

GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE

Ethiopia Report

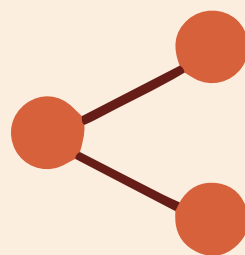
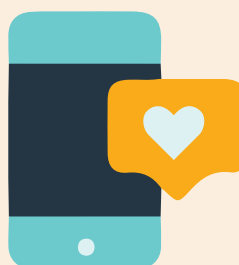


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Thank You

A special thank you to our partners on this project who shared the vision and made this research possible. We would like to acknowledge the Ethiopian Evangelical Churches Fellowship (EECF) Regional Office and Great Commission Ministry Ethiopia. Thank you for your heart to understand and reach the next generation with God's Word.

INTRODUCTION

Each generation brings its own unique strengths and challenges, and research allows us to see the world through their eyes, helping us better meet their needs. Today's young people are no exception.

This project takes a closer look at the perspectives and lives of Ethiopian youth, providing insights into their experiences amid the country's complex social landscape. Through this research, we gain a deeper understanding of the beliefs, habits, influences, and struggles faced by young people across Ethiopia, including their views on God, Jesus, the Bible, and the church.



The data, collected from rural, semi-urban, and urban areas between July and October 2024, sheds light on the experiences shaping the next generation. Throughout the report some percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

This project was a follow-up from a larger global study that surveyed young people across more than 20 countries, including the African nations of Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa. Modified versions of this survey have also been conducted in 10 additional African countries.

Our hope is that this report not only provides new insights but also moves you to take action on behalf of this generation, who needs the hope of the Gospel. Each statistic in this study represents a real young person with unique hopes, fears, and challenges. Every one of them has a name, a story, and an eternal destiny. OneHope is committed to impacting those destinies by reaching young people across the world with God's word.

Let's listen to what the young people of Ethiopia have to share with us.

ABOUT THE YOUNG PEOPLE

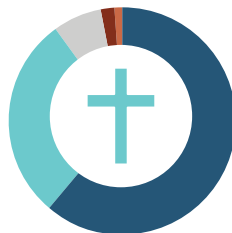
AGE



RELIGION¹



726 YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED

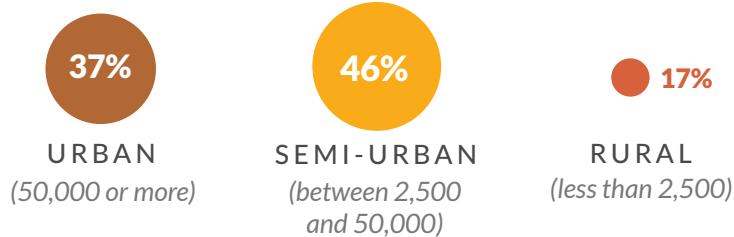


EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN **62%**
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX **29%**
MUSLIM **7%**
CATHOLIC **2%**
OTHER **1%²**

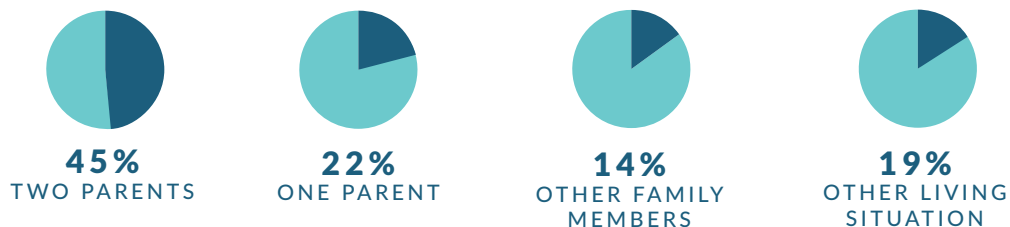
MALES 49%

FEMALES 51%

LOCATION



HOUSEHOLD



¹ Evangelical Christians make up a larger part of our sample than they do nationally—62% compared to 16%. This is because of the way the field teams accessed and collected data. As a result, this report will be especially useful for strategies focused on Evangelical youth. While Orthodox Christians are a smaller part of our sample (29%) compared to their national average of 40%, there are still useful insights about this group in the report.

² Six young people selected Other. Their responses were: one Adventist, one Apostolic church, and four “only Jesus.” For this report, they were considered separately from Christians and not included in our Committed Construct.

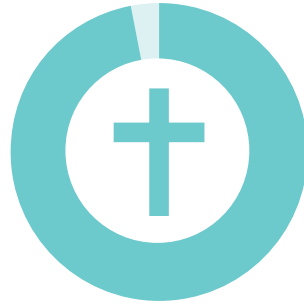
RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered

9 out of 10

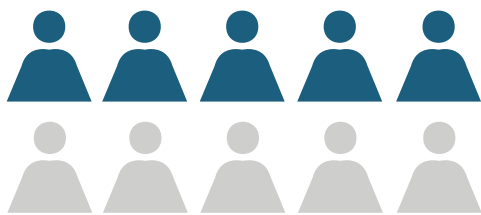
respondents said that their **faith** is an important part of their **identity**.



93% of young people surveyed identify as **Christian**.



One-third of young people say they frequently have **spiritual conversations** with others who do not share their beliefs.



53% of young Christians display the beliefs and behaviors of **Committed Christians**.



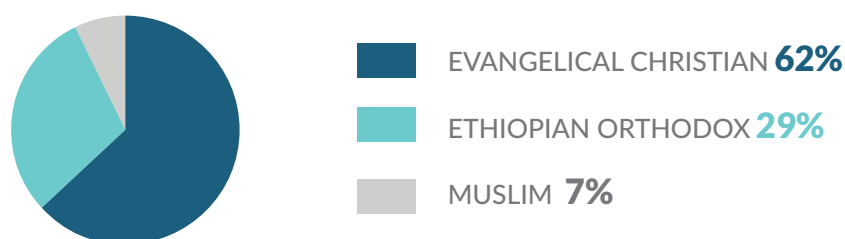
Christian youth generally prefer to read the Bible in **print**, with some who like to use apps.

Religious Attitudes and Behaviors

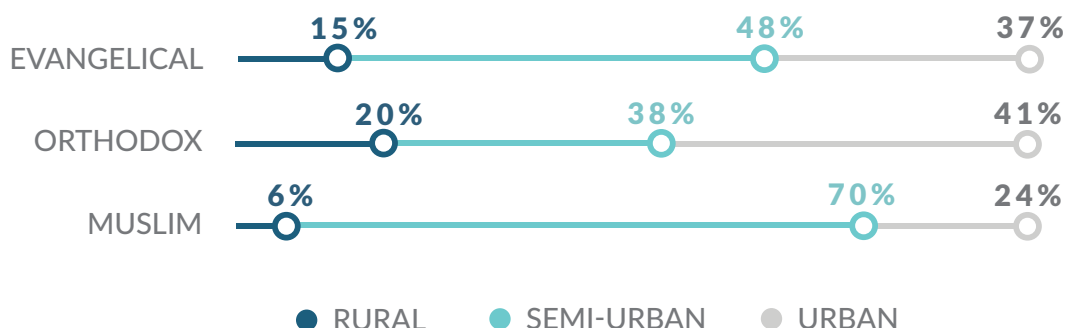
This research study was uniquely comprehensive in examining the role faith and religion play in the lives of Ethiopian young people. What do they believe? How are they putting their beliefs into practice? We explored the religious attitudes and behaviors of this generation and the impact of those on other areas of their lives.

The vast majority of young people in our study identify themselves as either Evangelical or Orthodox Christian (91%), with the remainder being Muslim or another religion. These categories reflect the religious landscape of the country, though Ethiopian Orthodox and Muslim youths are more common overall than is reflected here.¹ Evangelical and Muslims respondents are more predominantly from semi-urban and urban areas. Orthodox respondents are slightly more represented in both rural and urban settings.

MAIN RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES DISCUSSED²



RELIGION BY LOCATION



¹ The 2020 World Religion database estimated a national religious distribution of 40% Ethiopian Orthodox, 34% Sunni Muslim, and 16% Protestant Christian. <https://www.thearda.com/world-religion/national-profiles?u=78c>

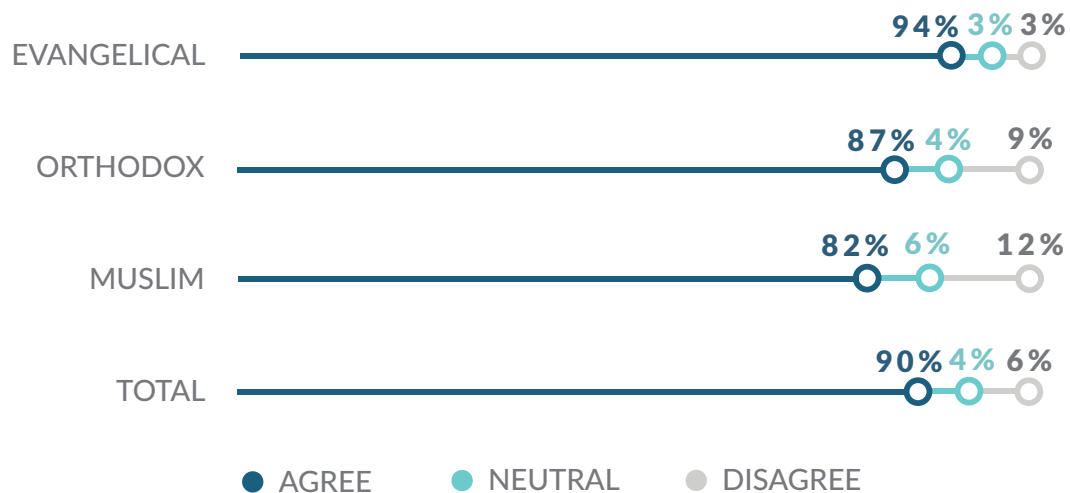
² The 3% of our sample who are Catholic and other religions were too small to report on throughout the report.

Most young people surveyed say their religion is important to them. Ninety percent say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity. This is especially true for Evangelical Christians.

90% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEIR FAITH IS IMPORTANT TO THEM.

IMPORTANCE OF FAITH BY RELIGION

My faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of my identity.



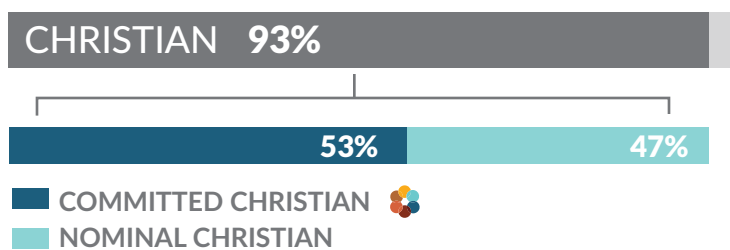
Committedness

How can we tell that faith plays an important role in a young person's life? What indicators reveal that religion is not just important to them but fully a part of their identity and worldview? We looked at some core beliefs and key spiritual disciplines that would reveal a young person is a Committed Christian.

6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



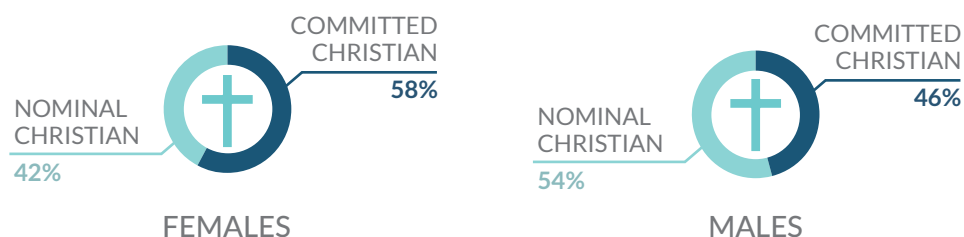
When we re-examined young people according to this definition of committed faith, we saw a big difference. Fifty-three percent of Christian young people were discovered to be Committed Christians. Any Christian youth who did not meet one or more of the criteria for committedness is considered a “Nominal Christian” in this study.



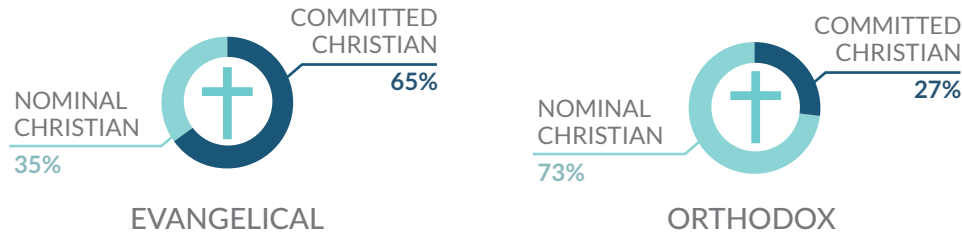
53% OF CHRISTIANS WE SURVEYED ARE COMMITTED.

Among the Christians we surveyed, more females are committed than males. Evangelicals are much more likely to be committed than Orthodox.

COMMITTEDNESS BY GENDER



COMMITTEDNESS BY RELIGION

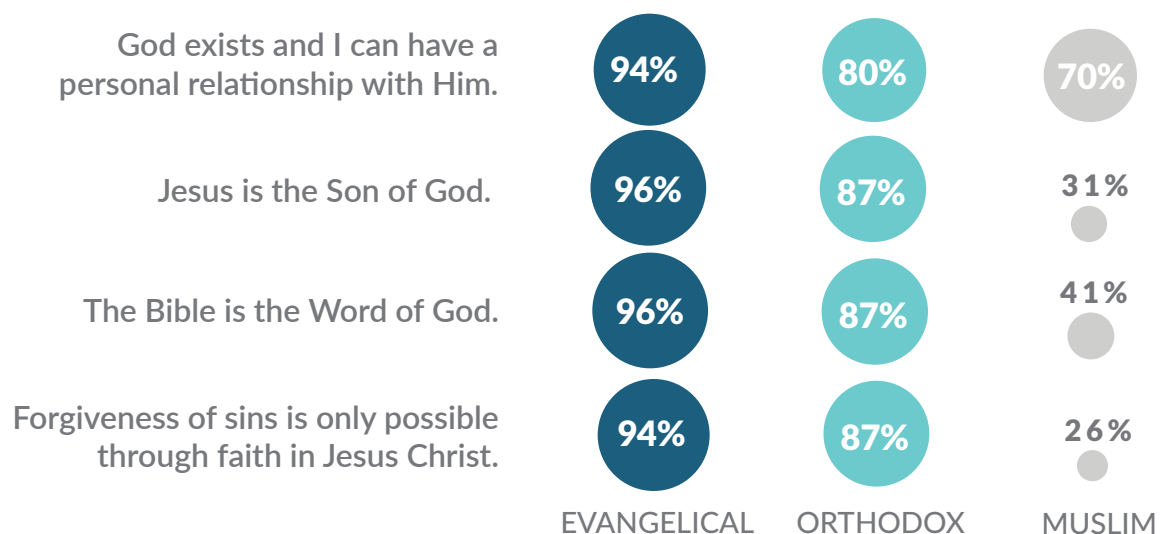


The percentage of Committed Christians in this survey was notably high compared to many previous *Global Youth Culture* (GYC) studies. Globally, only 7% of young people in our original GYC study identified as Committed Christians.¹ In the African countries surveyed, this figure rose to 28%—the highest among all regions.² In our 2023 GYC project in Uganda, 33% of teens surveyed identified as Committed Christians. In this context, 53% Committeds among the Christians surveyed, is very promising.

Spiritual Viewpoints

A high percentage of Evangelical Christians surveyed have scriptural views of God, Jesus, and the Bible. Orthodox views are also generally scriptural but at lower rates than Evangelicals. Muslims generally agree with the idea of having a personal relationship with God. Their responses about Jesus, the Bible, and forgiveness of sins are lower than Christians but still encouraging.

SCRIPTURAL VIEWPOINTS BY RELIGION



¹ OneHope. (August 2020). *Global Youth Culture, Global Report*. www.globalyouthculture.net

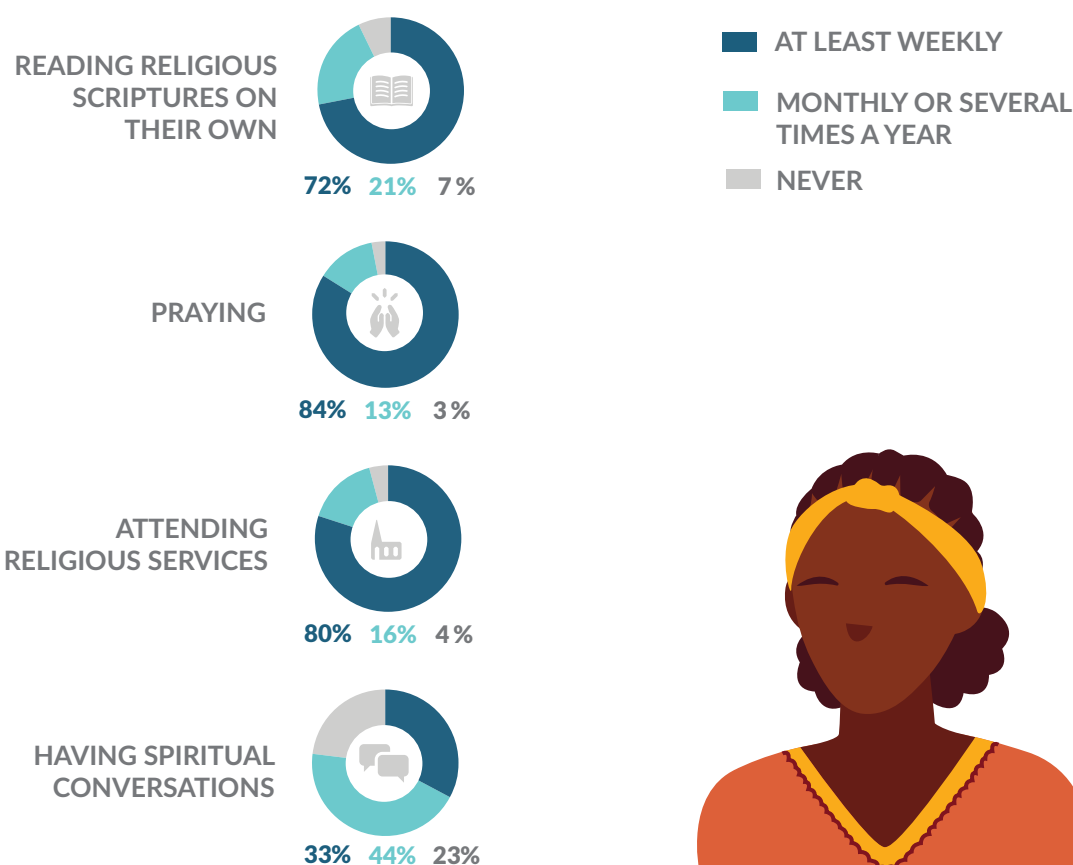
² The three African countries in the original 2020 study were Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

How Young People Practice Their Faith

Beliefs are certainly important, but engaging in spiritual disciplines is how we grow our faith. We were encouraged to see that most young people surveyed are making religious practices a priority in their weekly schedule.

Nearly 3 in 4 Ethiopian young people read religious scripture (the Bible or the Quran) at least once a week. Prayer is even more common, with 84% praying weekly. Attending religious services (80%) is also widely practiced. A smaller percentage—about 1 in 3—say they share their faith weekly. While sharing their faith directly with others happens less frequently than other religious practices, the fact that roughly one-third do so weekly is meaningful.

FAITH PRACTICES

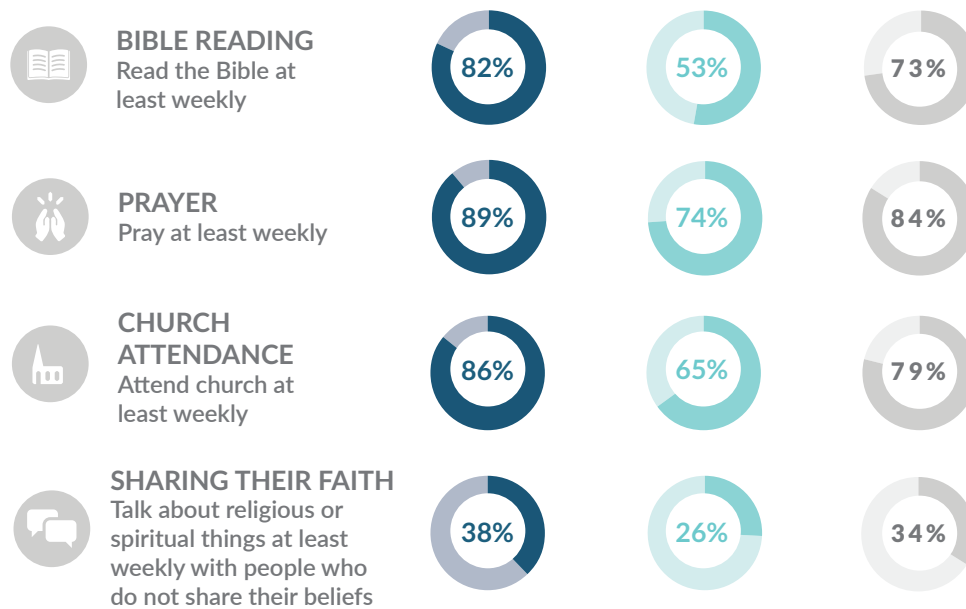


Spiritual Disciplines among Christians

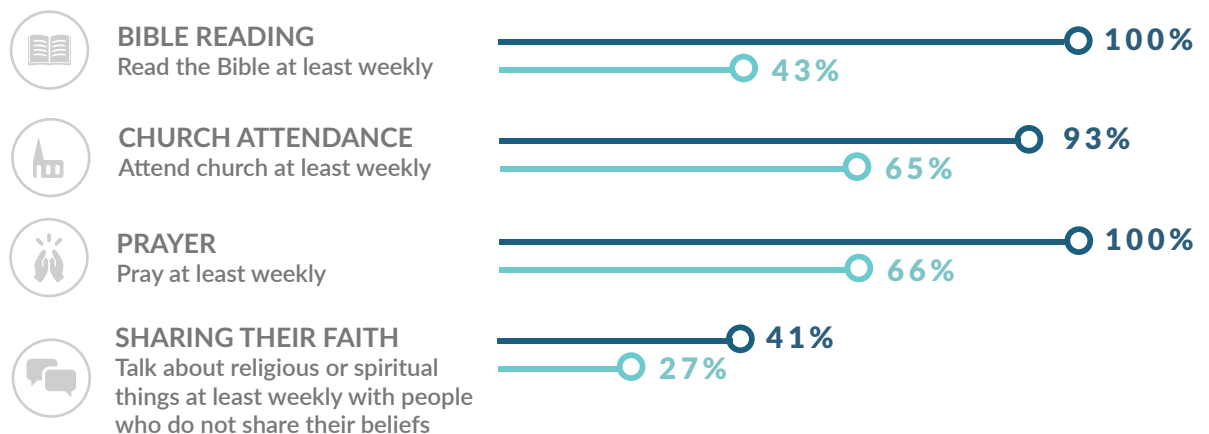
We wanted to see how these practices look among Christians in particular. Evangelical Christians are much more likely to read the Bible than their Orthodox peers. They also report higher rates of church attendance, prayer, and sharing their faith. Committed Christians report the highest rates across all four categories.

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

■ EVANGELICAL ■ ORTHODOX ■ ALL CHRISTIANS



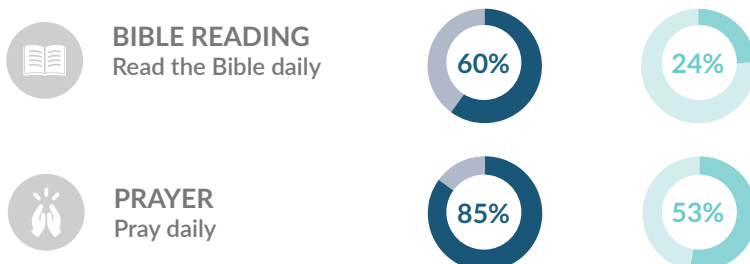
■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS



When looking at daily practice, we continue to see a gap between Committed and Nominal Christians in their engagement with core spiritual disciplines like Bible reading and prayer. Still, the fact that almost 1 in 4 Nominal Christians read the Bible daily is encouraging.

DAILY SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS



Youth and the Bible

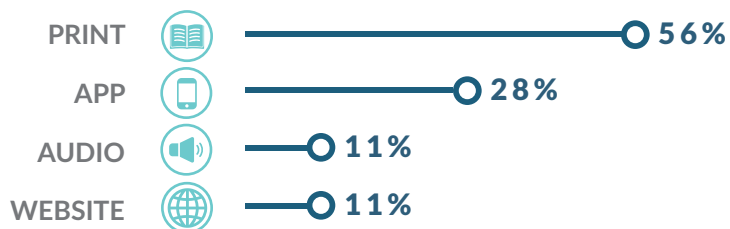
Most Christian young people surveyed are reading the Bible at least weekly (73%). More than half of Christian young people say they read the Bible in printed format. 1 in 4 say they read on an app.

The types of Bible formats used vary somewhat by religion and location. Evangelicals are much more likely than Orthodox to say they read scripture on an app. Rural respondents most often use print while 1 in 3 urban youths say they use apps.

SCRIPTURE FORMAT

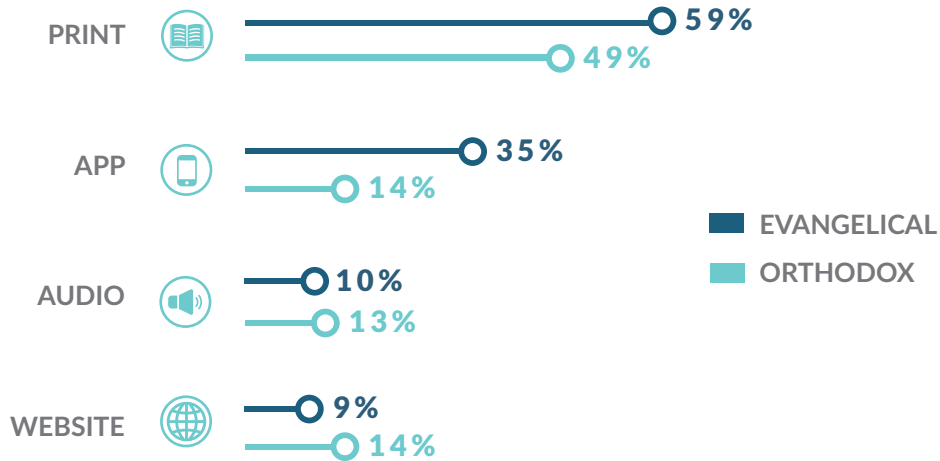
How do you read the Bible? (select all that apply)

■ CHRISTIANS



SCRIPTURE FORMAT AMONG CHRISTIANS

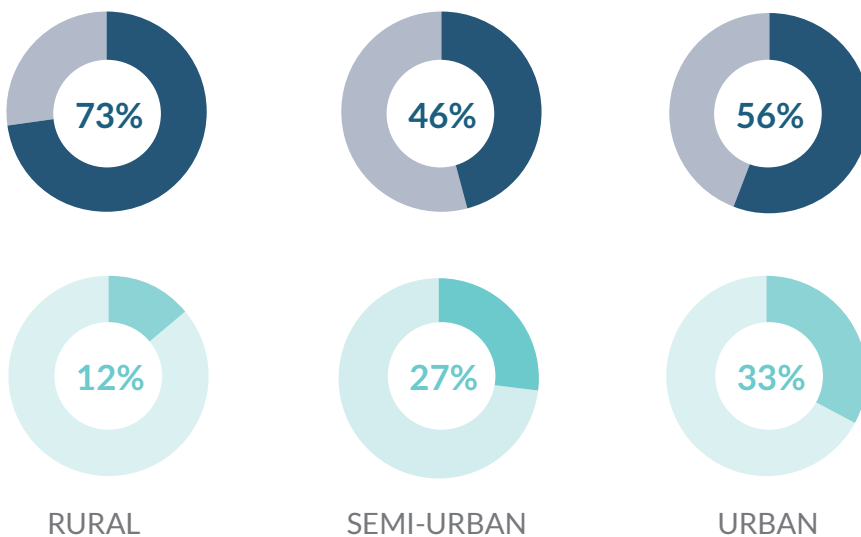
How do you read the Bible? (select all that apply)



SCRIPTURE FORMAT BY LOCATION

How do you read the Bible? (excluding audio and website)

■ PRINT ■ APP



Conclusion

This data shows where young people are in their spiritual journey and helps us understand their religious identity, habits, and viewpoints. It also points us towards practical action as we seek to share the gospel with non-believers and disciple Christian young people to maturity in faith.

● DISCIPLE CHRISTIANS INTO DEEPER FAITH

Young people surveyed say their faith is important to them. This is especially true among Evangelical Christians. However, this does not mean the church should grow complacent. Our research revealed that many believers have a nominal faith and need continued discipleship. The need to challenge young people to go deeper into their faith is perhaps especially pressing for young Orthodox believers who were far less likely to be Committed than Evangelical Christians.

How can we help young people develop scriptural beliefs and spiritual disciplines that will move them from being nominal believers to mature, thriving Christians?

● STRENGTHEN SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Scripture engagement could be strengthened in the lives of young people. The good news is there is a pattern of engagement to build from. When it comes to daily Bible reading, 60% of Committed Christians and 24% of Nominal Christians say they read their Bible every day. We would love to see these numbers grow, especially among Orthodox believers who read scripture less often than their Evangelical counterparts.

How can we strengthen scripture engagement in the lives of young people, so they can allow God's Word to speak to the real needs and challenges they face in their lives?

● EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE

Nearly all young people surveyed say that their faith is an important part of their lives. However, only around one-third of young people are actually talking to others who do not share their religious beliefs. Even among Committed Christians, fewer than half say they share their beliefs with others regularly. Part of living out our faith fully includes sharing our wisdom, experiences, and beliefs with others.

How can we equip young people to joyfully share the hope they have in Christ with their peers and others in their community who need to hear it?

● ENHANCE SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT WITH DIGITAL ACCESS

Most respondents read the Bible in print, but many also use apps for scripture, a trend especially common among Evangelicals, with 35% reporting app usage. With more and more young people owning a smartphone, digital access to scripture is likely to expand in the coming years. This shift opens exciting possibilities for enriching scripture engagement, offering easy access to various translations and providing Bible studies or devotional guides that encourage a deeper connection with God's word.

How can we harness Ethiopia's growing digital footprint to expand and deepen the reach of the gospel?

INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered



Young people say **parents** are their **most important influence**, and they turn to family for **advice**.



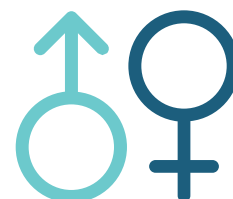
Parent influence decreases as young people grow older and the influence of **religious leaders and texts** grow.



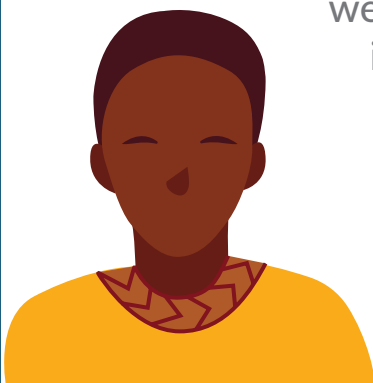
76% of young people have **close friends** who know them well.



Friends are the top reported source of guidance for **gender and sexuality issues**, with **family and religious leaders or texts** also highly rated.



Close friendships were less common in **rural** areas.

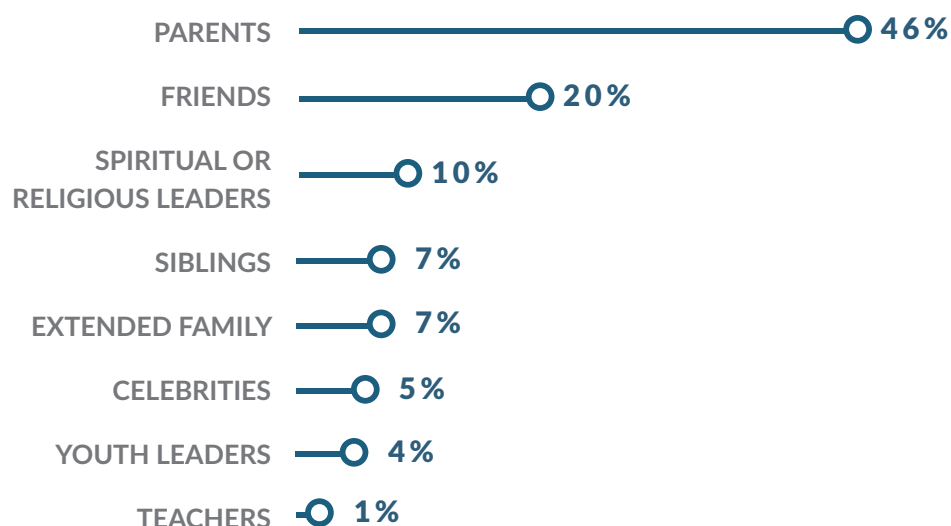


Family Relationships

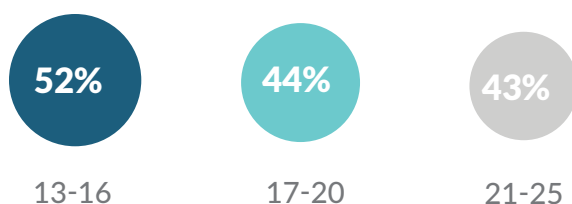
When we asked young people who influences their ambitions in life, parents were by far the most popular. Friends were also identified as role models. Perhaps unsurprisingly, parent influence appears to decrease as a youth ages, though not by much. Muslims respondents were more likely to select friends than youth from other religions.

INFLUENCES ON AMBITION

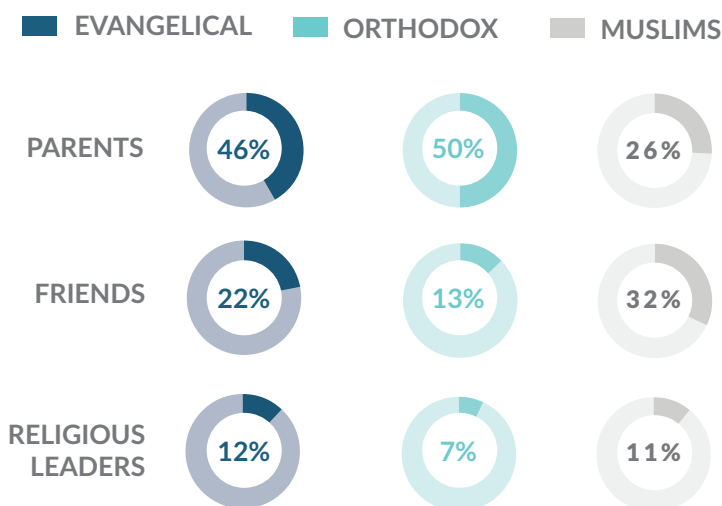
Who influences your ambitions in life? (select all that apply)



PARENT INFLUENCE ON AMBITIONS BY AGE



TOP THREE INFLUENCES ON AMBITIONS BY RELIGION

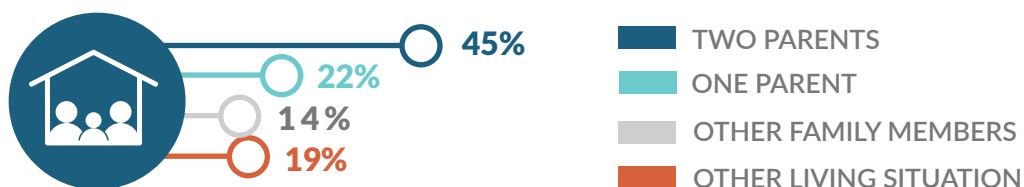


We wanted to know a little more about young peoples' family relationships and how they are going. Forty-five percent of young people surveyed in Ethiopia live with both parents. Negative family relationships were significantly higher among rural youth and somewhat more common among Orthodox youth.

79% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN GOOD.

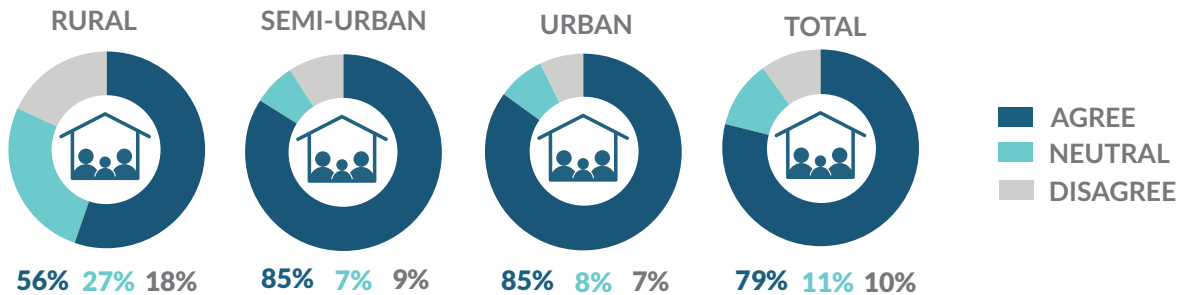
HOUSEHOLD

I live with:



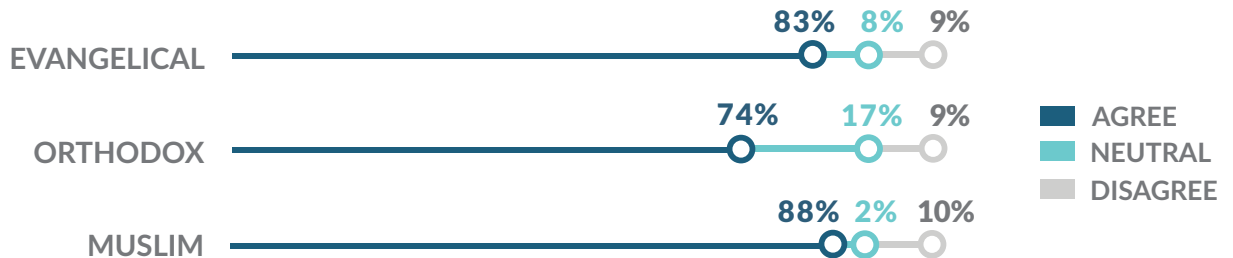
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BY LOCATION

Overall, my relationship with my family has been good.



FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS BY RELIGION

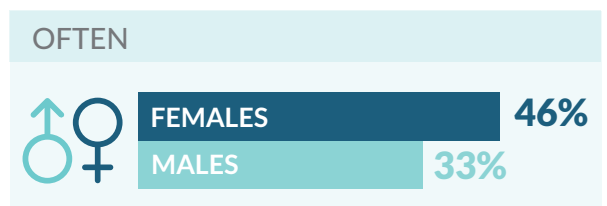
Overall, my relationship with my family has been good.



Family conversations can be an indication of closeness and connection. Most young people say they talk to their parents at least sometimes about issues that really matter to them. Committed Christians are much more likely than Nominal Christians to have these important conversations often. Females were also more likely to talk to their parents often, compared to males.

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

I talk to my parents/guardians about issues that really matter to me.



Young People Trust Family

Young people tell us they turn to family and religious leaders or texts more often than any other source for guidance when they wonder about the meaning of life. Family members, followed by religious sources, are also the primary source of guidance for young people asking about what is right and wrong. Friends or peers is the third most common choice for both categories.

MEANING OF LIFE CONVERSATIONS

*Where I go most often for
information or guidance
about the meaning of life:*

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 33%
- 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 33%
- 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 19%
- 4 SOCIAL MEDIA OR ONLINE 8%
- 5 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 4%
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA¹ 3%

RIGHT AND WRONG CONVERSATIONS

*Where I go most often for
information or guidance
about right and wrong:*

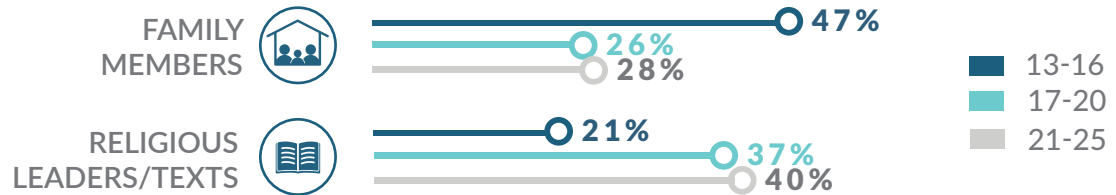
- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 34%
- 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 25%
- 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 19%
- 4 SOCIAL MEDIA OR ONLINE 10%
- 5 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 8%
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA 4%

¹ Offline media includes books, magazines, television, radio, or newspaper.

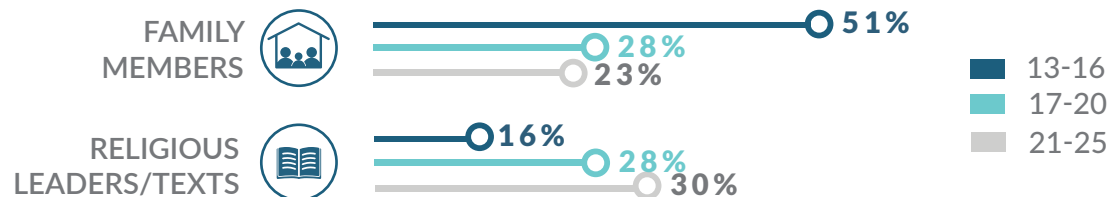
Both age and religion influence whose advice young people seek. As they grow older, young people tend to rely less on family for guidance, while the influence of religious leaders or texts often increases. Among religious groups, Evangelical Christians are the most likely to turn to religious leaders or texts for advice on both issues.

TOP TWO INFLUENCES BY AGE

Where I go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life:

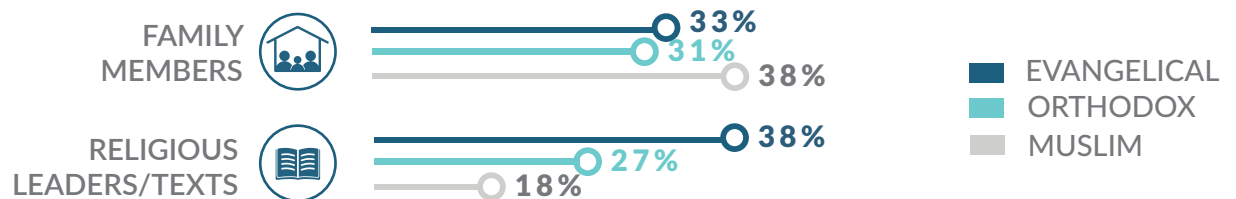


Where I go most often for information or guidance about right and wrong:

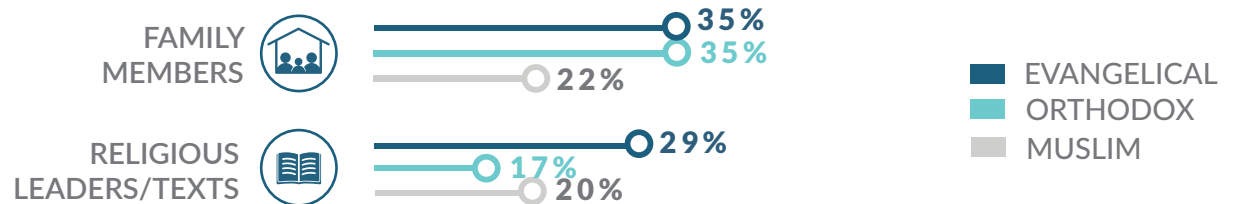


TOP TWO INFLUENCES BY RELIGION

Where I go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life:



Where I go most often for information or guidance about right and wrong:

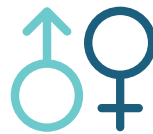


Friends Are Key for Gender Questions

We asked young people to share with us where they go for guidance about the complex topics of gender and sexuality. Young people say they look to friends most often for guidance about these topics, followed by family and religious leaders or texts.

The data shows that young people primarily rely on in-person relationships for guidance instead of seeking advice online. However, 13% reported turning to social media, including some who don't have personal phones. We also observed that family and religious leaders have less influence in this area than on other topics, though they still rank among the top three resources young people turn to for guidance.

INFLUENCES ON GENDER VIEWS



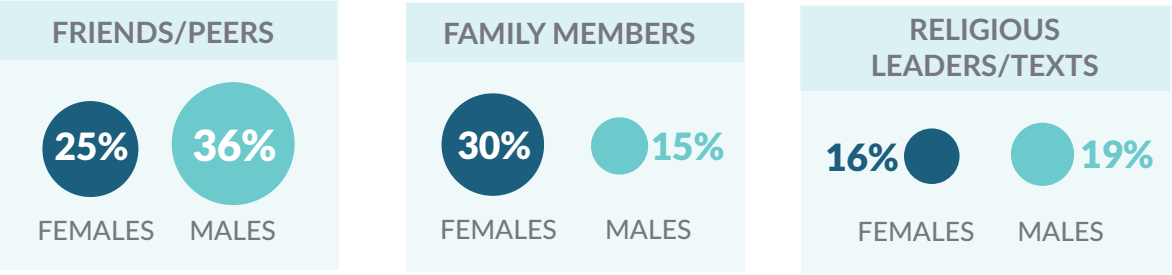
Where I go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality, and sexual issues:

- 1 FRIENDS/PEERS 30%
- 2 FAMILY MEMBERS 23%
- 3 RELIGIOUS LEADERS OR TEXTS 18%
- 4 SOCIAL MEDIA OR ONLINE 13%
- 5 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 12%
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA¹ 4%

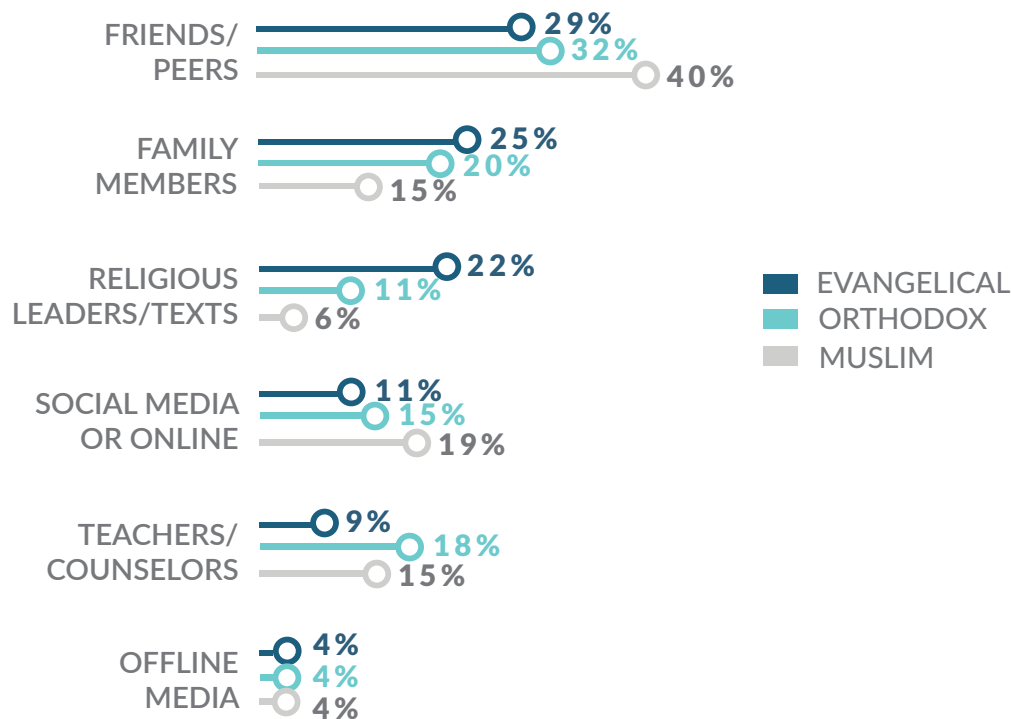
¹ Offline media includes books, magazines, television, radio, or newspaper.

Females are twice as likely as males to look to family on these issues. Evangelical Christians turn more to family members and religious leaders or texts than other religious groups. Committed Christians are more likely to rely on family or religious sources than Nominal Christians.

TOP THREE INFLUENCES ON GENDER VIEWS BY GENDER

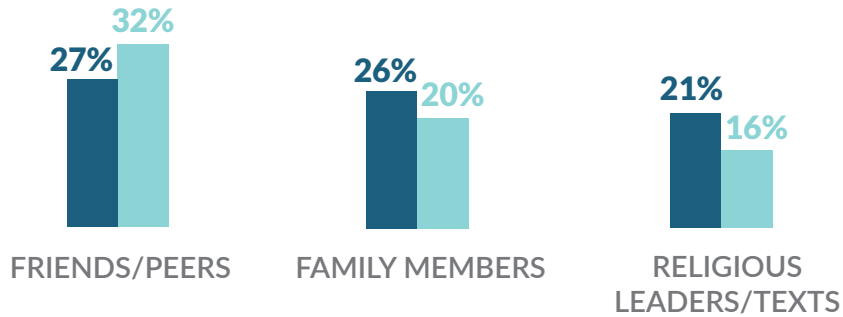


INFLUENCES ON GENDER VIEWS BY RELIGION



TOP THREE INFLUENCES ON GENDER VIEWS BY COMMITTEDNESS

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS  ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

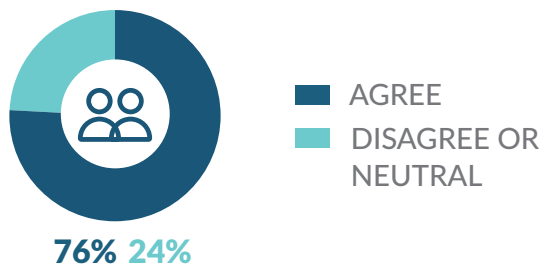


Friendship and Community

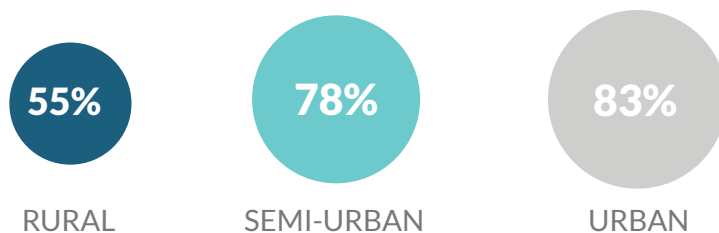
Encouragingly, the majority of young people surveyed (76%) say they have strong friendships in their lives. Rural areas are the most likely to report not having close friends. There are no significant differences by age, gender, or religion.

FRIENDSHIPS

I have close friends who know me well.



FRIENDSHIPS BY LOCATION



Conclusion

As today's young people navigate life's complex issues and questions, the voices they are listening to are critical. The sources young people trust and turn to shed insight on what they will believe. And what they believe deeply influences how they live and act.

- **FAMILY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE**

Encouragingly, young people report parents are a primary influence in their lives and they trust their family members as guides for life's most important questions. Parents should not take lightly the privilege they have of speaking into their child's life, especially while they are young and most ready to listen.

How can we equip parents to step into this important role of discipling their children and young people?

- **AFFIRM SCRIPTURE AS A GUIDE**

Young people place significant value on religious leaders and texts, ranking them just after family members as key influences. This echoes the high rates of weekly scripture engagement reported by Christian youth. Staying connected to God's truth is crucial for young people as they navigate an increasingly complex world. Strong scripture engagement among Ethiopian Christian youth presents a powerful opportunity to ground future generations deeply in God's Word.

How can we continue to help young believers set scripture as their guide and understand how to apply God's Word to their lives in practical and transformative ways?

- **EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO SPEAK**

It's heartening to see that most young people have close friendships alongside positive family relationships. Often, they look to these friends—both in person and online—for guidance on matters of identity and relationships. When seeking answers to these complex issues, they may not always feel comfortable approaching family members or religious leaders directly. This underscores the need to equip their peers with the tools to offer biblical wisdom on these important topics.

How can we create environments that disciple Christian teens in understanding their God-given identity? And how can we support young people holistically, encouraging them to engage authentically with trusted mentors and friends?

- **RURAL AREAS STRUGGLE MORE**

Young people in rural areas reported more negative experiences with family and friendships than their urban peers. Given how essential relationships are to spiritual and emotional health, this is concerning. We know that young people place a high value on their religious beliefs and practices. Churches in rural areas could consider creating spaces where youth can connect and build stronger relationships.

How can churches better support healthy family dynamics and robust friendships within their communities?

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered



45% of young people report **loneliness and depression**. Many are also dealing with **high anxiety**.

Suicide risk is closely connected to other struggles including **drug usage, drinking, and issues of sexuality**.

21% of young people have had **suicidal thoughts**.

9% report having made a **suicide attempt**.



Committed Christians are just as likely as other young people to be **experiencing mental health struggles**, but less likely to be engaging in **sexual behaviors**.



Males are more likely than females to have recently viewed **pornography** or to have been **sexually active**.

Rural young people are **more sexually active before marriage** than teens in other locations.



Mental Health

We asked young people to tell us about their personal experiences and struggles within the past three months of their lives. Almost half of young people report loneliness and depression. More than 1 in 3 are also dealing with high anxiety.

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

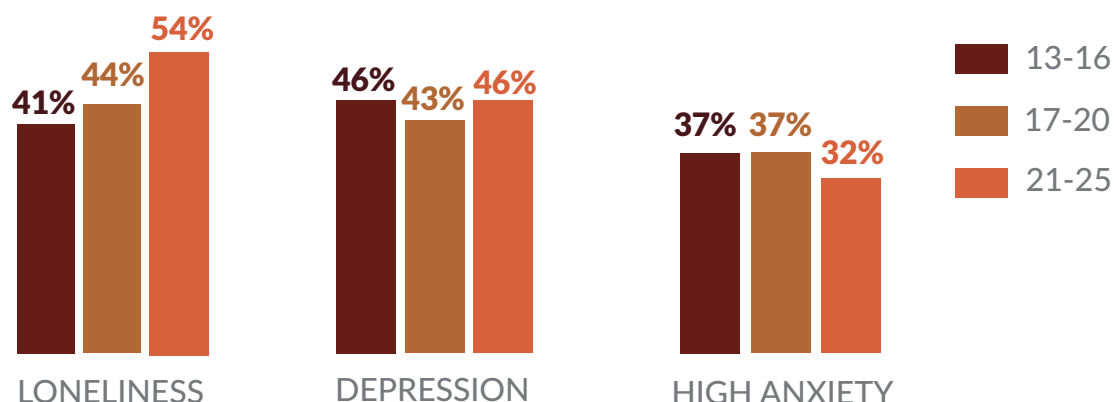
Within the past three months I have experienced:



Mental health challenges tend to remain steady as young people grow older. Older respondents are more likely to report feeling lonely, while younger respondents report slightly higher levels of anxiety. Females generally experience loneliness, depression, and especially anxiety more than males. Among religious groups, Orthodox Christians struggle the most. Evangelicals report the least depression, Muslims the least loneliness and anxiety. Unfortunately, these struggles persist even among young people who identify as Committed Christians.

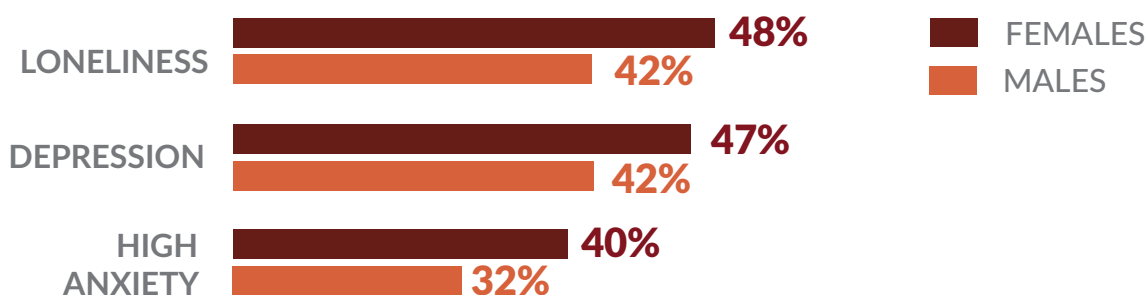
MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES BY AGE

Within the past three months I have experienced:



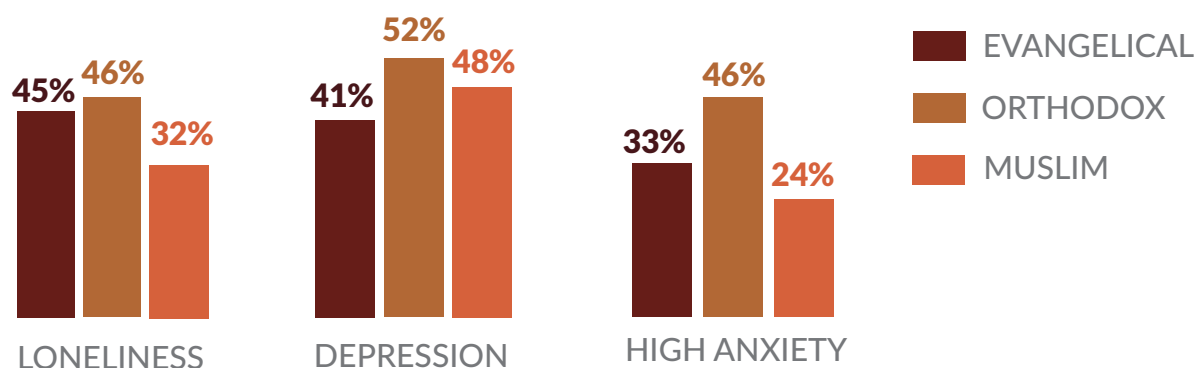
MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES BY GENDER

Within the past three months I have experienced:



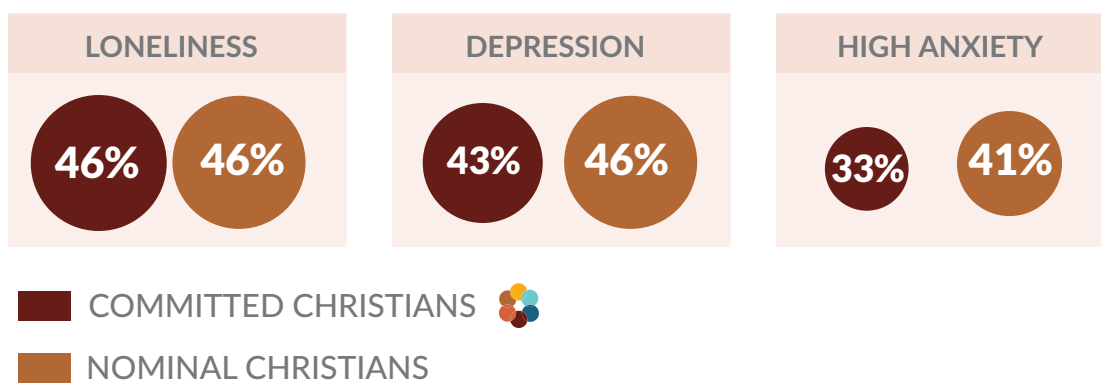
MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES BY RELIGION

Within the past three months I have experienced:



MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES BY COMMITTEDNESS

Within the past three months I have experienced:



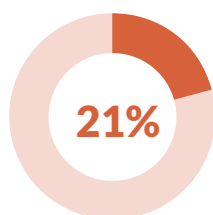
Suicide

We asked young people to self-report if they had, within the last three months, experienced suicidal thoughts or made a suicide attempt. Sadly, more than 1 in 5 young people report suicidal thoughts and almost 1 in 10 report suicide attempts.

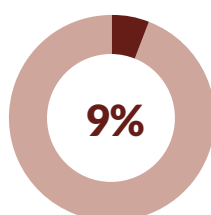
SUICIDE RISK

Within the past three months I have experienced:

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS

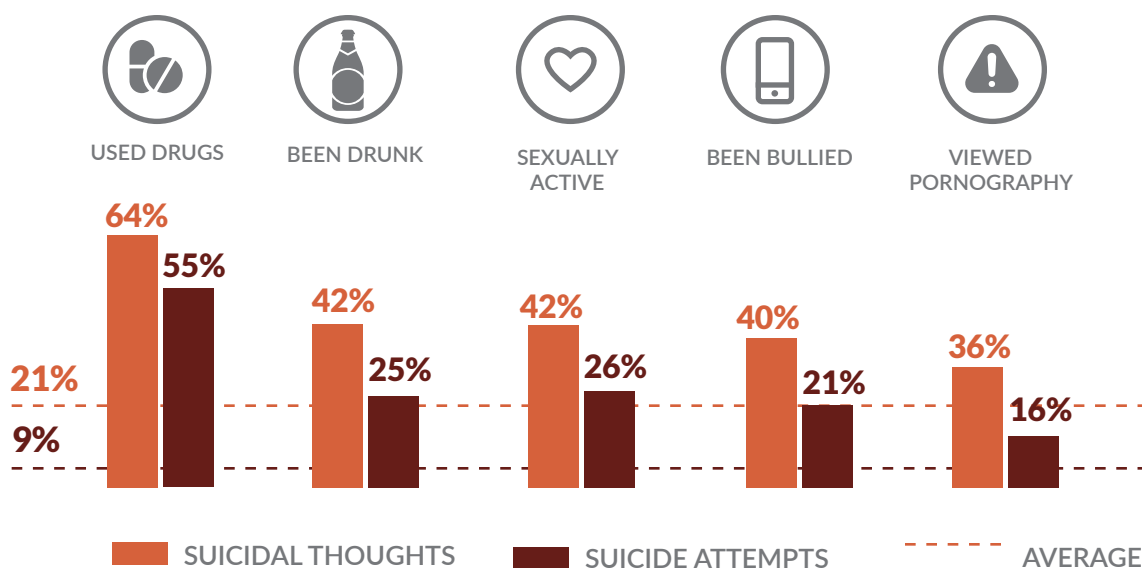


SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



Suicide risk is closely connected with other struggles young people are facing. Our research shows that young people surveyed who have recently used recreational drugs are much more likely to have suicidal thoughts or make an attempt. Of young people who have used drugs, 64% have suicidal thoughts and 55% made an attempt. Other related risk factors included having been drunk, sexually active, experiencing bullying, and viewing pornography.

6 CONNECTIONS WITH SUICIDE RISK



When it comes to religious groups, Evangelical and Orthodox Christians report similar rates of suicide risk while Muslims report much lower rates. Committed Christians report slightly lower levels of suicidal thoughts and attempts than Nominal Christians.

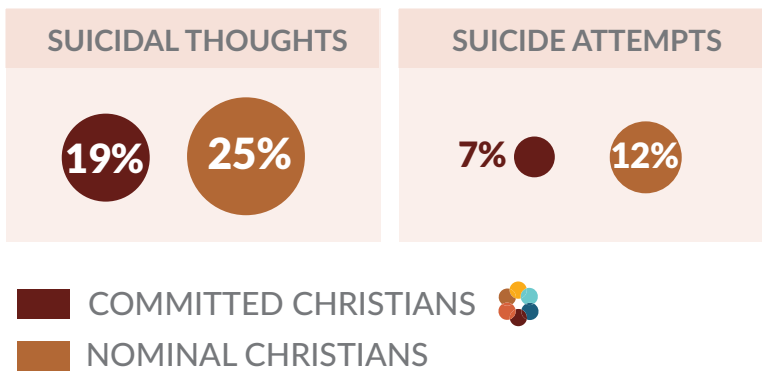
SUICIDE RISK BY RELIGION

Within the past three months I have experienced:



SUICIDE RISK BY COMMITTEDNESS

Within the past three months I have experienced:



It is not necessarily one event or experience that triggers young people to try to take their life. It could be a series of small steps and thoughts that each build on the other. Regardless of the specific circumstances, this data shows that a concerning number of young people are in seriously dark places that are driving them towards desperate action.

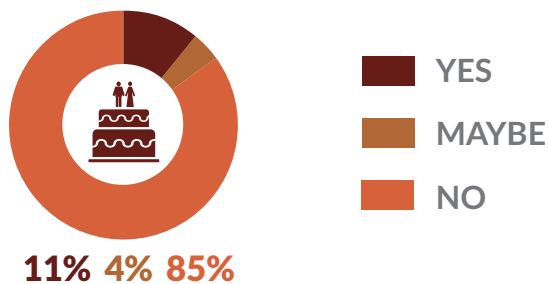
We should be heartbroken for young people who are hurting so deeply they want to end their lives. When it comes to suicide, we are not looking at numbers on a page—but at real people's lives. Any number is too many and any percentage too high.

Sexuality

The teenage years can be a time of experimentation and include an evolving understanding of one's sexuality. This was a topic we specifically asked young people to share about. Most young people surveyed say it is not okay to have sex before marriage.

SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

Do you believe it is okay to have sex before marriage?

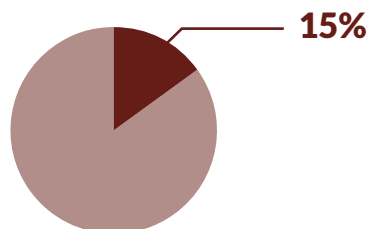


When it comes to sexual activity themselves, 15% of young people surveyed say they have been sexually active in the last three months. They defined for themselves what it meant to be sexually active. To ensure this statistic reflects only premarital sexual activity, young people who are married were excluded from this group.

Males are significantly more likely to have recently been sexually active. Sexual activity overall increases with age. Rates of recent sexual activity are highest in rural areas and lowest in urban settings. Orthodox Christians are the religious group most likely to be sexually active. Committed Christians report lower levels of sexual activity.

SEXUALLY ACTIVE

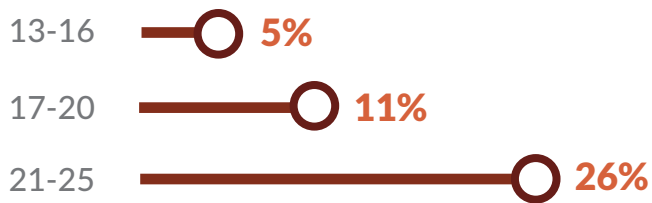
Within the past three months:



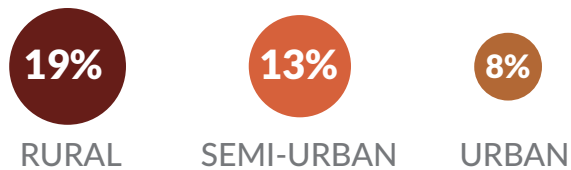
SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY GENDER



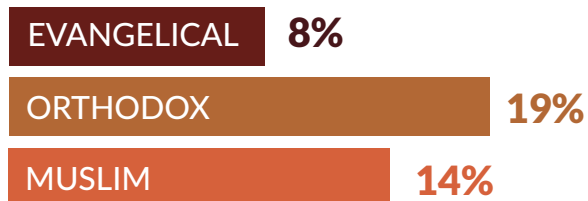
SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY AGE



SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY LOCATION



SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY RELIGION



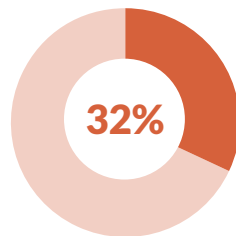
I have been sexually active recently:



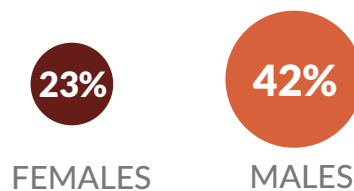
Another sexual issue that follows similar patterns is viewing pornography. More males than females report looking at pornography. This behavior increases with age and is most widespread in rural areas.

PORNOGRAPHY USAGE

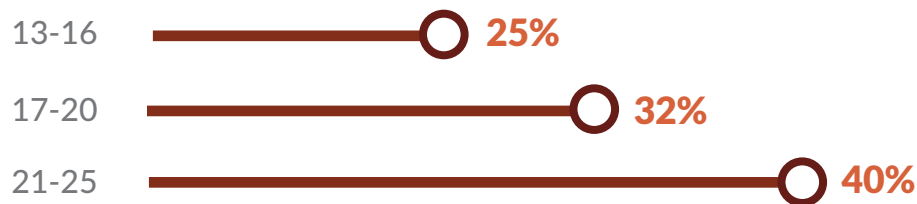
Within the past three months:



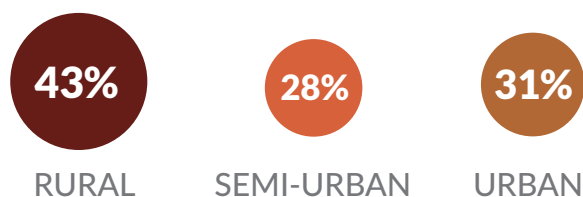
PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY GENDER



PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY AGE

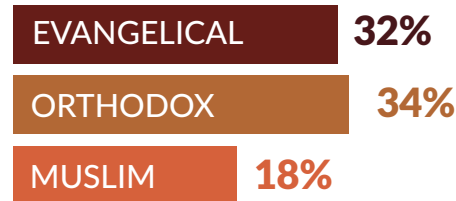


PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY LOCATION



1 in 3 Christian youth report looking at porn. While we appreciate their honesty, this behavior is concerning. Unfortunately Christians, including Committed Christians, are looking at porn more often than their Muslim peers.

PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY RELIGION



In the past three months, have you looked at pornographic materials?

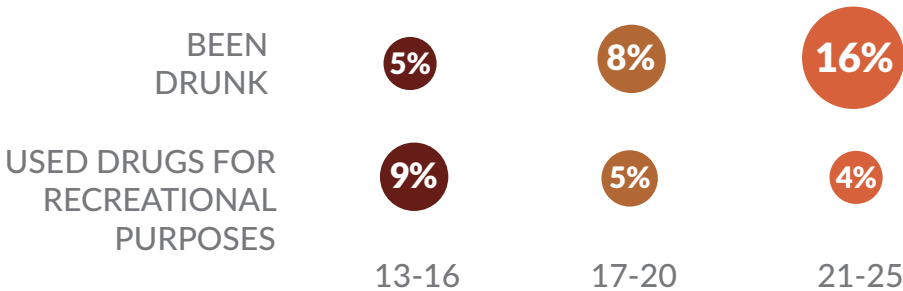


Other Struggles

The challenges young people face are not always visible from the outside. But they can have external expressions. Some Ethiopian young people reported drug usage (6%) and drunkenness (9%). Alcohol use increases with age, while drug use declines. Among religious groups, Orthodox Christians are the most likely to report both alcohol and drug use; Muslims the least. Committed Christians are less likely than Nominal Christians to engage in either of these behaviors.

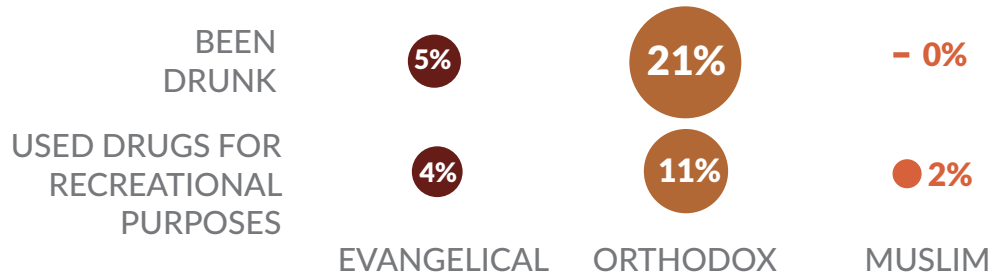
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE

Within the past three months:



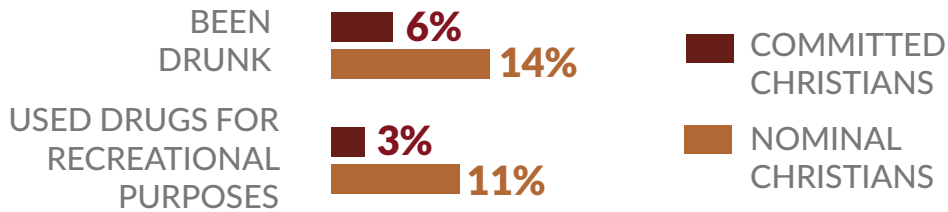
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE

Within the past three months:



ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE

Within the past three months:



Bullying

Unfortunately, some young people have had negative experiences with people in their community or online. Fifteen percent of young people report they have recently been bullied by someone. Bullying rates are consistent across gender and age.

BULLYING BY GENDER

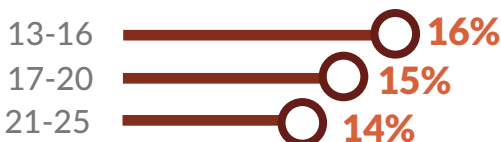
In the past three months, have you been bullied by someone online or in person?



15% OF YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED BULLYING IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

BULLYING BY AGE

In the past three months, have you been bullied by someone online or in person?



Conclusion

This data can be a sad picture of how life looks when seen through the eyes of young people. The daily experiences and struggles youth face can seem overwhelming, but it is important to start by listening and understanding before we turn to action. Here are some things to consider:

- **FEMALES AND MALES NEED SUPPORT IN DIFFERENT WAYS**

The differences in personal struggle rates by gender are undeniable. Females are struggling more with loneliness, depression, and high anxiety. Males tend to struggle more in the area of sexuality and pornography. Consider the ways young people need to be uniquely disciplined and how we can raise up mentors for this generation to walk alongside them.

How do you see churches coming alongside young people to support them in the specific challenges they face?

- **SUICIDE RISK IS SERIOUS**

Some young people are feeling very hopeless and even thinking about ending their lives. This struggle is present across all ages, gender, and religions in Ethiopia. As we disciple youth we need to be consistent in taking their concerns seriously and encouraging them in the hope of Jesus.

How can we be alert to these concerns and ensure that the young people we know are being cared for holistically?

- **PORNOGRAPHY IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT**

This is a significant issue for today's teens around the world and in Africa as well. A young person's religious beliefs do not protect them from sexual temptation and those urges can be so easily met thanks to the quick access the internet provides. This immediate access can undermine their values and lead to choices that conflict with their beliefs, often leading to feelings of guilt, shame, and confusion.

How can we help young people live in godly ways that honor themselves and others?

- **COMMITTED CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE TOO**

Young people today are likely facing multiple challenges, from loneliness and anxiety to struggles with pornography and thoughts of suicide. A committed faith does not necessarily shield them from these hardships. This data highlights the need to help young people connect the hope of the gospel to the real issues they encounter. For the church to effectively address these challenges, youth need to feel safe bringing their experiences and struggles into the open, allowing them to be honest with Christian peers and leaders.

How can we encourage young people to seek help, rather than hide their challenges, and ensure they feel supported rather than shamed for their thoughts and actions?

DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered



82% of young people own a **phone** and this increases with age.

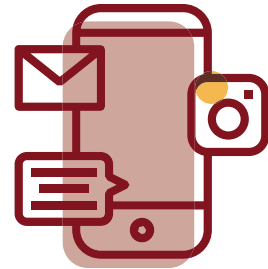


Young people in **urban** areas are more likely to **own a smartphone**.

Among those surveyed, **3 hours and 39 minutes** is the average reported **time online**.



Older youth use **social media more** and are more likely to say it has **positive effects on their lives**.



Young people acknowledge that **social media both helps and hurts** them.



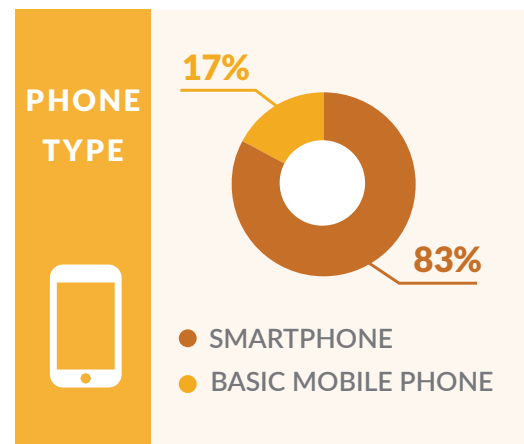
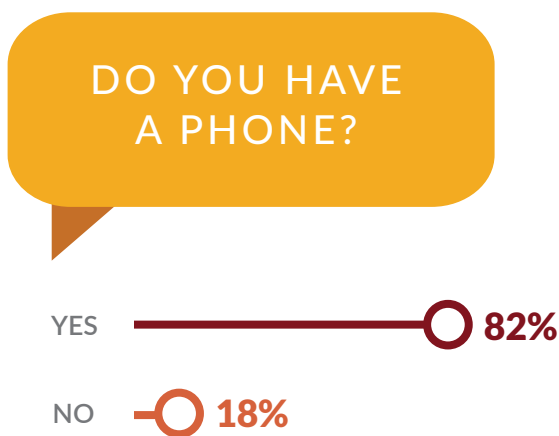
Young people spend much of their time online on **social media** or **chatting**.



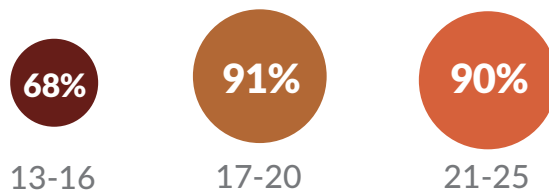
Young People and Technology

The Internet is something that is definitely shaping this generation. Young people have access to information, opinions, and influences at their fingertips. But how much is this affecting young people in Ethiopia?

We wanted to find out how many young people have phones, how much time they are spending online, and how they are using social media. Most young people surveyed (82%) say they have a phone—a trend that increases with age.¹ The majority of people who have a phone own a smartphone, although this is less common for young people in rural areas.

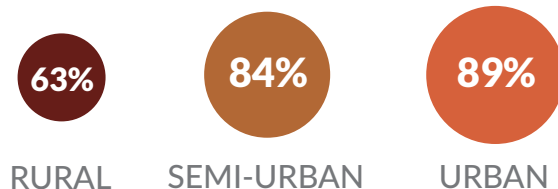


HAVE A PHONE



¹ This statistic was higher than the national team expected, likely due to the high percentage of suburban and urban respondents.

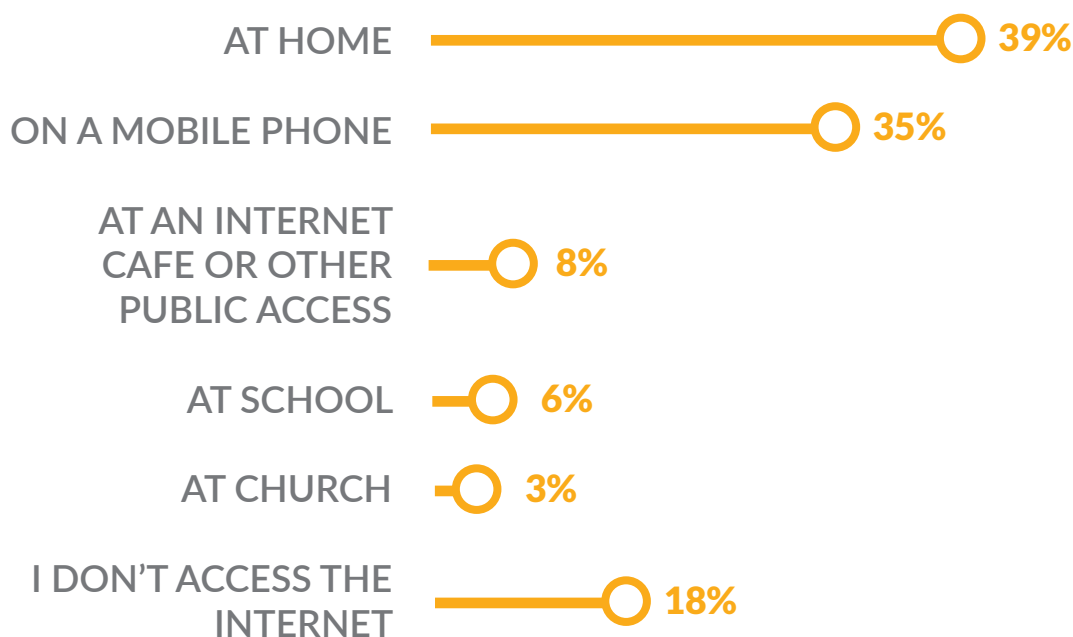
HAVE A SMARTPHONE



Young people most often get online from home, however some say their only access is through their mobile phone. A number of young people have to go to an internet cafe, school, or church to get connected.

INTERNET ACCESS

Where do you access the internet? (select all that apply)¹



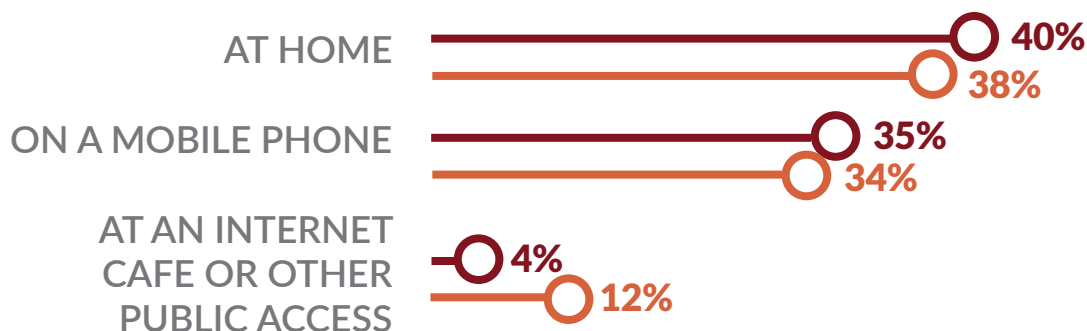
Males are more likely than females to say they get online at internet cafes or other public places. Respondents in rural areas are much more likely to say they do not access the internet at all.

¹ Note that young people could select more than one answer to this question so totals add to more than 100%.

INTERNET ACCESS BY GENDER

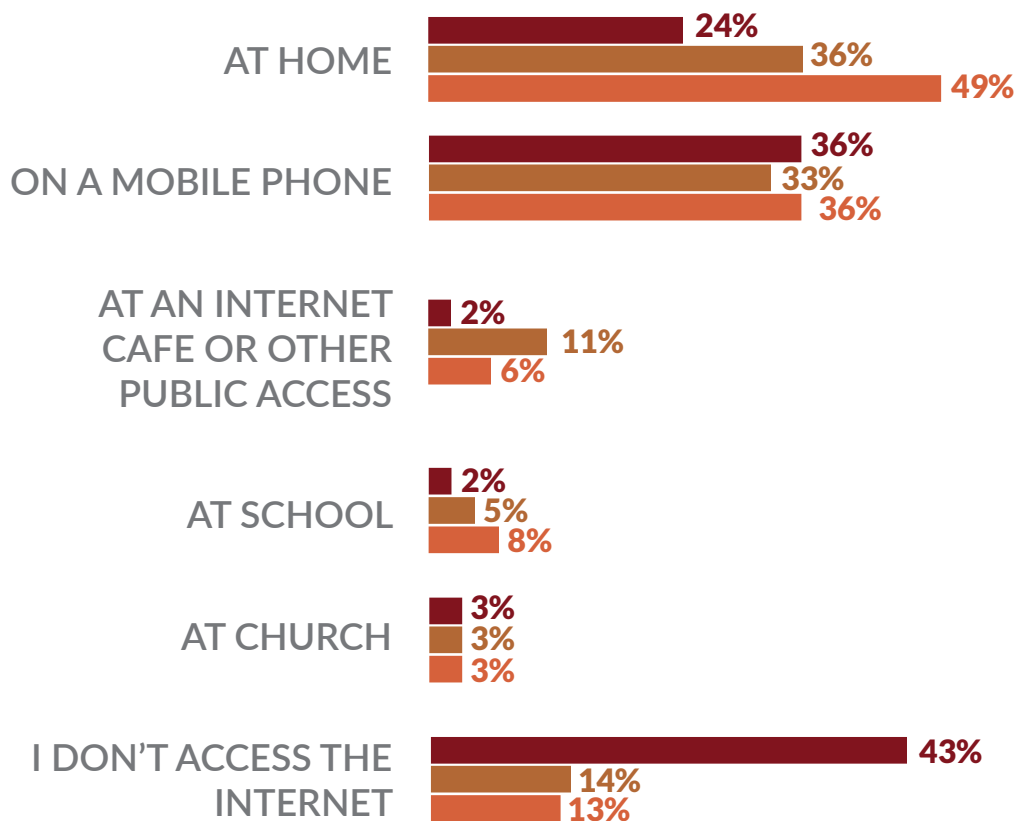
Where do you access the internet?¹

FEMALES
MALES



INTERNET ACCESS BY LOCATION

Where do you access the internet?



RURAL SEMI-URBAN URBAN

¹ The top three most selected answers are displayed.

Young People and the Internet

We were curious how much time young people are spending online overall and what they are doing there. Young people surveyed in Ethiopia report spending several hours online each day using social media, chatting, watching videos, and gaming. Time online is consistent across age, gender, and religious groups. Surprisingly, young people in rural areas report more overall time online than semi-urban and urban areas.

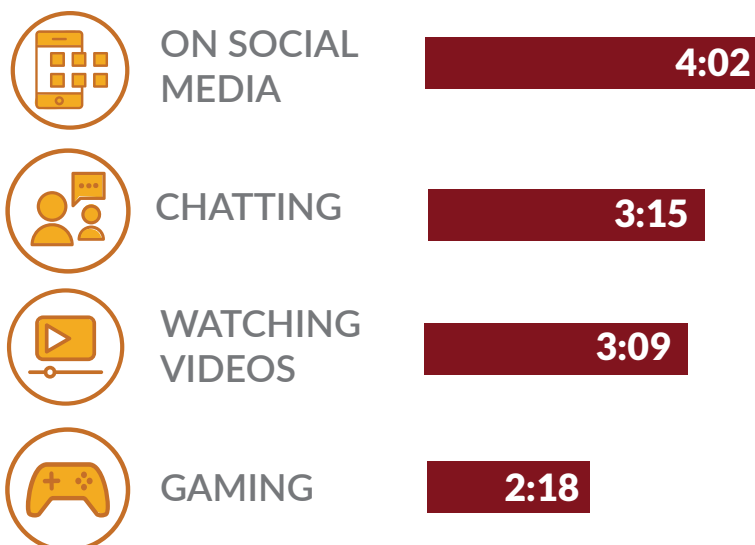
TIME ONLINE¹

During a typical day, how many hours do you spend online? (include ALL activity)



ONLINE ACTIVITIES

During a typical day, how much time do you spend...

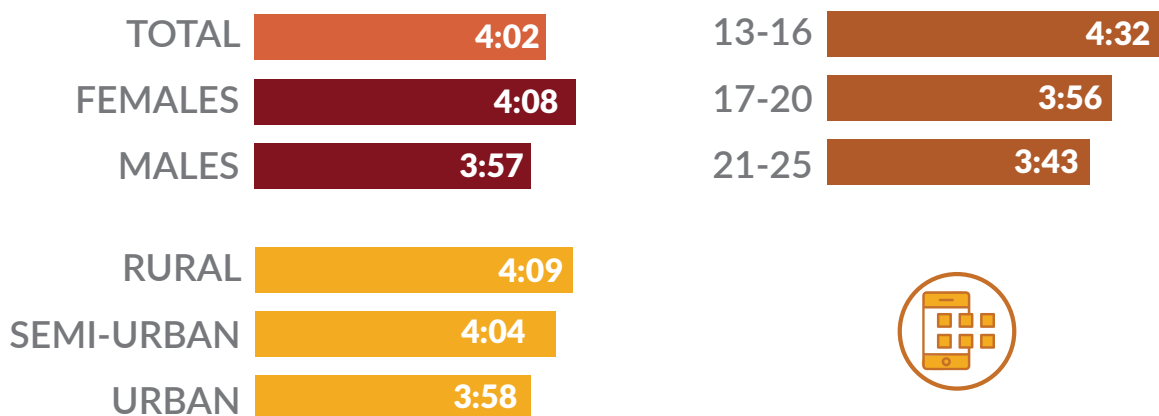


¹ This question about time spent online includes time spent using the internet at school.

Females spend more time chatting than males, and urban youth chat more than young people in other areas. Urban youth report far more time spent gaming. Breakdowns by age show less differences across categories but are included below for context.

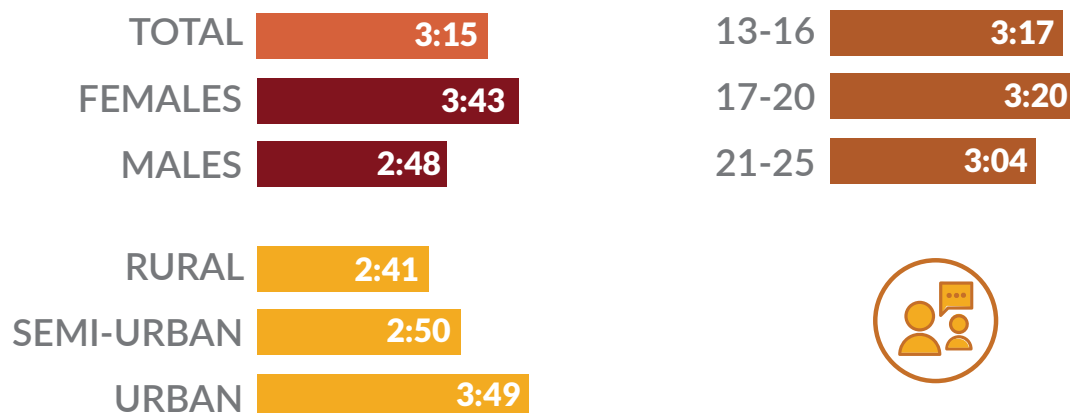
SOCIAL MEDIA

During a typical day, approximately how much time do you use social media?



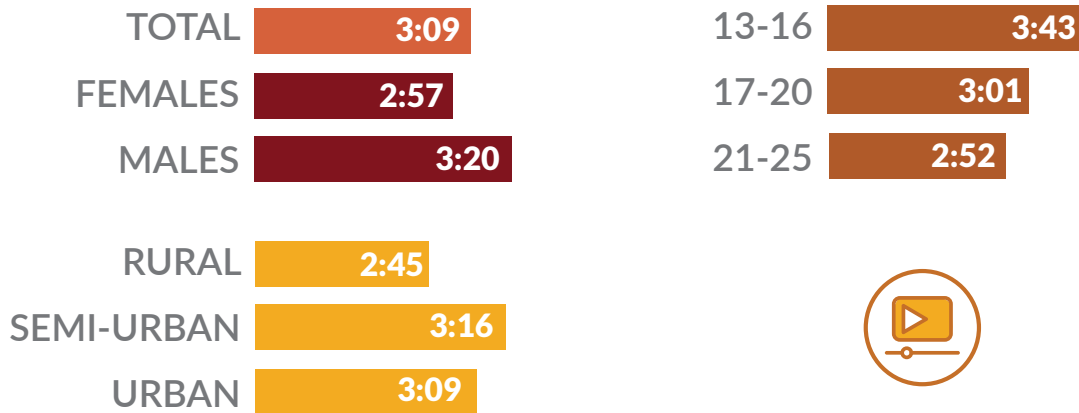
CHATTING

During a typical day, approximately how much time do you spend online engaging with other people by talking, messaging, or video chatting?



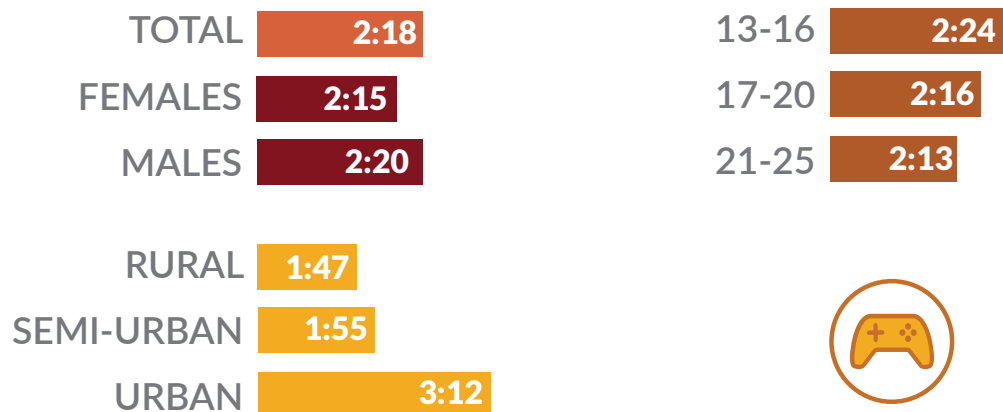
WATCHING VIDEOS

During a typical day, approximately how much time do you watch online videos or movies (YouTube, Netflix, etc.)?



GAMING

During a typical day, approximately how much time do you spend gaming (PlayStation, Xbox, computer, smartphone, etc.)?

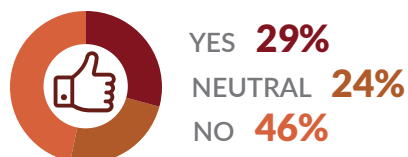


Young People and Social Media

Young people have mixed feelings about the impact of social media on their lives. Around 1 in 5 say they don't use it at all. Among those who do, only about one-third feel it makes them more satisfied, though most say it rarely makes them feel bad. Males and females report similar experiences with social media, while rural respondents are more likely to associate it with negative effects.

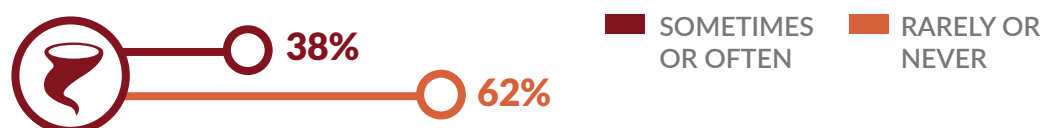
SOCIAL MEDIA SATISFACTION

Social media helps me feel satisfied with my life.



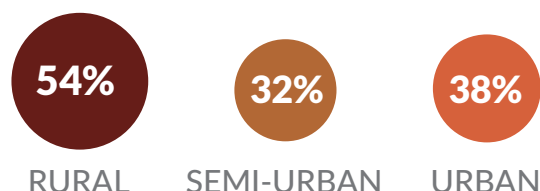
SOCIAL MEDIA DISSATISFACTION

Social media makes me feel sad, anxious, or depressed.

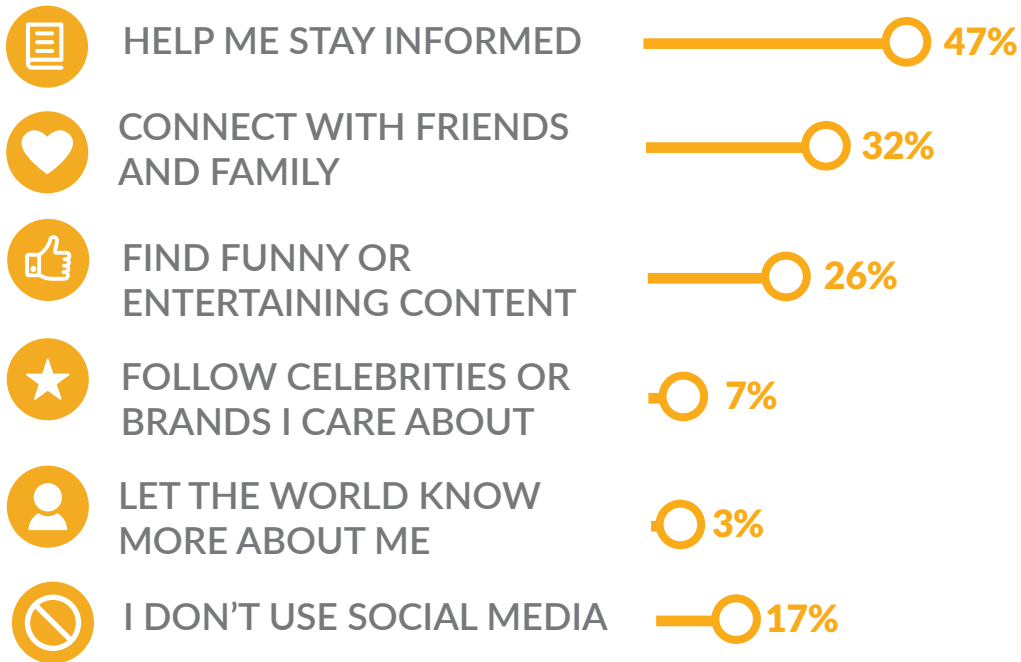


SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTS BY LOCATION

Social media sometimes or often makes me feel sad, anxious, or depressed.



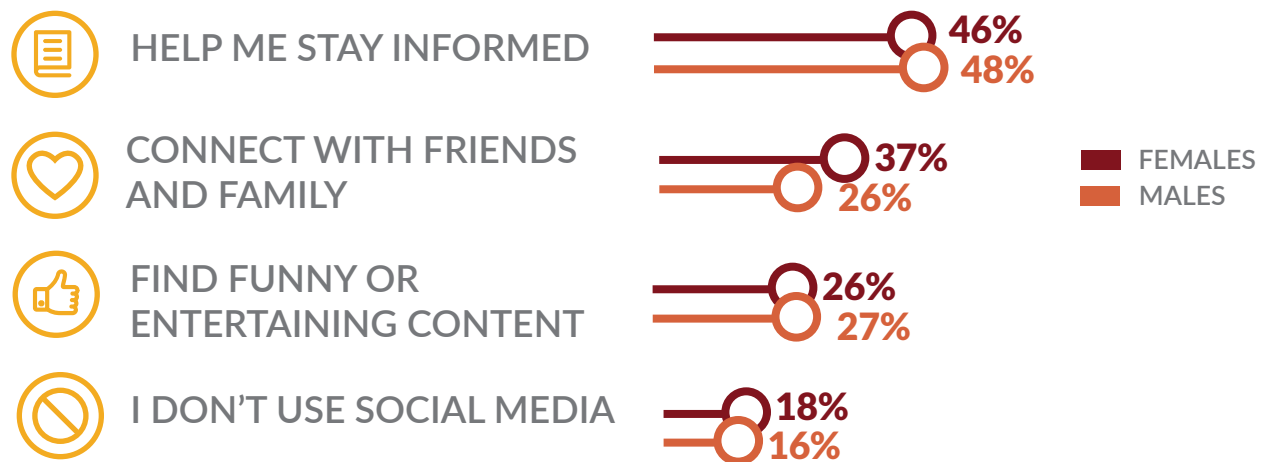
I USE SOCIAL MEDIA PRIMARILY TO¹



Most young people report using social media to stay informed or to connect with friends and family. Females are more likely than males to use it for staying connected with loved ones. Social media usage is lowest among 13 to 16-year-olds. Older respondents are more likely to turn to social media to stay informed or connect with friends and family. Younger users are slightly more likely to engage it looking for funny or entertaining content.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY GENDER

I use social media primarily to...²



¹ Note that young people could select up to two answers to this question so totals add to more than 100%.

² The top four most selected answers are displayed.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE BY AGE

I use social media primarily to...¹



HELP ME STAY INFORMED



CONNECT WITH FRIENDS
AND FAMILY



FIND FUNNY OR
ENTERTAINING CONTENT



I DON'T USE SOCIAL MEDIA



■ 13-16 ■ 17-20 ■ 21-25

¹ The top four most selected answers are displayed.



Conclusion

Constant connectedness to digital platforms is becoming a way of life for today's young people. More and more Ethiopian young people are owning phones and gaining internet access. How will we help them navigate this new reality and engage them effectively with the gospel message on these digital platforms?

- **LEVERAGE DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Technology can be a powerful tool to reach this generation. Many young people, especially in cities, are getting online and taking advantage of the apps, websites, and social media platforms available. Young people surveyed are especially likely to tell us they use social media to stay informed. They are online looking for information to guide their lives and understand their world.

How can we ensure there is gospel content for them to find and life-giving online communities they can be a part of?

- **NAVIGATE THE TENSION**

While this generation appears to be embracing digital, some young people recognize the tensions that devices are bringing to their lives. While some say social media helps them feel satisfied with their lives, others link it to negative feelings. The gifts and challenges of digital engagement are not going away for young people today or in the future.

How can we be mindful of the changes digital immersion brings and help young people navigate their engagement in a healthy way?

- **POSITION FOR THE FUTURE**

Digital connectedness is the future we are all headed towards, and youth are leading the way in this. We can't stop that, but we can take the journey with them rather than losing them to a digital world we are not part of and don't understand. As families, church leaders, and ministry workers, we need to be aware of how the world is changing and how we may need to change with it.

How can we embrace digital alongside this generation and bring both wisdom and innovation to this space?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

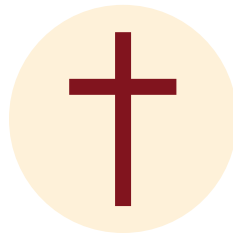
ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered



Young people overall have an **extremely positive** outlook on their future **career opportunities**.

Evangelical Christians are the most **optimistic** about their future careers.



Ethiopian youth surveyed care most that their **future career helps other people**.

They also want to **enjoy** their jobs.



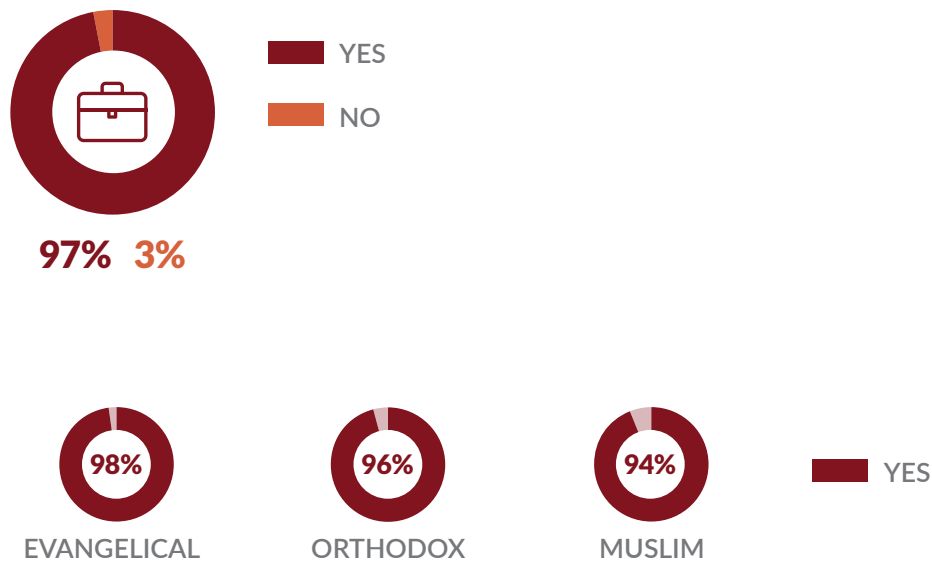
Youth are most interested in careers in **church ministry** or **medicine**.



Future Career Outlook

Almost all young people surveyed (97%) believe that they will have career opportunities ahead of them. Positive responses are high across all groups, though Muslims are slightly less optimistic.

I BELIEVE THAT I WILL HAVE A FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITY



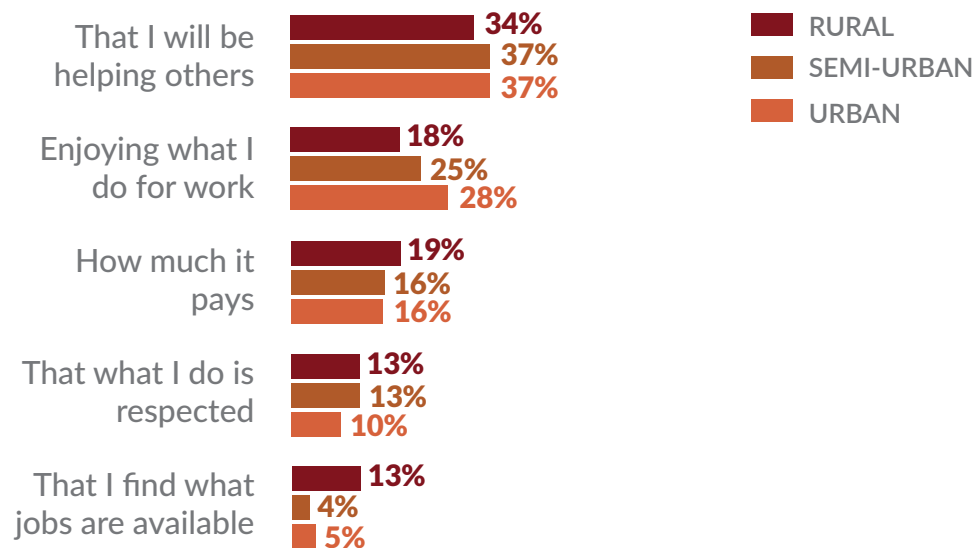
Although they might not know what is ahead, young people do have an idea of what they want from their future career. The most common priority is to help others, followed by a desire to enjoy their work. How much a job pays and whether or not it is respected are also valued to a lesser degree.

These priorities are similar regardless of a youth's age, gender, or location, with the exception that rural young people are more concerned than others with finding an available job.

TOP CAREER PRIORITIES

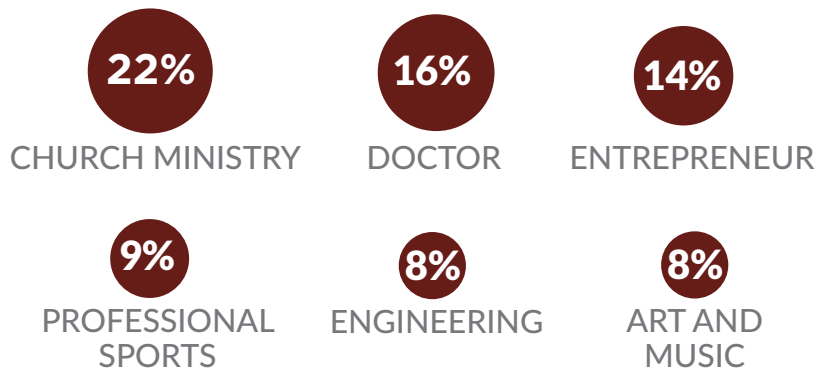


CAREER PRIORITIES BY LOCATION



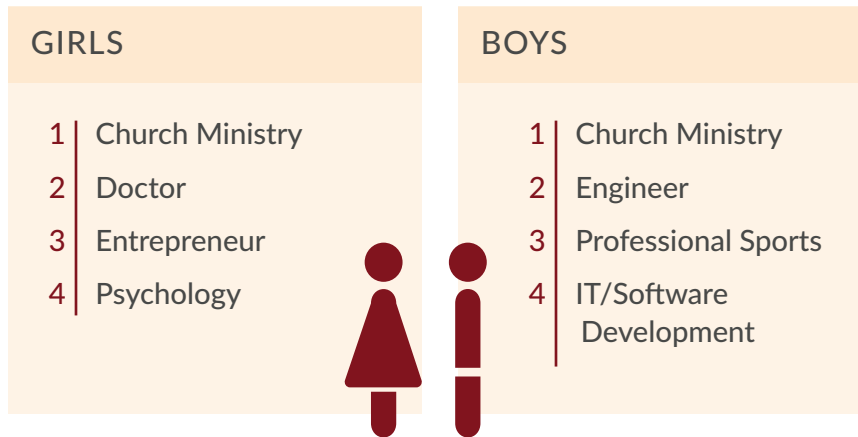
TOP SIX CAREER CHOICES

What career are you most interested in pursuing for yourself in future?¹



¹ The top six selections come from a list of 20 possible choices. Young people could select up to two answer options.

TOP CAREER CHOICES BY GENDER

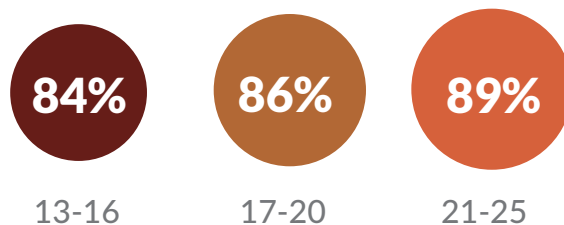


In our global GYC study, young people in Africa were some of the most ambitious of their global generation with a strong desire to be entrepreneurs.¹ This was true in Ethiopia as well. A vast majority of young people surveyed (86%) say they would like to start a business or own their own company in the future. Females and males are equally likely to say this. Entrepreneurial interest increases with age.

28% OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS ARE INTERESTED IN CHURCH MINISTRY.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

I would like to start a business or own my own company in the future.



86% OF OF YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED HAVE ENTREPRENEURIAL GOALS.

¹ OneHope. (January 2021). Global Youth Culture, Africa Report. www.globalyouthculture.net, 66.

Conclusion

The young people we surveyed demonstrate a blend of optimism and ambition for their future careers, prioritizing purpose-driven and fulfilling work while maintaining a keen interest in entrepreneurship. Despite variations by region, gender, and religion, their aspirations highlight their determination to shape a meaningful future for themselves and their country.

- **FOSTER GOOD PERSPECTIVE**

Young people are highly optimistic about their future, with 97% confident they will have career opportunities. Churches, ministries, and community leaders have an opportunity to affirm this optimism while demonstrating how the gospel provides ultimate purpose and security at every stage of life. Our role is to equip young people with tools to pursue careers that align with their values and reflect the hope and purpose found in the gospel.

How can we help young people connect their career hopes with God's greater plan for them?

- **ALIGN CAREER WITH CORE VALUES**

Helping others and enjoying their work are top priorities for youth when considering future careers. Programs that emphasize service-oriented roles and show how faith can transform work into worship will strongly resonate with them. It's also important to address specific challenges in rural areas, such as limited job opportunities, by creating pathways for meaningful careers. By partnering with young people, we can help them see that their work—whether in ministry, healthcare, business, or any other field—can be a powerful way to serve others and bear witness to God's kingdom.

How can we encourage youth that serving others in any job reflects Christ's love and fulfills His calling?

- **SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP GOALS**

With 86% of youth aspiring to start a business, entrepreneurship presents a powerful opportunity for advancing both personal growth and gospel impact. Ministries and organizations can provide training, resources, and spiritual guidance to help young entrepreneurs integrate faith and business.

How can we encourage young entrepreneurs to see their businesses as platforms for living out the gospel?

GENDER IDENTITY

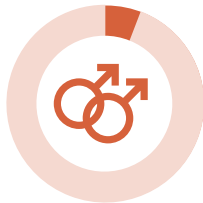
ETHIOPIA REPORT

What We Discovered



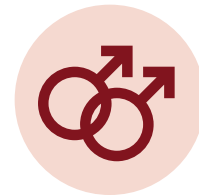
Most young people surveyed digitally believe gender is **based on sex at birth**.

1 in 5 said they **did not understand** the question.



8% of young people surveyed report recently experiencing **same-sex attraction**.

Same-sex attraction is higher among **males** than females.



Rates of **gender identity confusion** are **very low** with **no significant differences** across groups.



Conversations around gender identity and sexuality are becoming more common among this generation. We wanted to find out the viewpoints of young people surveyed.

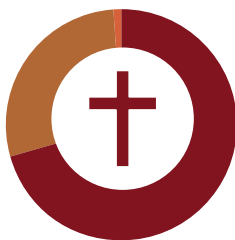
Because of the sensitive nature of these questions, the national team chose to exclude them from the paper surveys. This section is based on a much smaller digital-only sample of 53 surveys.

ABOUT THESE YOUTHS

AGE



RELIGION



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN **70%**
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX **28%**
OTHER RELIGION **1%¹**

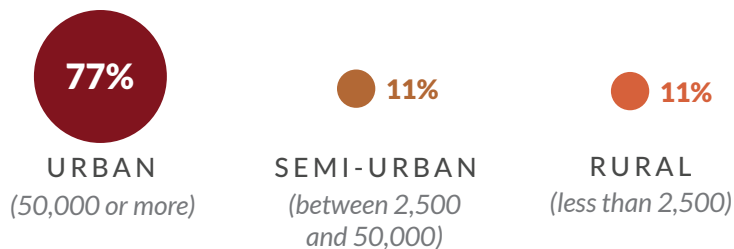


53 YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED

MALES — **40%**

FEMALES — **60%**

LOCATION



COMMITTEDNESS



¹ One young person selected Other. Their response was: Adventist. For this report, they were considered separately from Christians and not included in our Committed Construct.

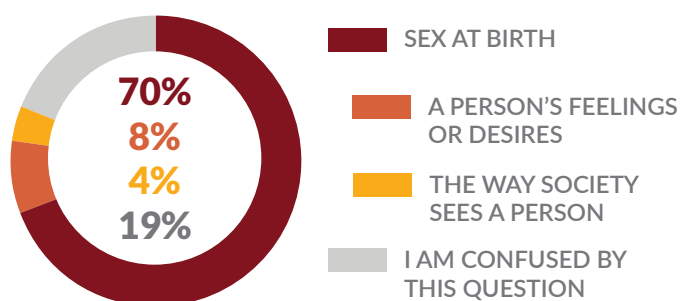
Gender Identity

The majority of young people who answered this question (70%) say they believe gender is primarily based on a person's sex at birth. 1 in 5 respondents say they did not understand the question, which seems to indicate a lack of awareness about these issues at all.

Young adults are more likely than younger teenagers to have a traditional view of gender.

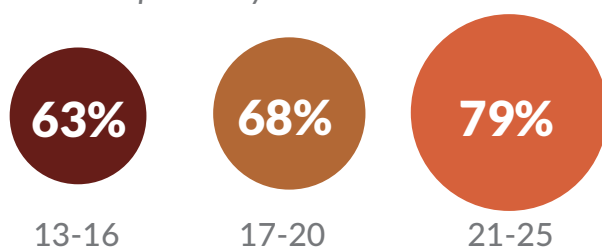
VIEW OF GENDER

Gender is primarily based on:



VIEW OF GENDER BY AGE

Gender is primarily based on sex at birth:



We also asked young people about their personal experience of gender identity. A very small number of young people report recently experiencing gender identity confusion or say they would be most themselves as a different gender. Remember, these numbers are based on a small sample of digital-only surveys, so they are not as representative as other data in this report.

Very few young people believe it is okay for someone to change their body to become a different gender. Almost 1 in 10 say that they did not understand the question.

GENDER IDENTITY CONFUSION

In the past three months did you experience gender identity confusion?



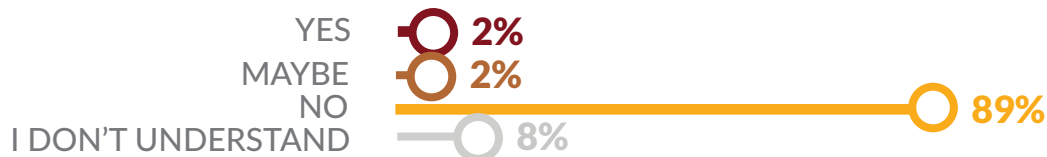
GENDER STRUGGLES

In the past three months, have you felt you would be most yourself if you were a different gender?



GENDER CHANGE

Is it okay for someone to change their body to become a different gender?¹



Same-Sex Attraction

This generation globally is exploring their sexuality and attractions. We saw this with the young people surveyed in Ethiopia as well. A little less than 1 in 10 young people (8%) say they have recently experienced same-sex attraction.

Males are slightly more likely than females to report same-sex attraction, which contrasts with the 2020 Africa GYC report, where females were more likely to report same-sex attraction.² While Christians also report experiencing same-sex attraction, those with a strong commitment to their faith seemed to experience it less frequently.

SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

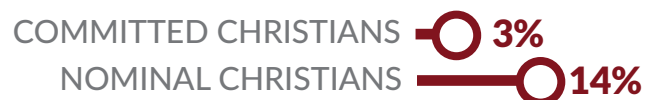
Within the past three months, I have felt sexually attracted to someone of the same gender:

YES 8%

BY GENDER



BY COMMITTEDNESS



¹ Total adds to more than 100% due to decimal rounding.
² OneHope. (January 2021). Global Youth Culture, Africa Report. www.globalyouthculture.net, 57.

Conclusion

Young peoples' opinions may change as they mature, but for now we have a snapshot from this limited sample about what they believe on the important topics of gender identity and sexuality. In addition, we know where they are turning to for guidance and advice on these matters (see the Influences and Guiding Voices section).

- **STRENGTHEN SCRIPTURAL VIEWPOINTS**

It is reassuring to see that this sample of young people surveyed mostly have scriptural viewpoints on topics such as gender identity and sexuality. But these topics continue to need cultivating as young people mature and begin to hear other opinions and voices.

How can we help young people understand the plan God has for their sexuality and relationships and embrace that design in order to flourish?

- **GET READY FOR COMPLEX DISCUSSIONS**

Young people are shaped by many influences, such as music, media, and digital platforms, which present diverse perspectives on life's important questions. These cultural messages create opportunities for meaningful conversations, including discussions about God's plans for our lives. It's vital to equip ourselves and the next generation to engage in open, honest dialogues about challenging topics like gender identity and sexual behavior outside of marriage. We should be ready to share God's truth with clarity and love, while also being attentive listeners for young people who may feel uncertain or conflicted.

How can churches better prepare young people to navigate these cultural issues in a way that strengthens their faith?

- **RAISE THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH**

Pastors and church leaders are recognized authorities on topics like the meaning of life, but have become less relevant in other cultural conversations, like sexuality and gender. Young people live in a world that is growing more complicated and confusing every day, but they need to know that the truth of God's Word does not change. Scripture speaks to every aspect of our lives.

How can we communicate that to this generation and make the church a trusted voice and safe space for young people to navigate questions on gender and sexuality?

About OneHope

In partnership with local churches, ministries, and governments around the world, OneHope has reached more than 2 billion children and youth with God's Word. Based on in-country research OneHope conducts, Scripture programs are designed to be age and culturally relevant. Since 1987, OneHope has helped kids experience God's Story, sharing the life-changing message of hope with children and youth in every country. onehope.net

About the Research

This project was an extension of a global research initiative that surveyed young people ages 13-19 in more than 20 countries. The global study was conducted in February to March of 2020. Research was conducted for this project between July and October 2024.

The data represents a variety of locations and regions throughout Ethiopia and questions were customized to fit the national context. The majority of the youth were surveyed in-person and submitted their answers on paper (673 of 726 or 93%). Young people who completed a paper survey were able to skip items; however, each survey item we reported had a minimum of 698 respondents, so representation was fully achieved. A smaller group of 53 took the survey digitally. The digital survey included a few extra questions about sexuality. Those results are included separately in the final section on Gender Identity.

CHRISTIAN

Young people who self-identified as Evangelical, Orthodox, or Catholic, but not those who wrote in "only Jesus," Adventist, or Apostolic.

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

Young people who self-identified as Evangelical, Orthodox, or Catholic, and who met the following criteria:

- Believe God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God
- Believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ
- Believe the Bible is the Word of God
- Read Scripture on their own daily or weekly
- Pray daily or weekly

NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

Young people who self-identified as Evangelical, Orthodox, or Catholic and who did not meet the criteria of core beliefs or habits established for Committed Christians.



GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE