



Nurture, Disciple
& Retain -

*"And when he is old he
will not depart from it."*

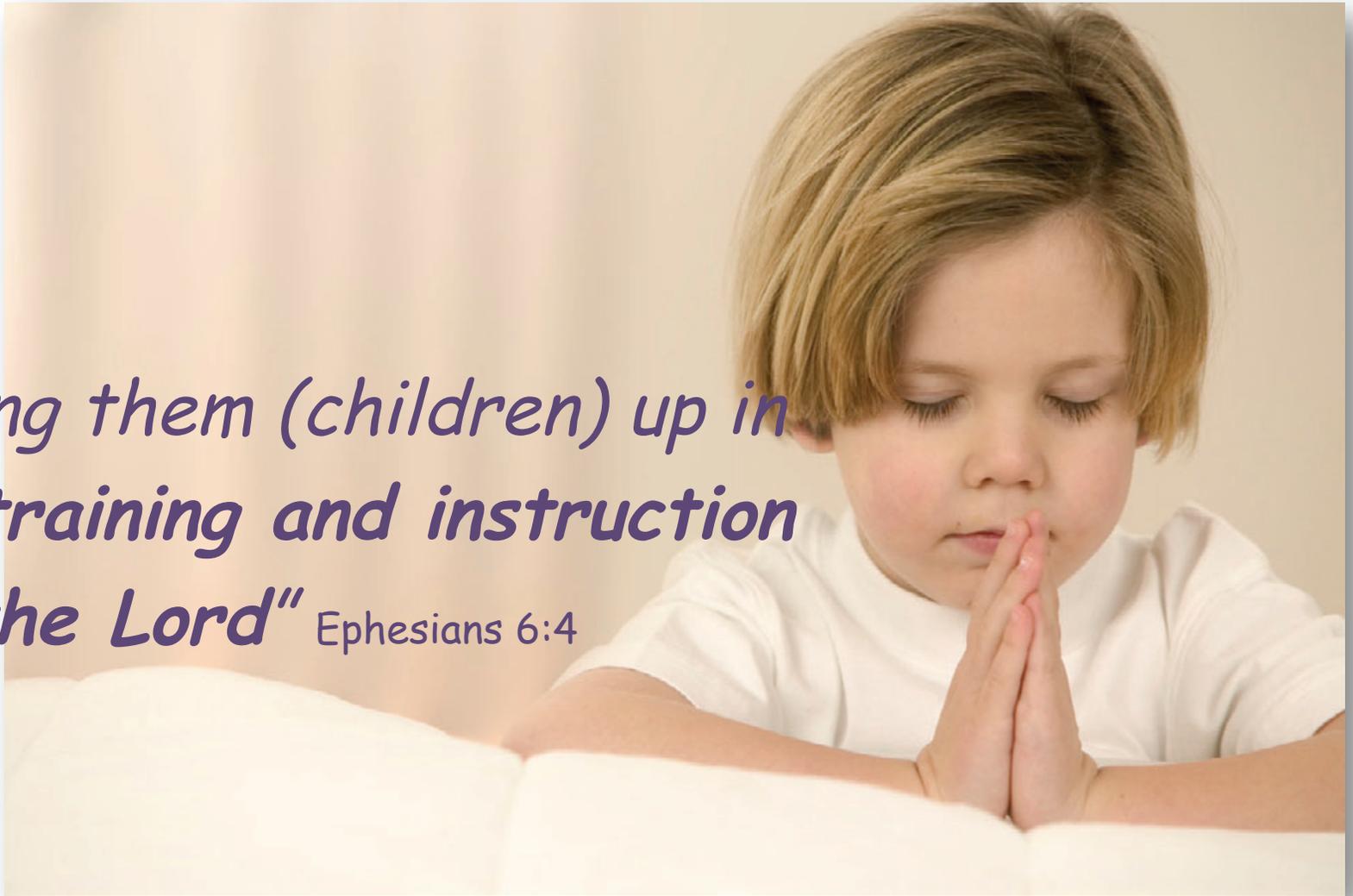
Proverbs 22:6

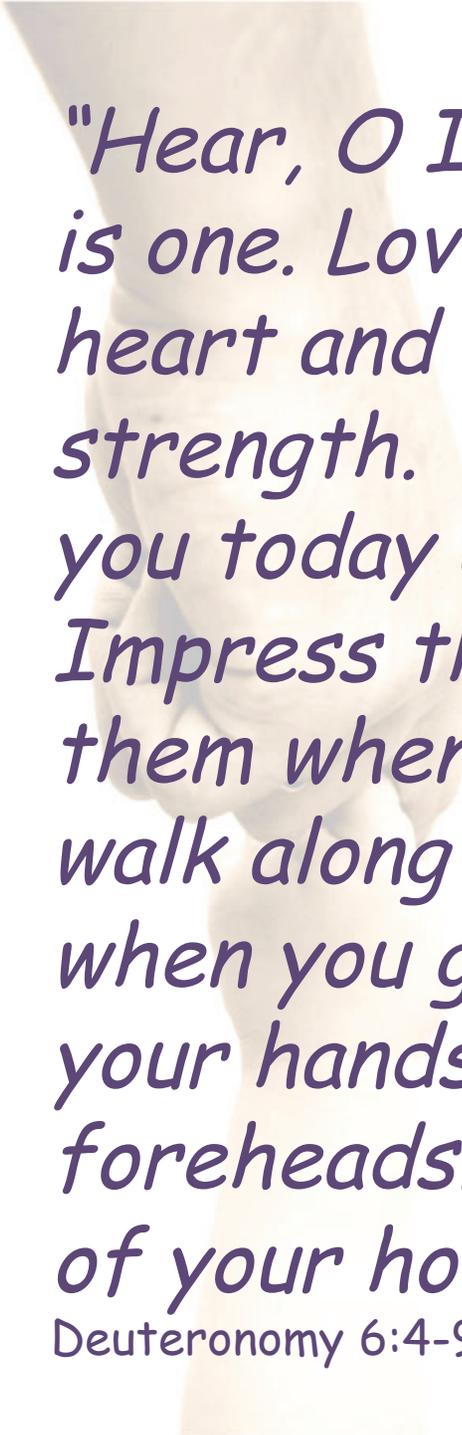


“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6 NKJ

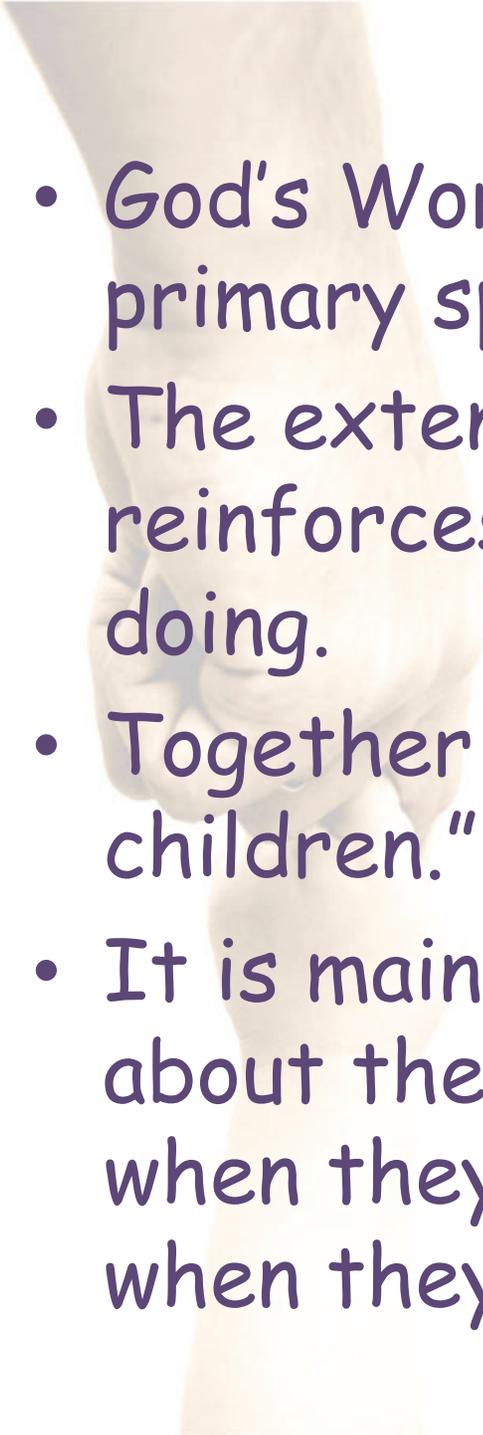
*"Bring them (children) up in
the training and instruction
of the Lord"* Ephesians 6:4





"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

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- God's Word calls parents to be the primary spiritual mentors of children.
 - The extended family and church reinforces what the parents are already doing.
 - Together we all can "Impress them on our children."
 - It is mainly the parents that can "Talk about them when they sit at home and when they walk or drive along the road, when they lie down and when they get up.



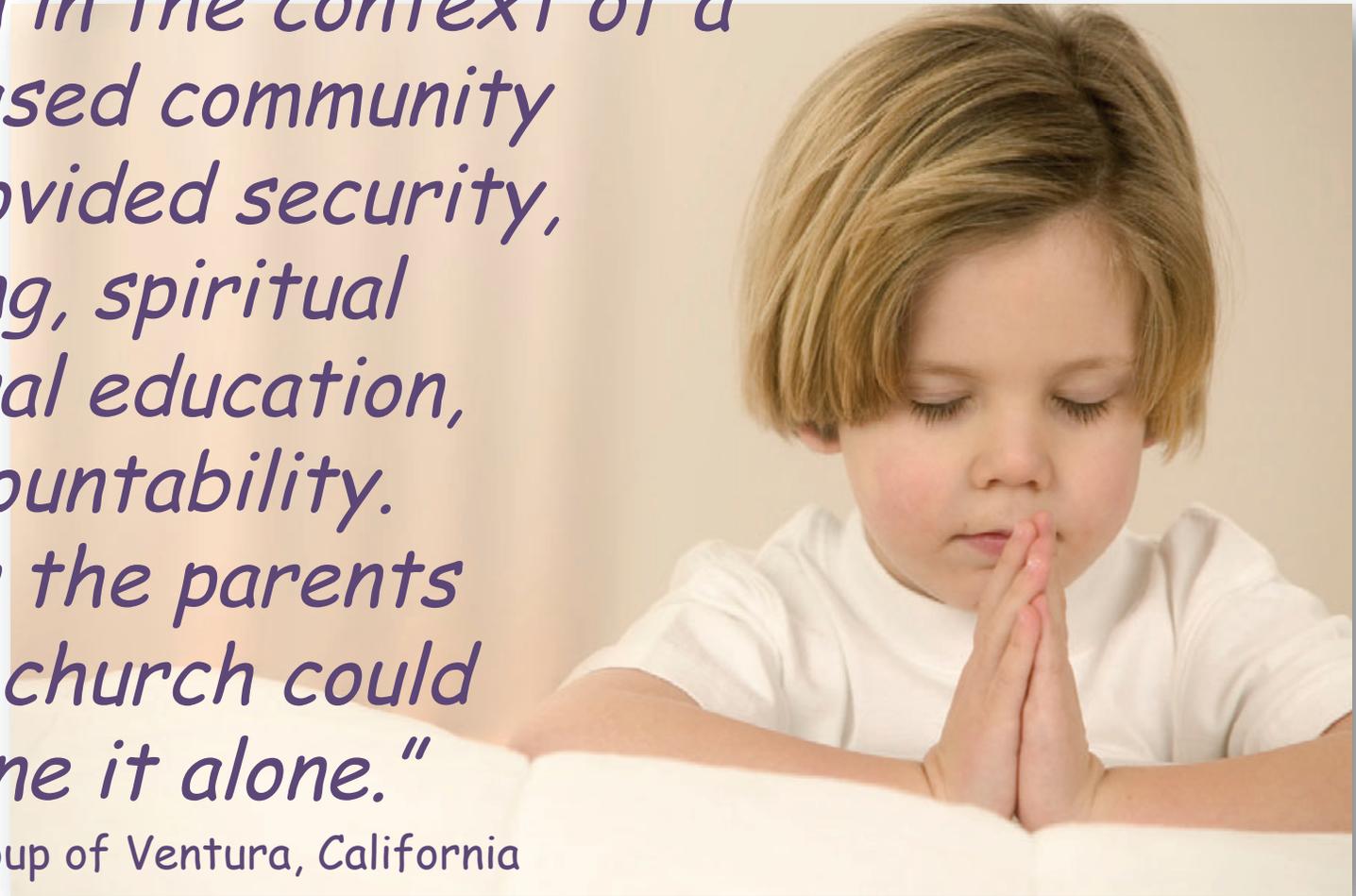
"In situations where children became mature Christians we usually found a symbiotic partnership between their parents and their church.

The church encouraged parents to prioritise the spiritual development of their children and worked hard to equip them for that challenge.

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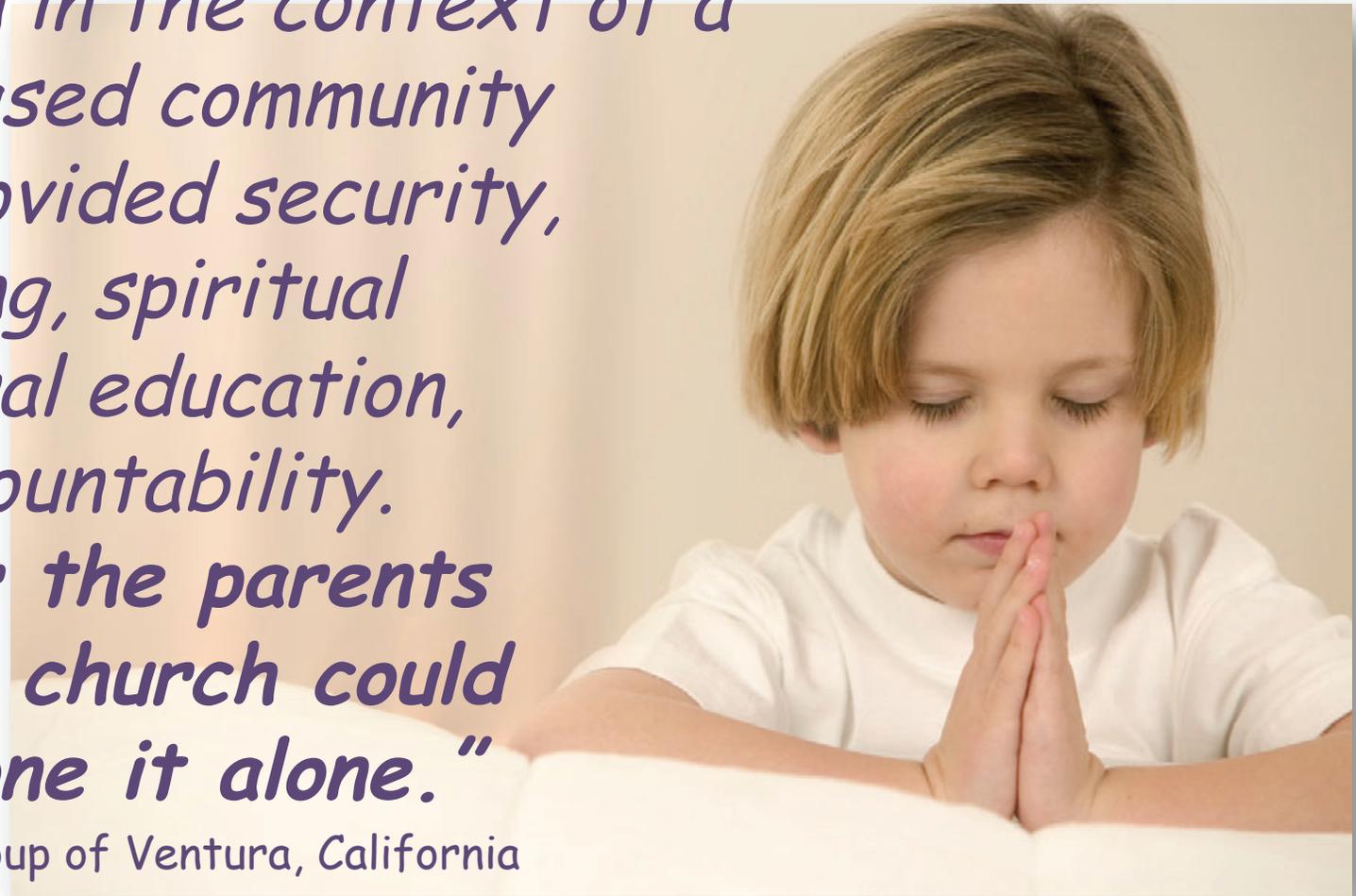
Parents, for their part, raised their children in the context of a faith based community that provided security, belonging, spiritual and moral education, and accountability. Neither the parents nor the church could have done it alone."

The Barna Group of Ventura, California
www.barna.org



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“Choose for yourselves
this day whom you will
serve . . .” Joshua 24:15





"The church is God's appointed organization for the salvation of men [children/youth]. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world . . . It is the storehouse of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church God's love will eventually be made [obvious in a]. . . final and full display."

Acts of the Apostles p. 9

God appointed us to be . . .

- *An organization for the salvation of men*
- *Organised for service*
- *The mission of carrying the gospel to the world.*
- *The storehouse of the riches of the grace of Christ*
- *The window where God's love is being made obvious in a final and full display*



We are Responsible

- *For the salvation of our children and youth*
- *For leading them to a life of service*
- *For engaging them in the mission of carrying the gospel to the world*
- *For receiving and displaying the love of God.*
- *For letting them share in the riches of the grace of Christ*

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- Alienation
 - Irrelevance
 - Intolerance
 - Inconvenience

Barry Gane, Reclaiming Mission Youth.



"It seems reasonable to believe that at least 40% to 50% of SDA teenagers in North America are essentially leaving the church by their middle 20s. This figure may well be higher."

Roger L. Dudley, *Why Teenagers Leave the Church: Personal Stories from a 10-Year Study*. P.35



"By the age of 9,
most of the moral and
spiritual foundations of a
child are in place."

*G. Barna, Transforming Children Into
Spiritual Champions, P.58*

If people do not embrace
Jesus Christ as their Saviour
before they reach their
teenage years, the chance of
their doing so at all is slim"

*G. Barna, Transforming Children Into Spiritual
Champions. P.34*

- Between 5 - 12 - 32 %
- Between 13 - 18 - 4 %
- From 19 and older - 6 %

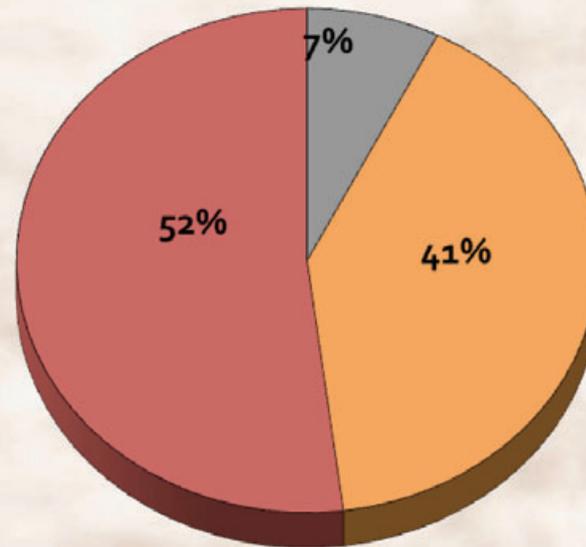
George Barna, Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions, P.34

58 % never made that decision



Building the Future

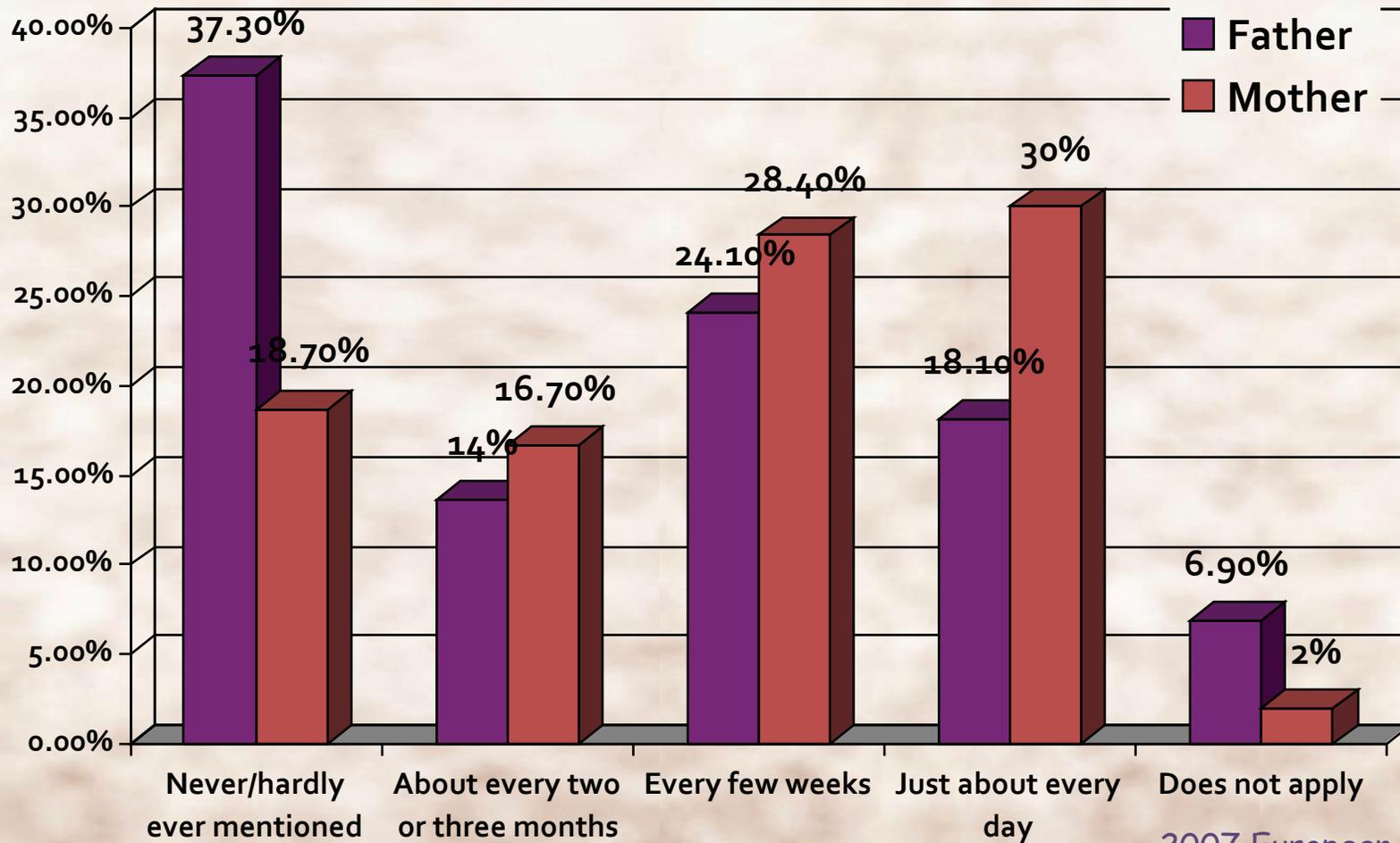
Q. 335: In twenty years time, do you think you will be active in the Adventist Church?



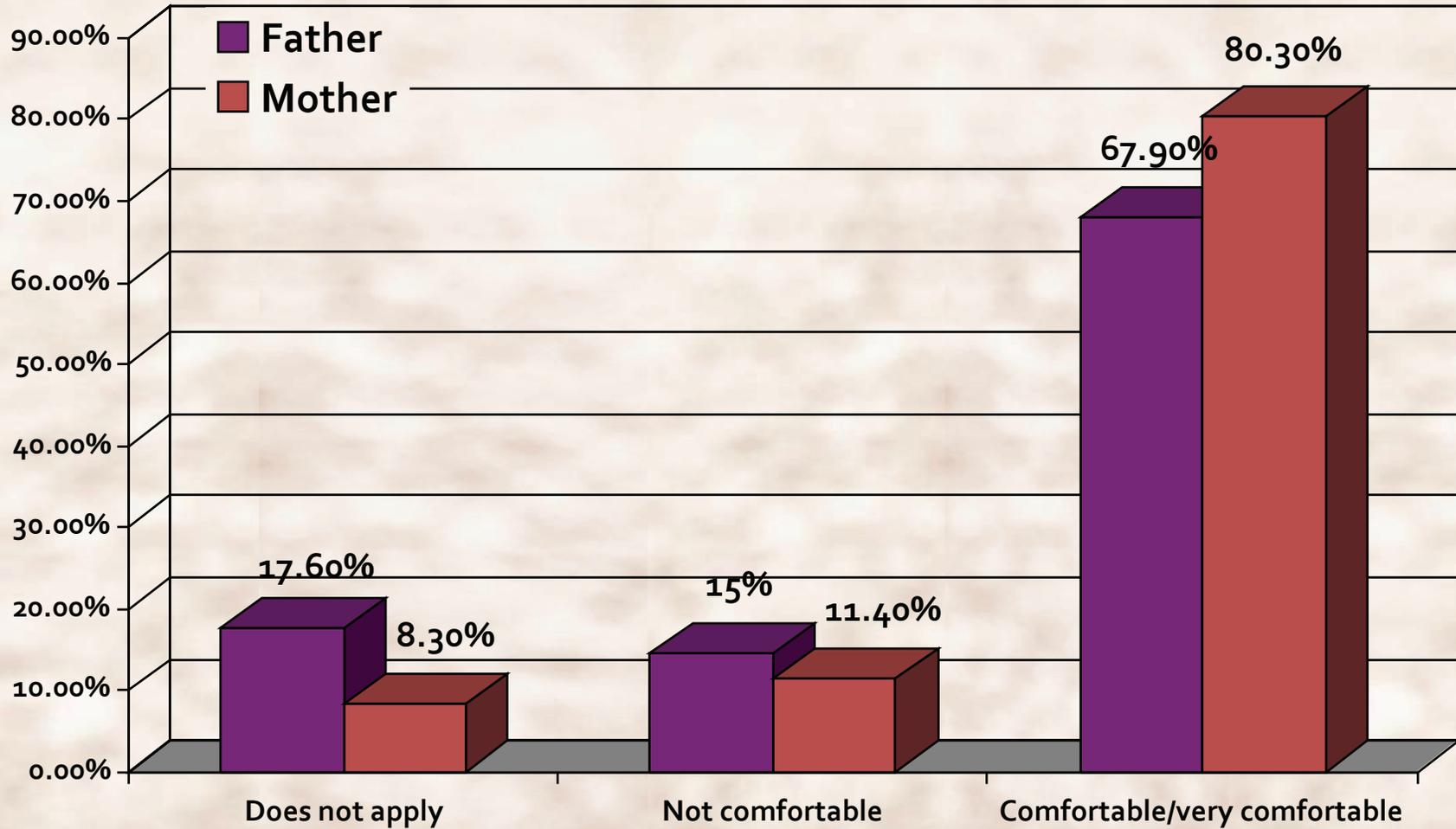
■ No/Unlikely ■ Probably ■ Definitely

2007 European Valuegenesis

How often do your parents talk with you about their own personal faith?



How comfortable are your parents in talking with others about their faith and what God means to them?



"We are not keeping and effectively engaging our children and youth in the life and mission of the church. The values and attitudes of many young men and women reveal a great uncertainty about their future involvement with the church"





Discipleship Ministries

- Sabbath School
- Pathfinders/Adventures
- Children's church

- A church where 80% of their young people were leaving the church
- Started a family-friendly, non-threatening worship experience one Sabbath afternoon once a month
- It's intention to reach families in the church, in their community and families of young people who had left the church.
- Has also become a nurturing and retention tool for their own children and youth.
- ***MESSY CHURCH***

Messy Church

- Vacation Bible School injected with steroids
- Age -appropriate groups
- Bible story with a specific teachable point
- A craft that will help cement that point from the Bible story in their minds
- Everyone come together in rousing and energetic songs of praise
- A meal together



Messy Church

- 1/3 are Adventist Families
- 2/3 are from the community
- 25% are lapsed (backsliders) members
- This percentage is continually increasing

Messy Church Staff

- A Large portion of the MC staff are the young people from the church, 12 - 16 years old
- They have found that
 - they were needed in the church
 - They could help others to come to know Jesus
 - Encouraging the younger children to witness to their friends and inviting their non SDA friends to join them for MC
 - Helped to keep the children and the youth motivated and active in the church.



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

*Designed
For Families . .*



*Focused
on Children.*



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Parents

- Rediscover Jesus call to discipleship
- Intentionally mentor their own children
- No longer depend upon someone else to connect their children with Jesus



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Families

- Relationships are strengthened
- Spiritual communication is increased and "natural" as the Bible is studied
- Together they experience a deeper involvement in the life of the church in worship, ministry and mission



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Church Family

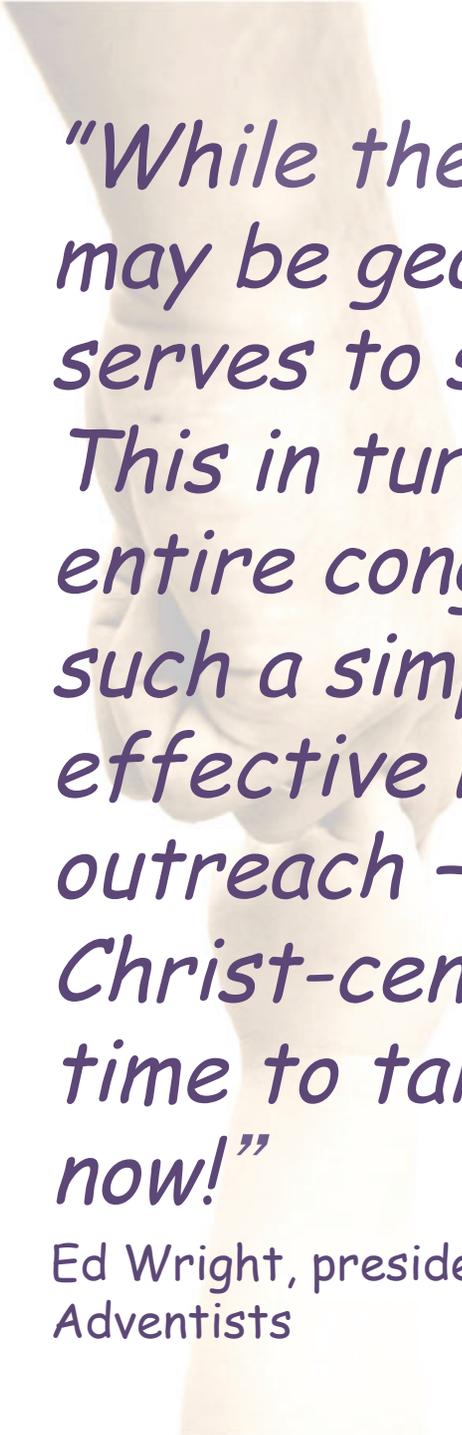
- Supports the individual families through prayers and encouragement
- Become a more caring church
- Revival and reformation happens



KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Children

- Establish a personal connection to Jesus
- Understand the Biblical foundation for their Christian beliefs
- Experience the joy of bringing their friends to Jesus
- Become involved in the ministries of the Church

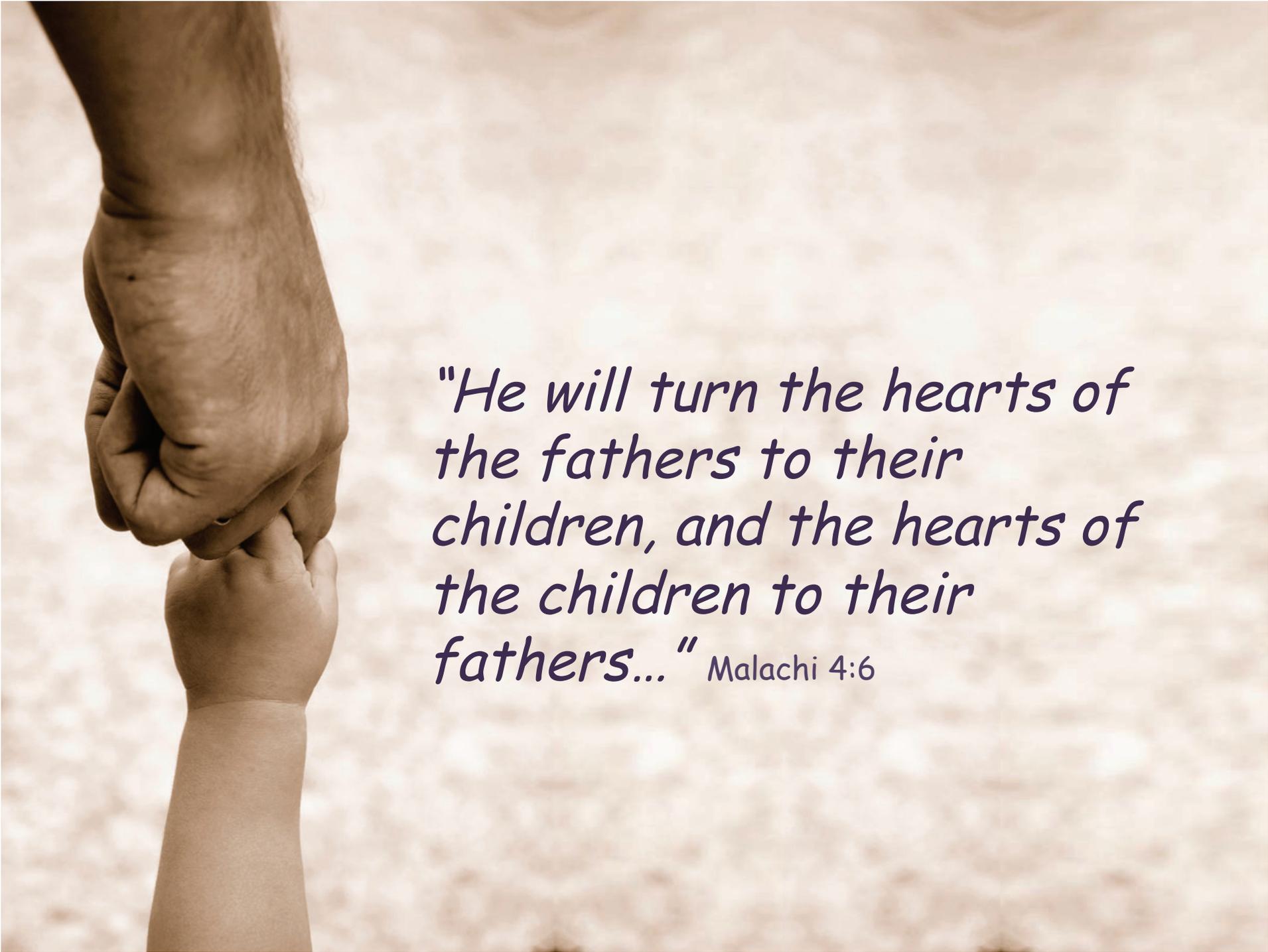


“While the Kid’s In Discipleship ministry may be geared towards children, it really serves to strengthen families as a whole. This in turn has an energizing influence on entire congregations. Never have I seen such a simple, yet biblically solid and effective model for discipleship and outreach - all built on the foundation of a Christ-centered home. If ever there was a time to take this ministry seriously, it is now!”

Ed Wright, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

*We are losing 51%
of the children
that are growing up
in our church*





*"He will turn the hearts of
the fathers to their
children, and the hearts of
the children to their
fathers..."* Malachi 4:6



“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9