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# Seventh-day Adventist Millennials

## Up or Out?

**Barna Group**

Examine. Illuminate. Transform.

NAD Conference | Nov 2013

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# Barna Group

Knowledge to navigate a changing world



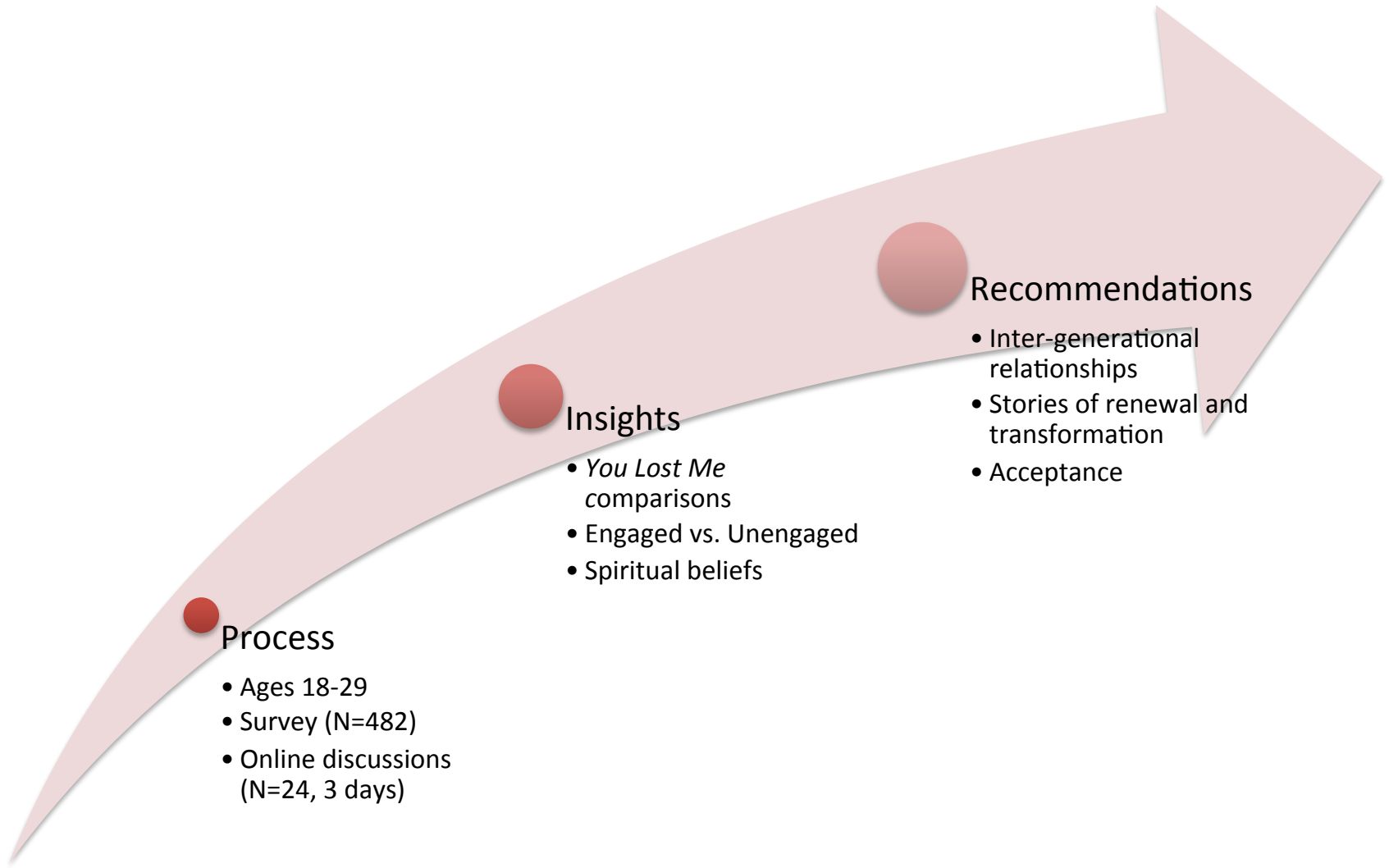


# Barna Labs

**Barna Labs** is a full-year learning experience, with diagnostic surveys and practical training from David Kinnaman and the Barna team.

**Visit [barna.org/labs](http://barna.org/labs) for more info**

# Overview



# Christian Millennials

Doubtless

• U.S. 10% | SDA 28%

Exclusive

• U.S. 22% | SDA 34%

Anti-science

• U.S. 25% | SDA 47%

Overprotective

• U.S. 23% | SDA 36%

Shallow

• U.S. 24% | SDA 29%

Repressive

• U.S. 25% | SDA 37%

# Engaged v Unengaged

Engaged

Attend services at least monthly

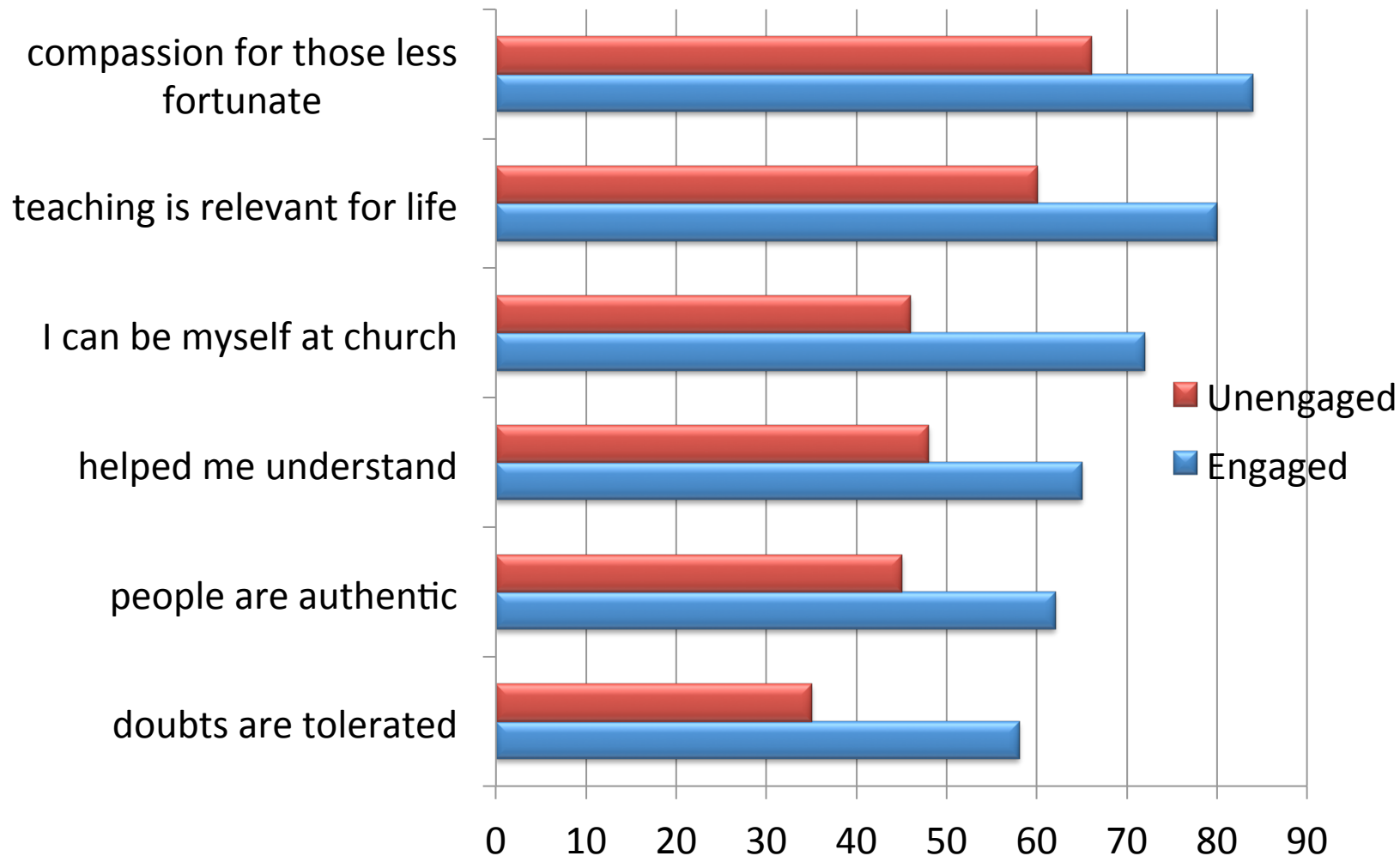
Church is relevant to them

Unengaged

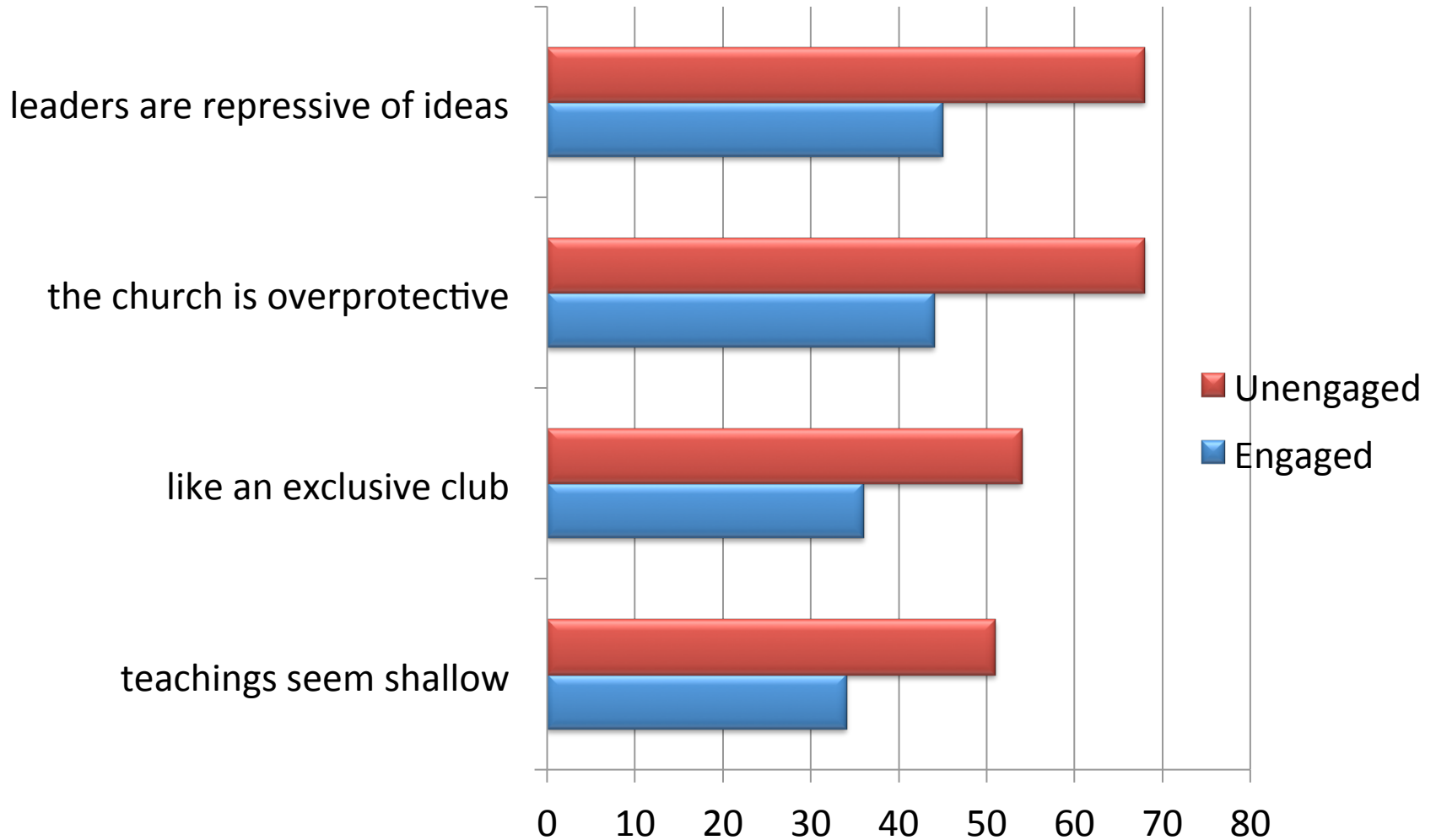
Do not attend at least monthly

Church is not relevant to them

# Engaged v. Unengaged: Attitudes

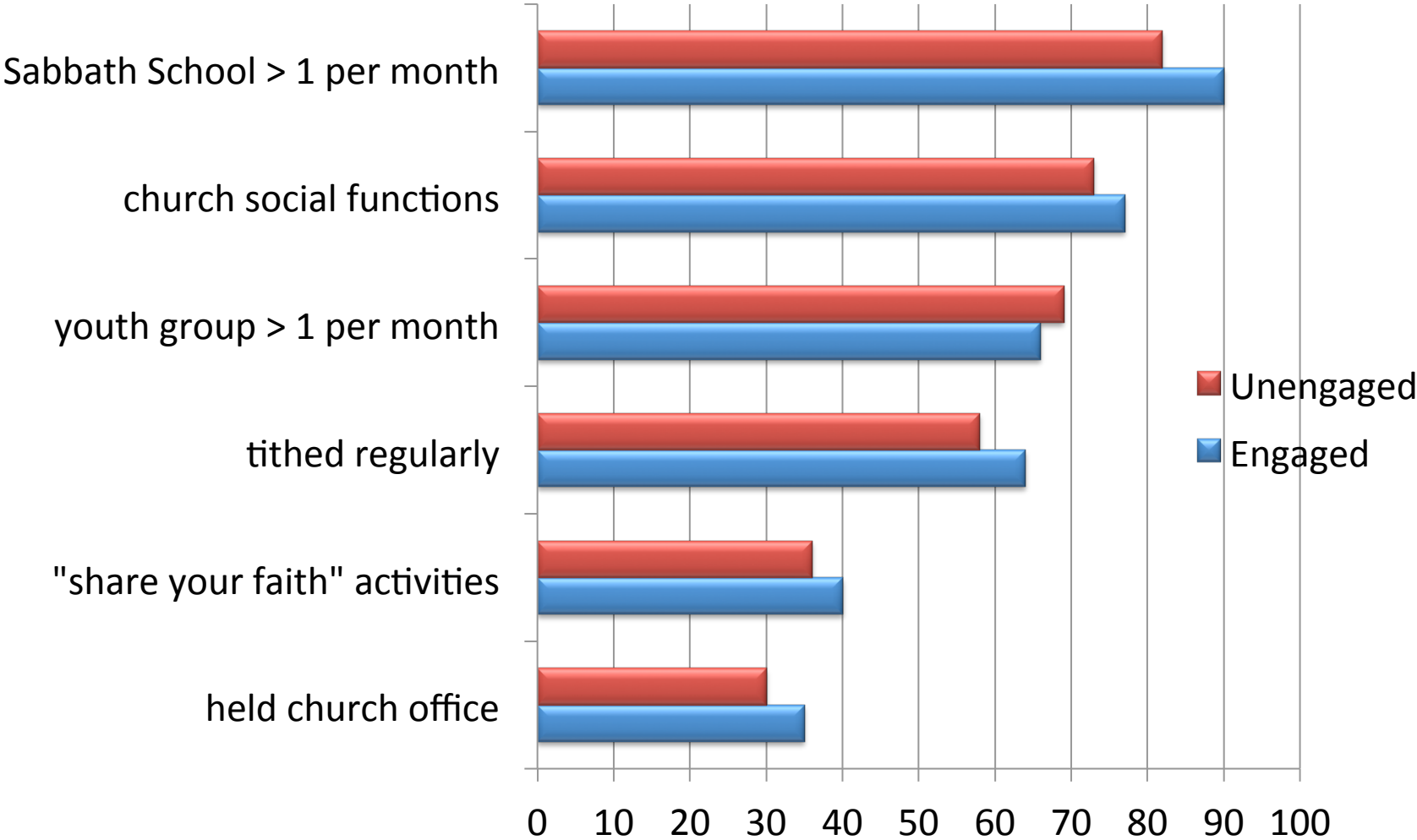


# Engaged v. Unengaged: Attitudes



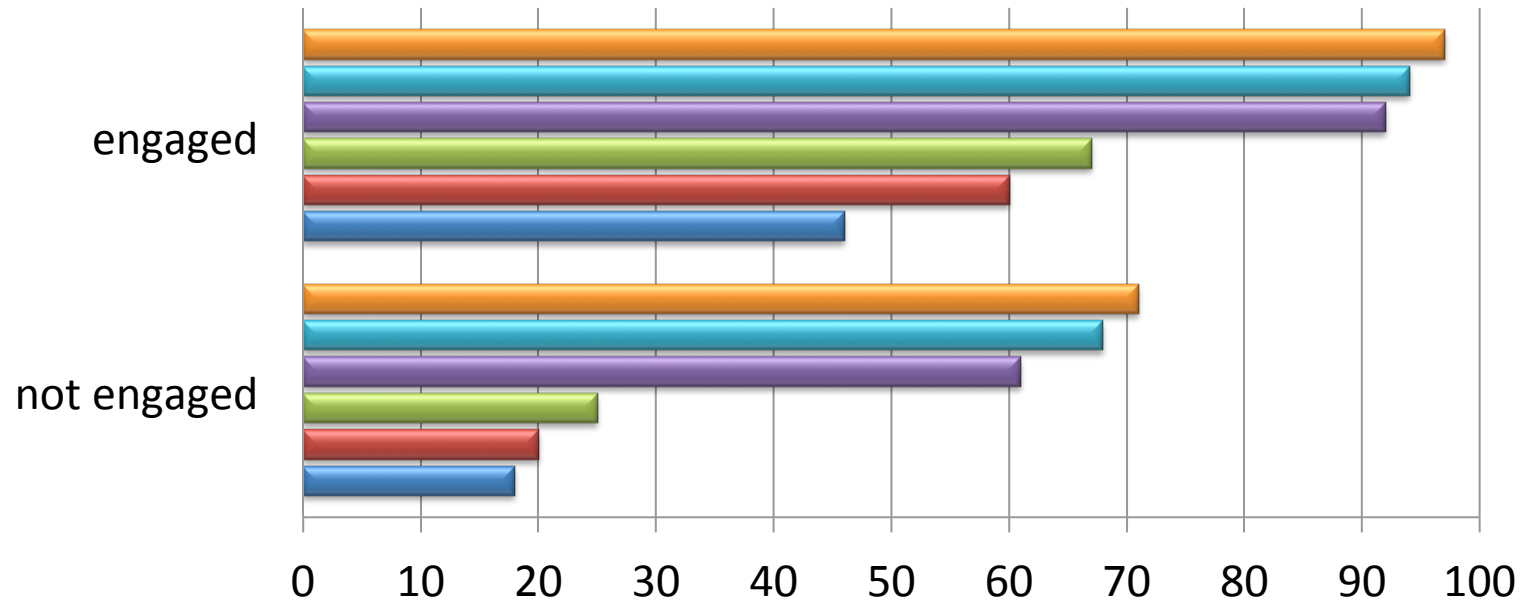


# Engaged v. Unengaged: Behaviors

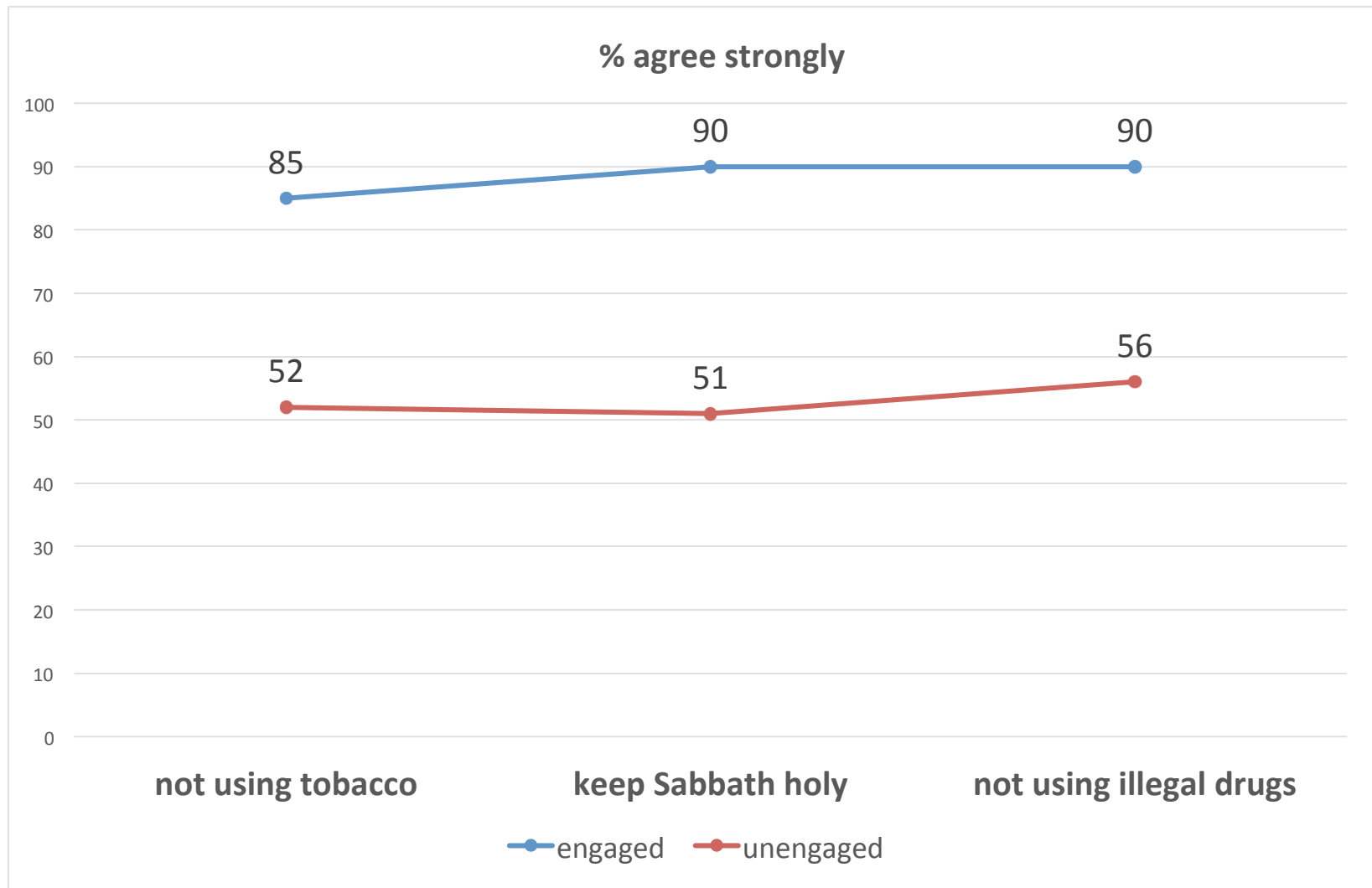


# Engaged v. Unengaged: Beliefs

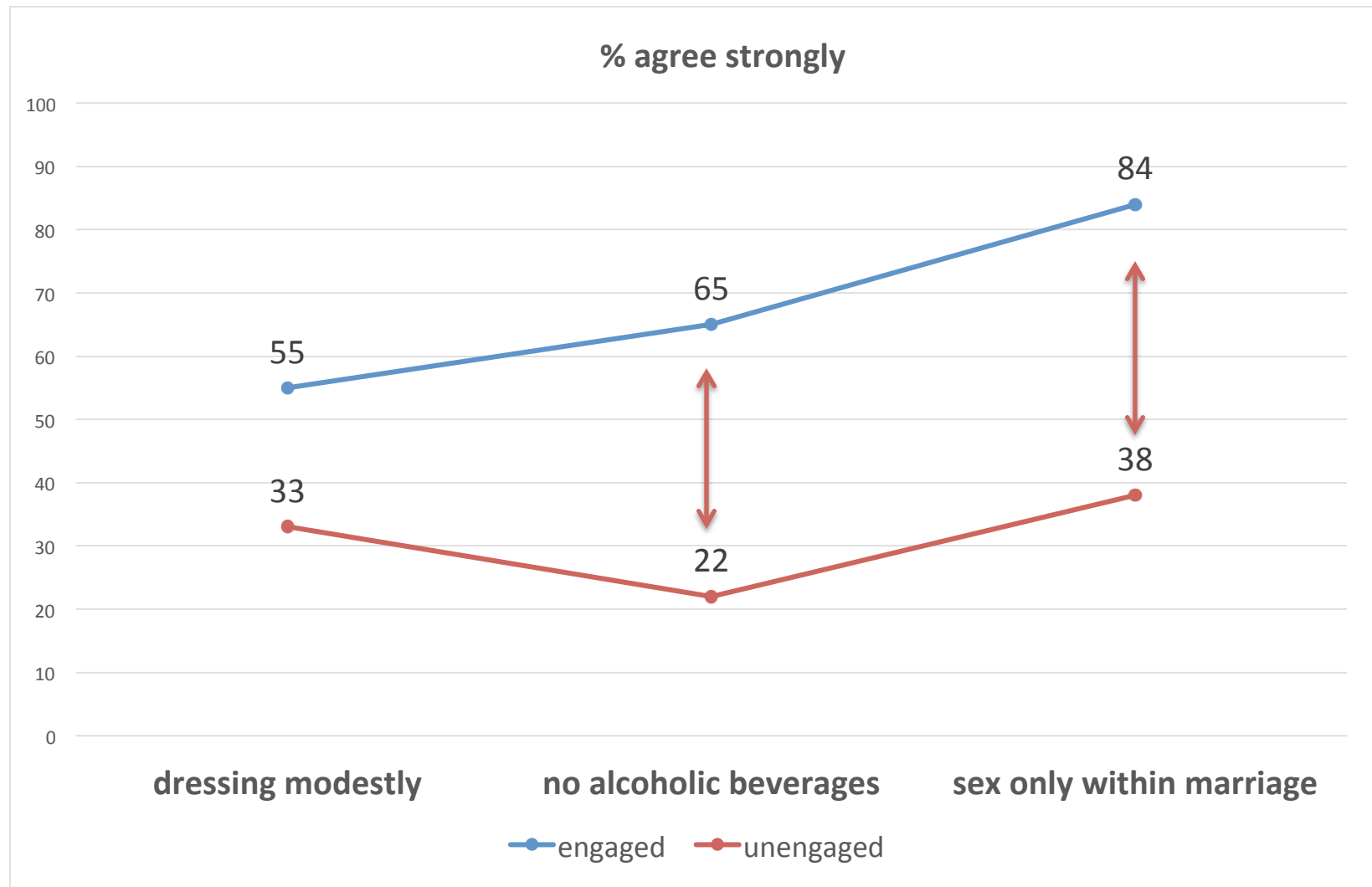
- the second coming of Jesus
- the state of the dead
- the Sabbath
- the heavenly sanctuary and the 2300 days
- Ellen White is a true prophet
- Adventist Church is the true church



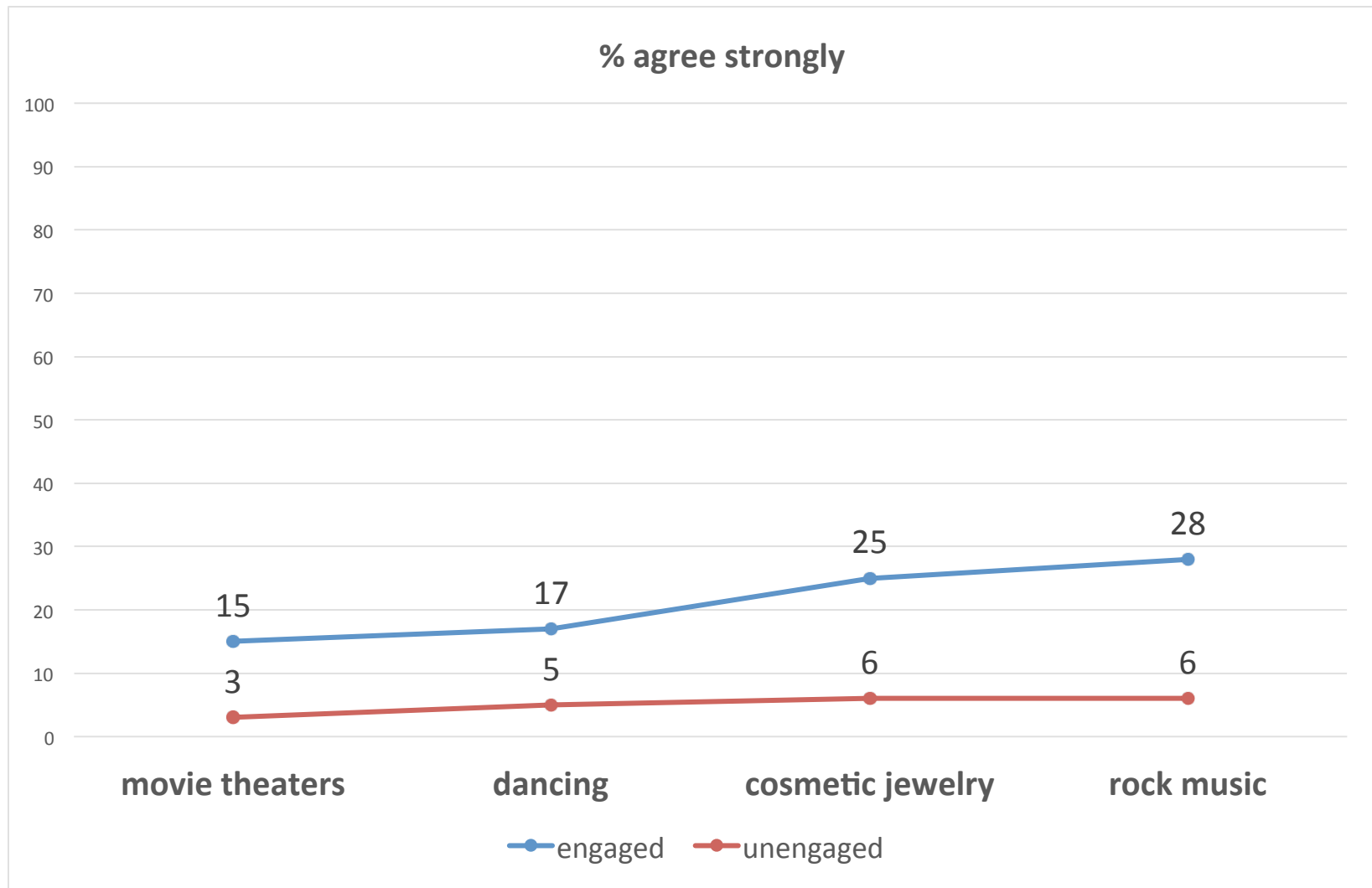
# Engaged v. Unengaged: Lifestyle



# Engaged v. Unengaged: Lifestyle



# Engaged v. Unengaged: Lifestyle



# What's Next?

## Intergenerational Relationships

- Mentoring
- Apprenticeships
- Openness

Bianca | *I love my home church.... Our older members are VERY supportive of our youth.*

Laura | *When I was younger and we started putting on Christmas plays, there were a group of elderly women who would travel to Florida every year for winter, and they would stay...long enough to see the play.*

Seka | *I think it is key for there to be support between the younger and older members. It has to be BOTH WAYS because we all need support.*

# What's Next?

## Renewal and Transformation

- Platform to share
- Challenge to experience
- Organic, not forced

Elaine | *I almost died when I was young due to an infection. I remember waking up in the middle of the night and hearing my dad cry as he whispered prayers into my ear.... I also remember the doctors telling my parents that they didn't understand what happened, but I that I was healed.*

Bianca | *Time passed and [my cousin] was able to come back to church even more pumped than before. She would give her testimonies at youth rallies and encouraged others...I was on the sidelines observing.*

Jonathan | *God spoke to me in such an amazing way that night. I was standing in the sand, out of reach of the encroaching water, looking up at the stars and talking with God. I asked Him a question, and that if His answer was "yes," that I would know without a doubt. As soon add I said that, the water touched and went passed my feet. This was a big moment in my life.*

# What's Next?

## Forgiveness and Acceptance

- Accentuate the contrast
- Leverage experiences
- Never discard!

Effy | *One thing I've appreciated about going to church is the sense of camaraderie. It's nice to feel accepted and to belong. Not having to explain why you can't participate in an activity or why you don't eat certain foods is really liberating.*

Kecia | *In one of my past relationships I let my boyfriend take me too far...and I really can't forgive myself. I am praying God helps me forgive myself. It is tough to overcome something that has gone against your beliefs and I was stupid enough to let it happen. Each day I pray I can overcome this.*



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Chanelle | *Recently, I overheard someone talking about a young man who was coming to the church and was trying to get a career as a bartender. I really admired the way she spoke very neutrally with him, despite thinking that he should not become a bartender. She didn't even let on that she thought it was wrong. She just welcomed him to come closer to Jesus. **She knew that Jesus could do so much better of a job leading the young man on the path his life needed to take than she did.***

*I once visited to a church near my home church which has a reputation for being really liberal. Everyone was so welcoming and casual (everyone was wearing jeans) and I felt so free from peer pressure. They sang a song that said "There is freedom in the house of the Lord" and I just started crying. That afternoon I went back to my home church and one of my dad's friends came up to me ask me why I was wearing jeans and why I didn't go to church*

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*Do you care more about your children,  
or your traditions?*