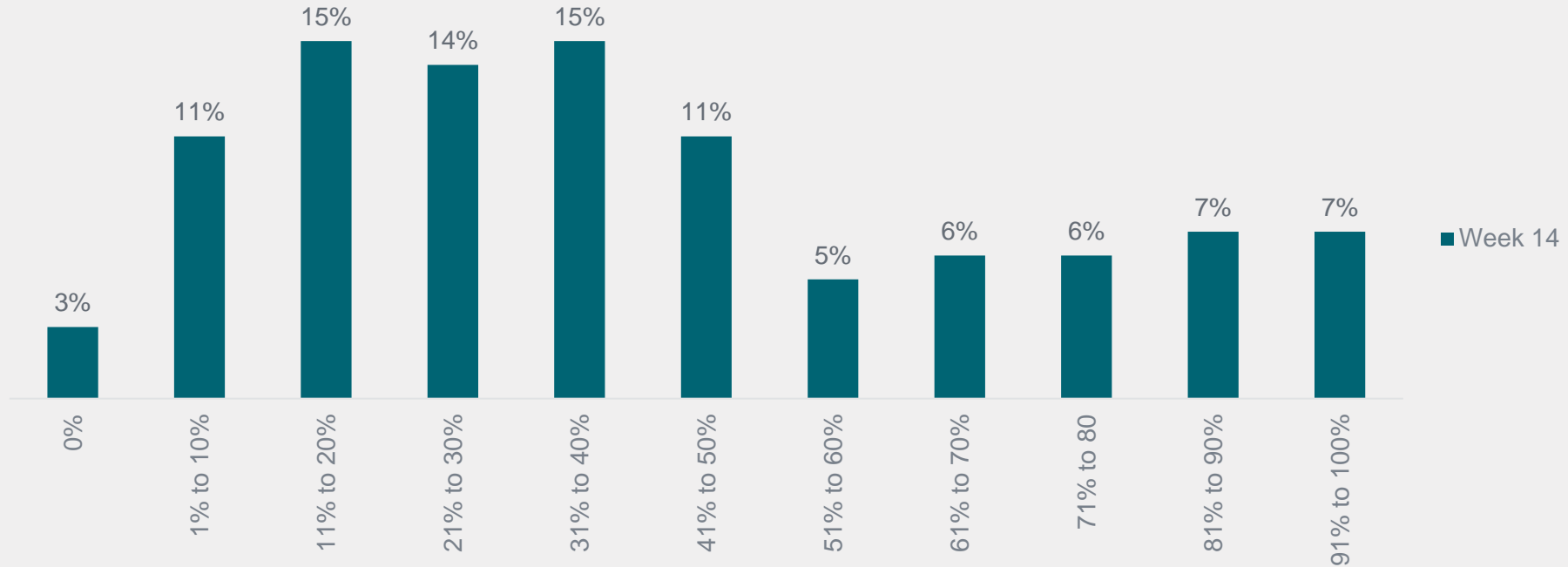


Moving forward in the next 60 days, what percentage (%) of your time do you expect to devote to focusing on in-person church services?



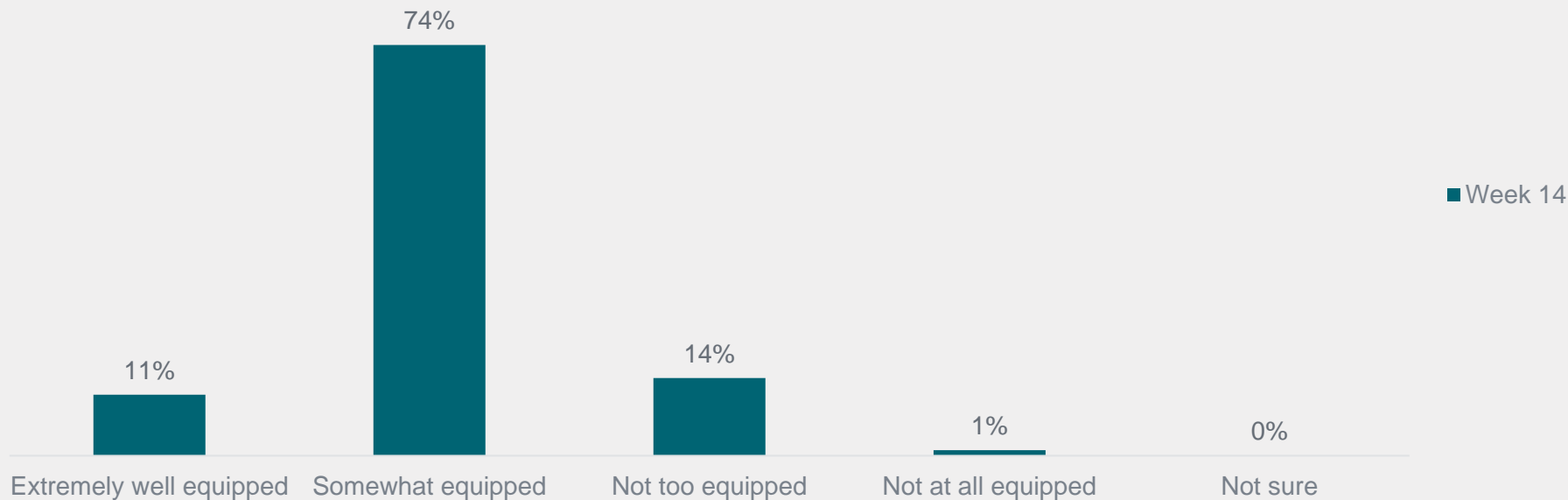
Question: Moving forward in the next 60 days, what percentage (%) of your time do you expect to devote to in-person church versus online church? Total percentage should add up to 100% % focus on in-person

Moving forward in the next 60 days, what percentage (%) of your time do you expect to devote to focusing on online church services?

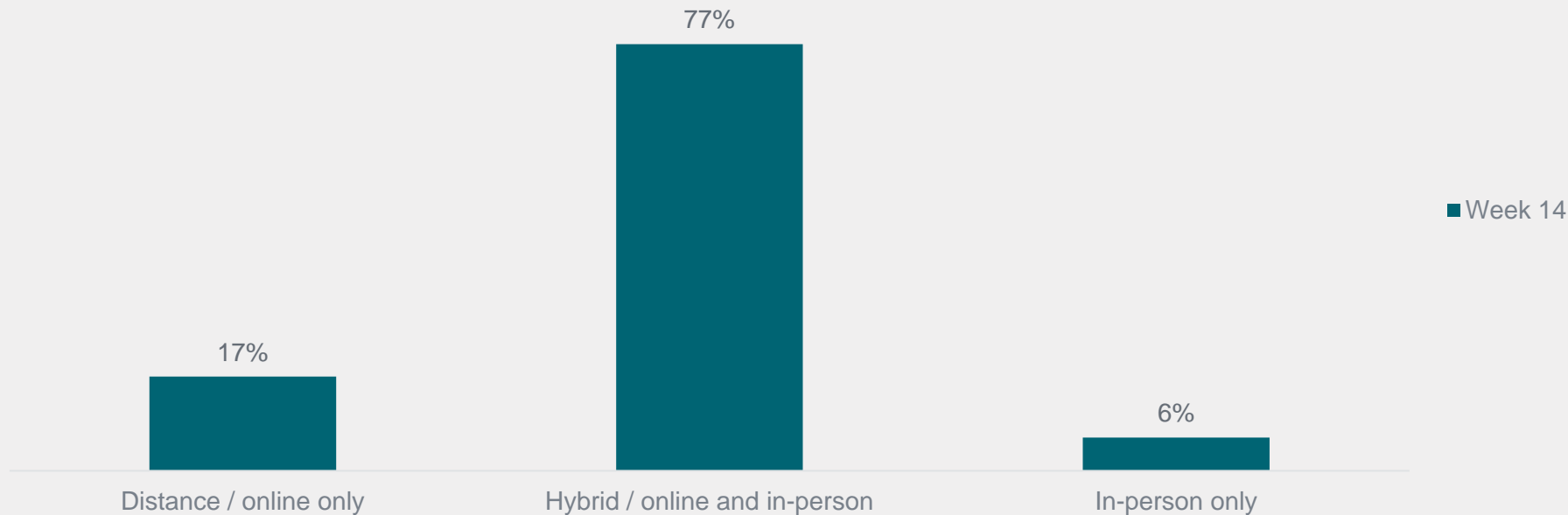


Question: Moving forward in the next 60 days, what percentage (%) of your time do you expect to devote to in-person church versus online church? Total percentage should add up to 100% % focus on online services

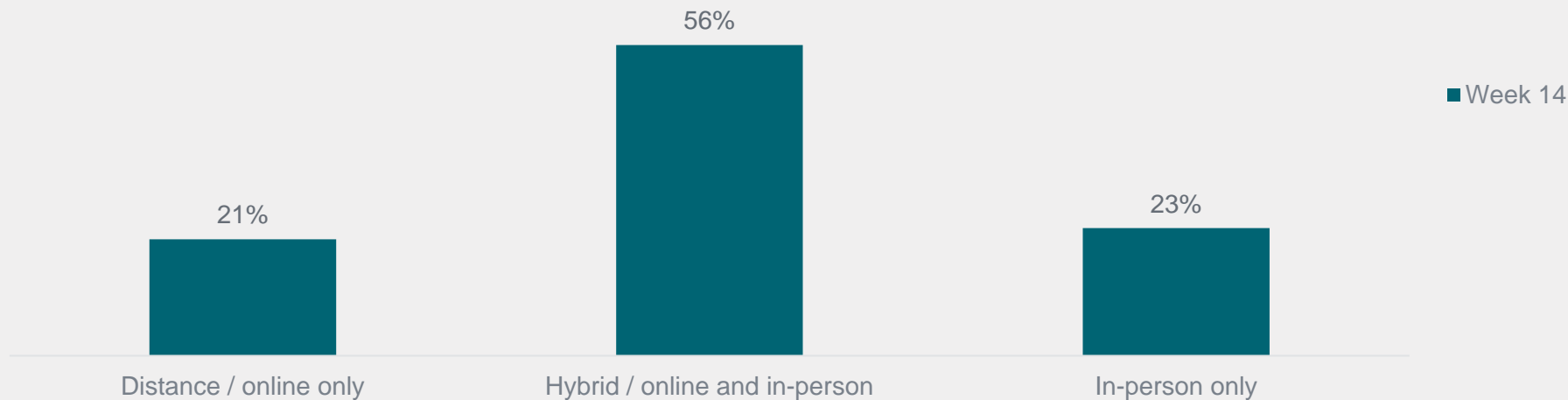
How well equipped do you feel to face the challenges ahead for you and your church for the rest of 2020?



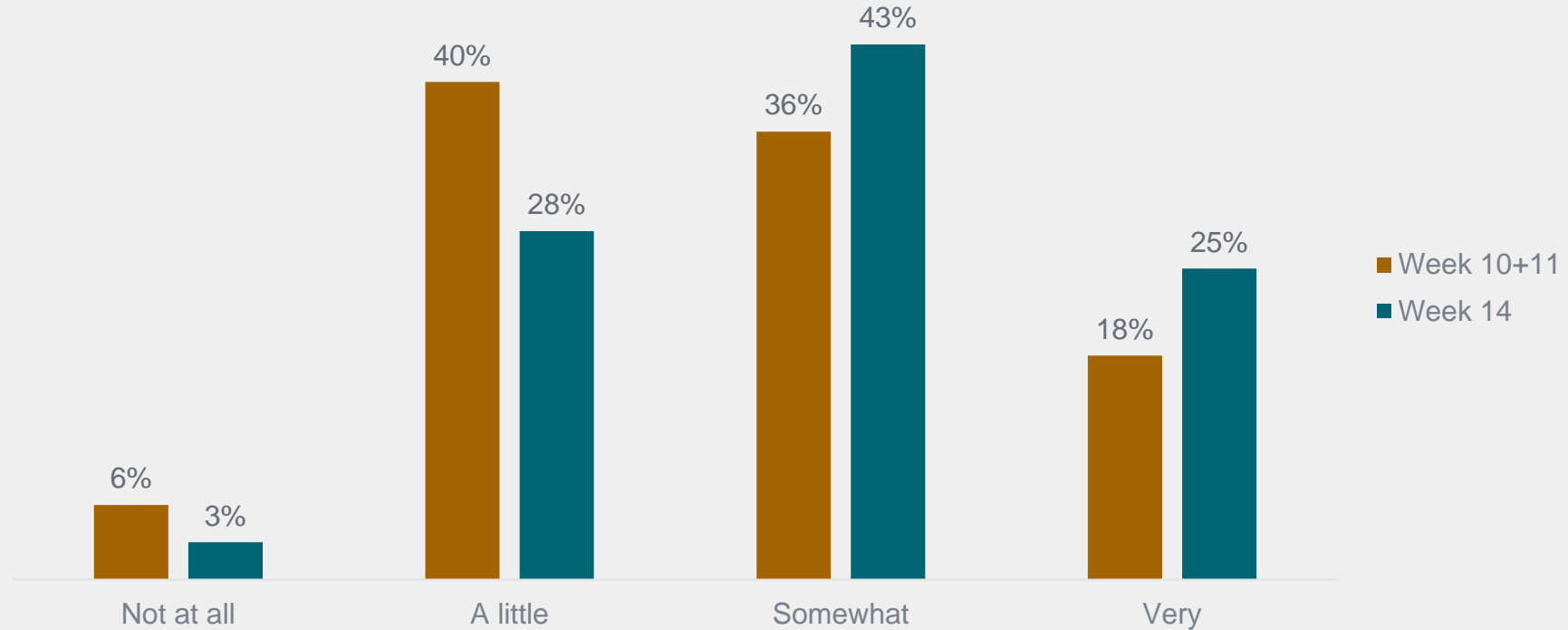
What are the local public school districts in your area doing?



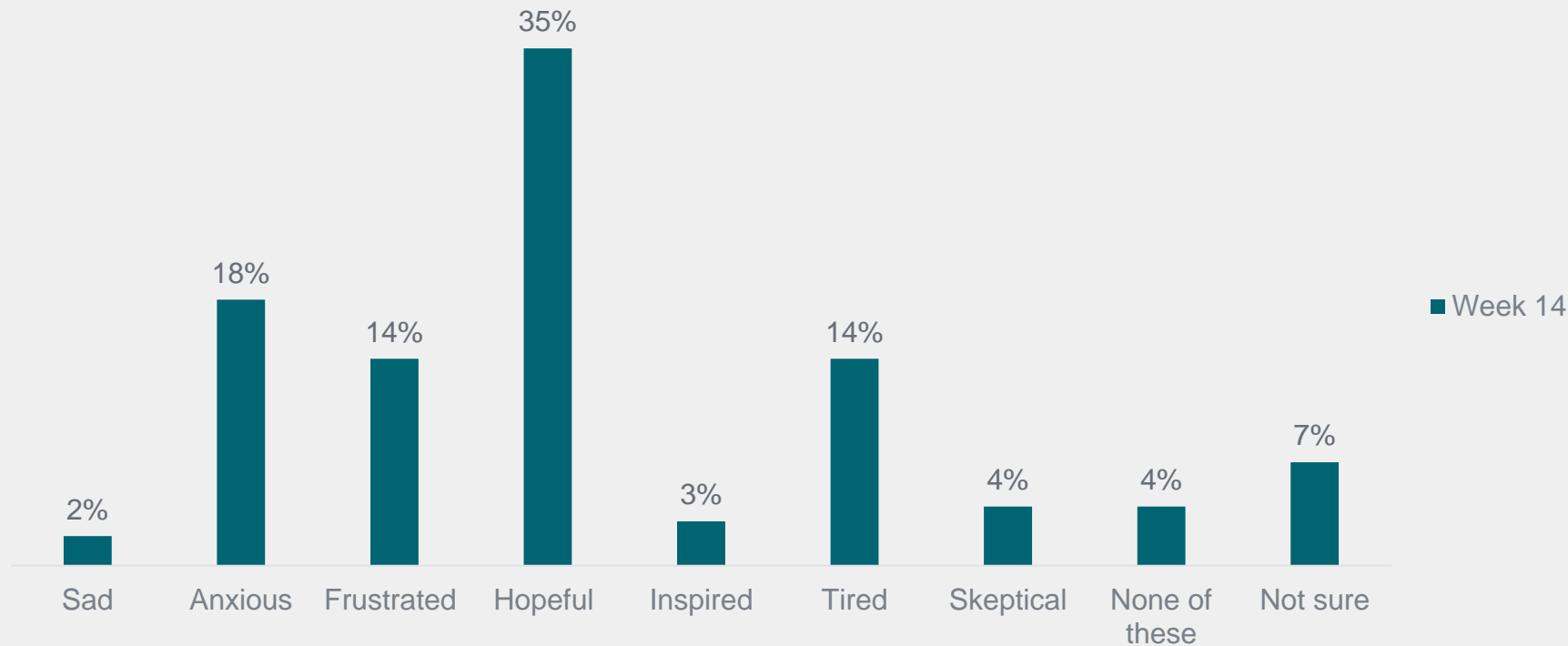
Do you expect your ministry to kids and youth this fall to be:



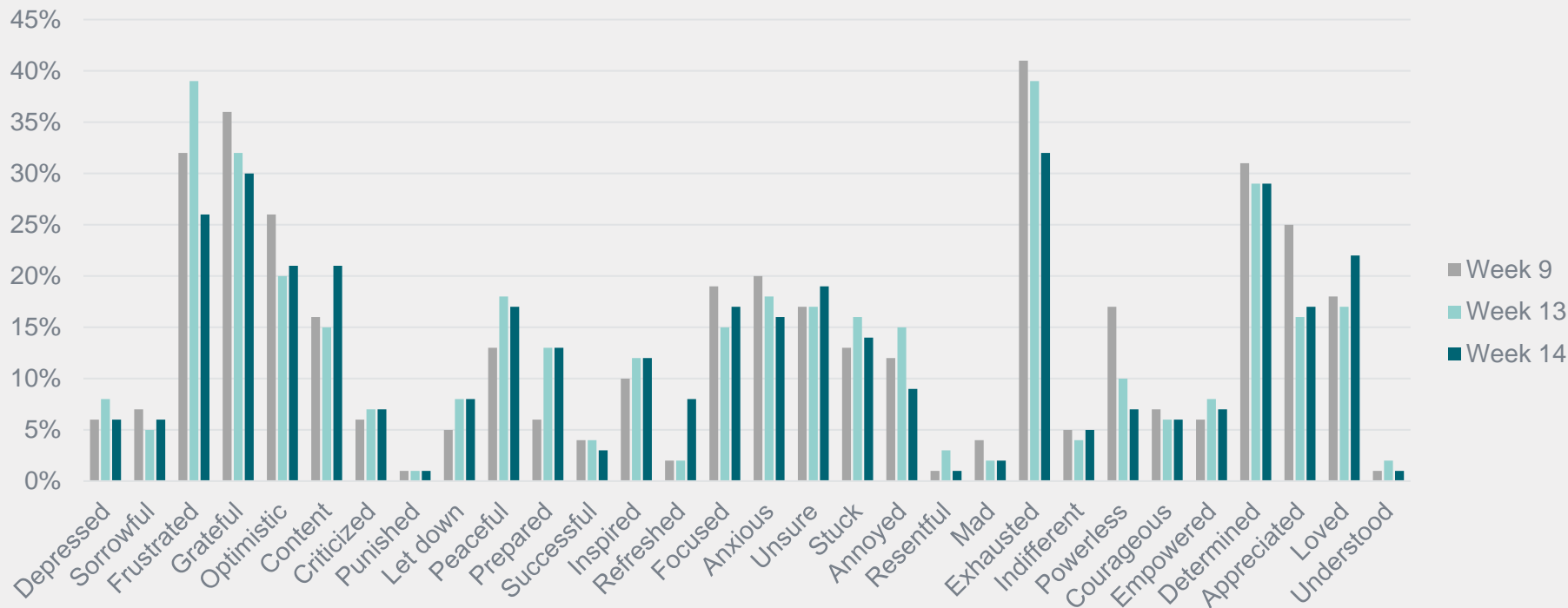
Based on everything you have seen and heard from people in your church, how overwhelmed are parents right now, if at all?



Which of the following best describes the emotional state of your congregation?



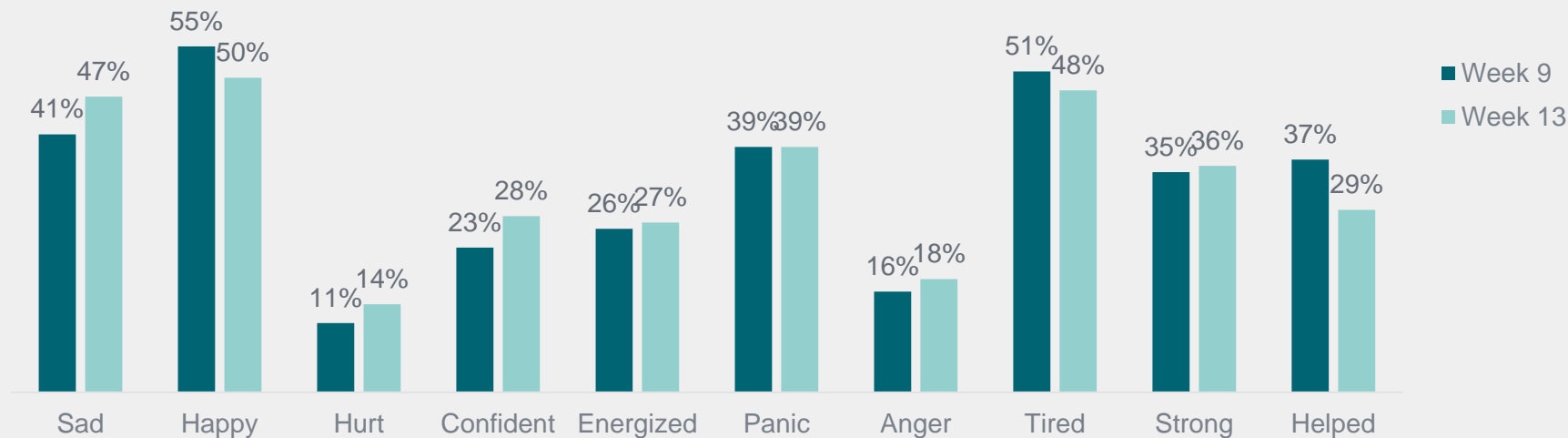
What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?



What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?

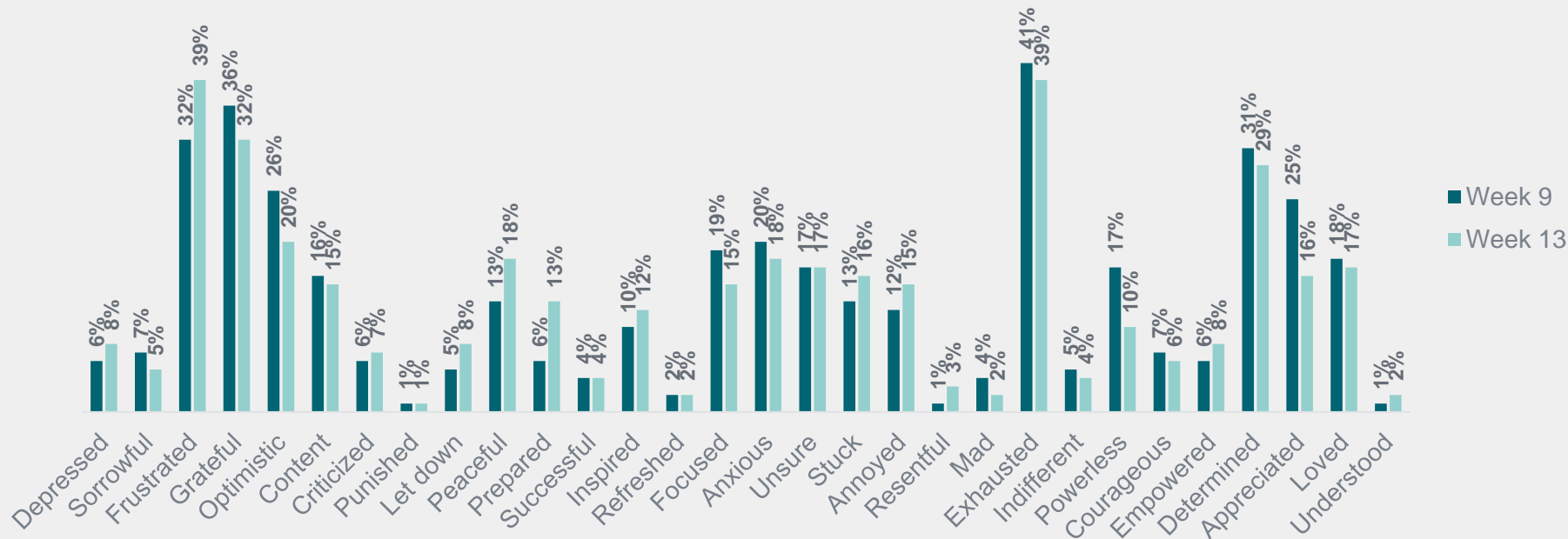
Collapsed Groups

these labels were not presented to the respondent



Week 13

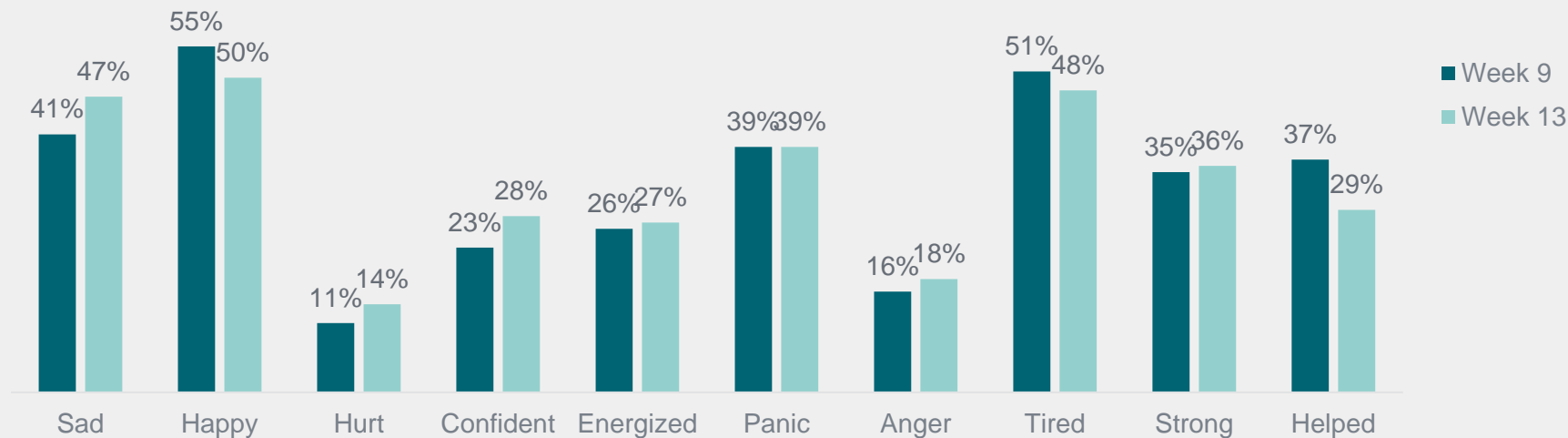
What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?



What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?

Collapsed Groups

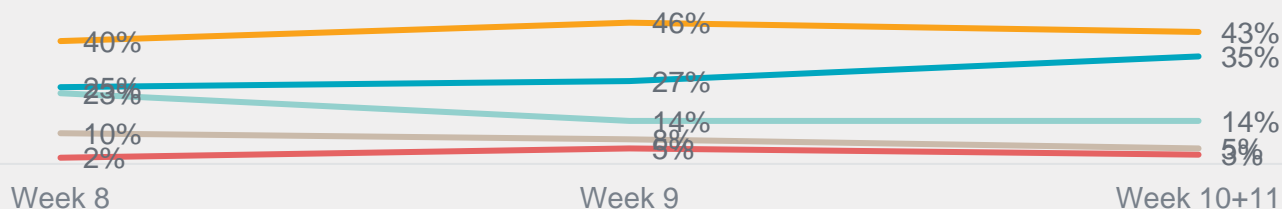
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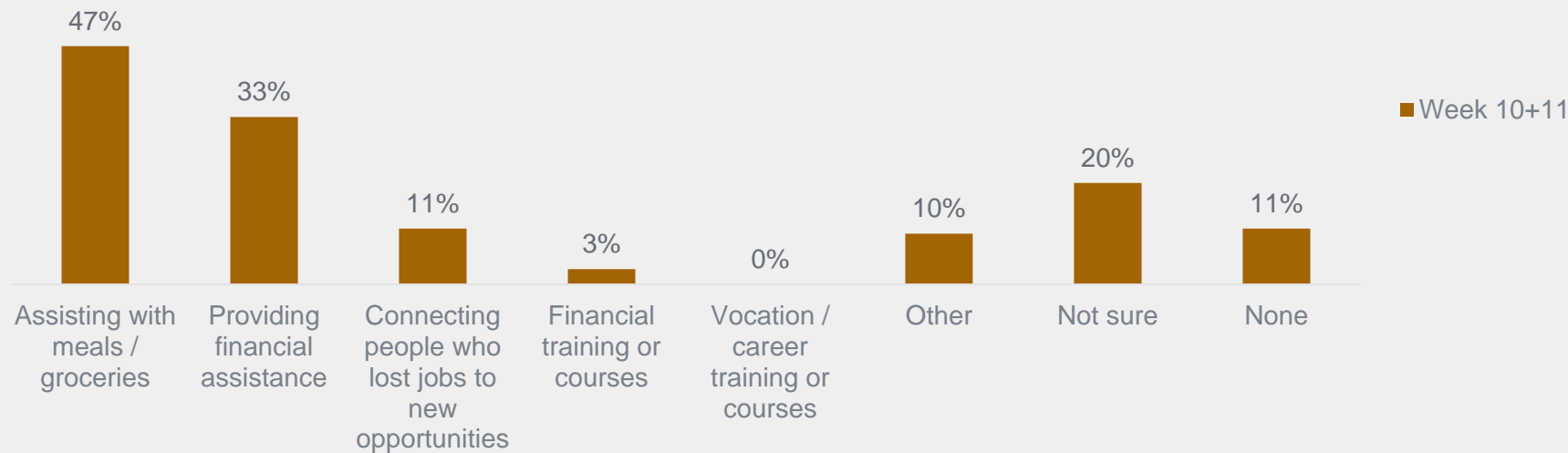
Week 10 + 11 Questions

How did last week's giving compare to typical (in-person) Sunday giving?

- It was much higher (up more than 20%)
- It was somewhat higher (up 1-20%)
- It was about the same (similar to an average pre-COVID-19 week)
- It was somewhat less (down 1-20%)
- It was much less (down more than 20%)

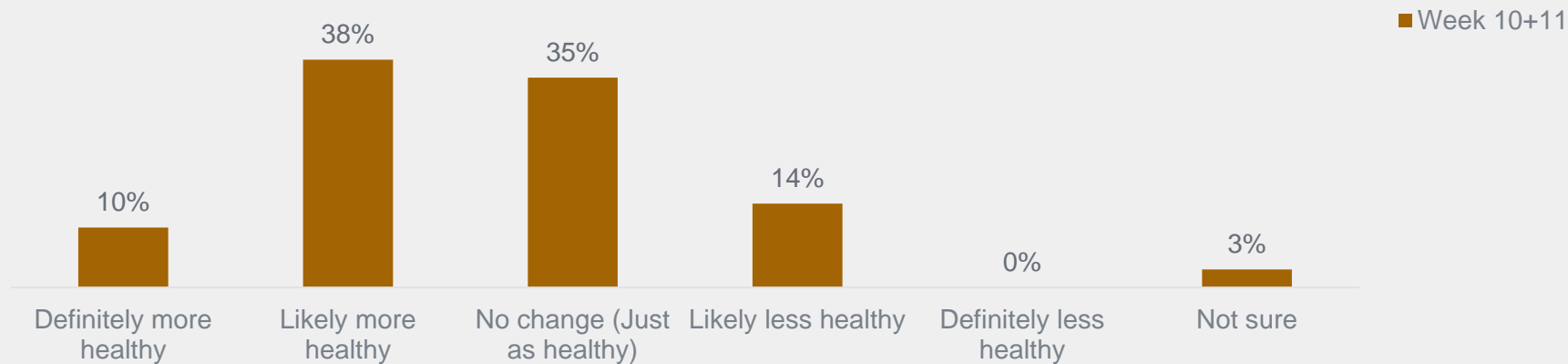


In what ways, if any, has your church been able to address the rise in unemployment in your community?



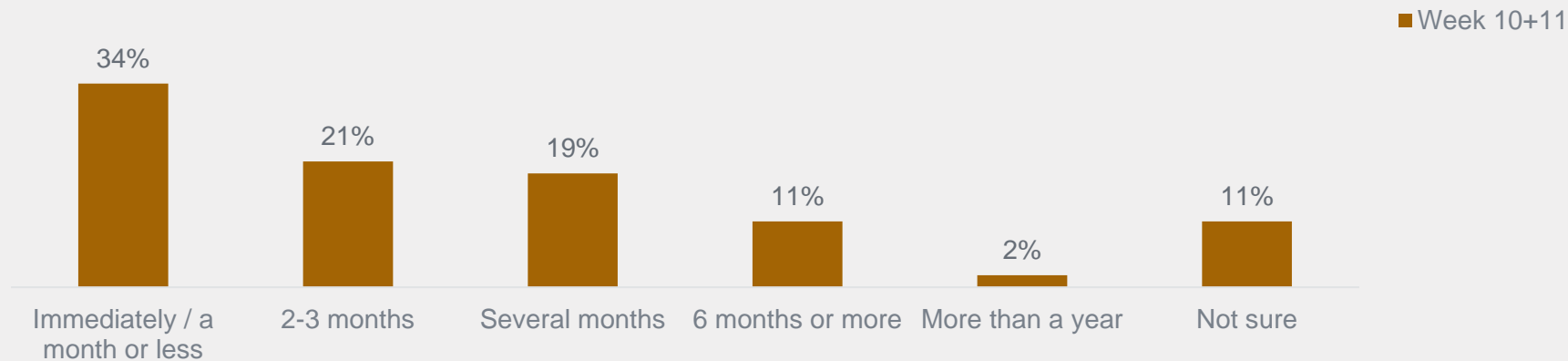
Question: In what ways, if any, has your church been able to address the rise in unemployment in your community? Select all that apply.

How healthy (e.g., strong) do you think your church will be compared to before?

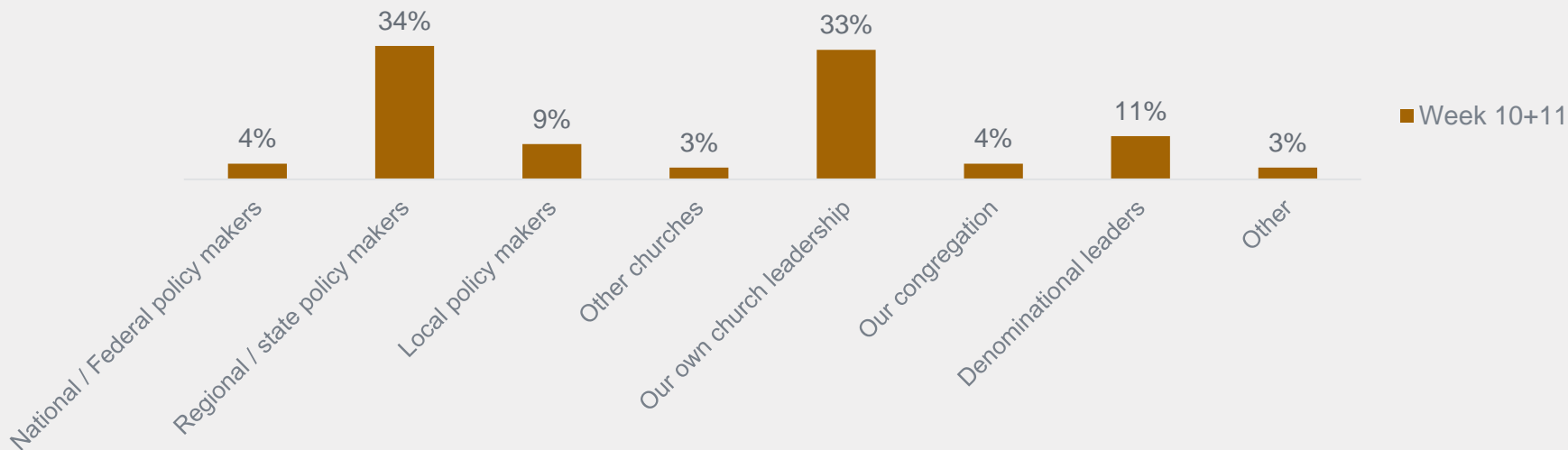


Question: As soon as social distancing guidelines related to COVID-19 are no longer in place and your church is able to meet again in-person, how healthy (e.g., strong) do you think your church will be compared to before?

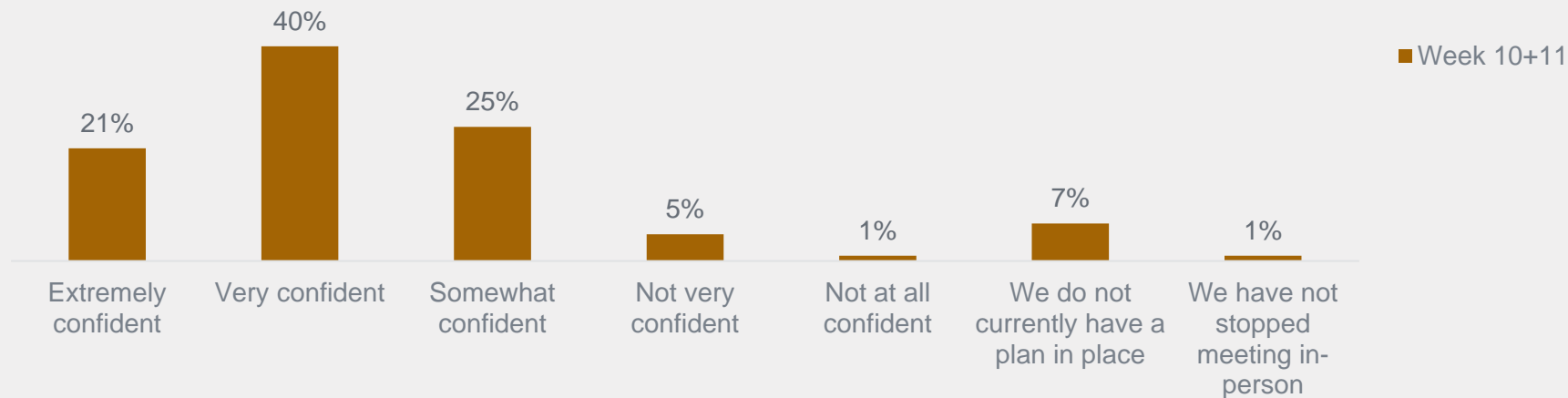
How long do you think it will take for your church to be just as healthy or as strong as it was before the COVID-19 crisis?



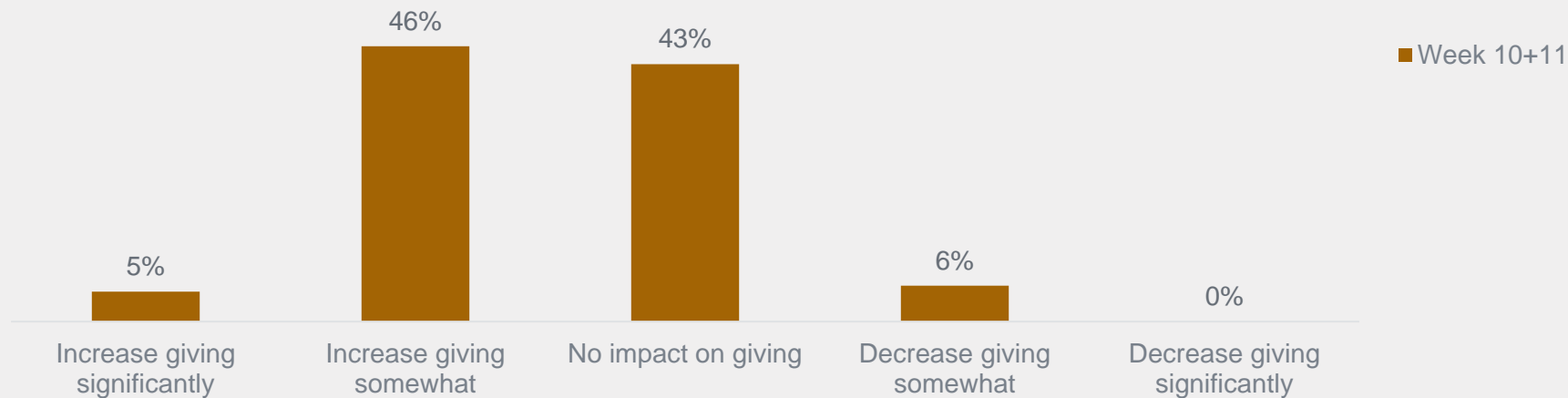
As your church considers plans for re-entry for worship services, which of the following has been most influential on your decisions?



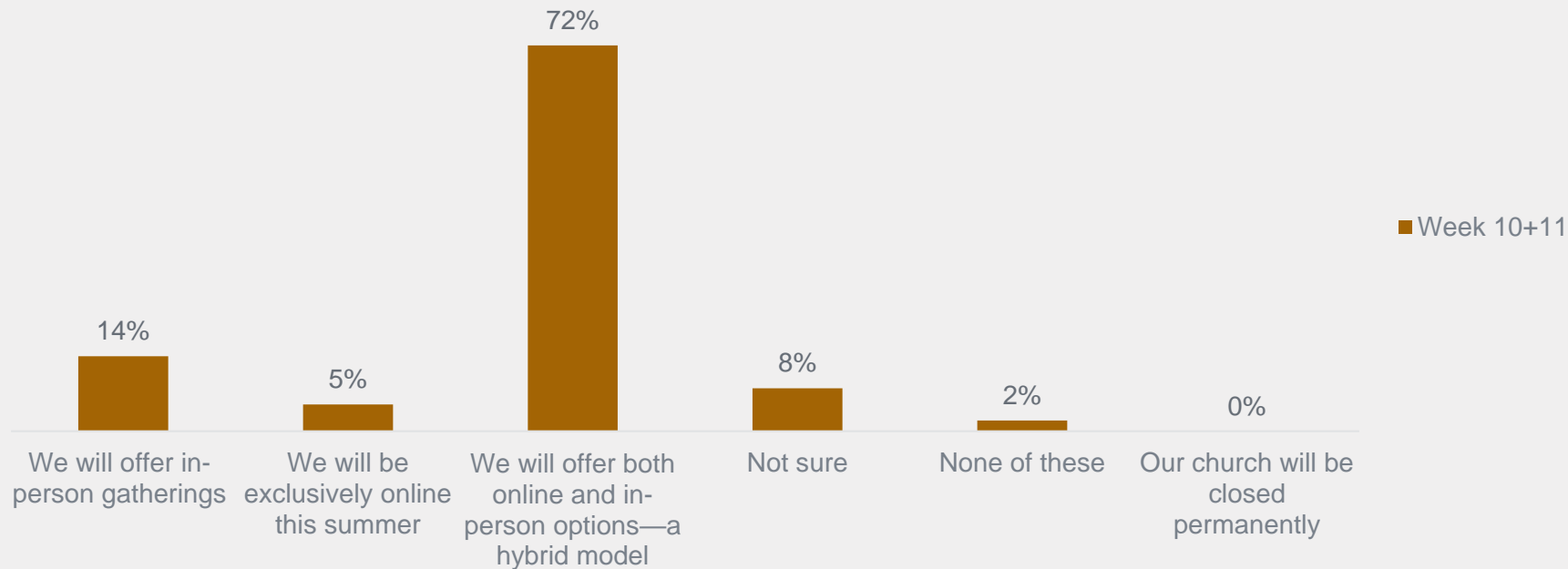
How confident are you in your church's plan for returning to in-person worship services?



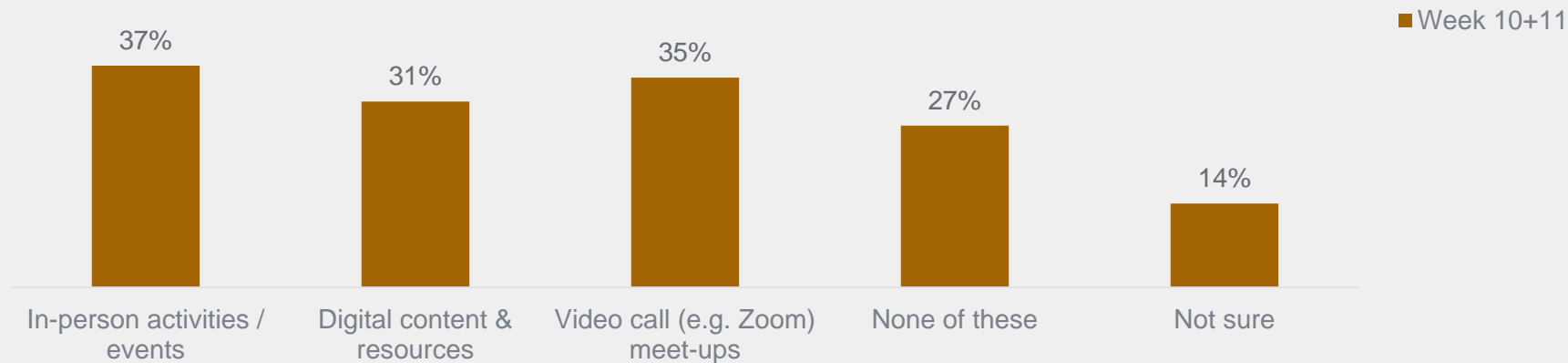
What impact do you think returning to in-person worship services will have on financial giving at your church?



What is your plan for church services this summer?

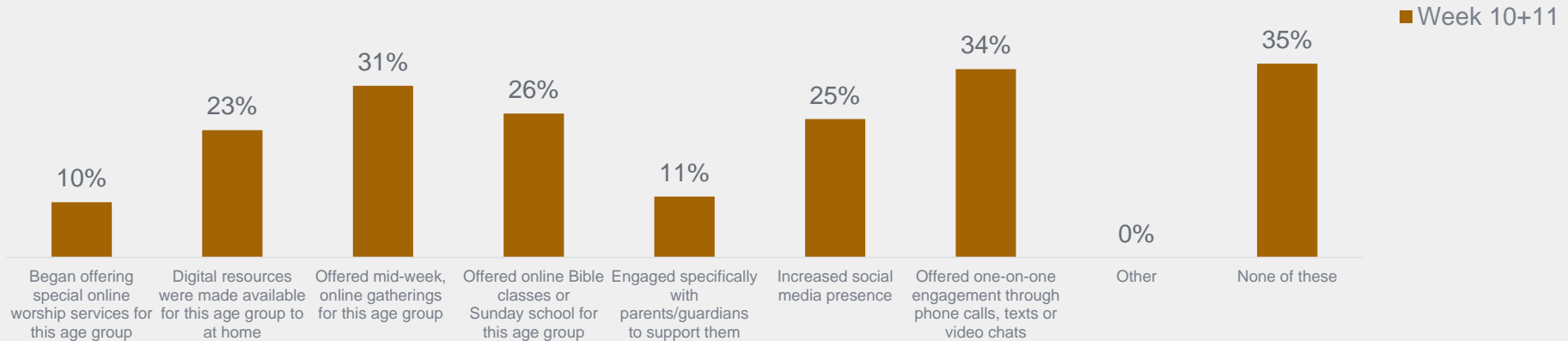


What is your church's plan for conducting youth ministry (junior high / high school) over the summer?



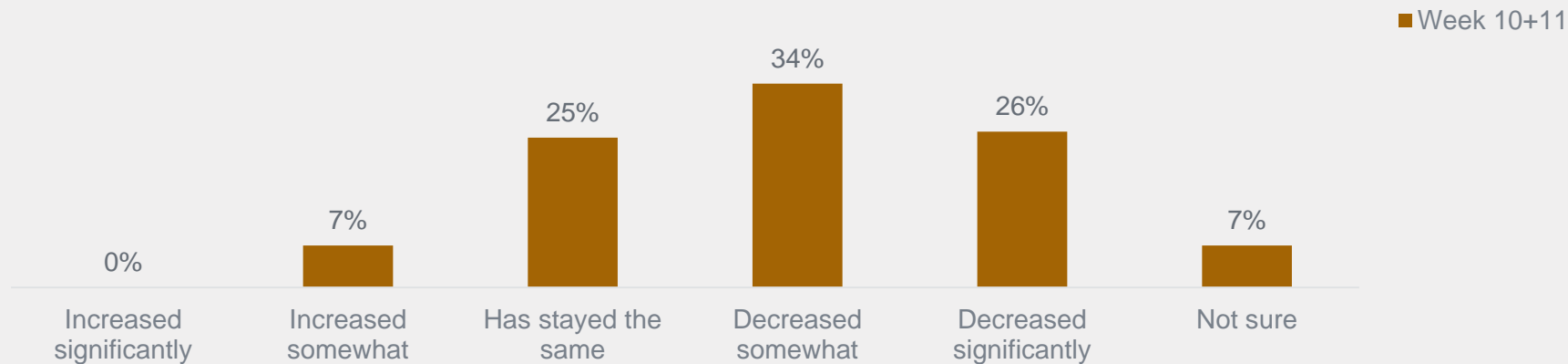
Question: What is your church's plan for conducting youth ministry (junior high / high school) over the summer? Select all that apply.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, how has youth ministry (junior high / high school) at your church changed, if at all?

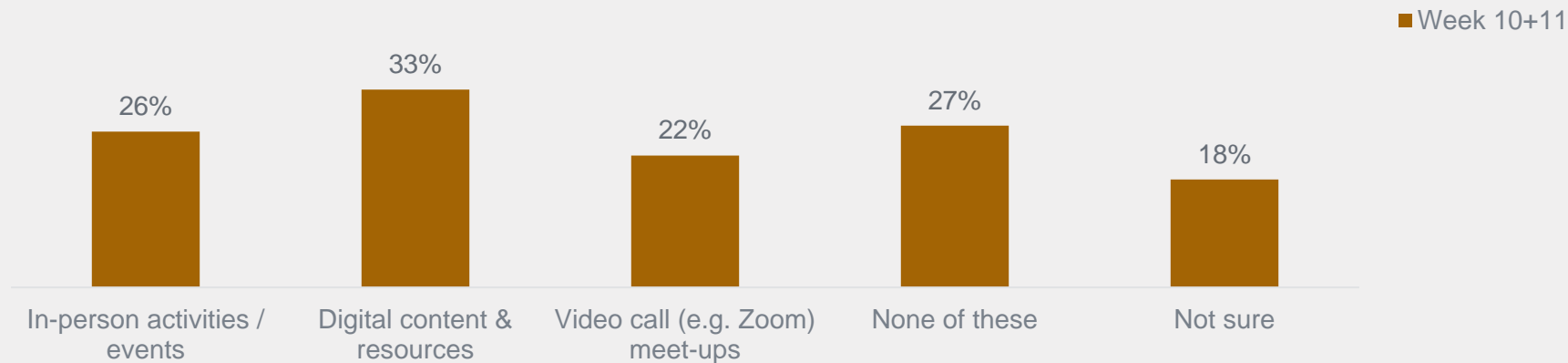


Question: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, how has youth ministry (junior high / high school) at your church changed, if at all? Select all that apply.

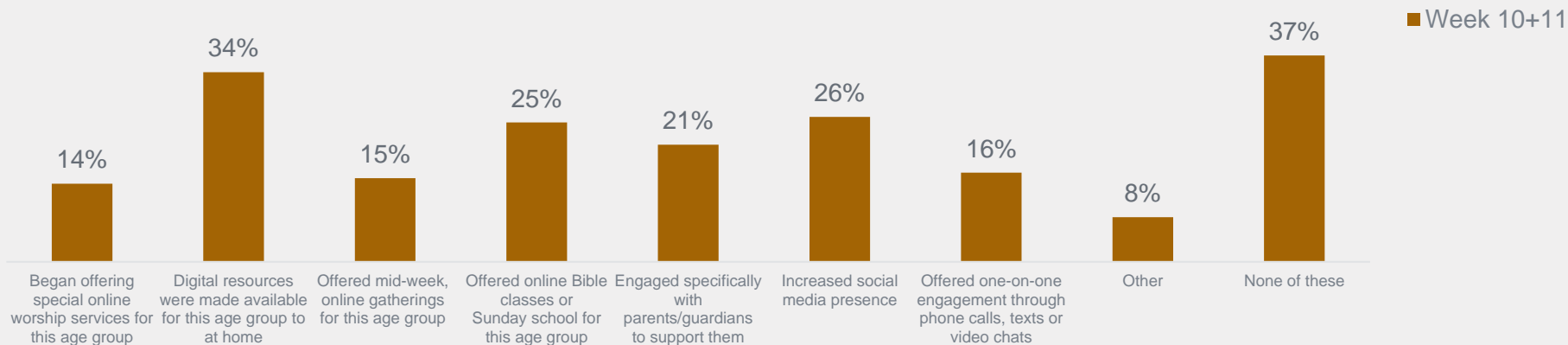
Since then, how has engagement with youth ministry (junior high / high school) changed, if at all?



What is your church planning to do for children's ministry (5th grade or younger) over the summer?

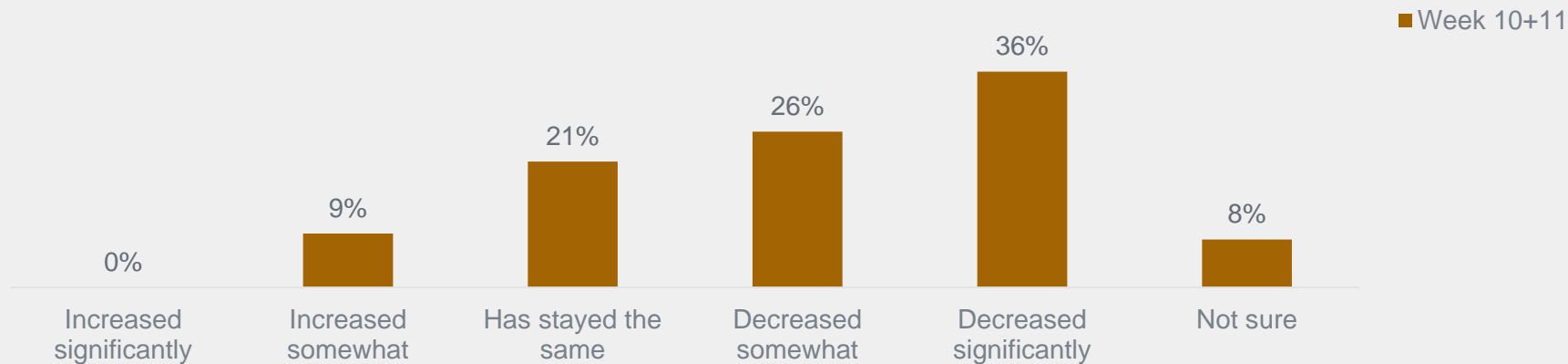


Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, how has children's ministry (5th grade or younger) changed at your church, if at all? Select all that apply.

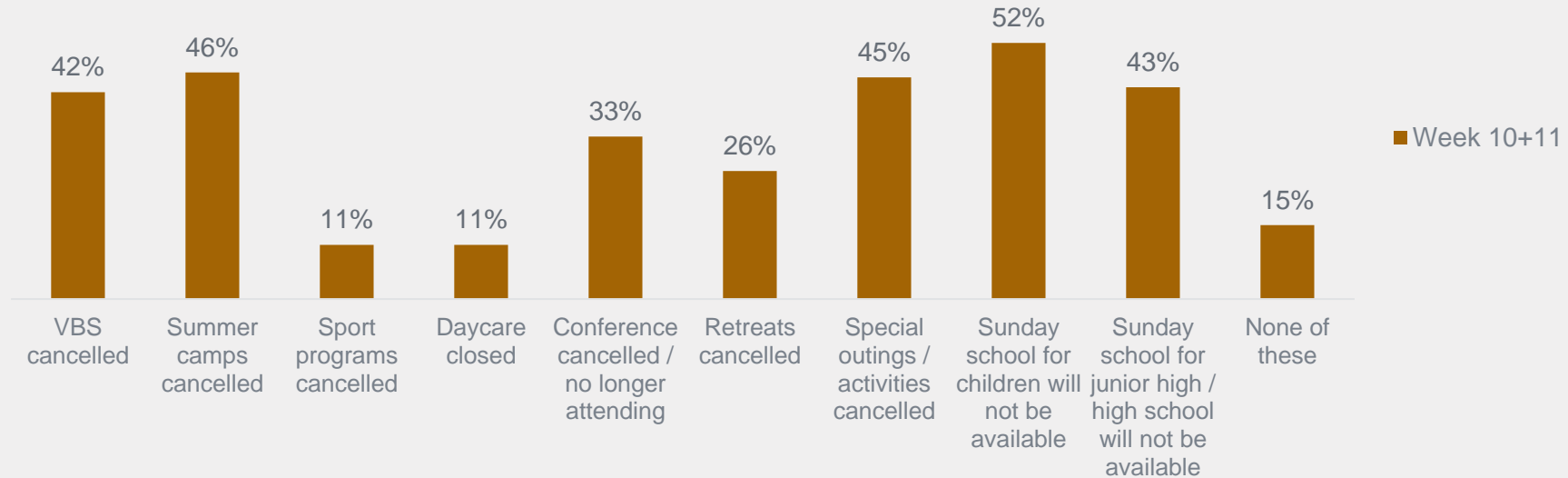


Question: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, how has children's ministry (5th grade or younger) changed at your church, if at all? Select all that apply.

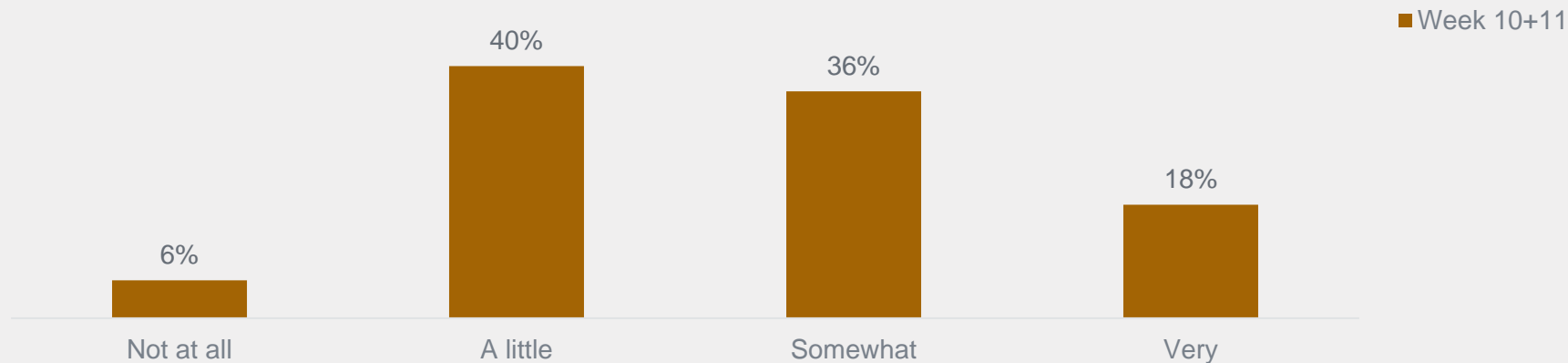
Since then, how has engagement with children's ministry (5th grade or younger) changed, if at all?



When it comes to children and youth ministry, has your church had to make any of the following changes to programs for the summer? Select all that apply.

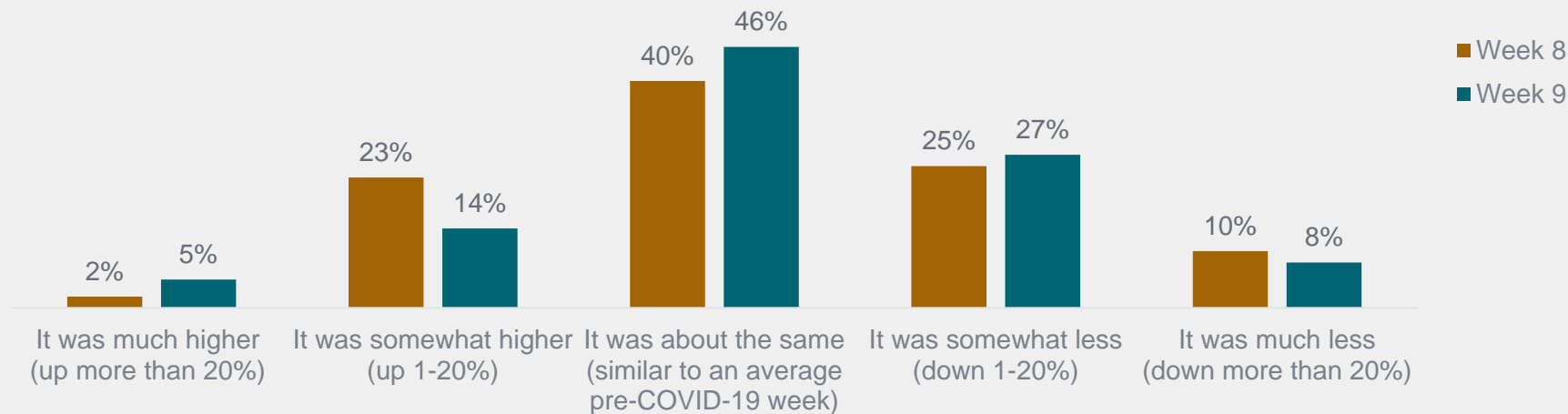


Based on everything you have seen and heard from people in your church, how overwhelmed are parents right now, if at all?

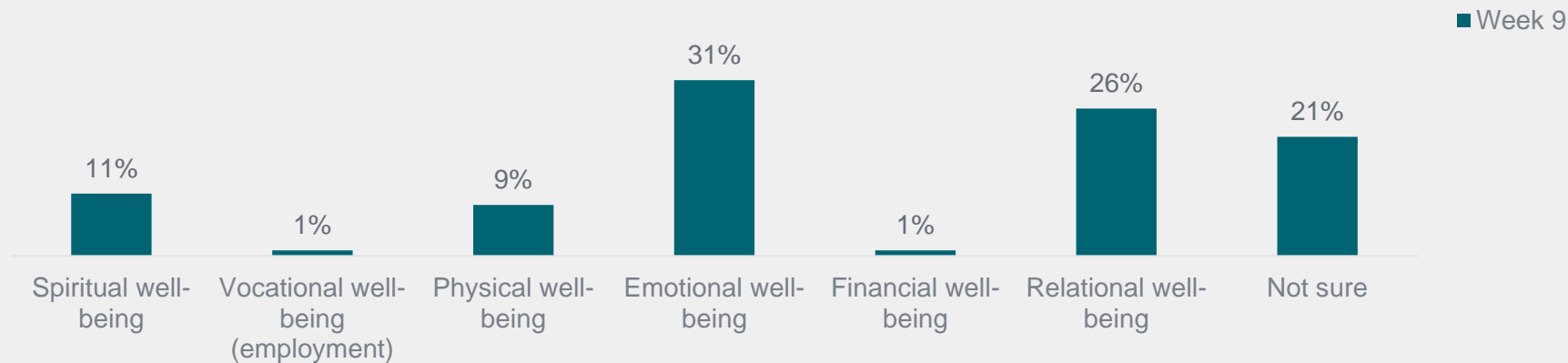


Week 9 Questions

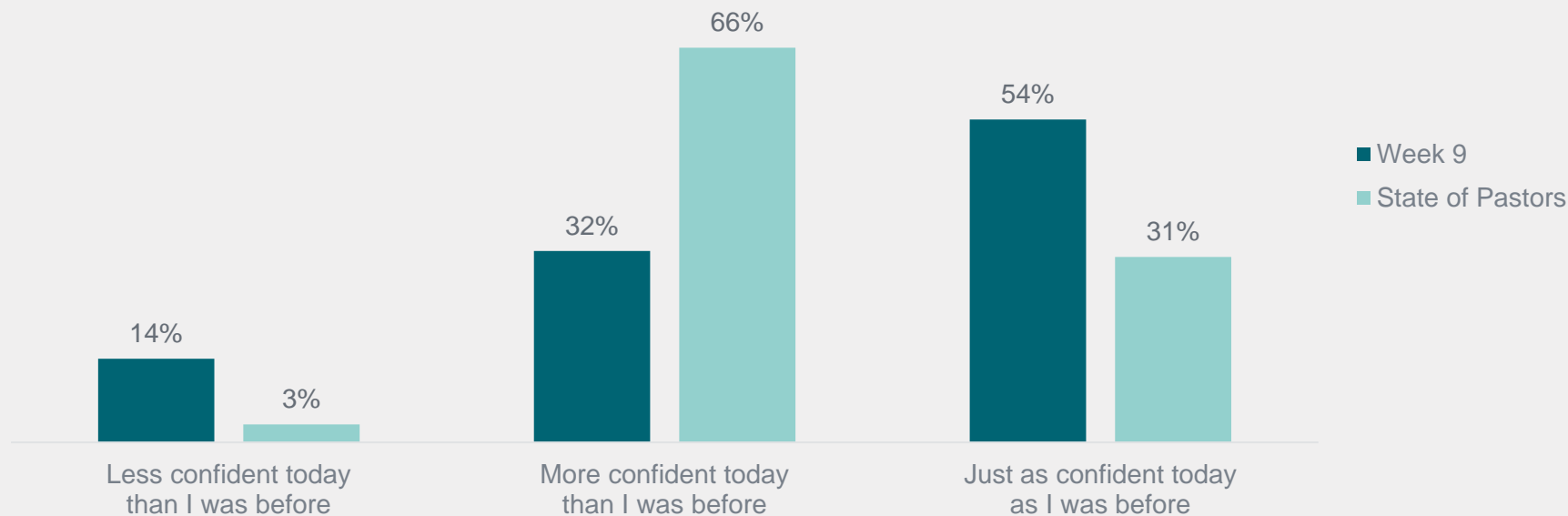
How did last week's giving compare to typical (in-person) Sunday giving?



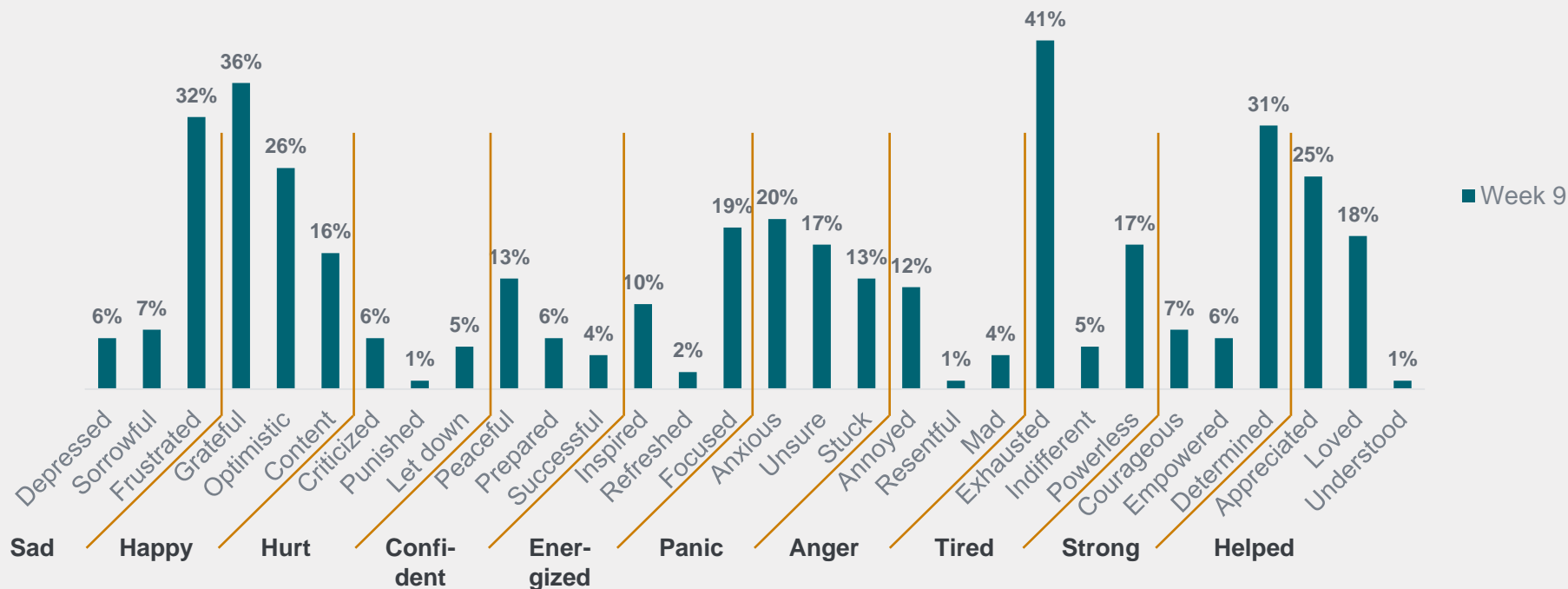
In which part of your life do you feel you are struggling the most, personally, right now?



Compared to when you first entered pastoral ministry, how confident are you in your calling?

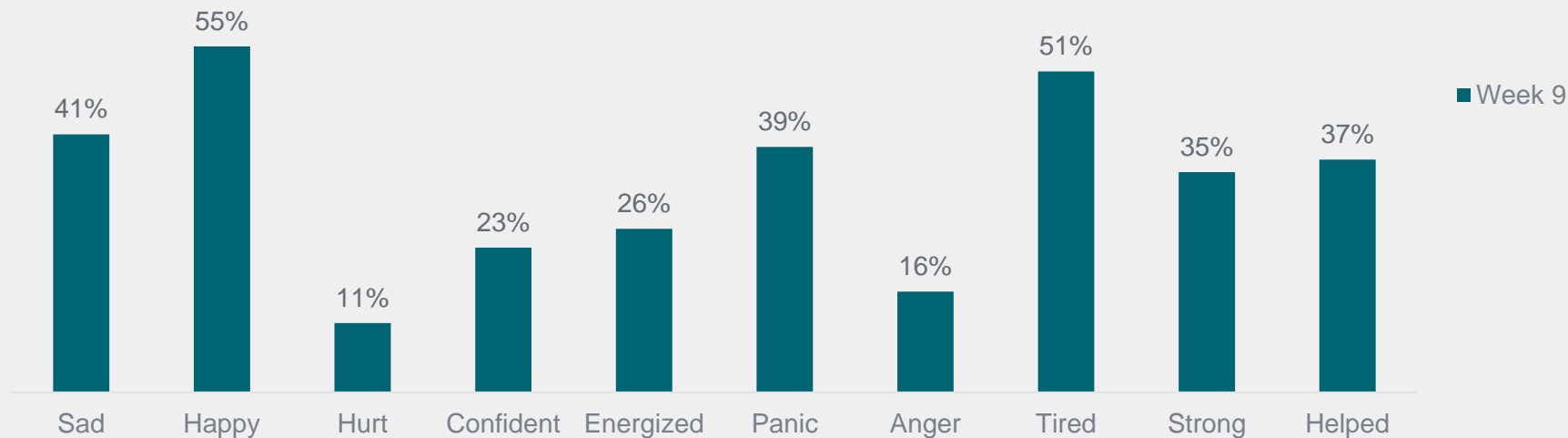


What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?

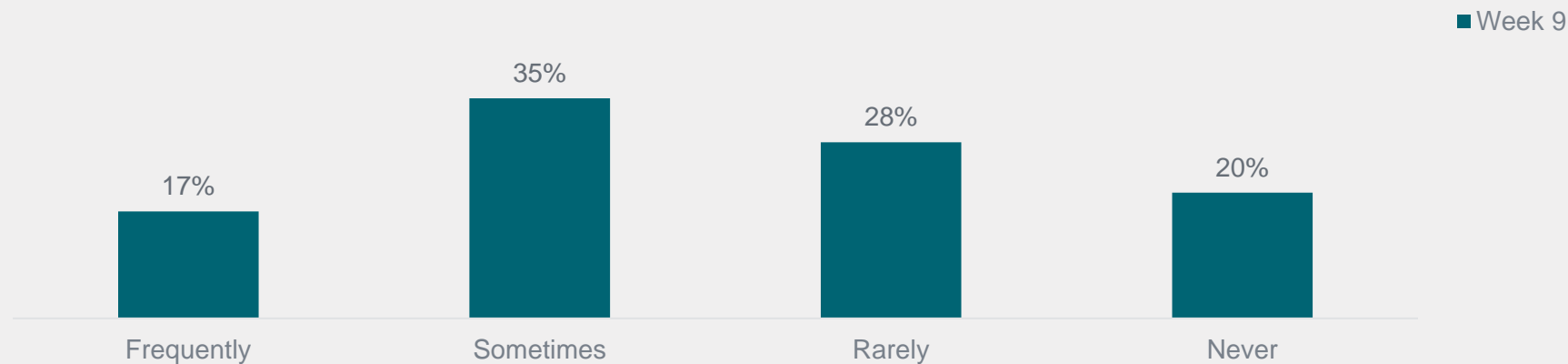


What was your primary emotion or feeling last week?

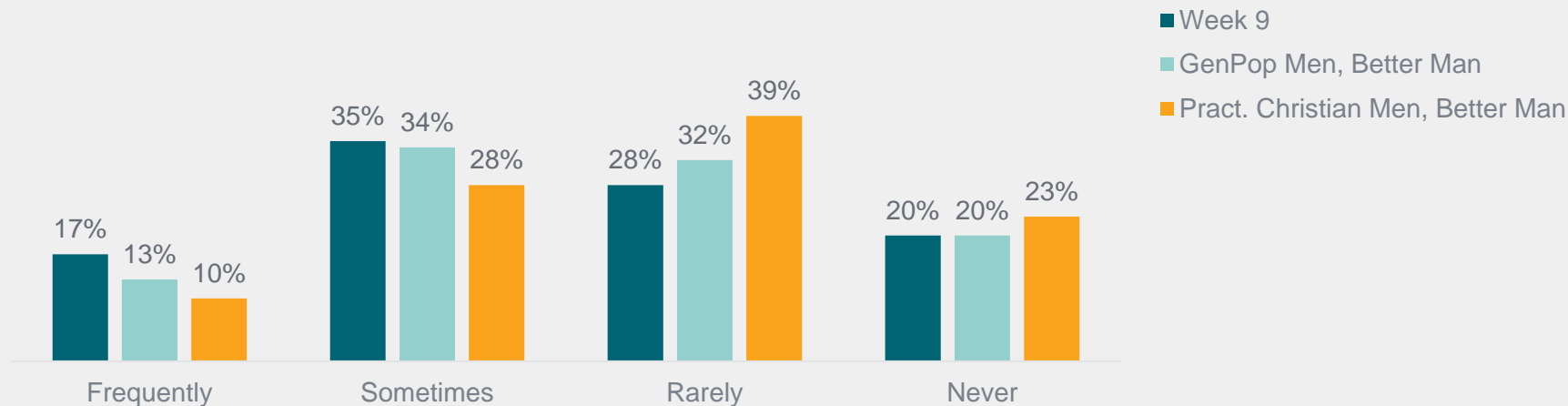
Collapsed Groups
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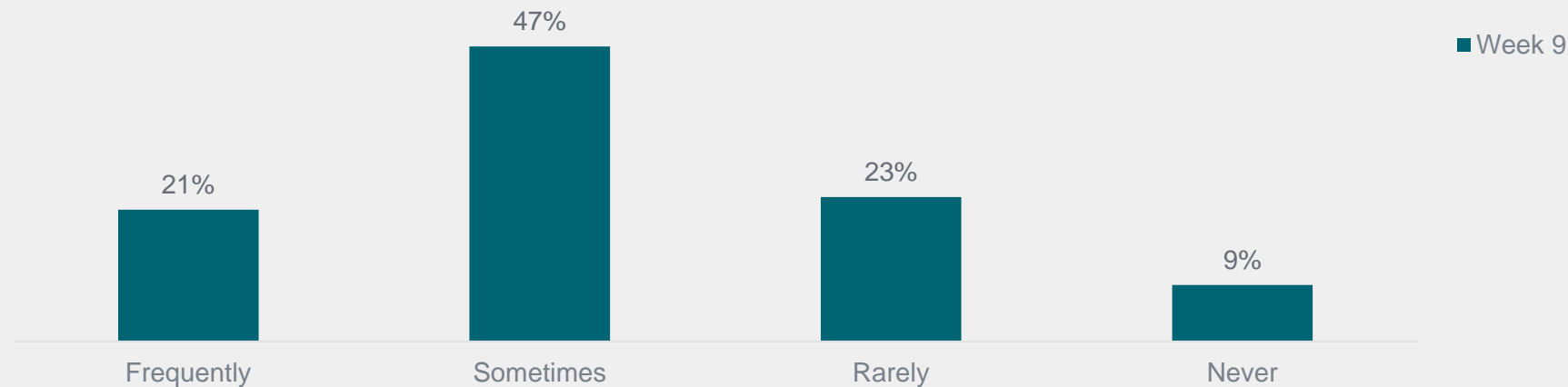
In the last month, how often, if ever, have you felt lonely?



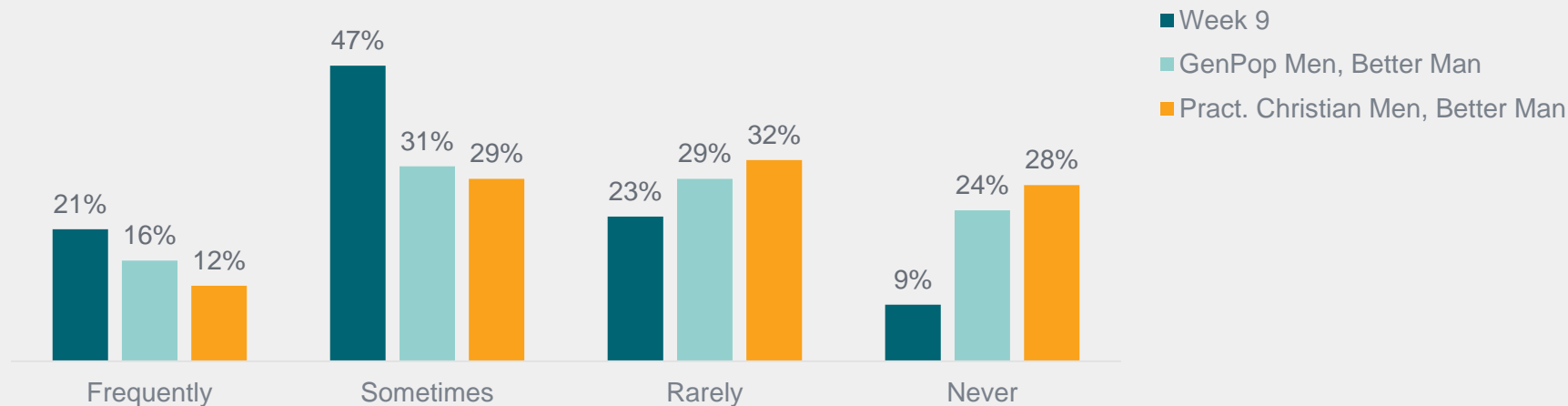
In the last month, how often, if ever, have you felt lonely?



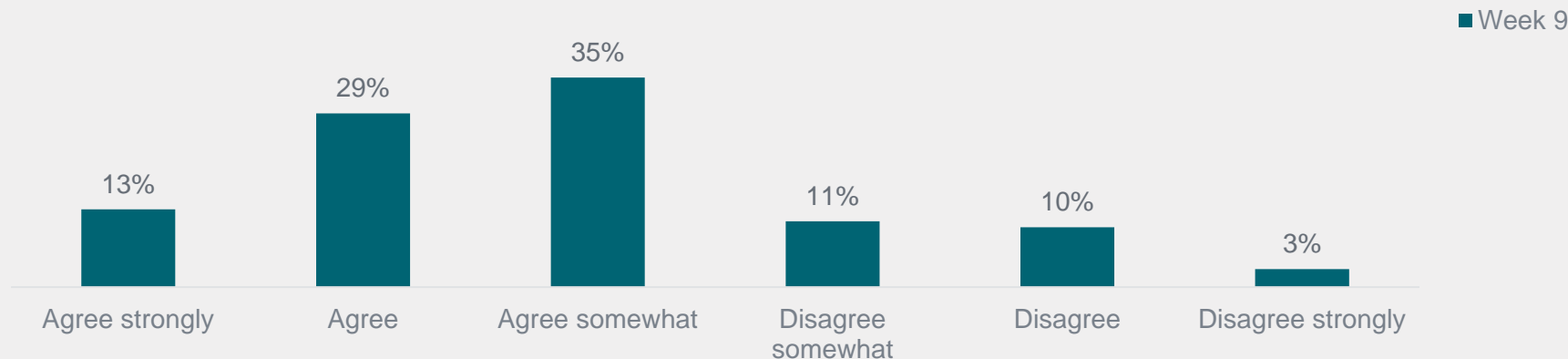
In the last month, how often have you felt overwhelmed?



In the last month, how often have you felt overwhelmed?



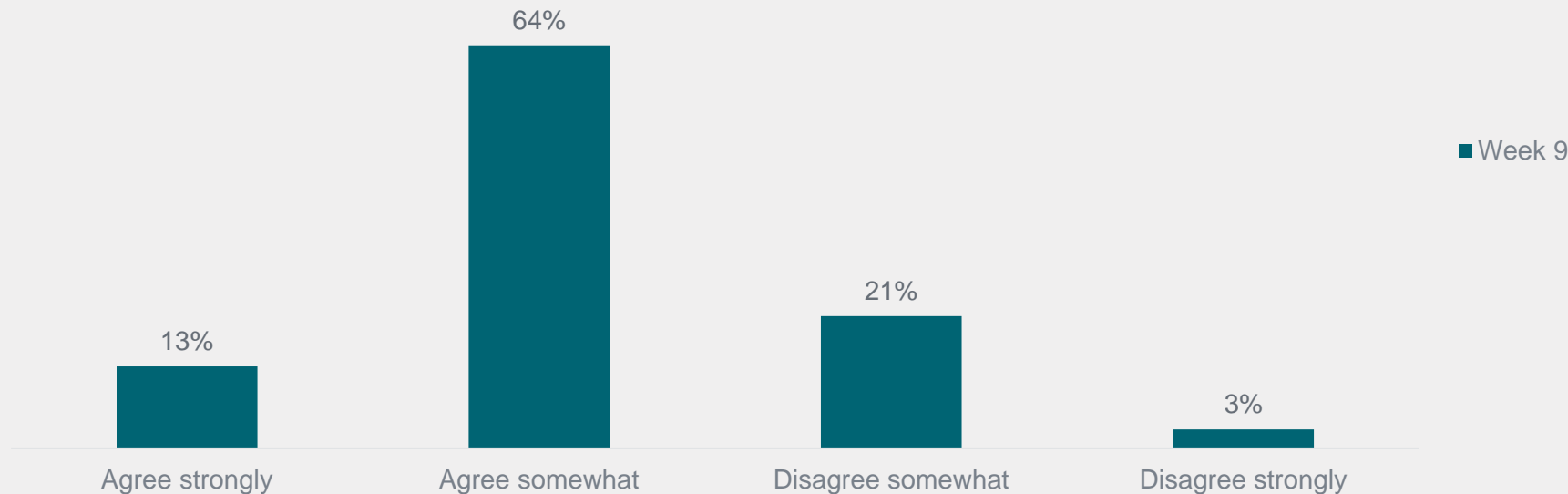
“I am comfortable sharing openly with my church about my own personal struggles.”



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement, “I am comfortable sharing openly with my church about my own personal struggles.”

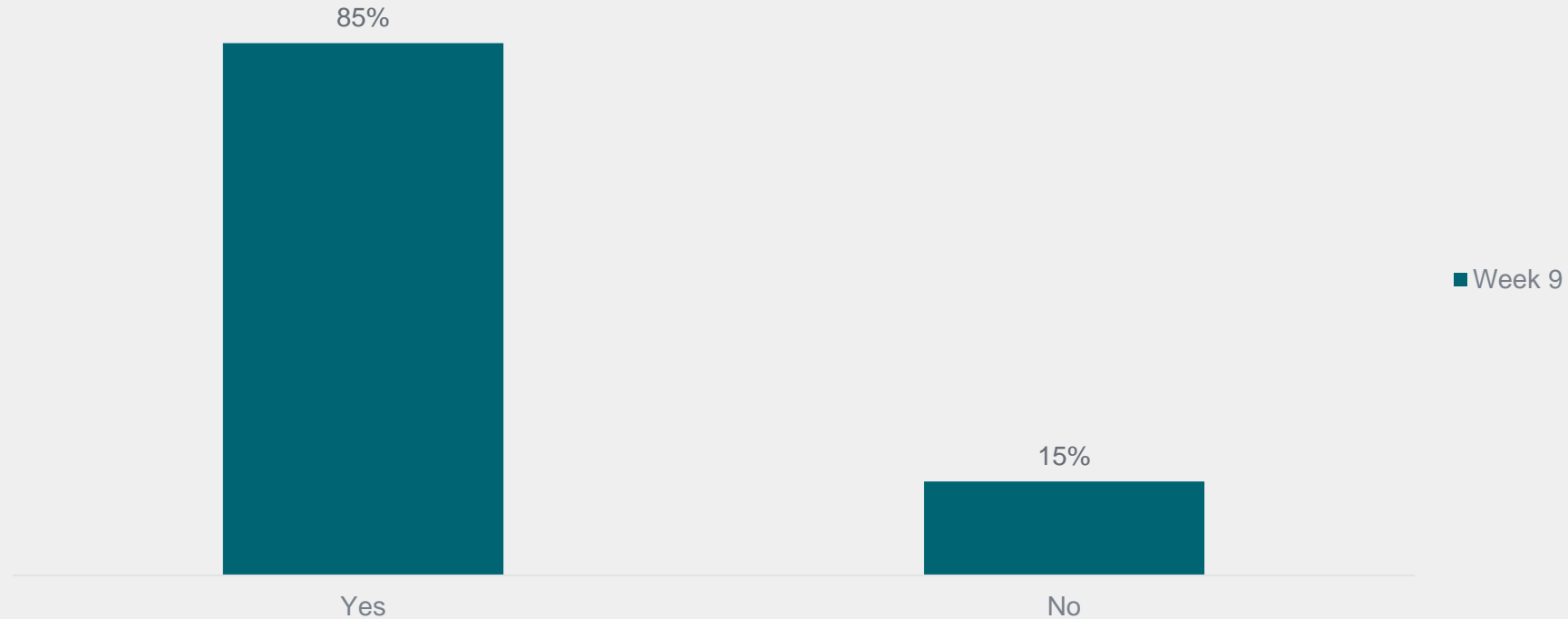
“I am comfortable sharing openly with my church about my own personal struggles.”

Collapsed Groups



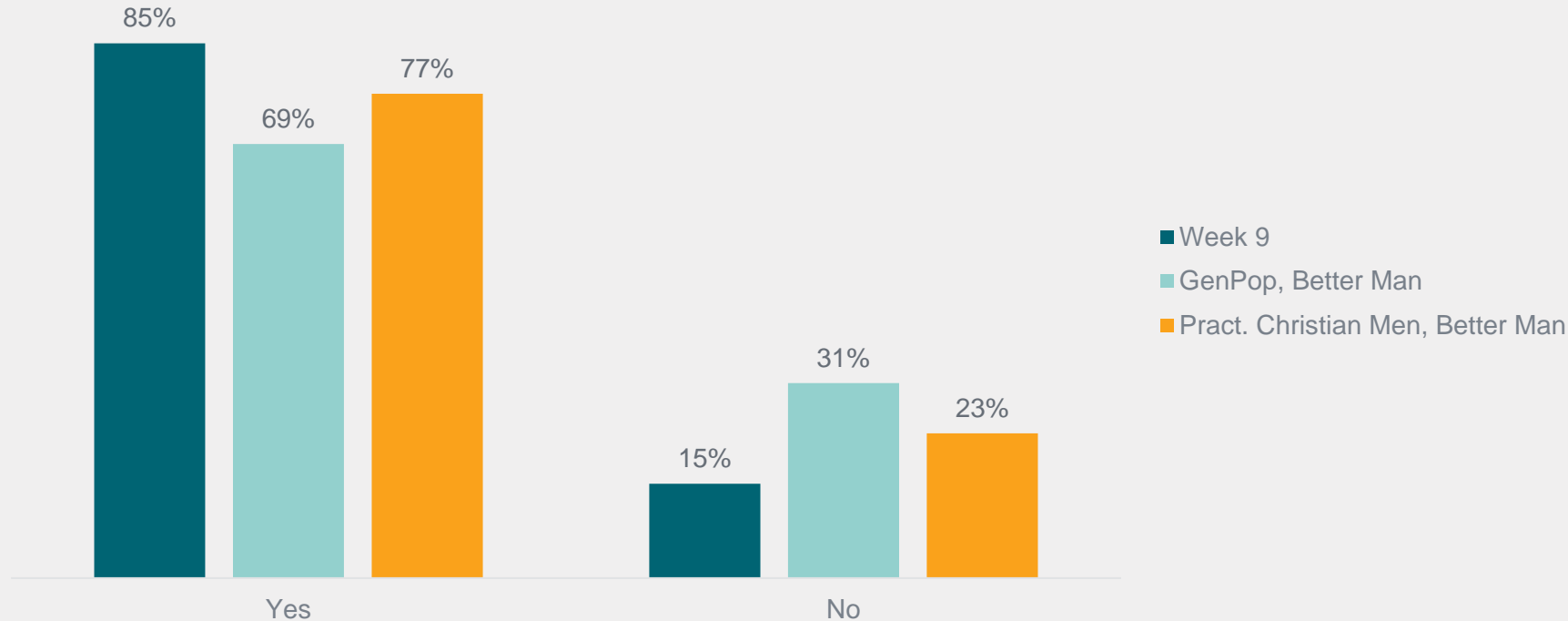
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement, “I am comfortable sharing openly with my church about my own personal struggles.”

Do you have someone you can confide in—someone who you would feel comfortable sharing your feelings or personal stories with?



Question: Do you have someone you can confide in (not including a significant other or spouse)? This is someone who you would feel comfortable sharing your feelings or personal stories with.

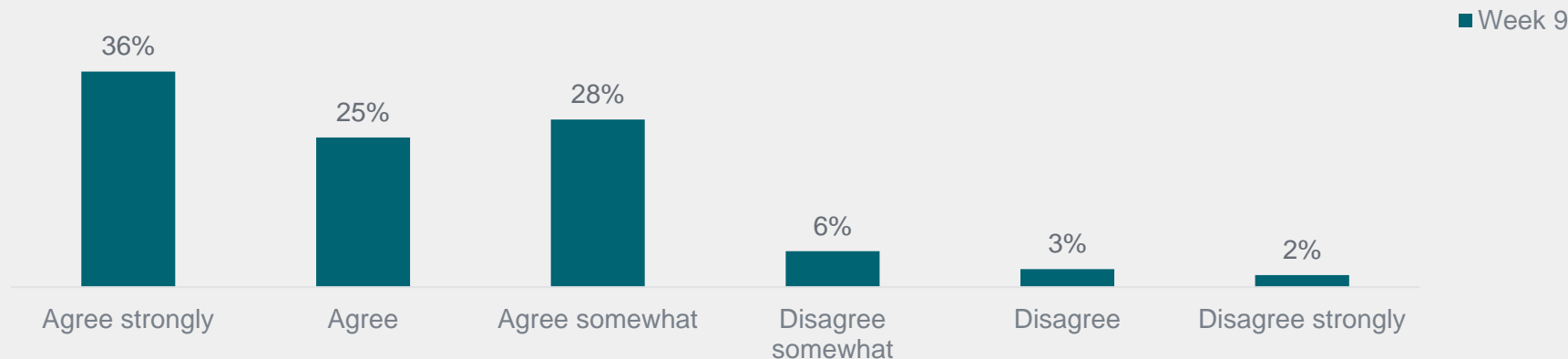
Do you have someone you can confide in—someone who you would feel comfortable sharing your feelings or personal stories with?



Question: Do you have someone you can confide in (not including a significant other or spouse)? This is someone who you would feel comfortable sharing your feelings or personal stories with.

[Better Man, Oct 2019]

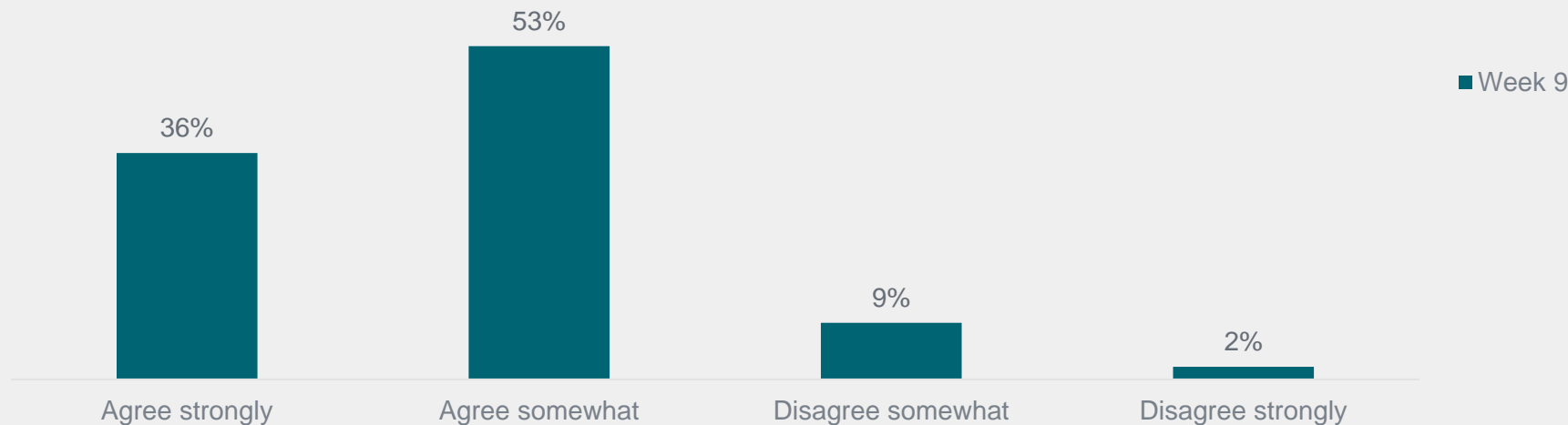
“As a church leader, it is important for me to lead by example and follow all local or national government regulations and recommendations regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic.”



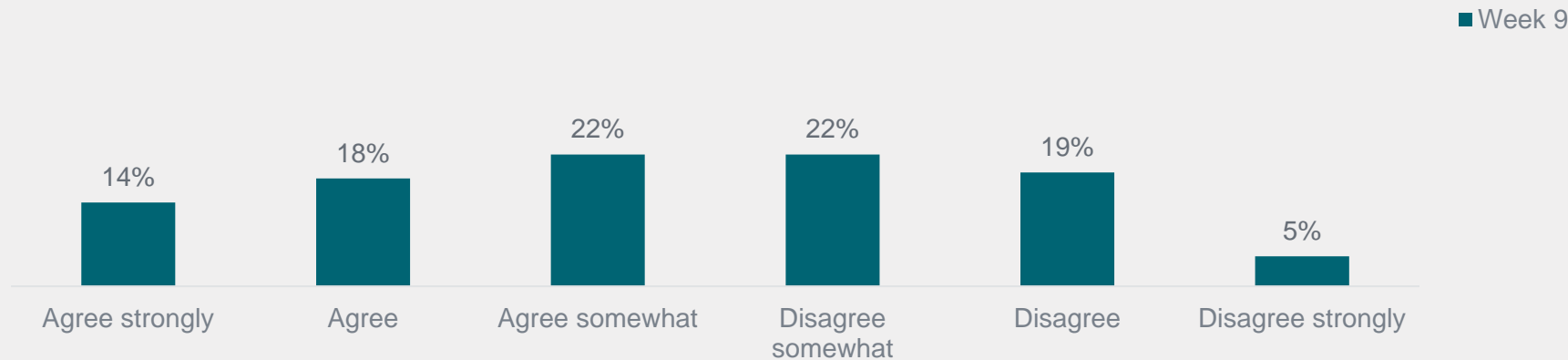
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement, “As a church leader, it is important for me to lead by example and follow all local or national government regulations and recommendations regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic.”

“As a church leader, it is important for me to lead by example and follow all local or national government regulations and recommendations regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic.”

Collapsed Groups



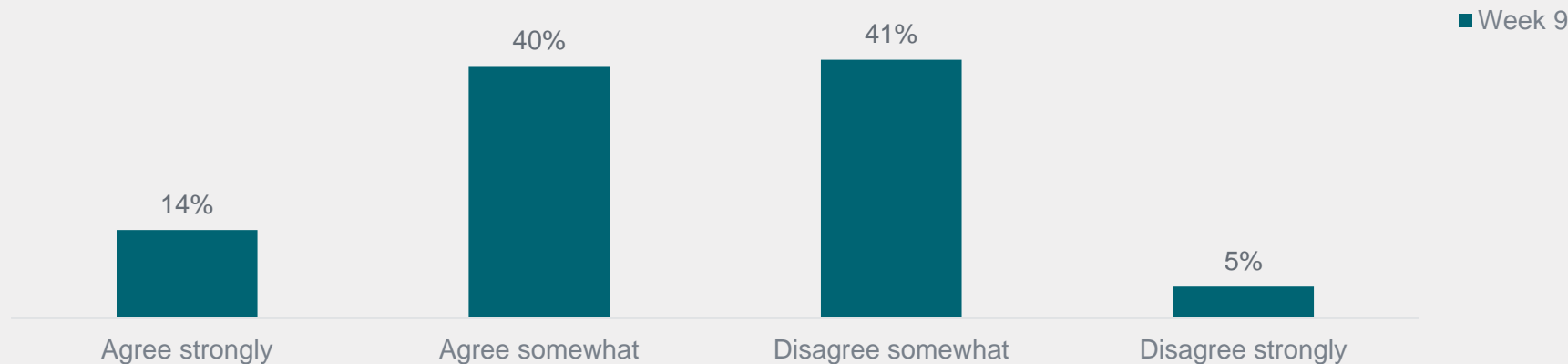
“As a church leader, it is more important that I do what I think is best for my church. Even if that means going against what local or national government officials are saying.”



Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement, “As a church leader, it is more important that I do what I think is best for my church. Even if that means going against what local or national government officials are saying.”

“As a church leader, it is more important that I do what I think is best for my church. Even if that means going against what local or national government officials are saying.”

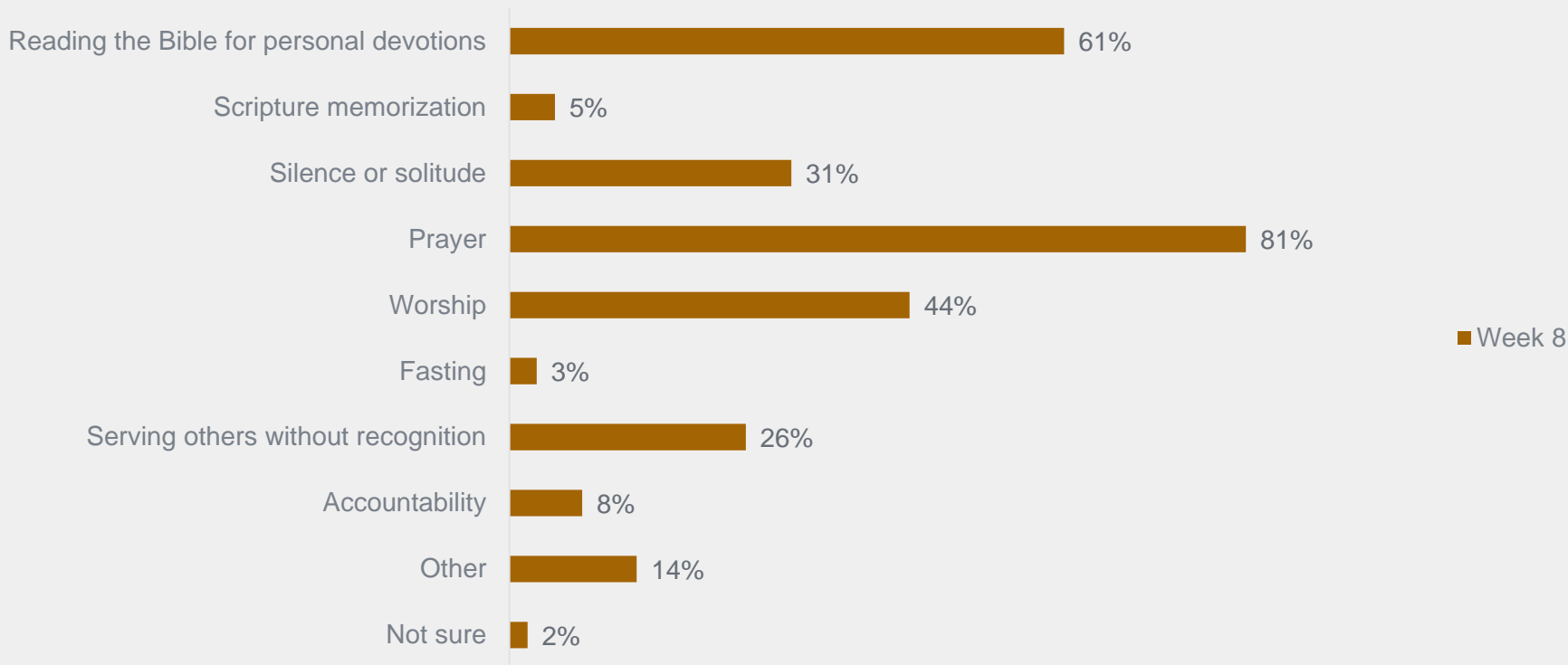
Collapsed Groups



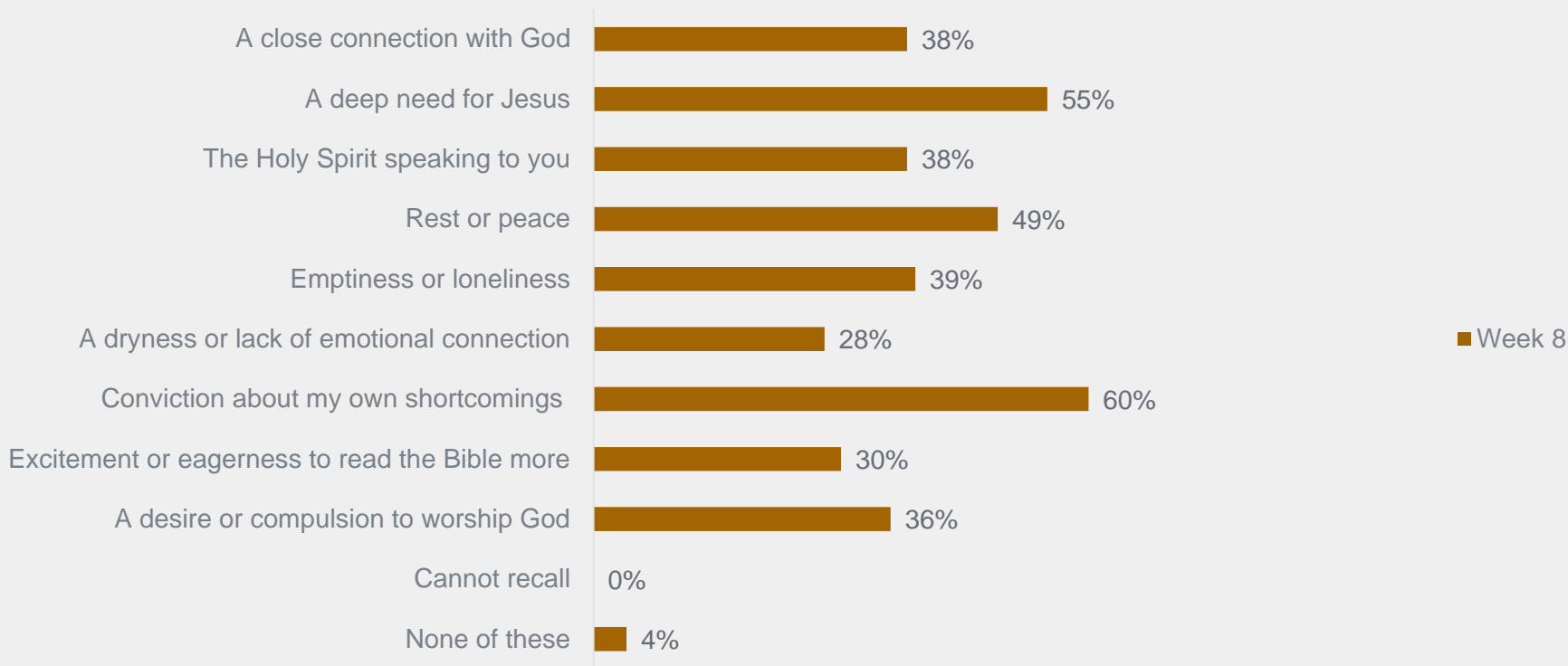
Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement, “As a church leader, it is more important that I do what I think is best for my church. Even if that means going against what local or national government officials are saying.”

Week 8 Questions

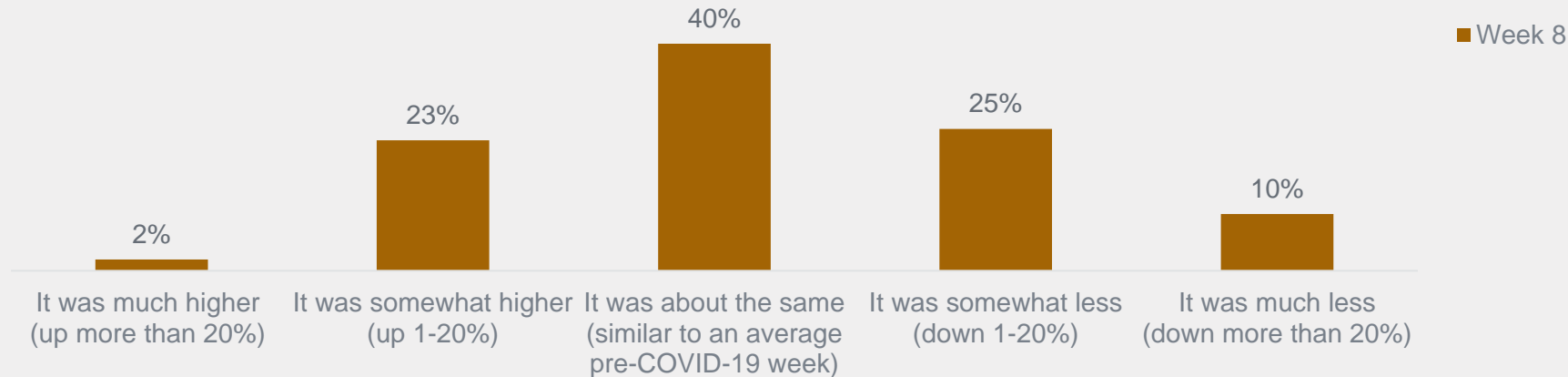
What two or three spiritual disciplines are most essential to your own spiritual development right now, during the current COVID-19 crisis?



Have you experienced any of the following during the COVID-19 crisis?

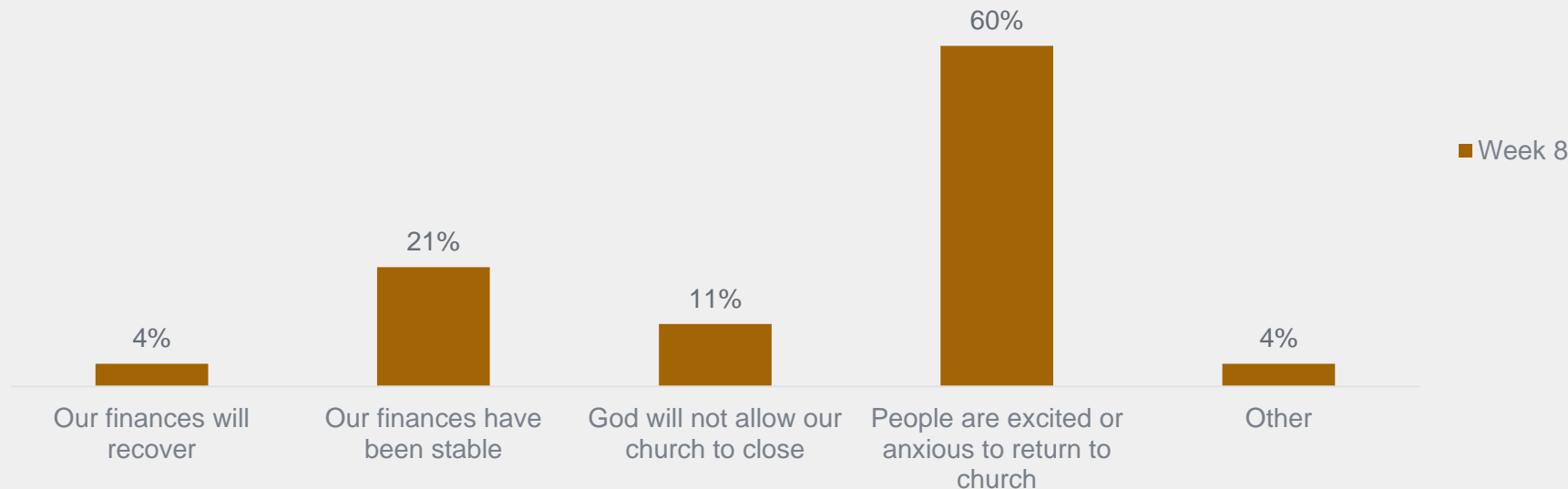


How did last week's giving compare to typical (in-person) Sunday giving?



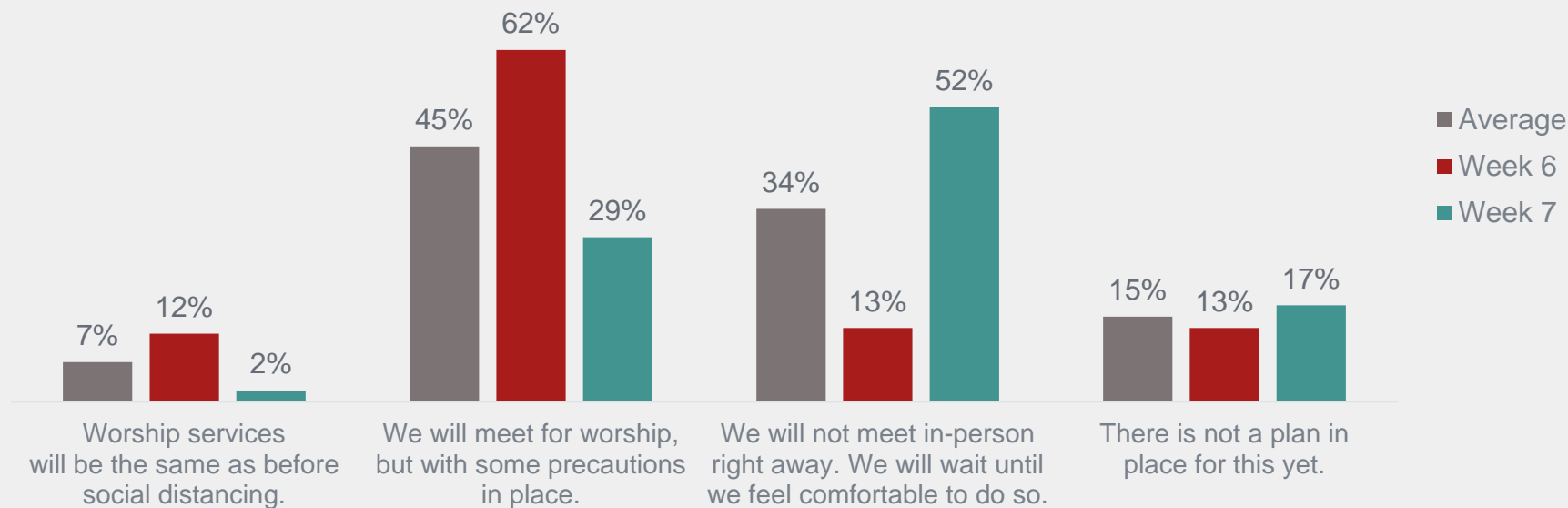
What gives you confidence your church will survive, and you will be able to reopen?

Among pastors who are very confident / confident their church will survive

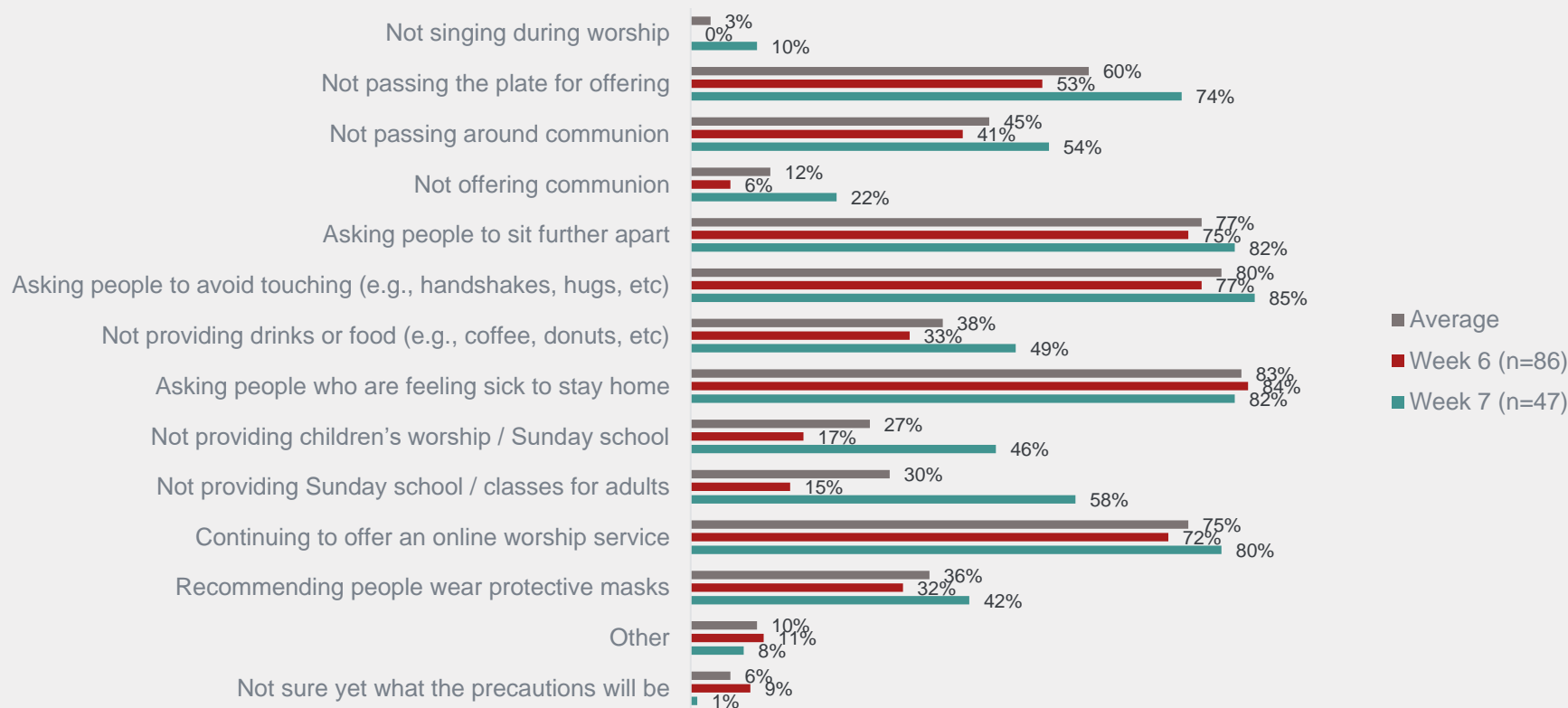


Week 7 Questions

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



What will these precautions look like?

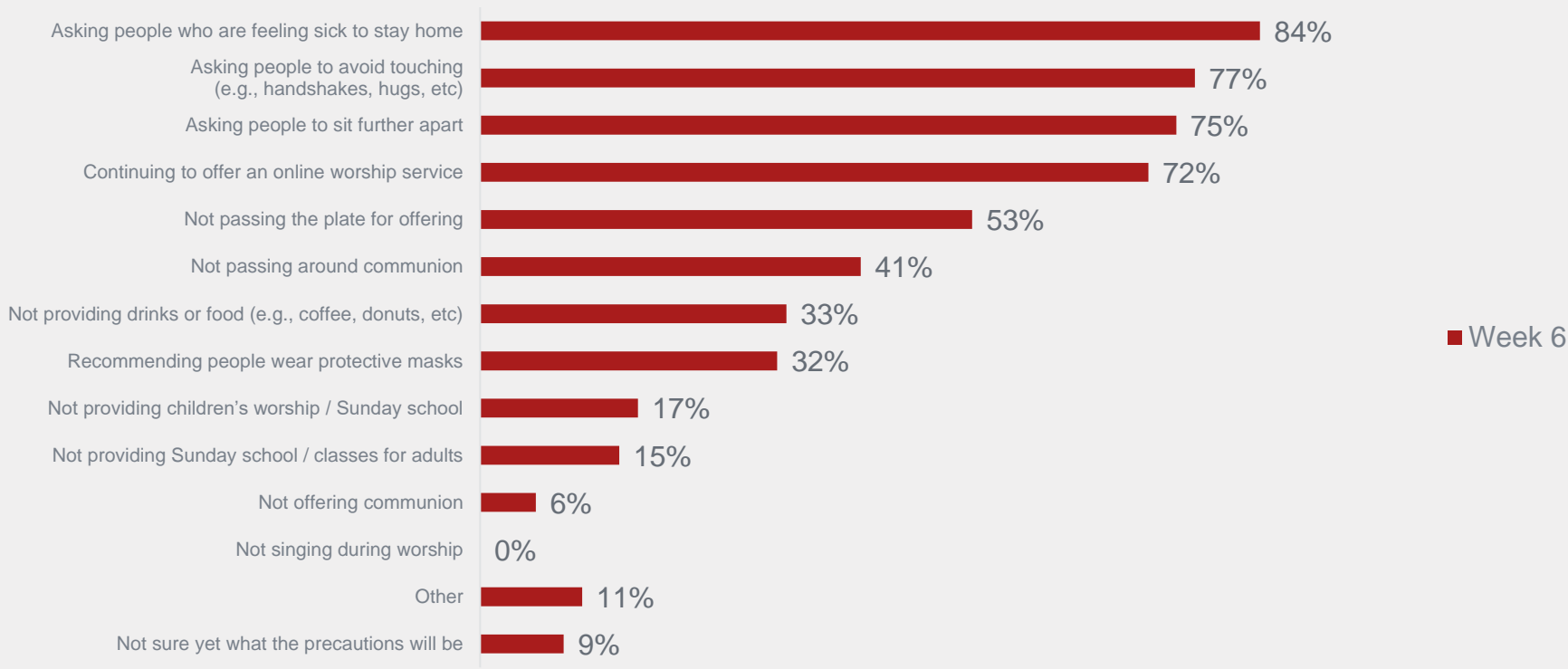


Week 6 Questions

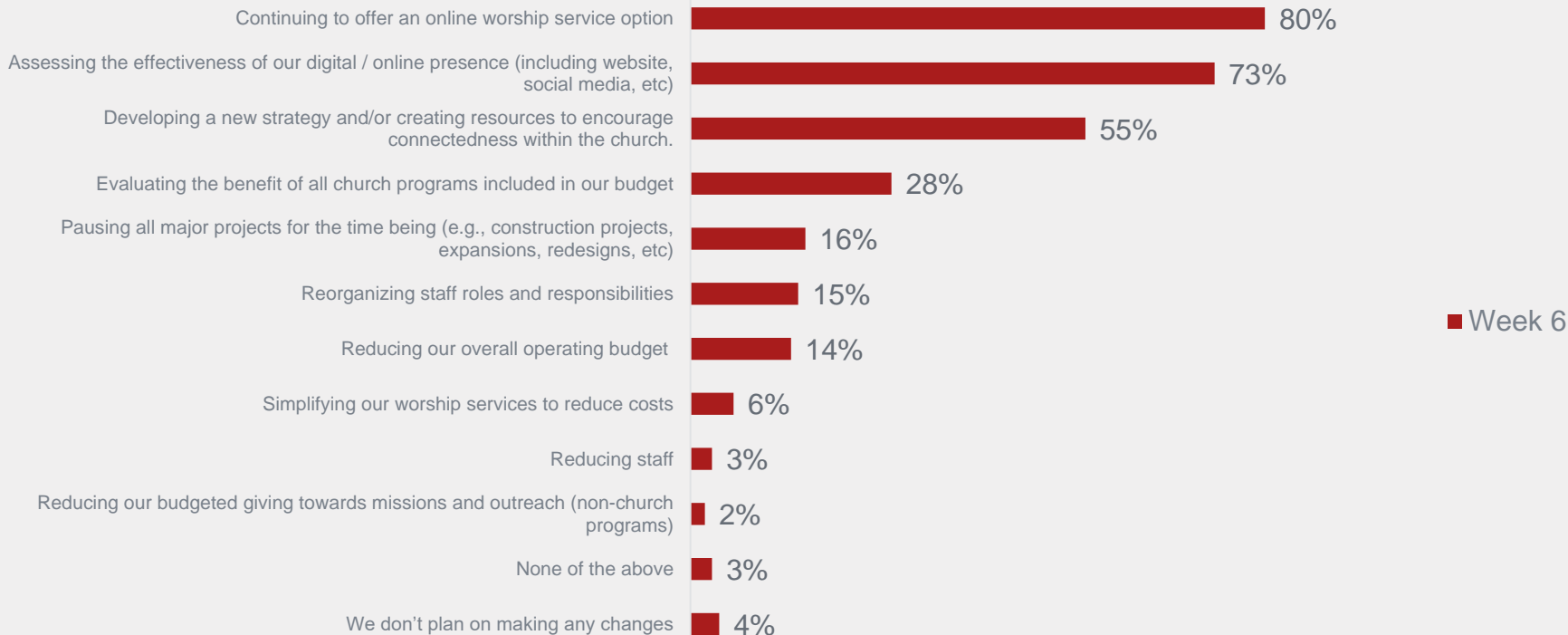
Once social distancing guidelines are no longer in place, how is your church planning to structure worship services?



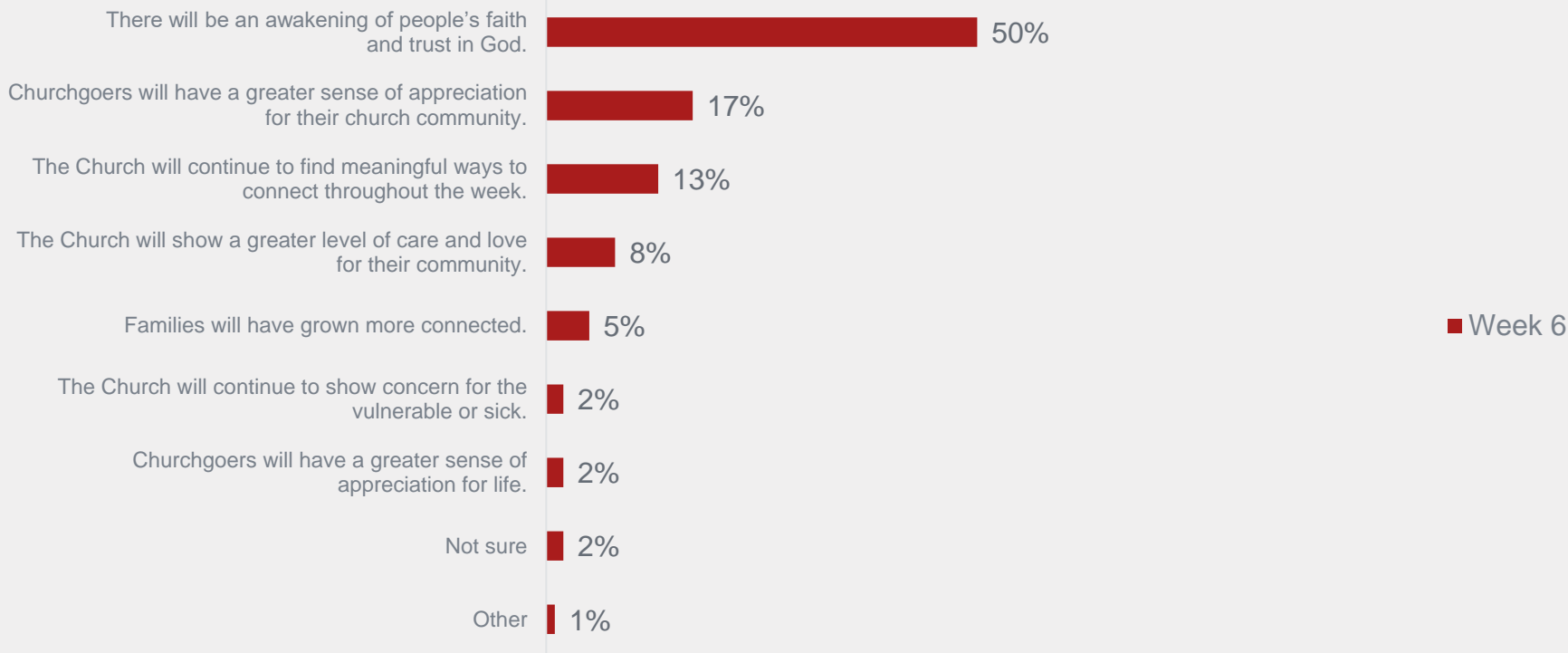
What will these precautions look like?



How is your church rethinking its operations for the future?

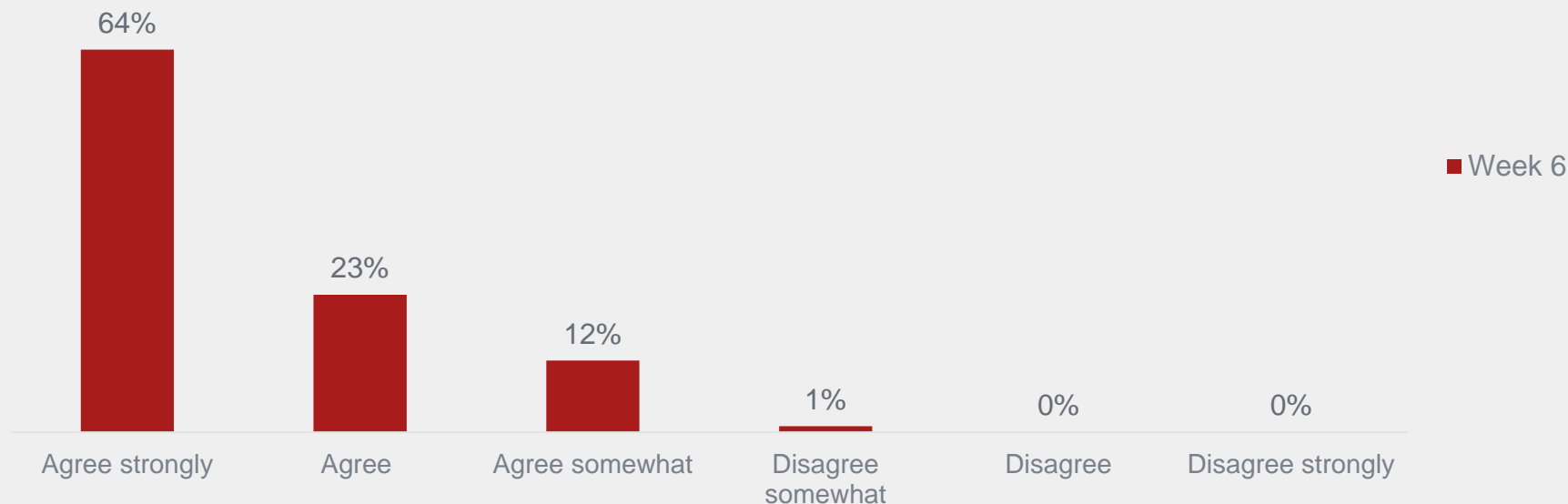


What is your greatest hope for the Church after COVID?

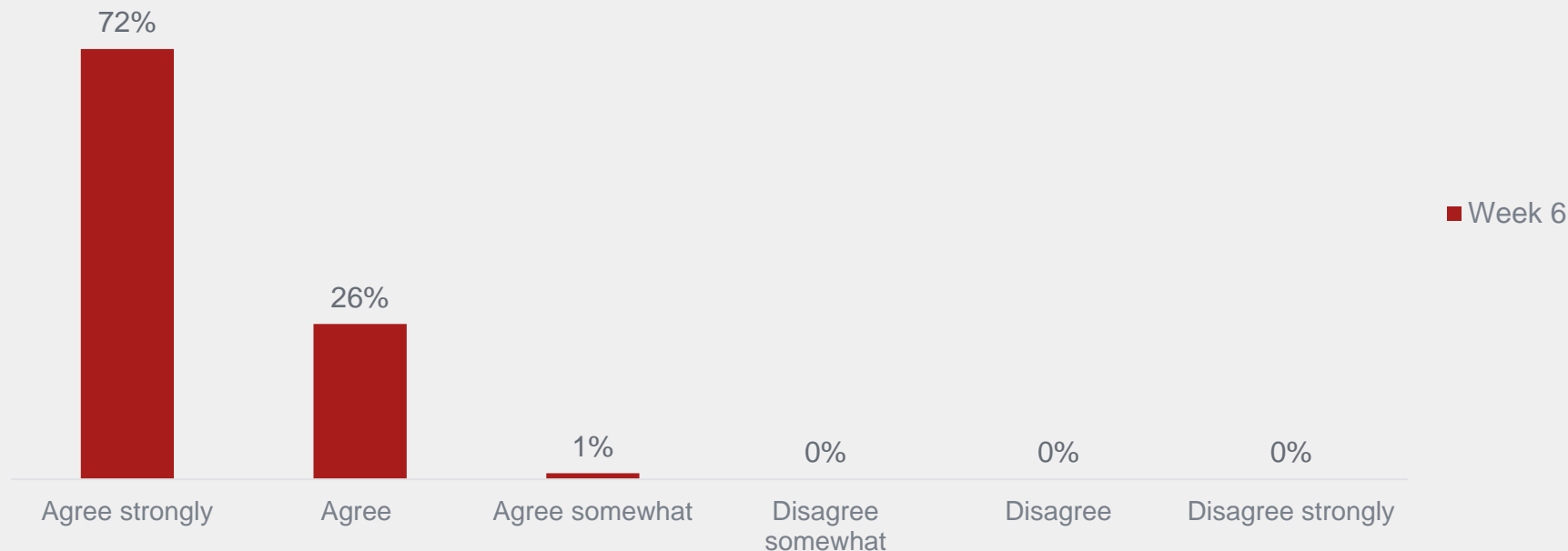


Question: What is your greatest hope for the Church after COVID? We understand that many of these may apply. But for the purposes of this research, we are asking that you select only one.

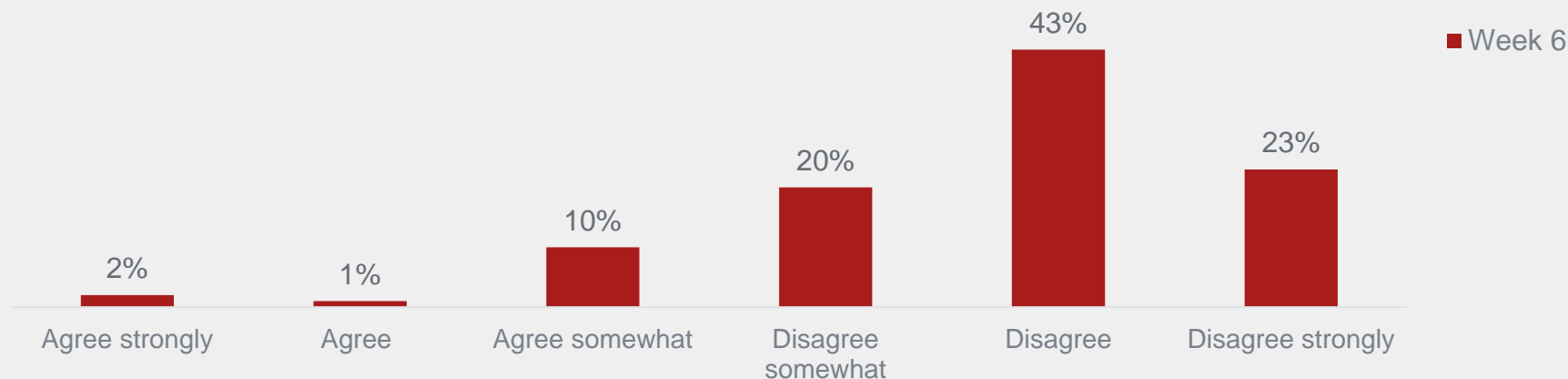
“It is important for me to keep a positive / optimistic outlook to help reassure the people in my church.”



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

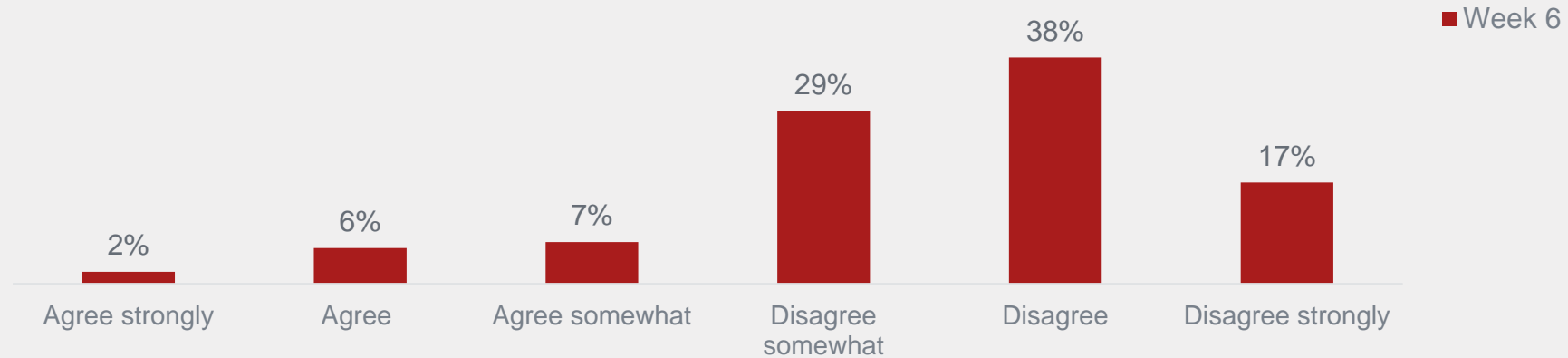


“I’m concerned that if I admit to personal struggles related to the current crisis my church will lose confidence in me in me as a leader.”

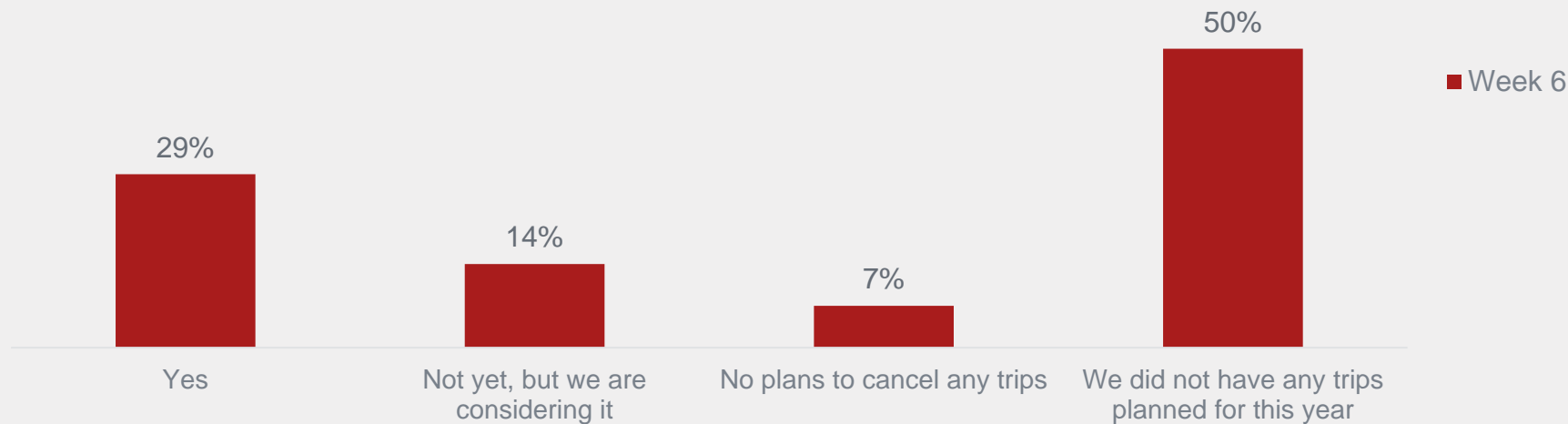


Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. "I'm concerned that if I admit to personal struggles related to the current crisis my church will lose confidence in me in me as a leader."

“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.”



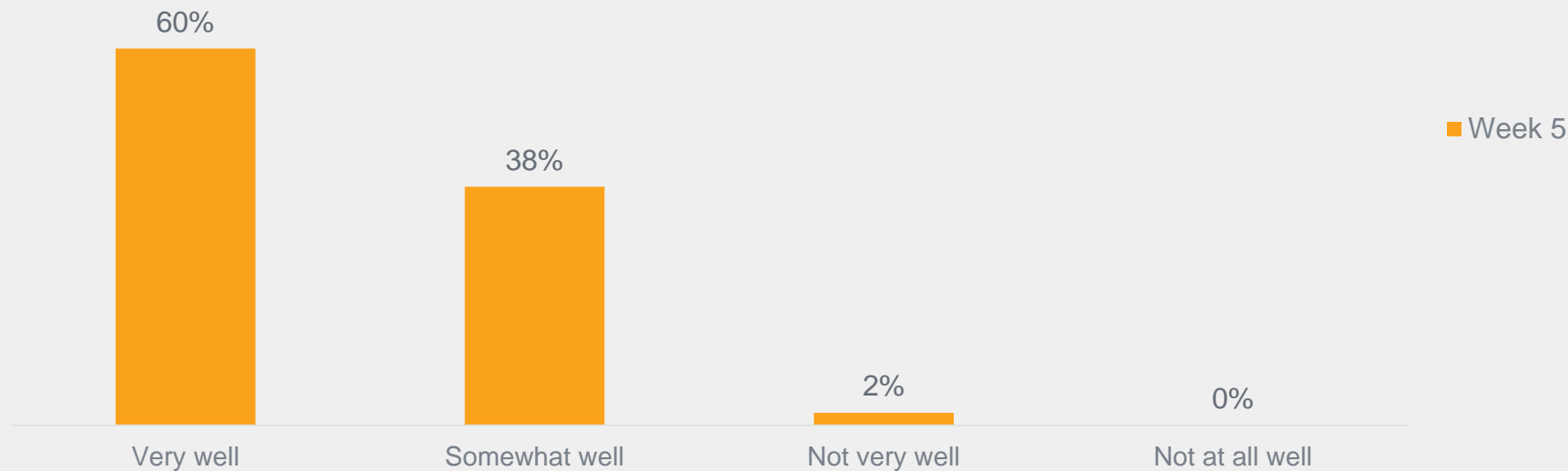
Has your church had to cancel any short-term mission trips this year due to COVID-19?



Week 5 Questions

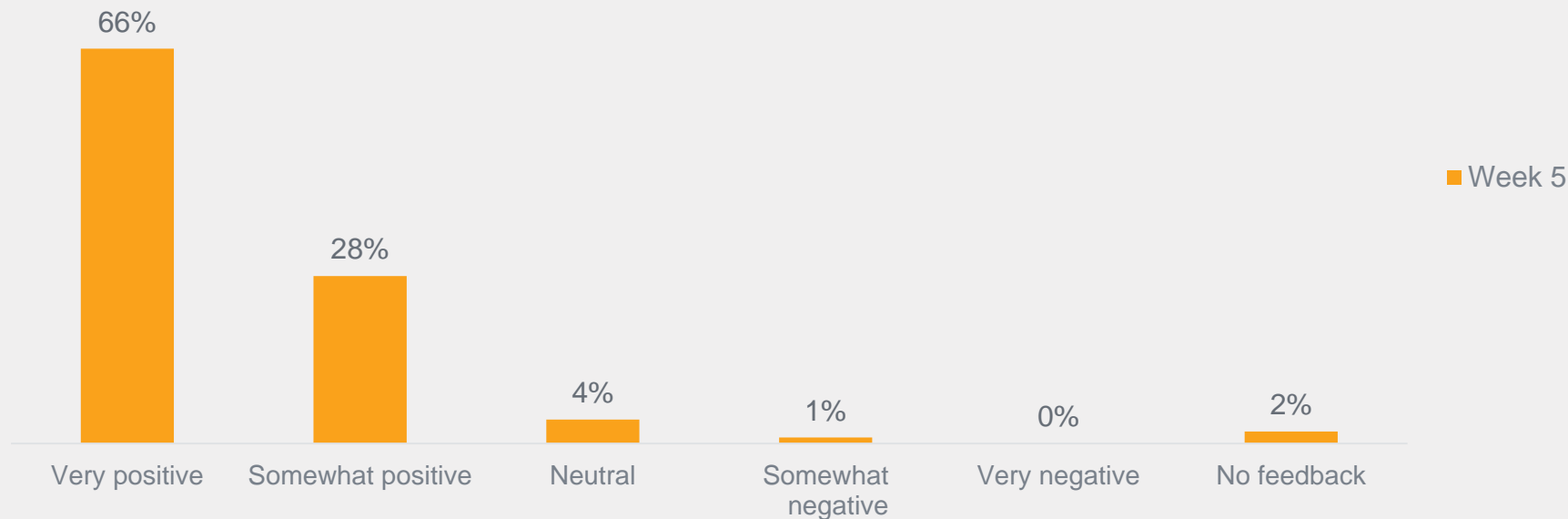
Overall, how do you feel your church's Easter service(s) went?

Among churches that offered an Easter service



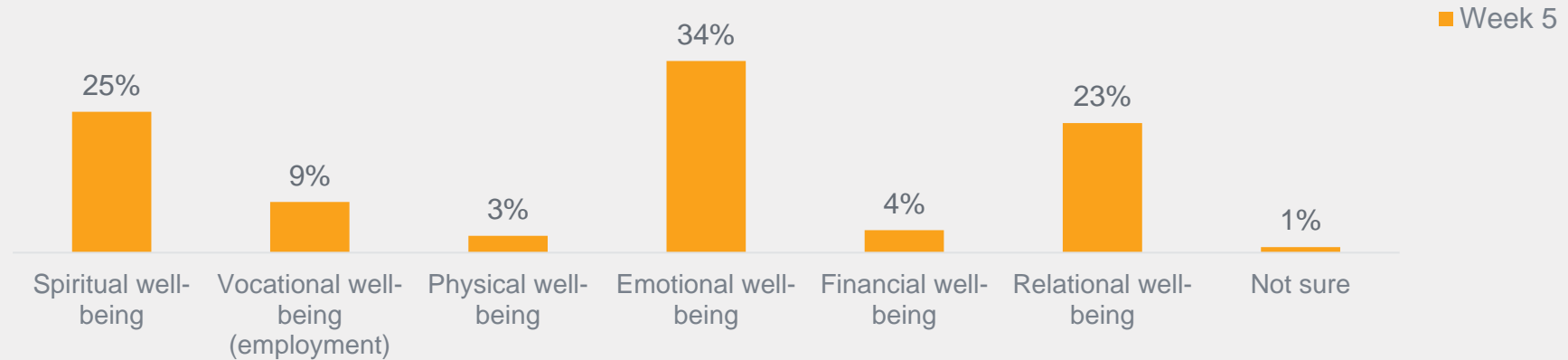
In general, what sort of feedback, if any, did you receive from your congregation about their experience with the Easter service(s)?

Among churches that offered an Easter service

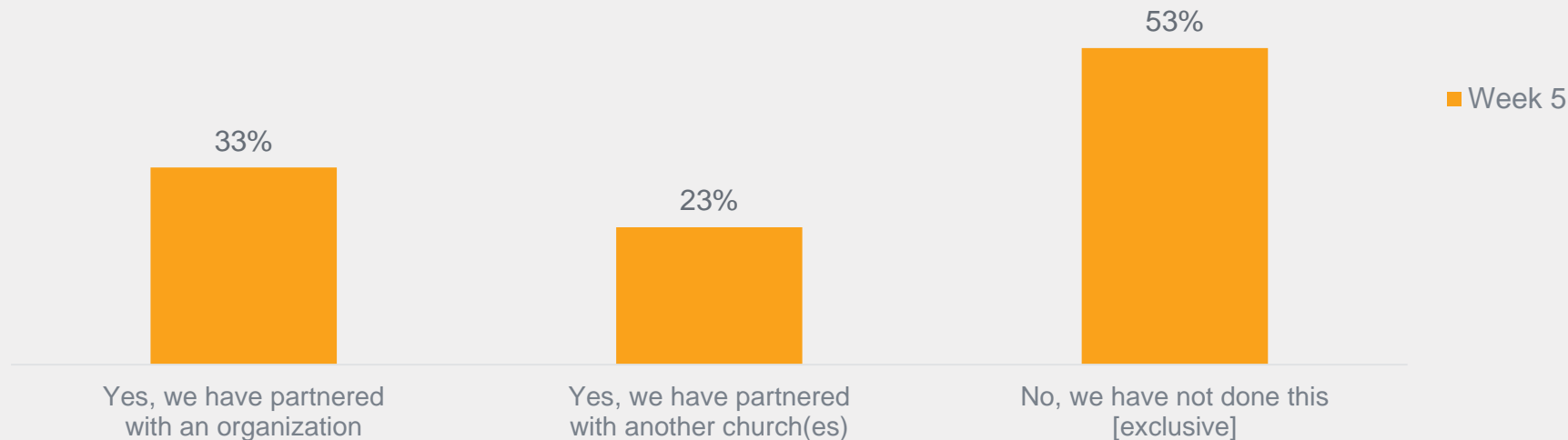


Question: In general, what sort of feedback, if any, did you receive from your congregation about their experience with the Easter service(s)? (base: offered an Easter service)

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

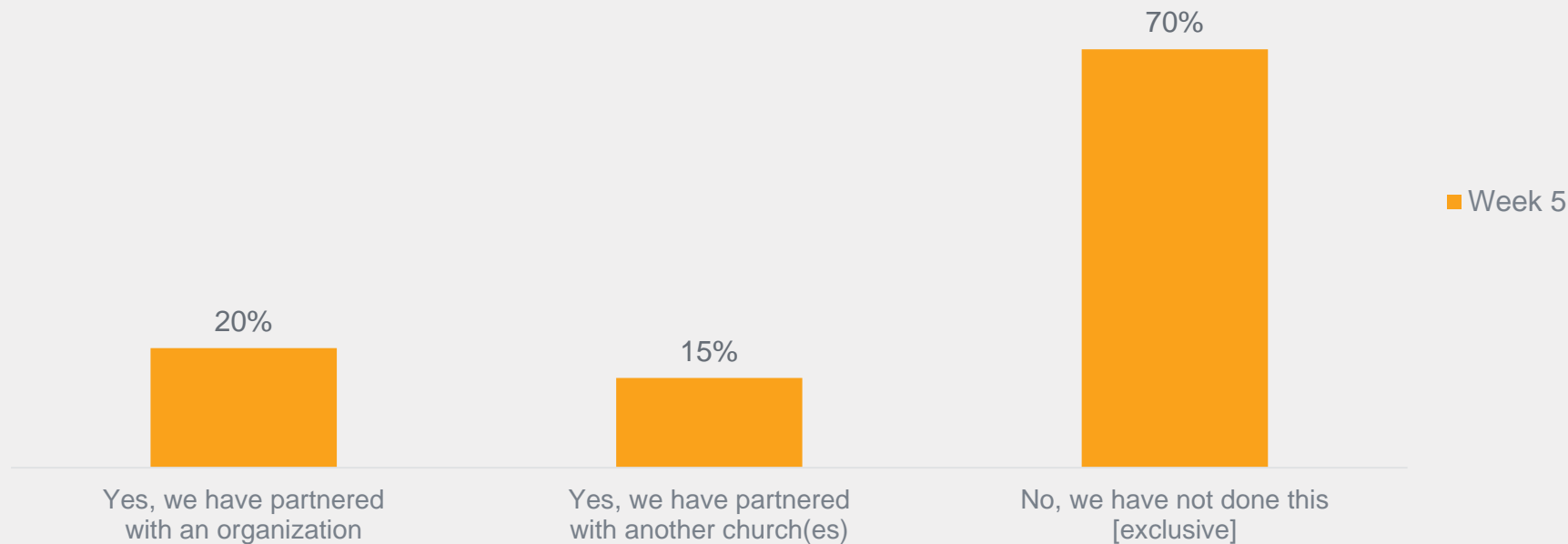


In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance to your local community?



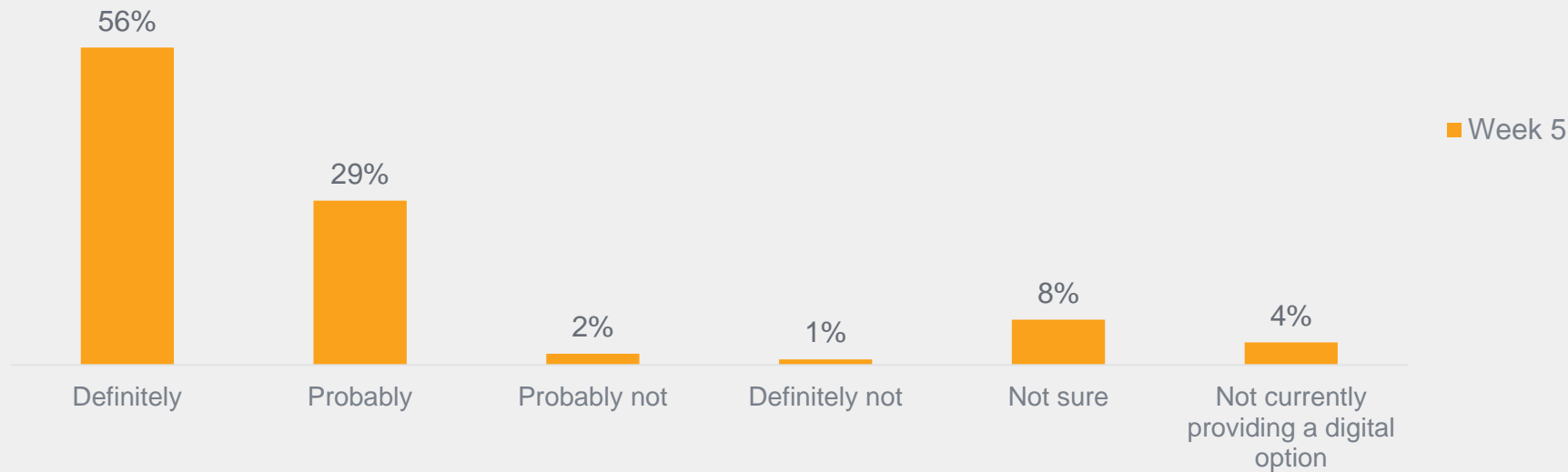
Question: In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance to your local community? Select all that apply.

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?

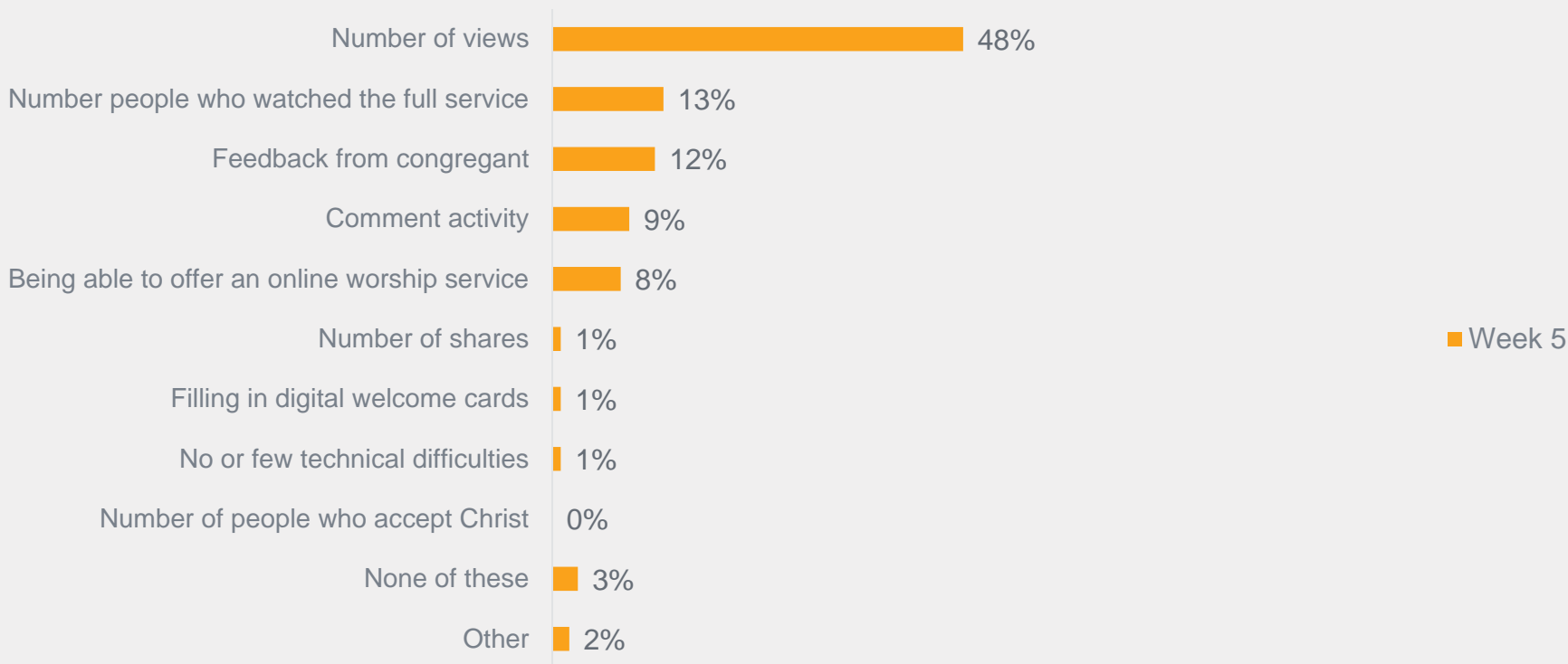


Question: In the last few weeks has your church partnered with any other churches or organizations to provide services and assistance outside of your local community? Select all that apply.

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

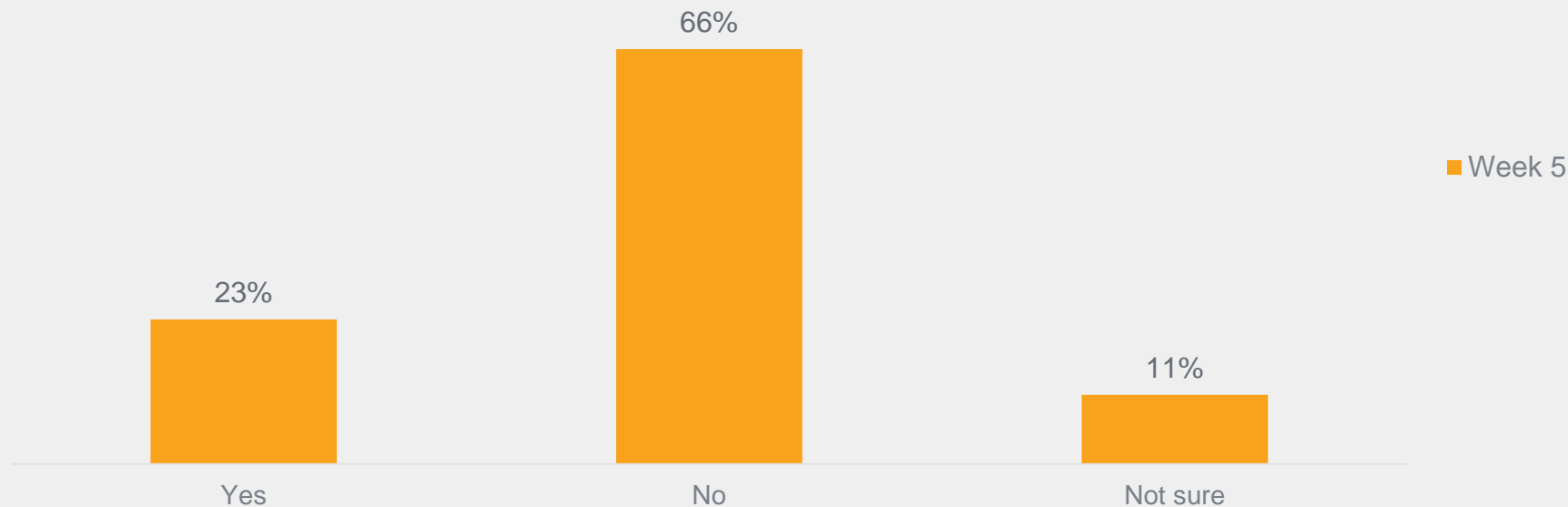


How is your church measuring the effectiveness of your online worship services? Select the option below which has been most helpful.



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

Average multiplier: 2.31 (base: use a multiplier)

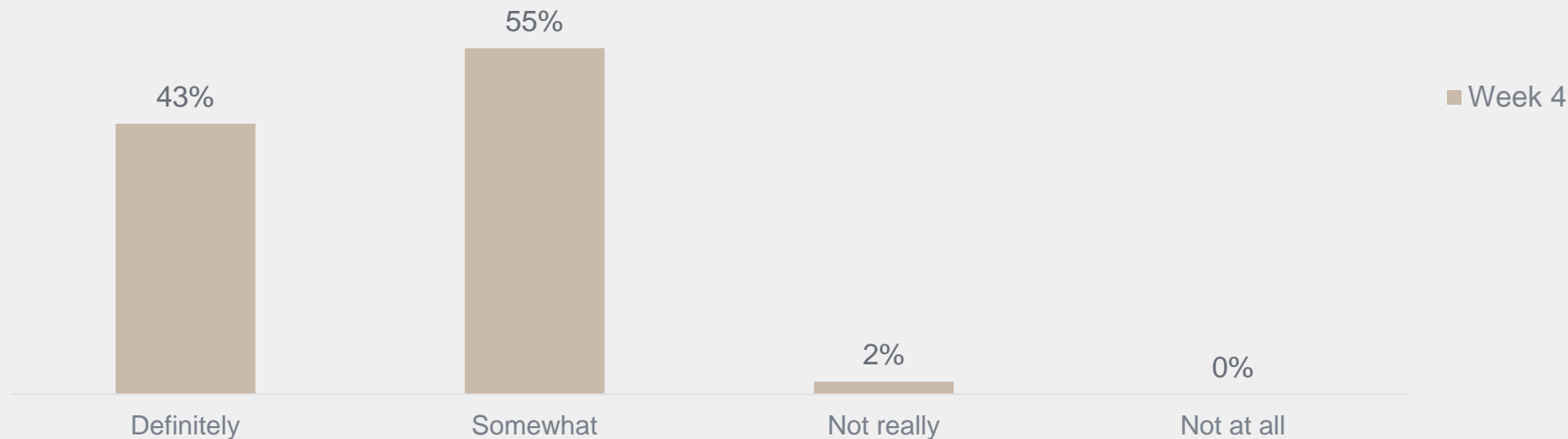


Question: Since online “views” might represent multiple viewers in one home or household, some people use a “multiplier” to estimate the total number of people watching an online program or service. Does your church use a multiplier to help measure “attendance” for a worship service? (e.g., 1 digital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

Week 4 Questions

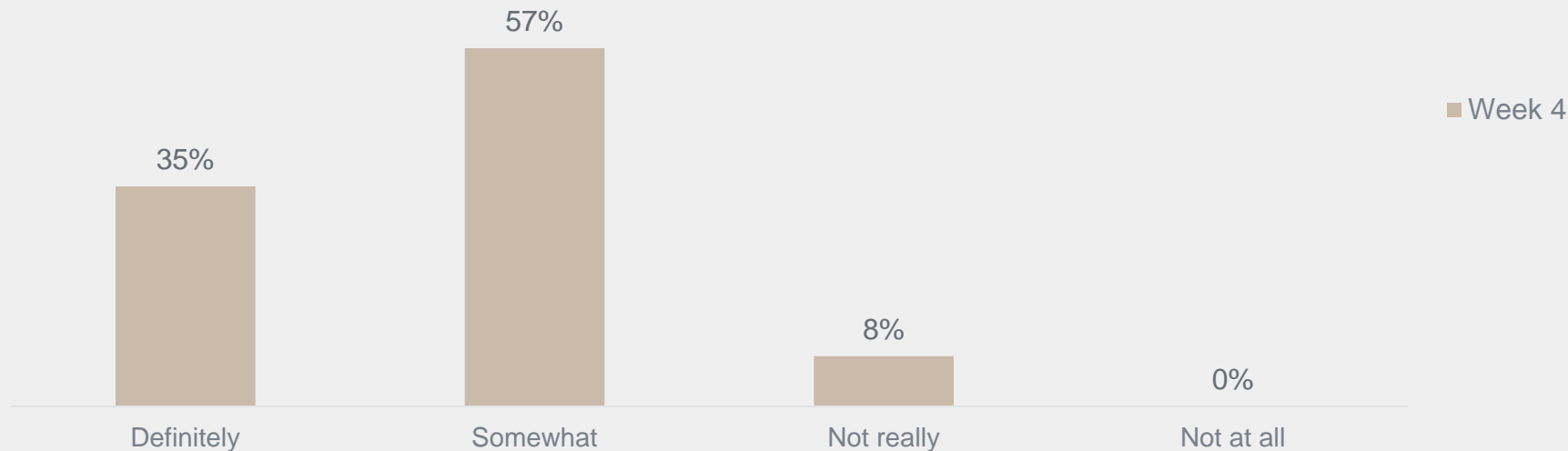
Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

Spiritual Well-being



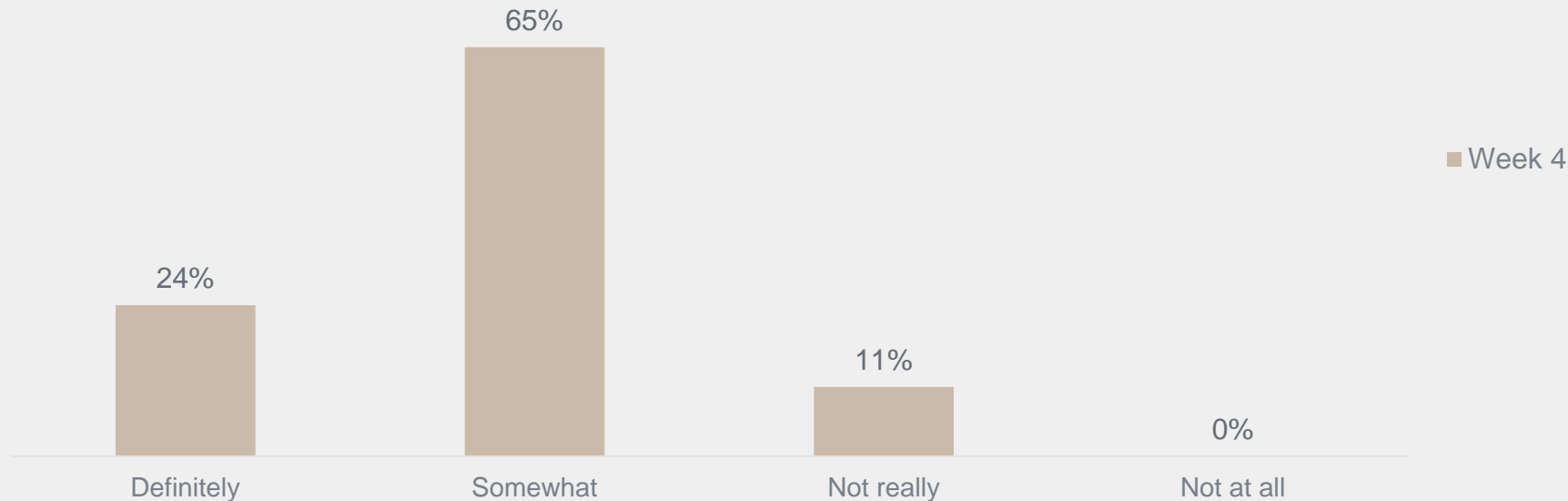
Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

Physical Well-being



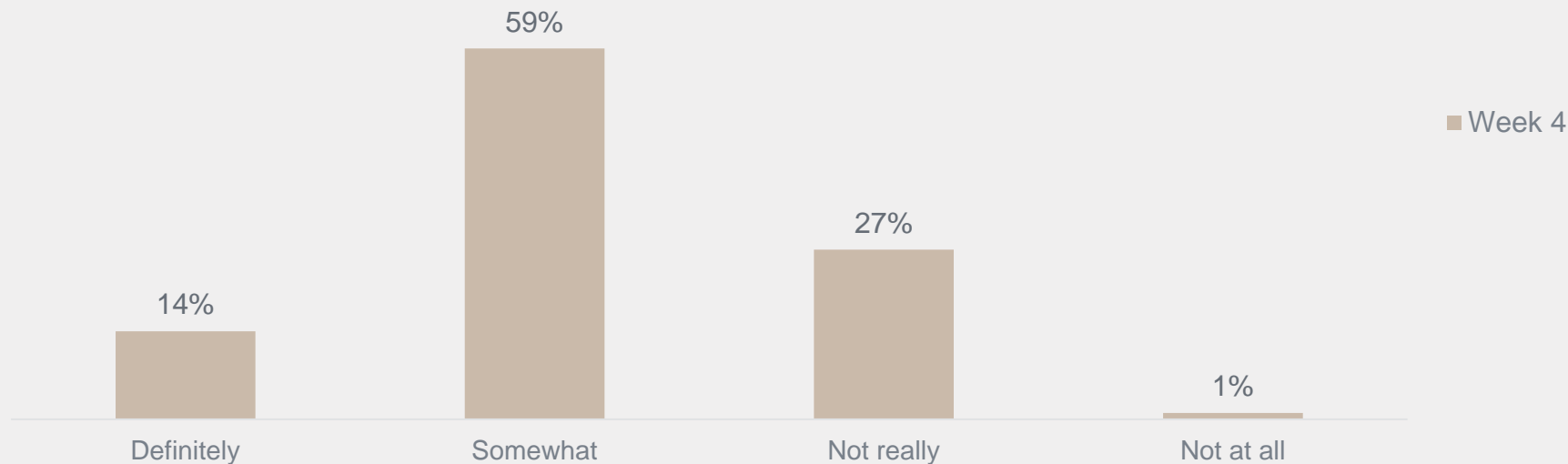
Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

Mental and Emotional Health

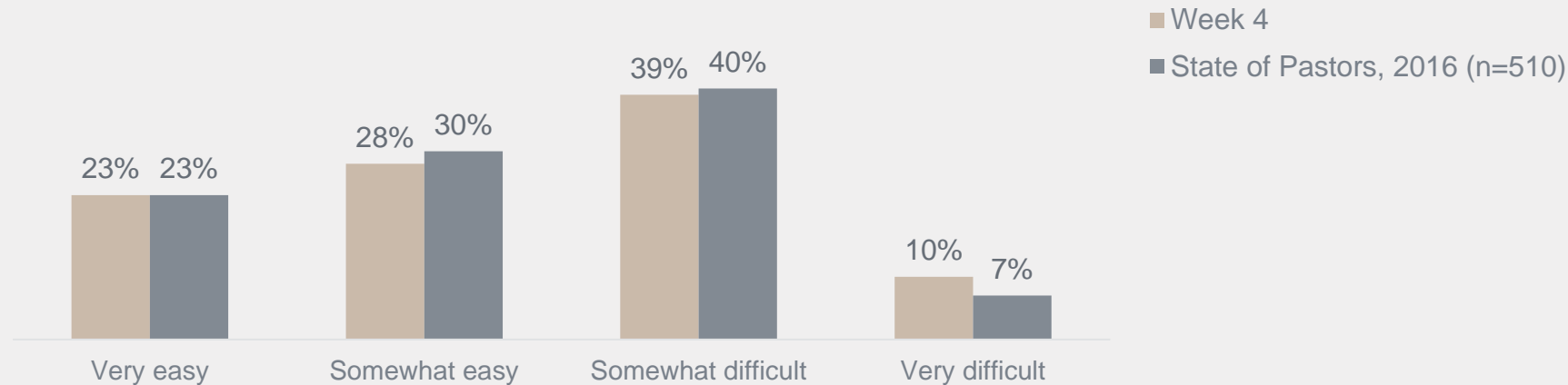


Do you feel you have a good understanding of what the immediate needs are for people in your congregation as it relates to each of the following?

Financial Health

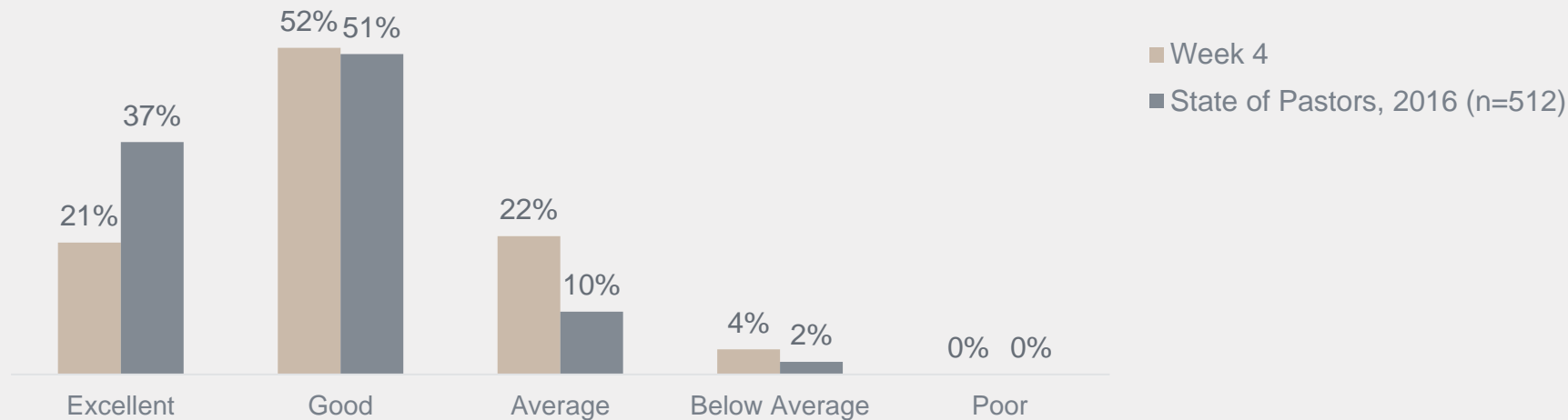


Considering the new realities you are facing due to COVID-19, how easy or difficult is it for you to find time in your ministry schedule to invest in your own spiritual development?



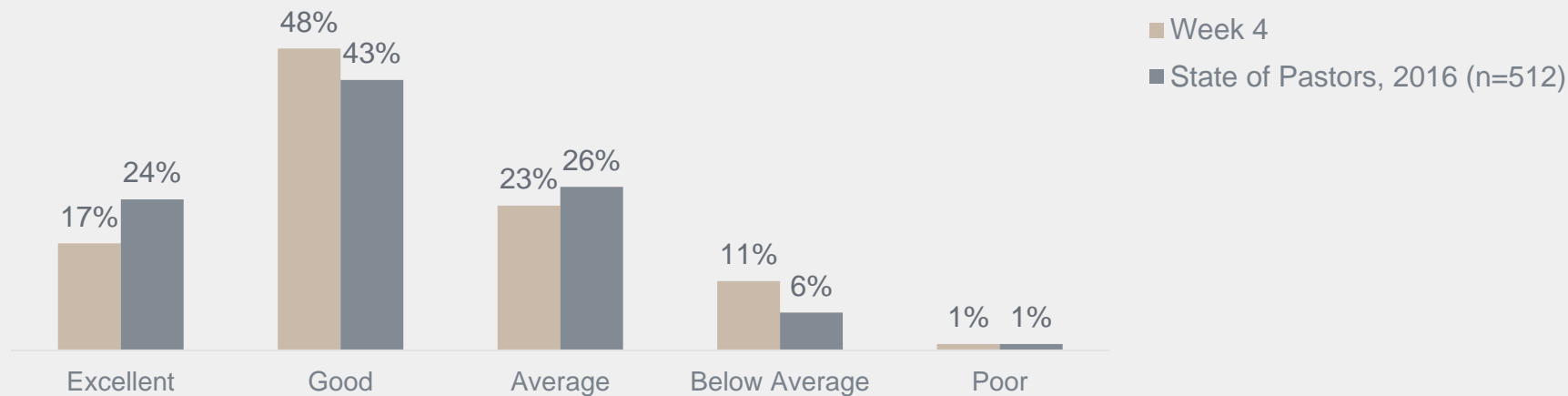
Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Spiritual Well-being



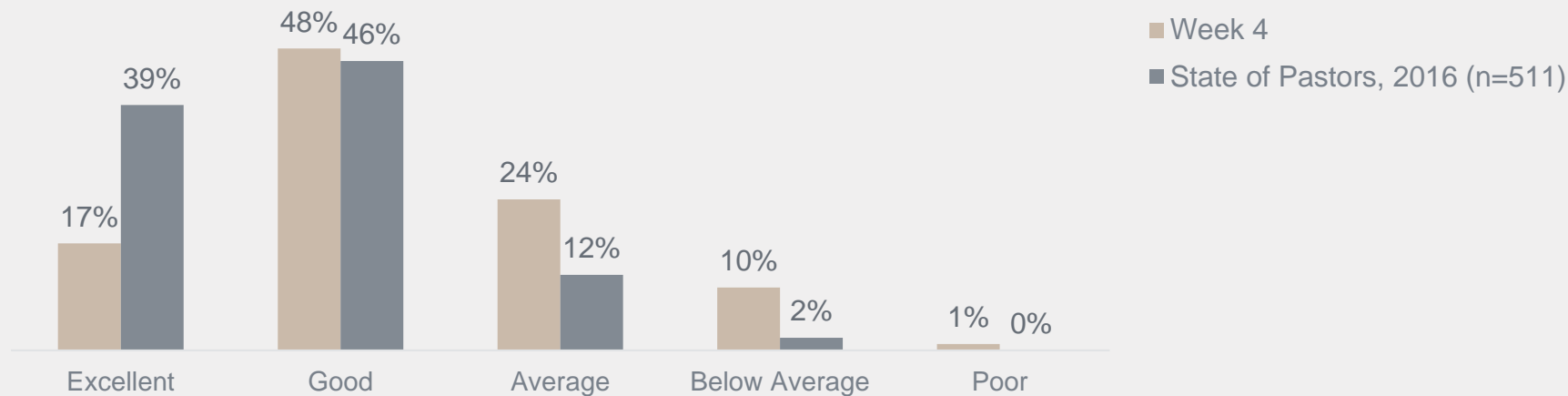
Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Physical Well-being



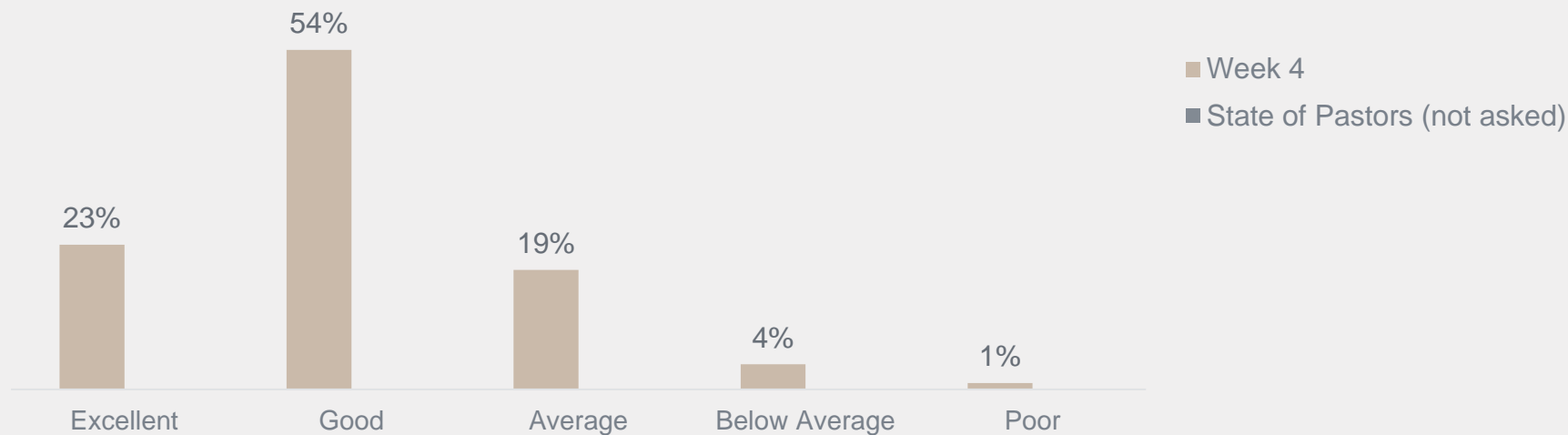
Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Mental and Emotional Health



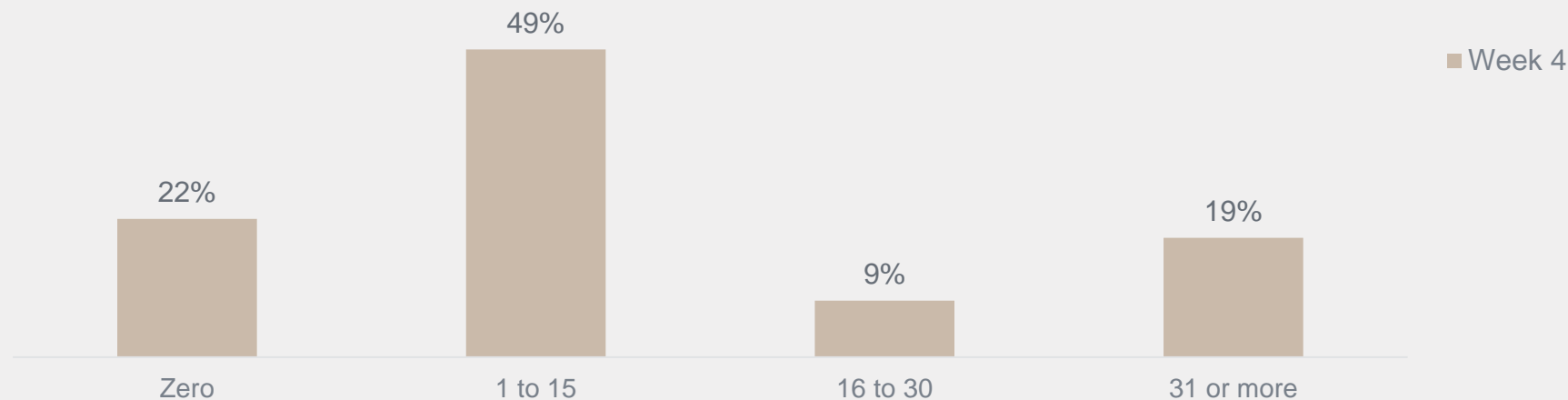
Please indicate how satisfied you are right now when it comes to each of the following.

Financial Health

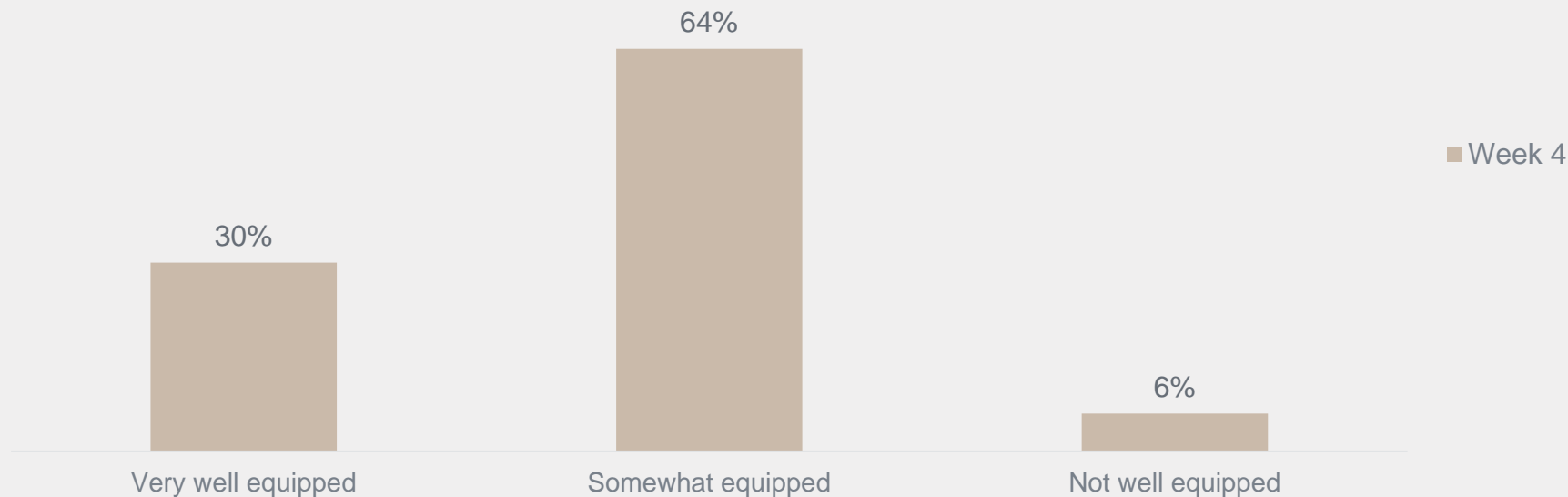


About how many people, if any, have reached out to your church in the past month, seeking help to cope with the current health and economic crisis?

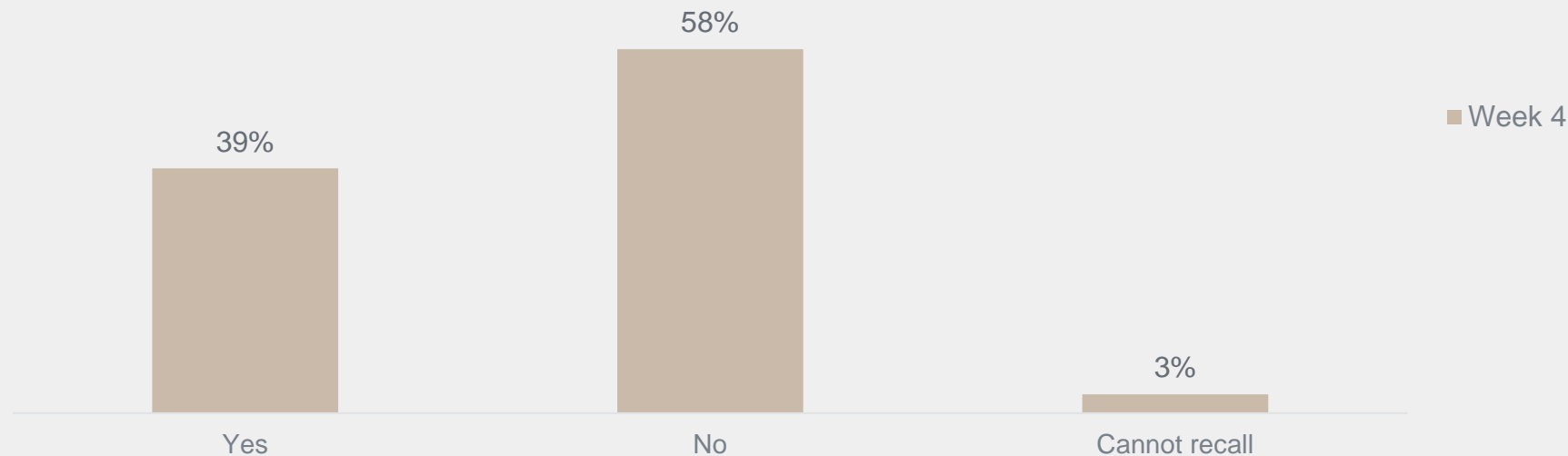
Average = 5 (mean)



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

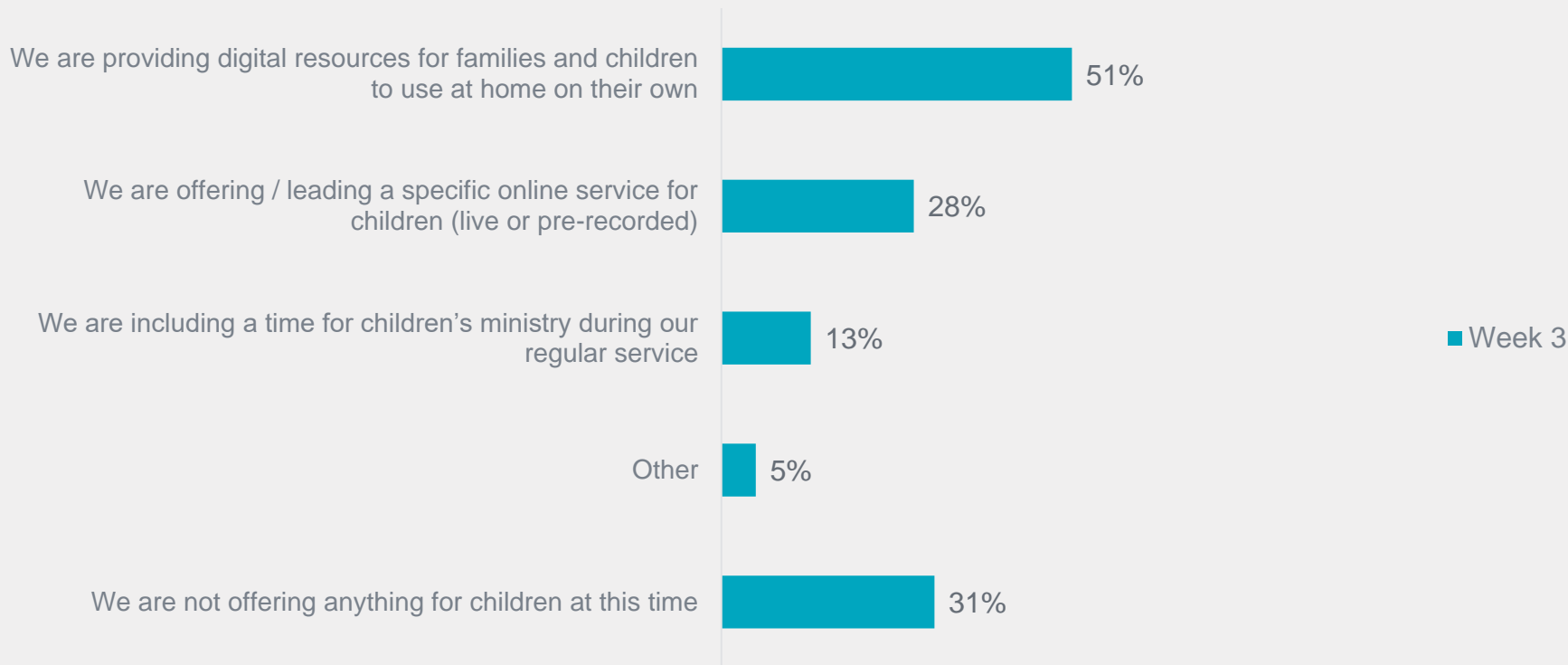


In the last month, have you or another church staff member preached on the topic of mental or emotional health?

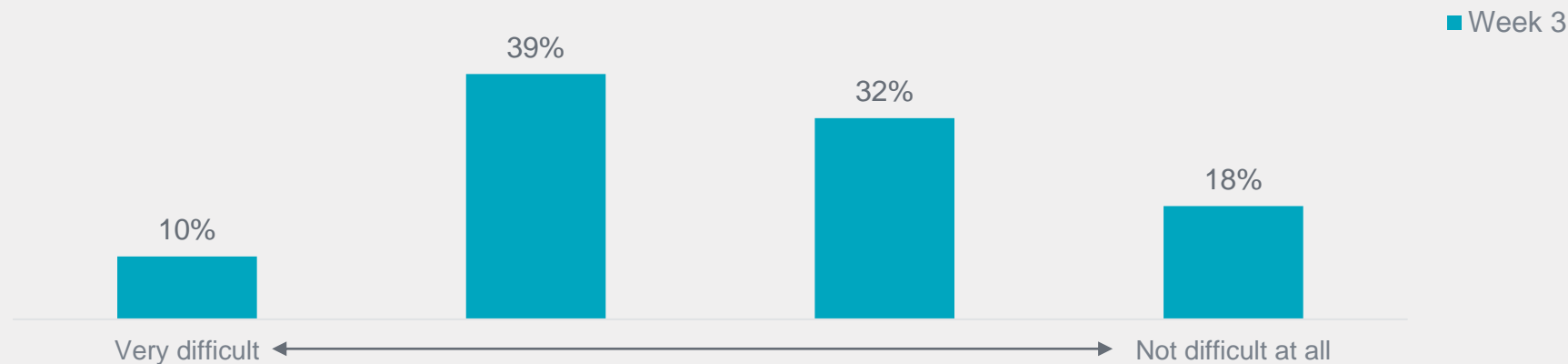


Week 3 Questions

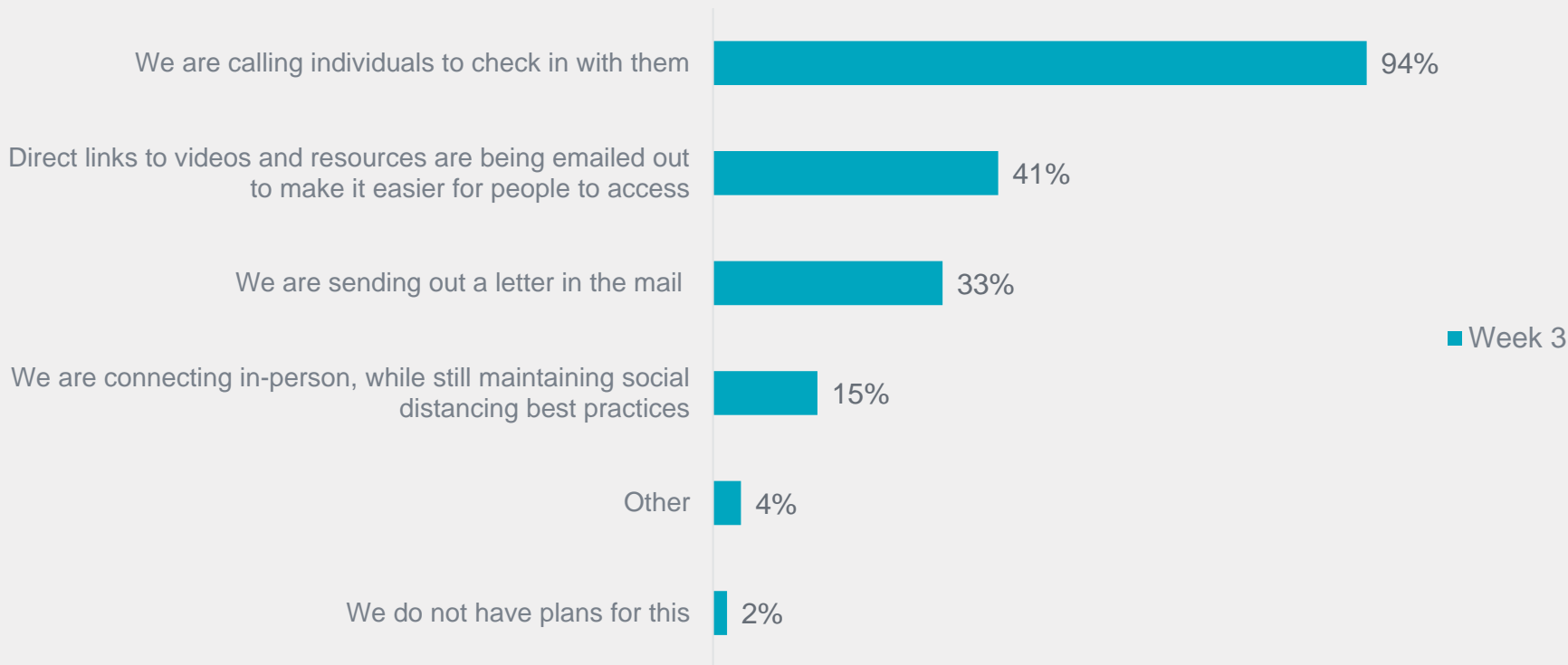
In light of the new realities churches are experiencing due to COVID-19, how has your children's ministry transitioned?



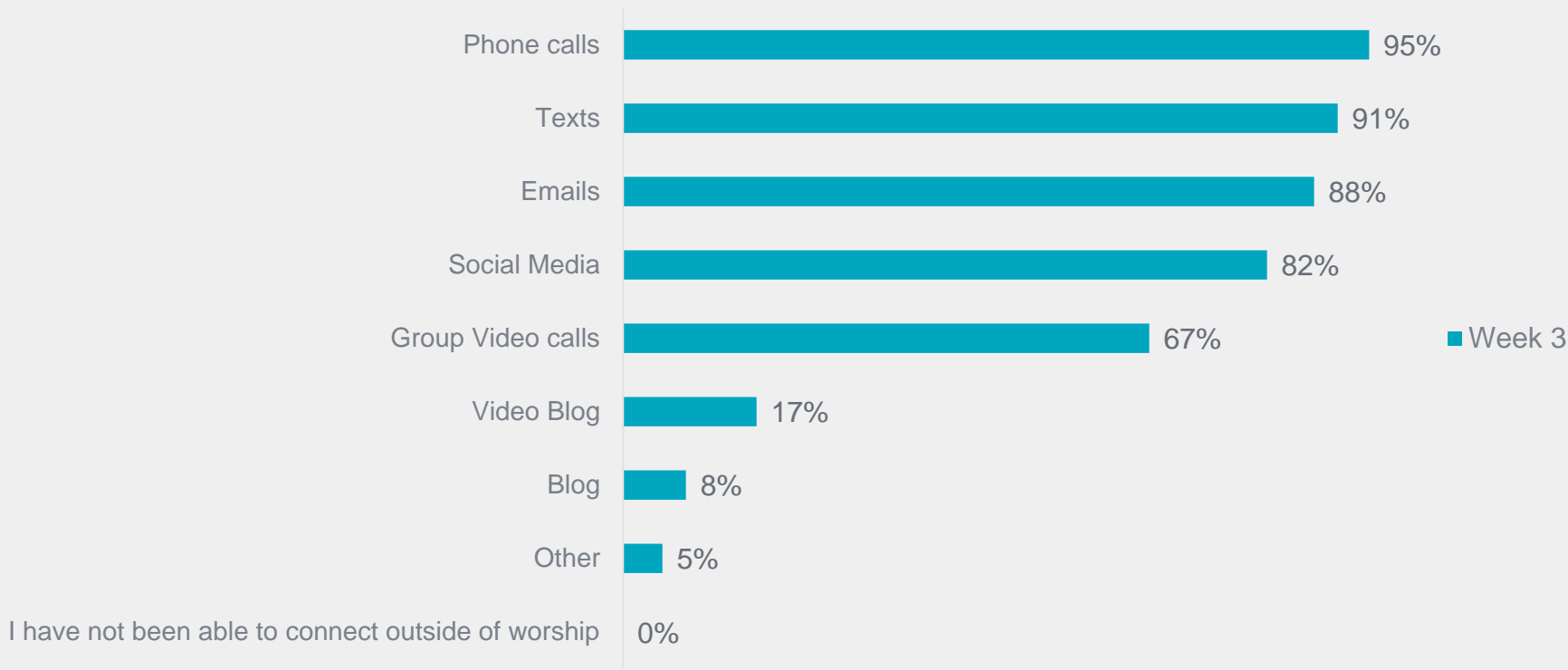
How difficult has it been to remain connected with the older members of your congregation?



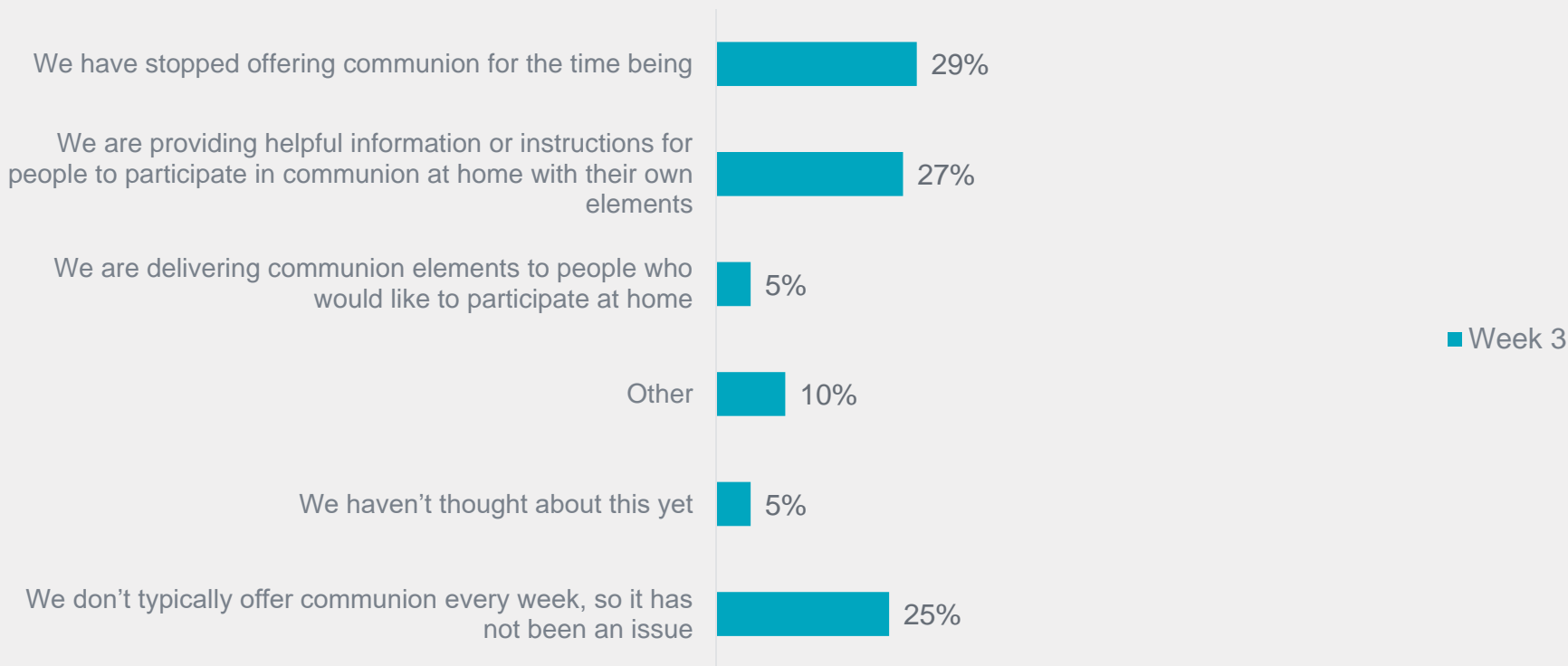
How is your church planning to reach out to those in your congregation who are less familiar with the technology to access online resources or worship services?



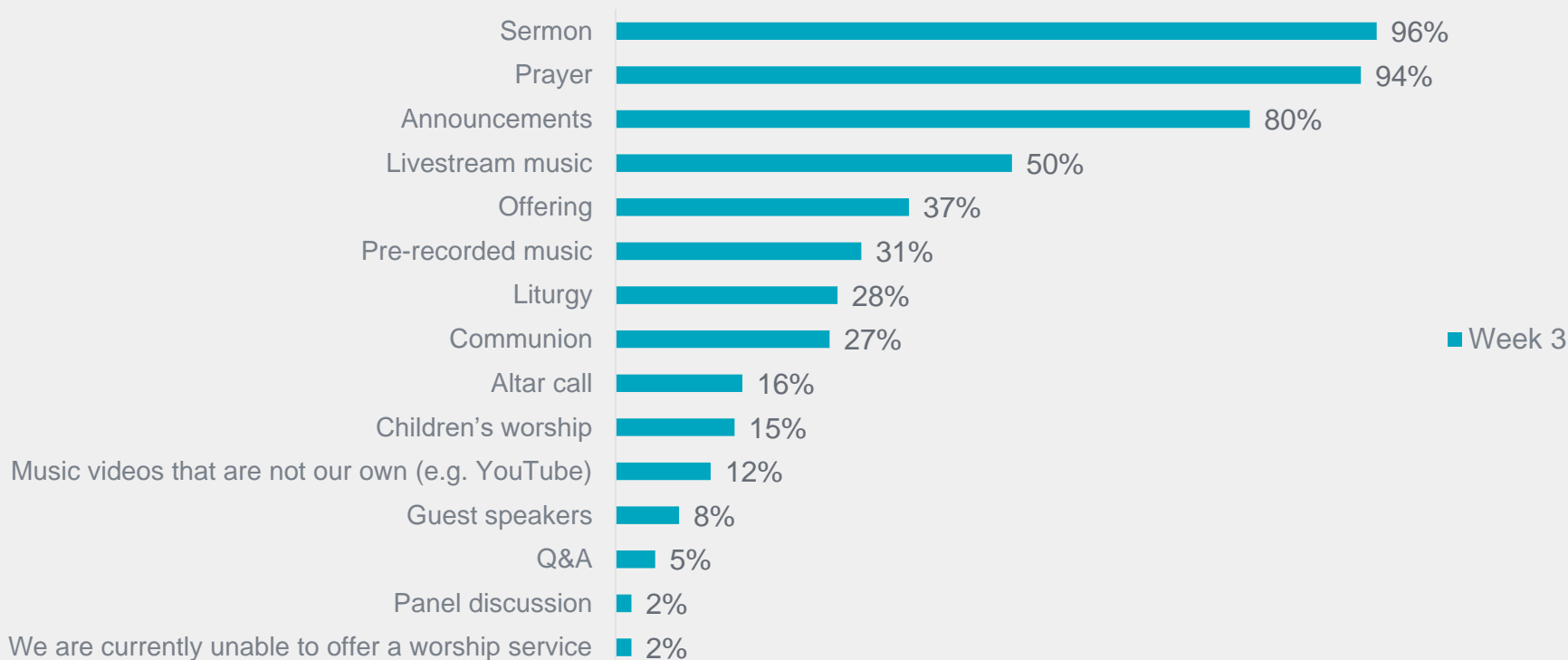
How are you, personally, able to connect with your church community throughout the week, not including any regular worship services?



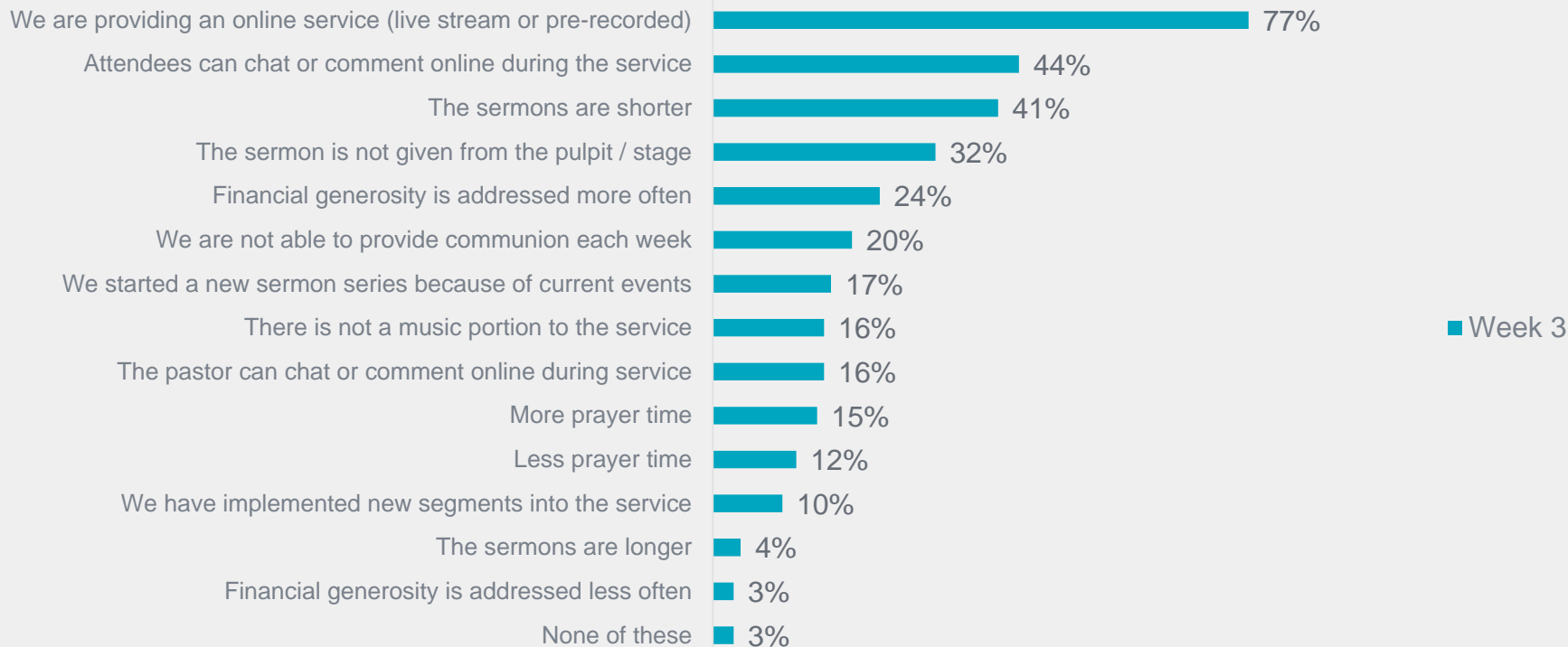
Which of the following best describes how your church is participating in communion during the COVID-19 crisis?



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

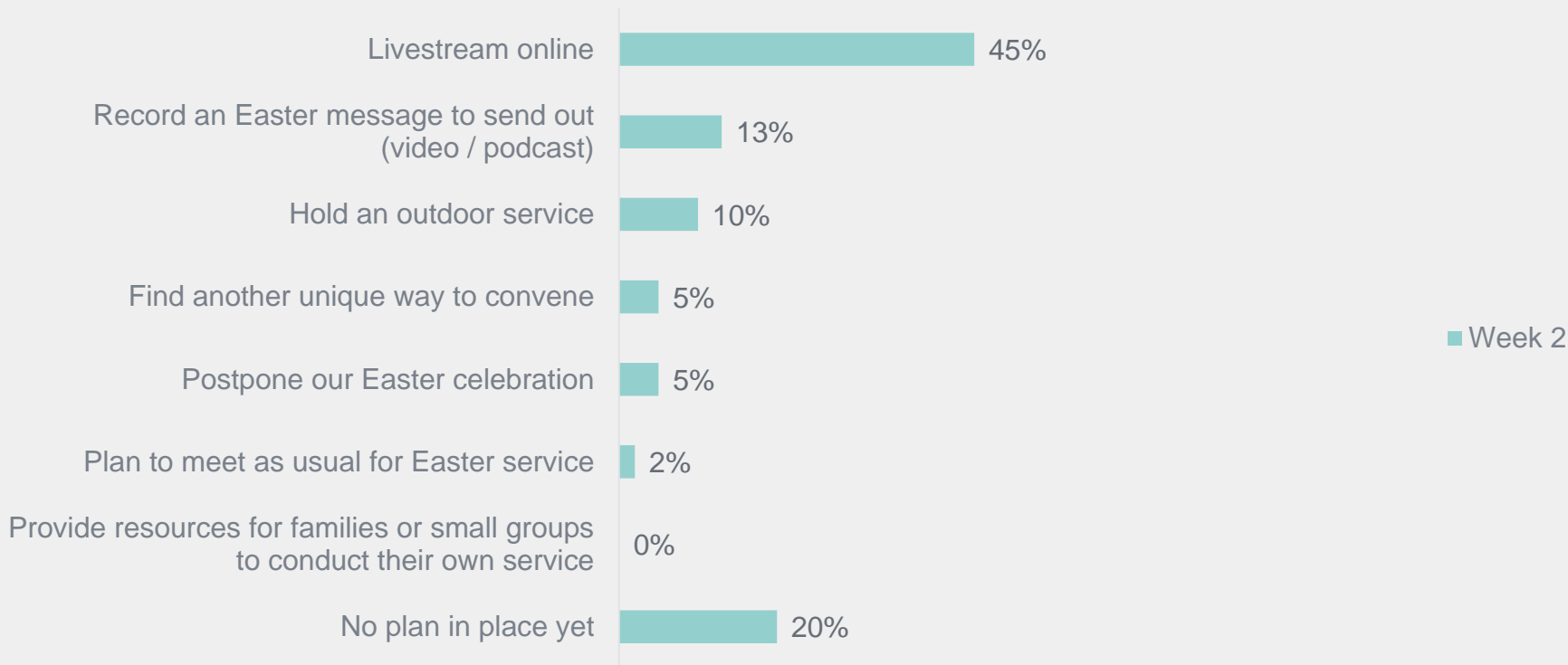


How has your worship service experience changed as a result of the COVID-19 crisis?

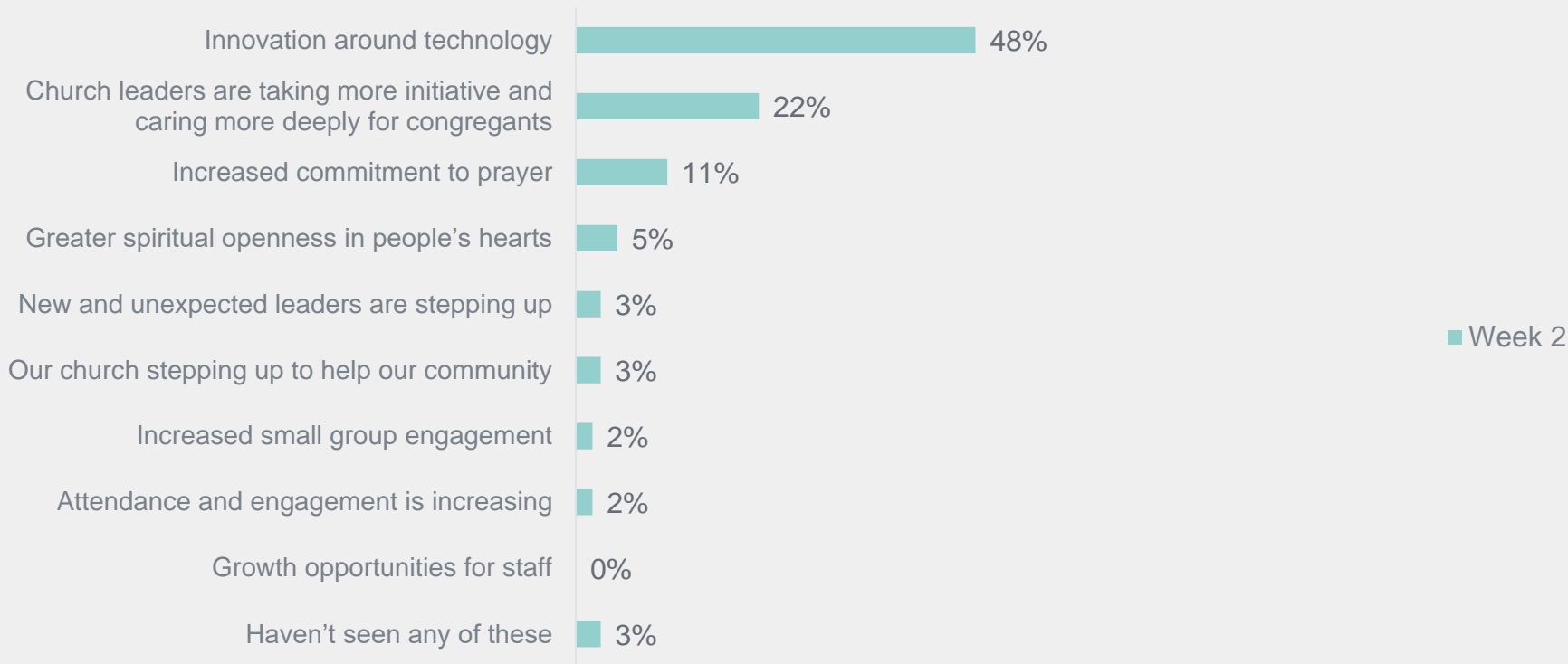


Week 2 Questions

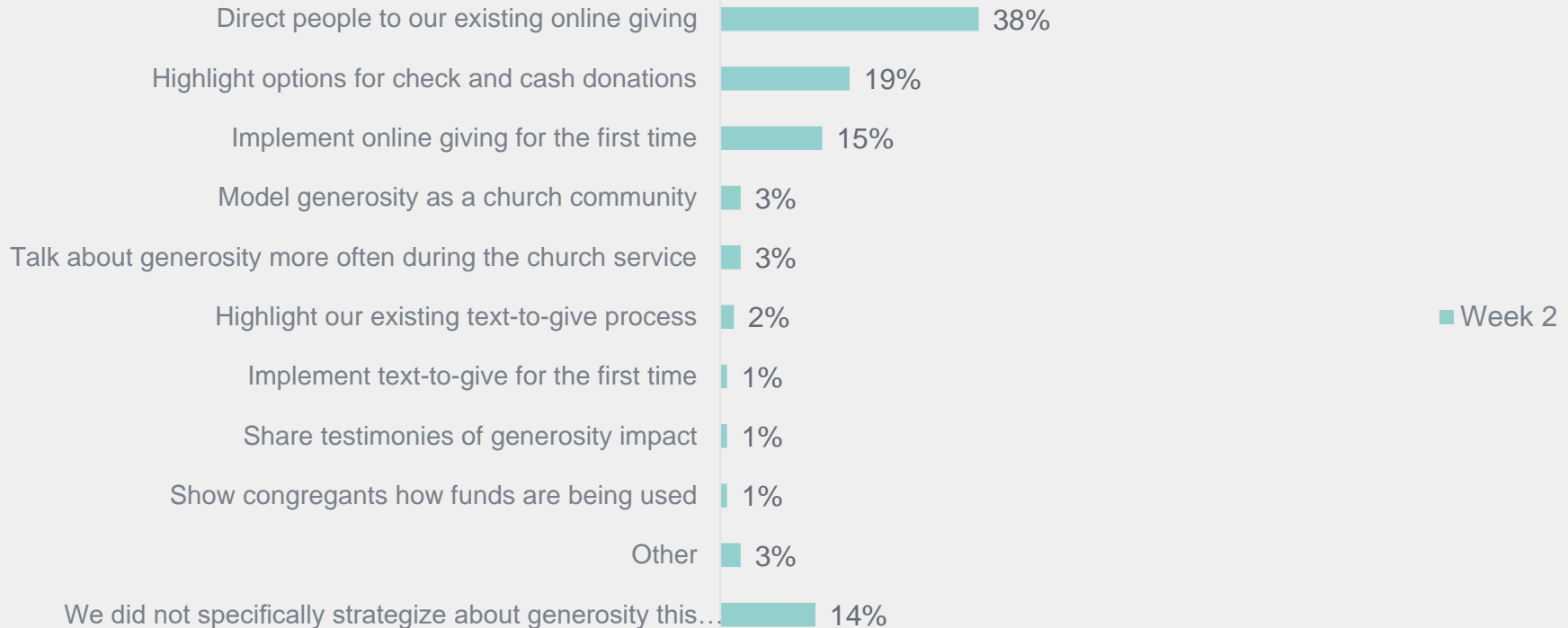
What do you plan to do for Easter service(s) this year?



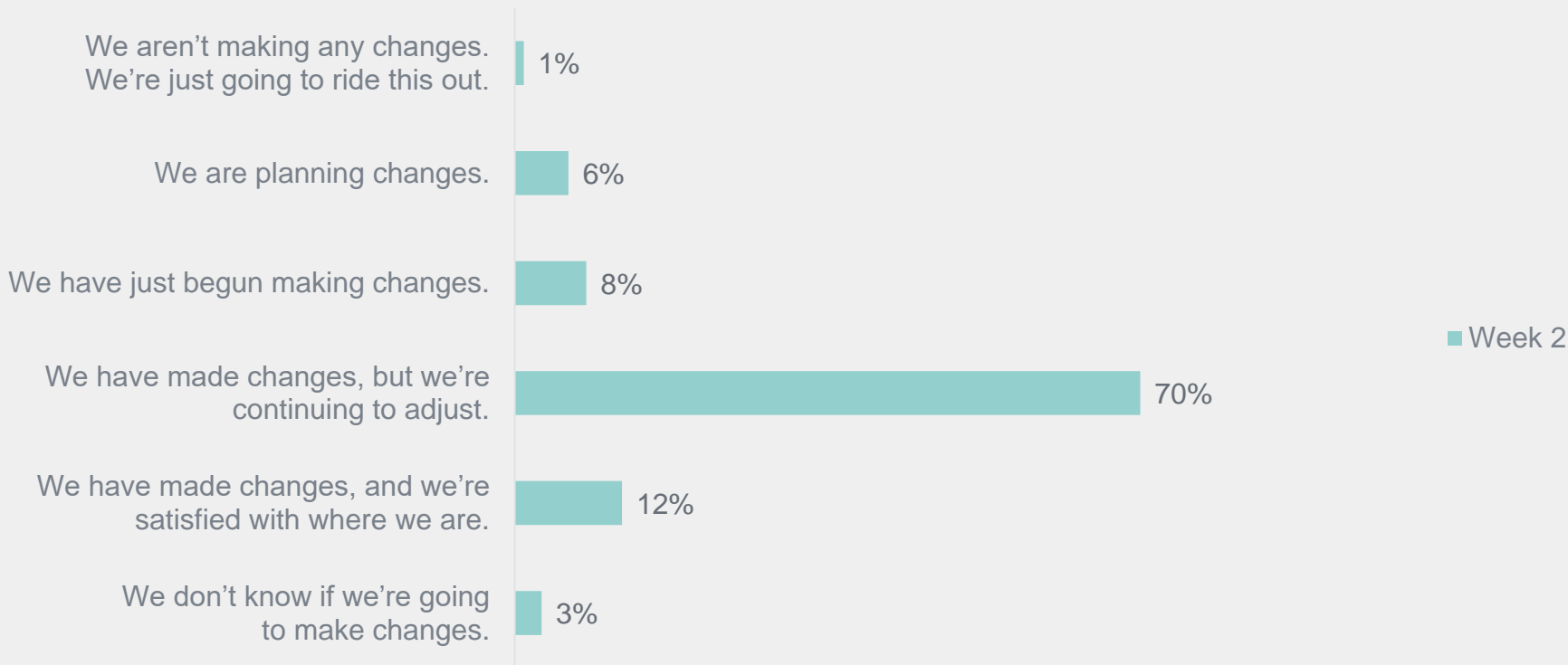
Where have you seen your church grow most in this unprecedented time?



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

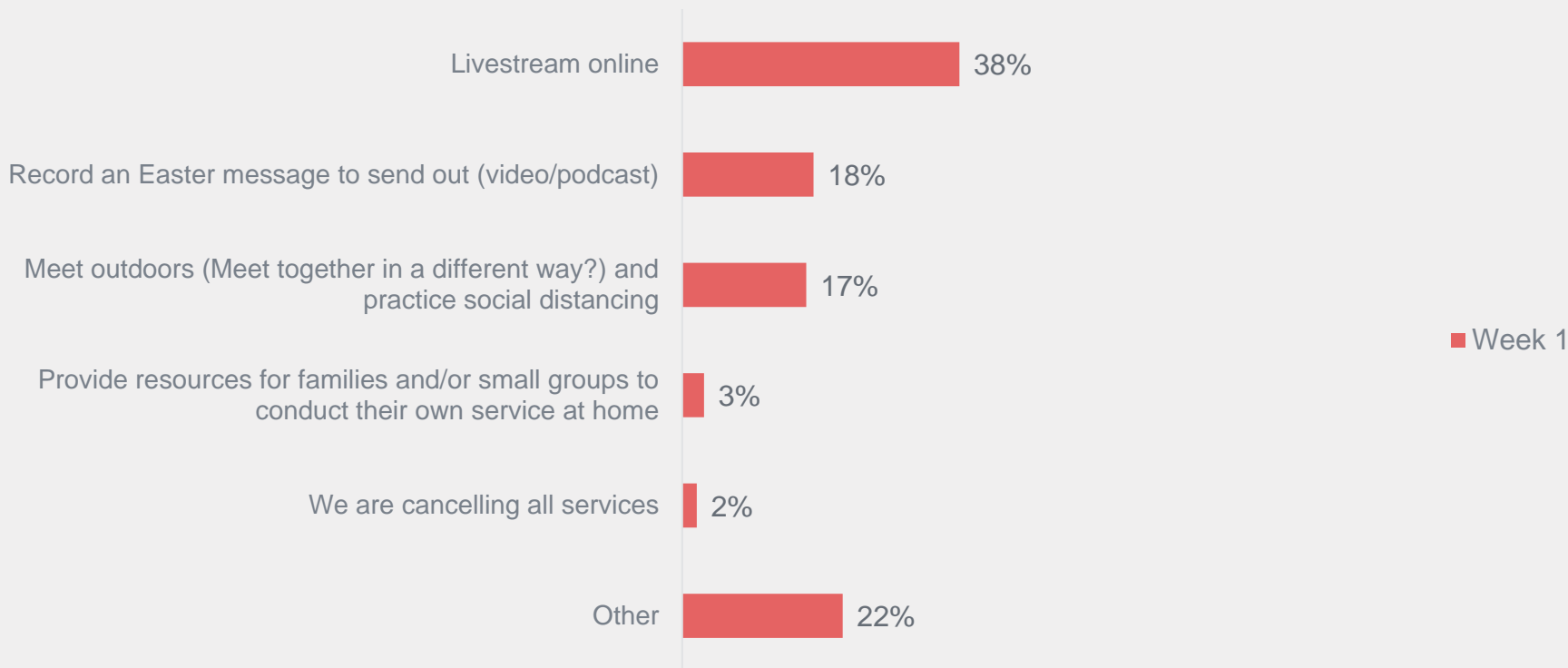


Where are you at in considering changes related to digital worship and weekend services, and how is it going?

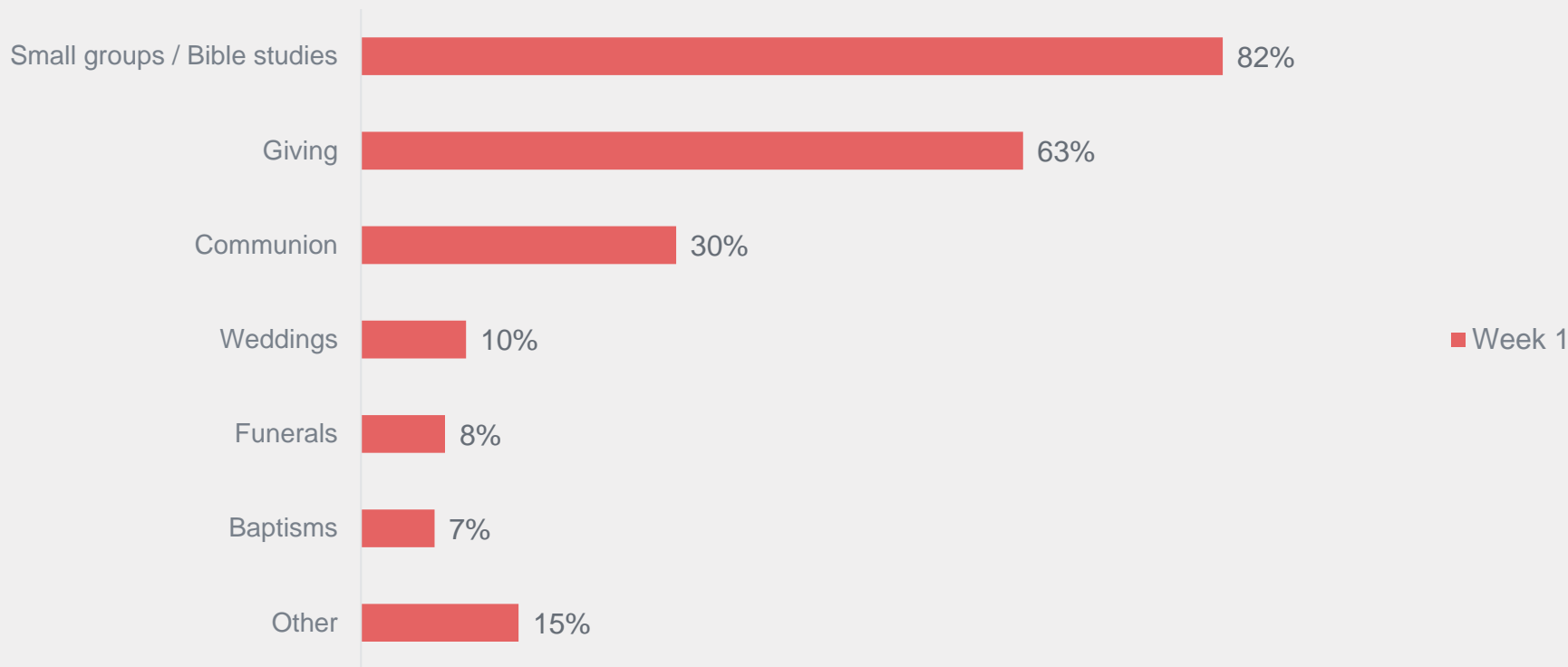


Week 1 Questions

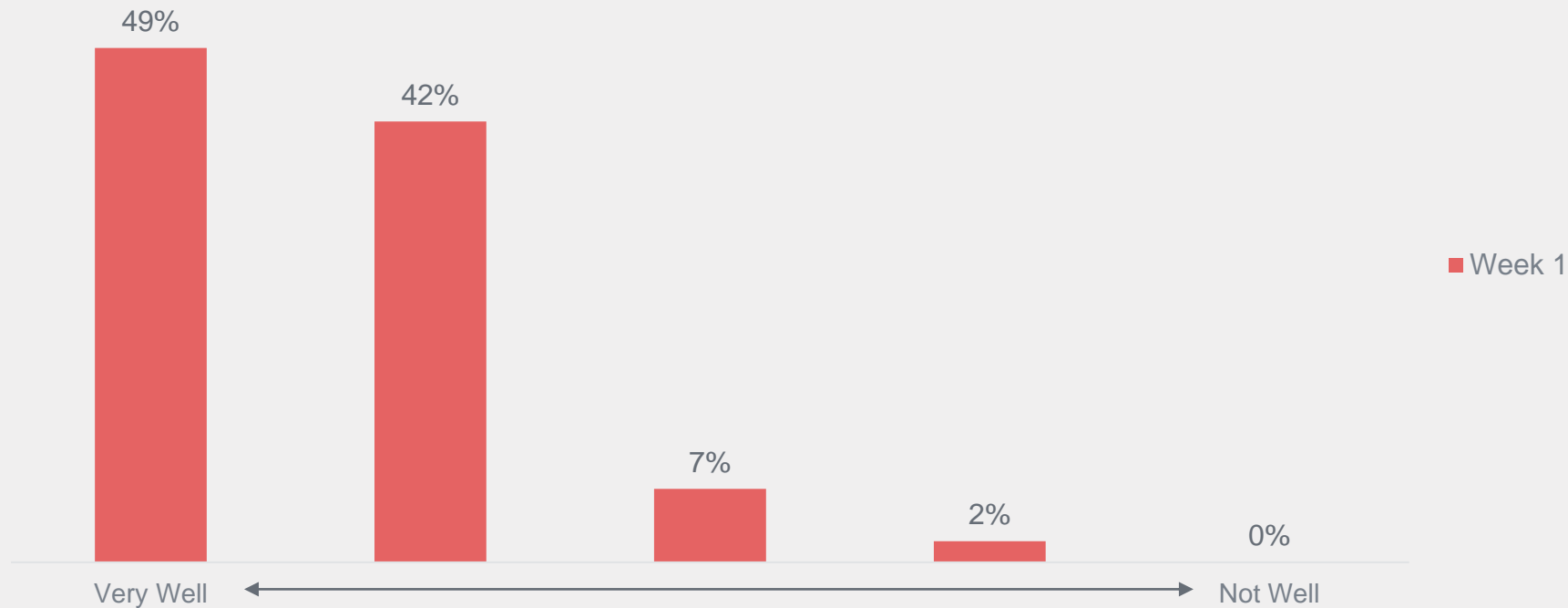
What do you plan to do about Easter services?



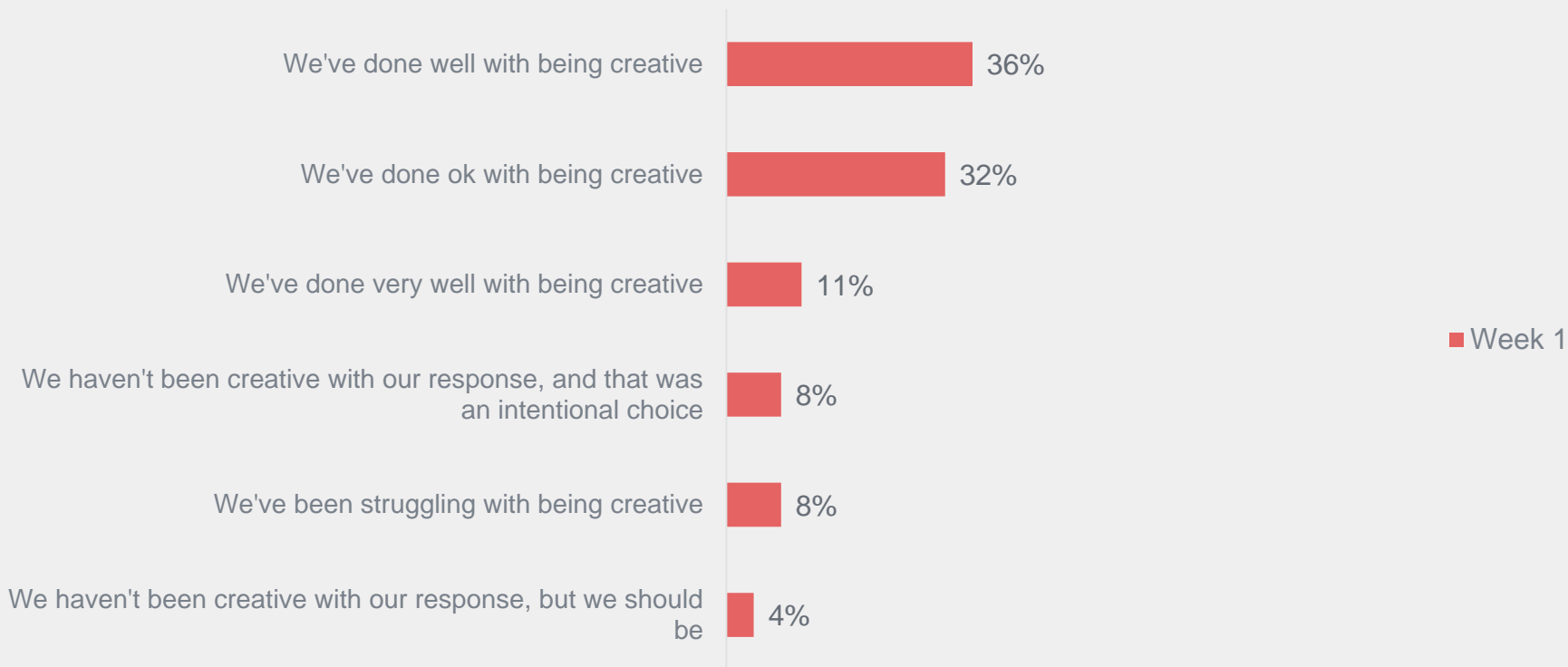
This week for your church, has _____ been impacted by the pandemic?



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