

AHSRA Conference
Andrews University, MI, USA
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***Relationship Between Adventist
Education, Level of Education, and Belief
in the Spirit of Prophecy***

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Adventist education = an integral part of the mission of the Adventist Church.

Adventist schools help nurture young people in preparation for their service in this world and for their eternal life (Beardsley-Hardy, 2017; Taylor V, 2022).

Background

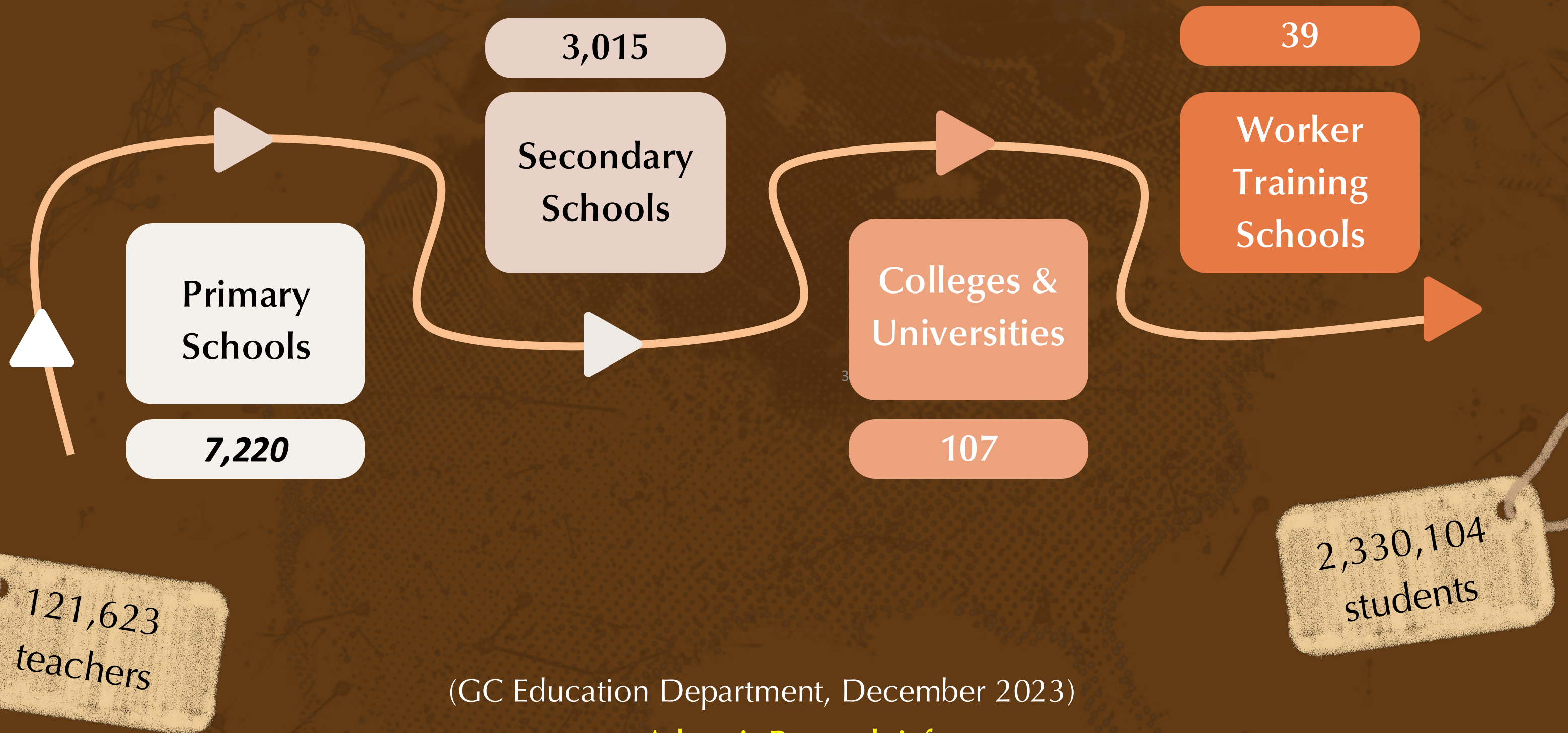
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Adventists highly value education because it prepares students for employment, service, and quality life in this world, and

Because it helps them grow spiritually in preparation for eternal life (White, 2017b).



Adventist Educational System



(GC Education Department, December 2023)

www.AdventistResearch.info

Existing Literature



01.

Role of education (Elfert, 2019; Mertanen & Brunila, 2018; Schinkel et al., 2023; UNESCO, 2016)

- Mental, physical, emotional, social development
- Professional career
- Contribution to sustainable development

02.

Role of Adventist education (Taylor V, 2022; Knight, 2010; White, 2017b).

- Preparation for life in this world and eternal life
- Preparation for service in this world and eternity
- Focus on both academic excellence and spiritual emphasis

03.

Role of Spirit of Prophecy in Adventist education:

- Family matters (White, 2017a)
- Education (White, 2017b)
- Young people's lives (White, 2017c)
- Christian leadership (White, 2018c)
- Stewardship or resource management (White, 2018b)
- Etc.

04.

“Her writings speak with prophetic authority and provide comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction to the church. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested” (General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, 28 Fundamental Beliefs, 2020, p. 8)



G a p

No known global study investigating the relationship between number of years spent attending Adventist schools, educational attainment, and beliefs in the Spirit of Prophecy.⁵

Research Questions



1. What are the beliefs and practices of Seventh-day Adventists about the Spirit of Prophecy?
2. What are the education patterns of Seventh-day Adventists?
3. Is there any relationship between years spent studying in Adventist schools and beliefs in the Spirit of Prophecy among Seventh-day Adventists?
4. Is there any relationship between years spent studying in Adventist schools and Seventh-day Adventists' application of Ellen White's writings to their daily life?

Methodology



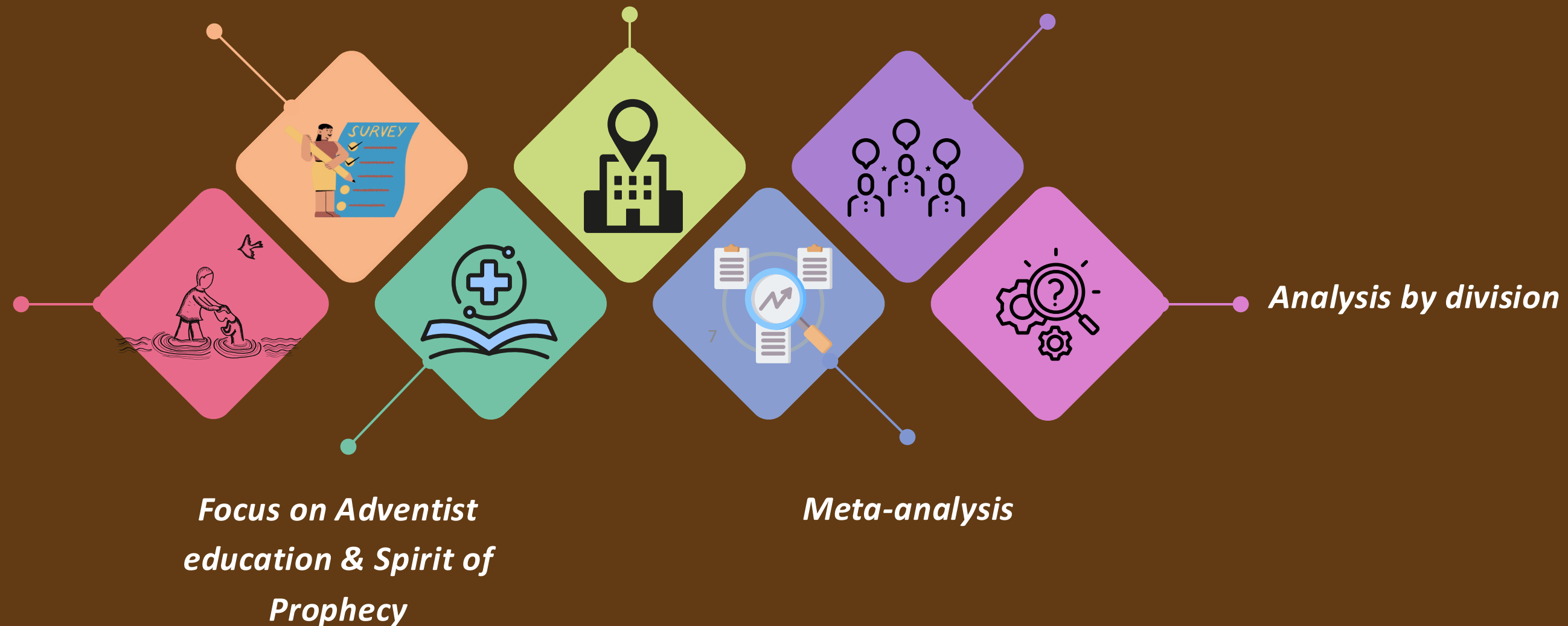
**Global Church
Member Survey 2023:
300+ items**

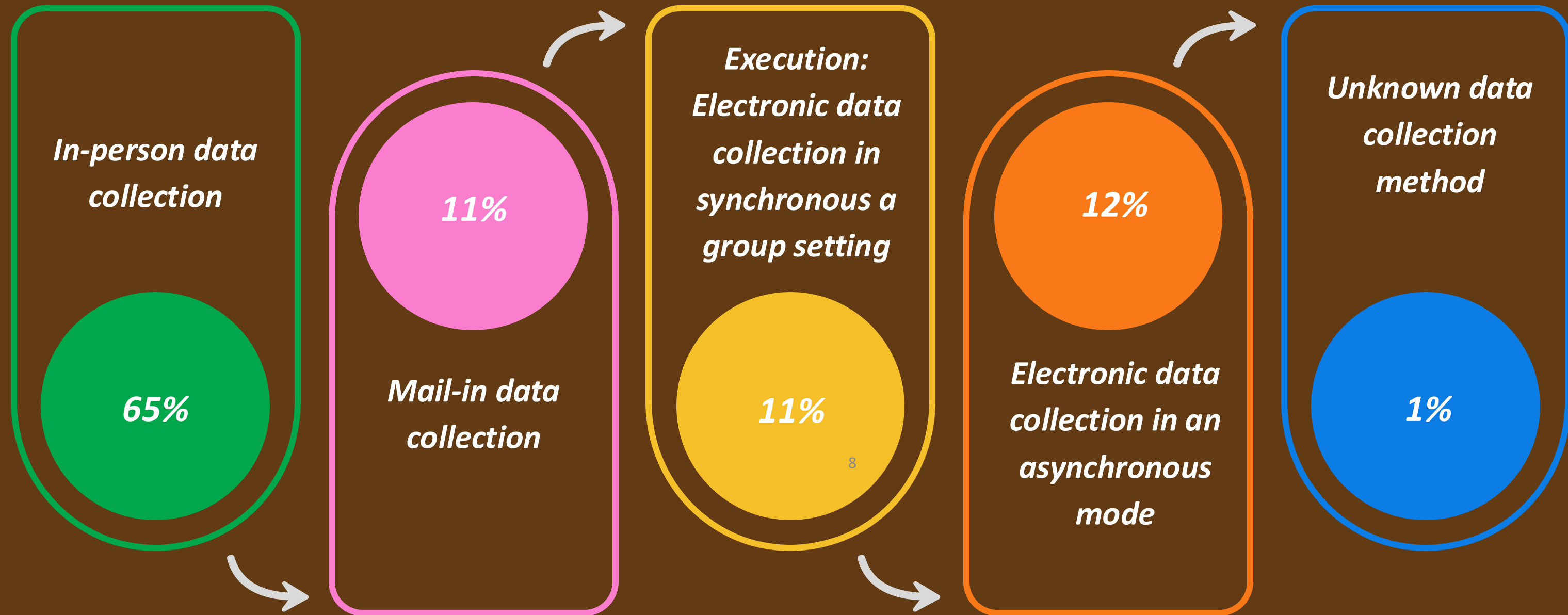
**13 divisions & 2
attached fields**

**150,182 respondents (149,556
valid cases)**

**Subsample limited to
baptized church
members who were
(46,368 cases)**

- in the Adventist Church during childhood (before age 13)
- 26 or older at the time of the survey
- had access to Ellen White's writings





Comparing Church Members Reading of Ellen White's Writings, the Bible, and the Sabbath School Lesson



How often do you...

Never Less than once a month Once or a few times a month About once a week More than once a week Daily or more than once a day

read Ellen White's Writings?



read the Bible?



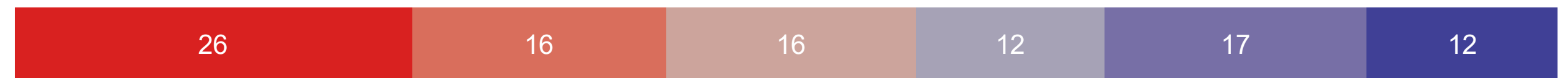
read the Sabbath School lesson?



0 25 50 75 100

On social media,
how often do you...

read Ellen White's Writings?



read the Bible?



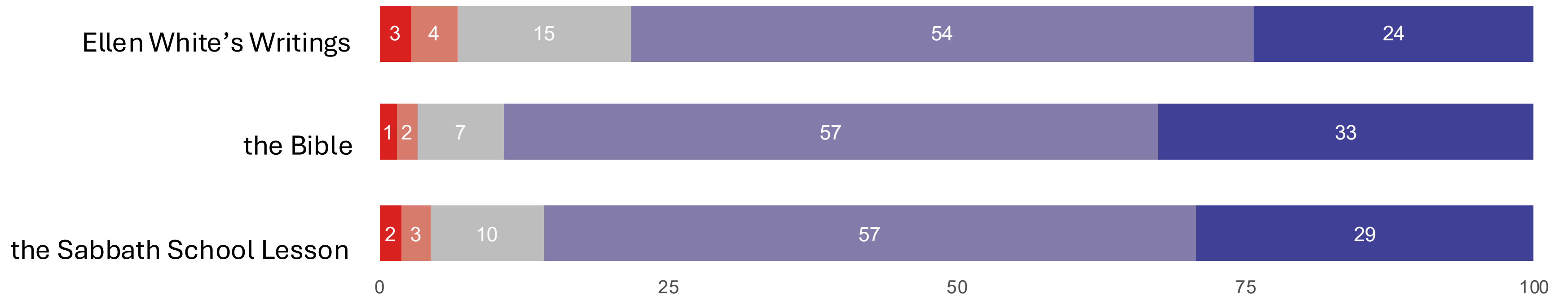
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Comparing Church Members Reading of Ellen White's Writings, the Bible, and the Sabbath School Lesson



Do you apply ...
to your daily life?

Strongly disagree Disagree I am not sure Agree Strongly agree



Describing Church Members' Beliefs About the Spirit of Prophecy



Strongly disagree Disagree I am not sure Agree Strongly agree

Ellen White's writings are the result of the spiritual gift of prophecy.



The Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs are the teaching of Holy Scripture.



0 25 50 75 100

What is closest to your understanding of what ... is?

No more truth Collected /created stories Share understanding of God Copied word for word Inspired for own place and time Expressed eternal truths

Ellen White's Writings

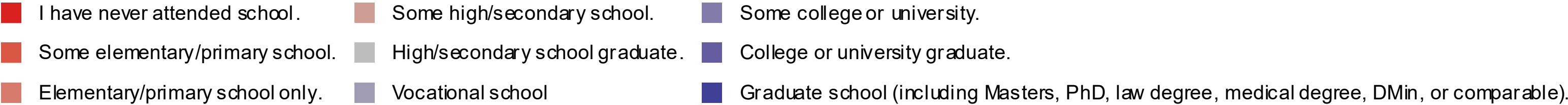


the Bible (as a whole)

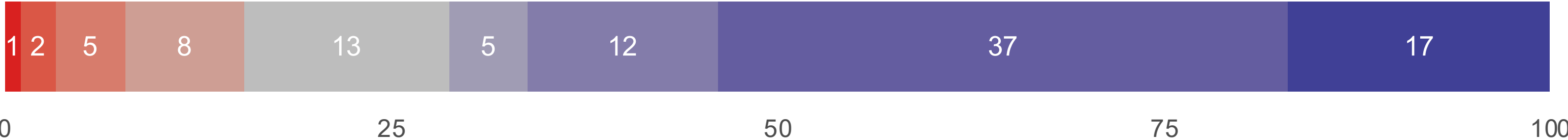


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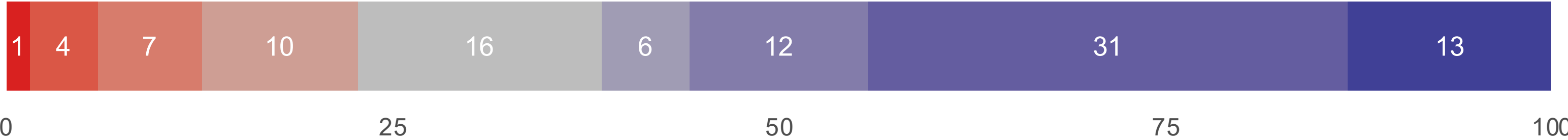
Education Attained in the Filtered Sample



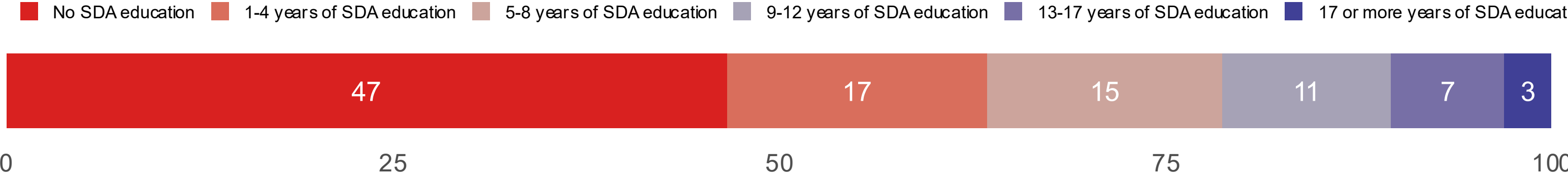
Filtered Sample



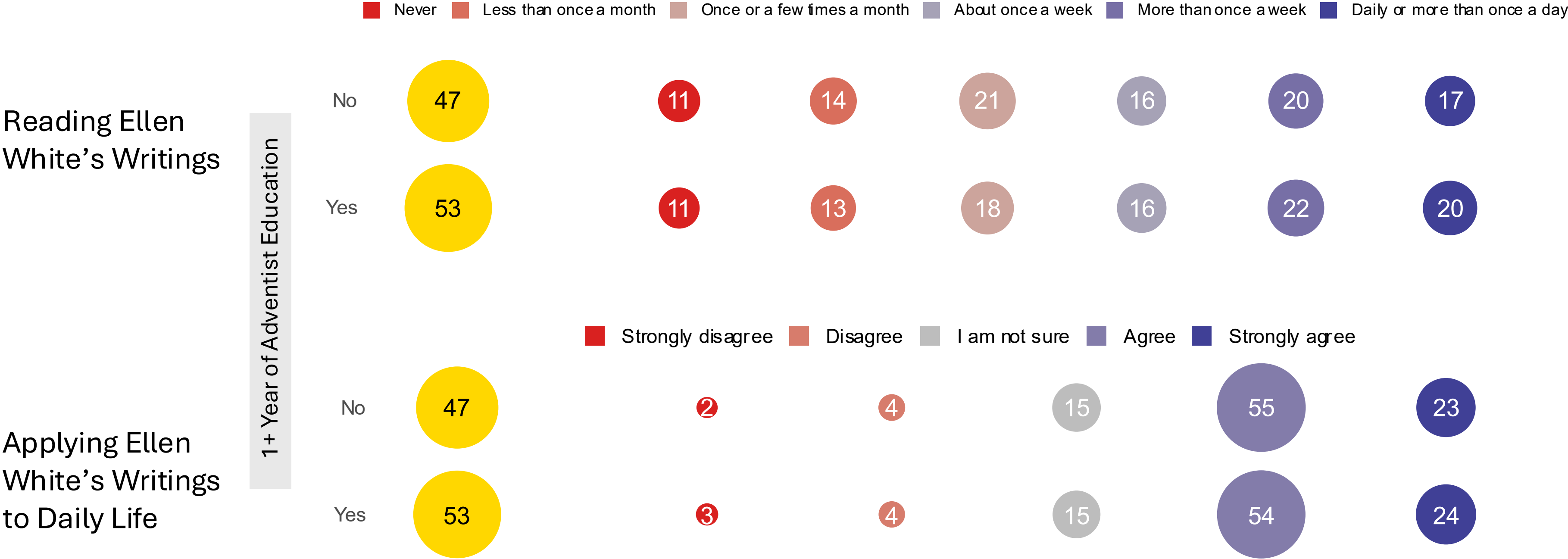
Full Sample Age 26+



Filtered Sample



Few Differences in Beliefs about the Spirit of Prophecy by Exposure to Adventist Education

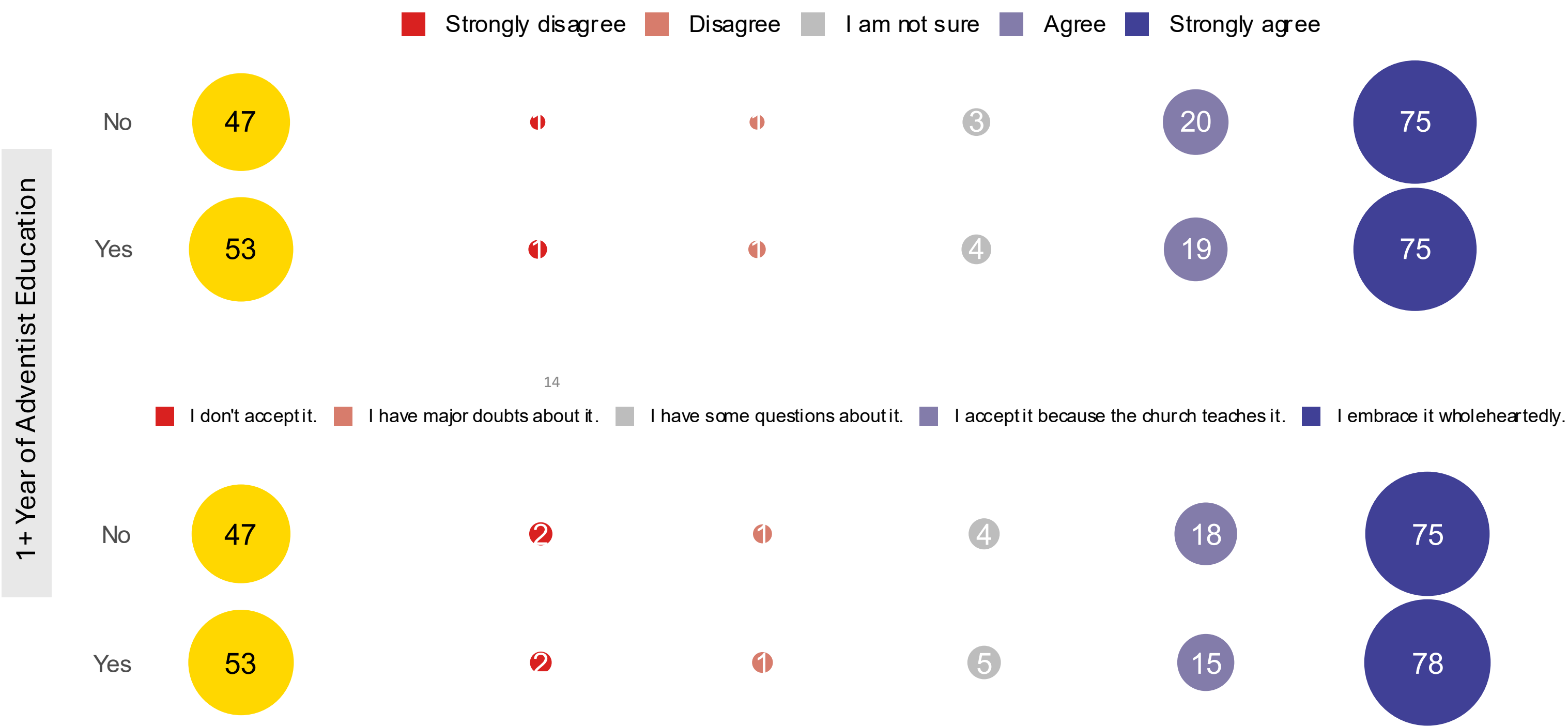


Few Differences in Beliefs about the Spirit of Prophecy by Exposure to Adventist Education



Agreement that
Ellen White
Writings were a
Result of the Gift
of Prophecy

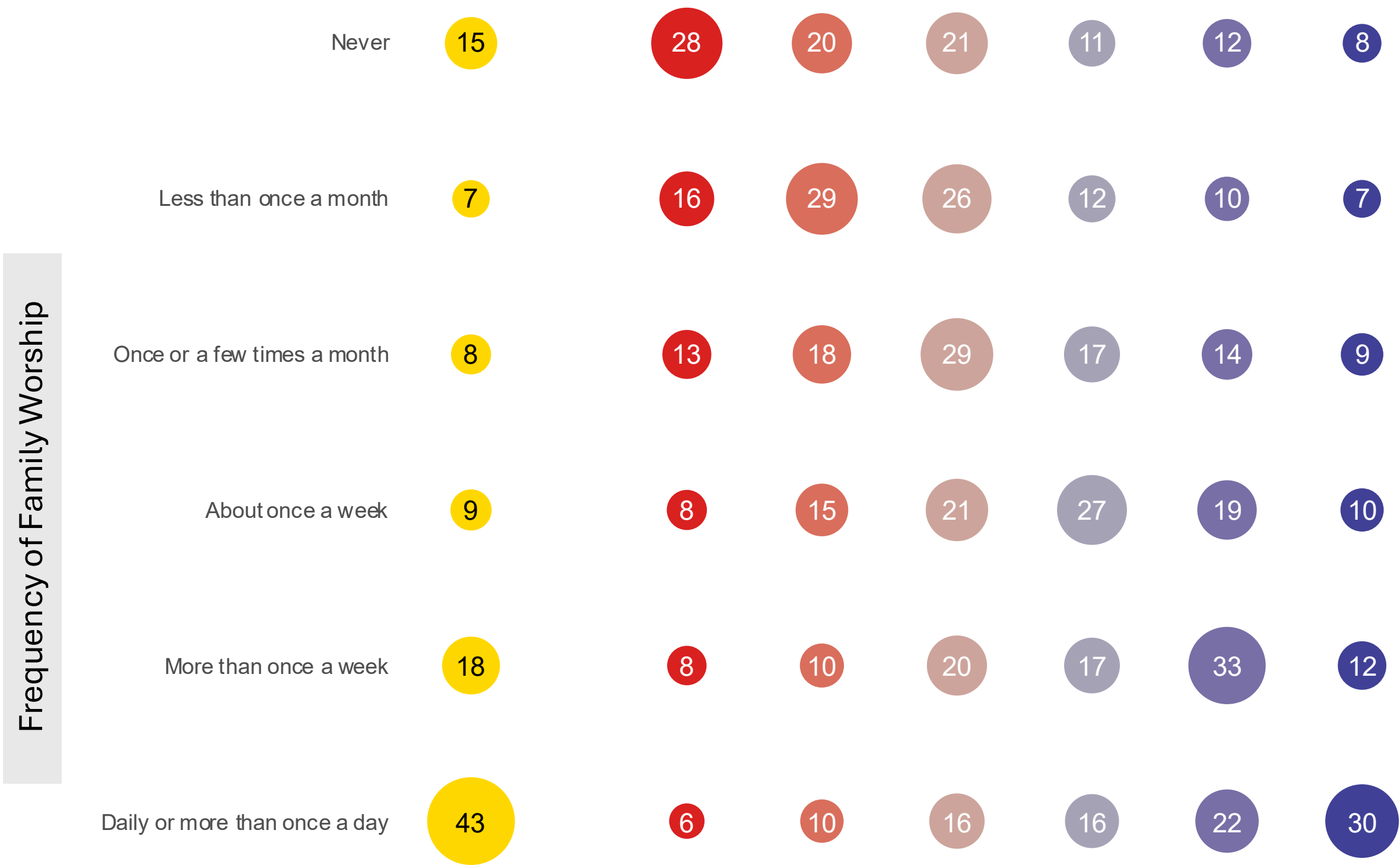
Acceptance of
Ellen White as a
Prophet.



Substantial Differences in Reading Ellen White’s Writings by Frequency of Family Worship (Lifelong Adventist Education)



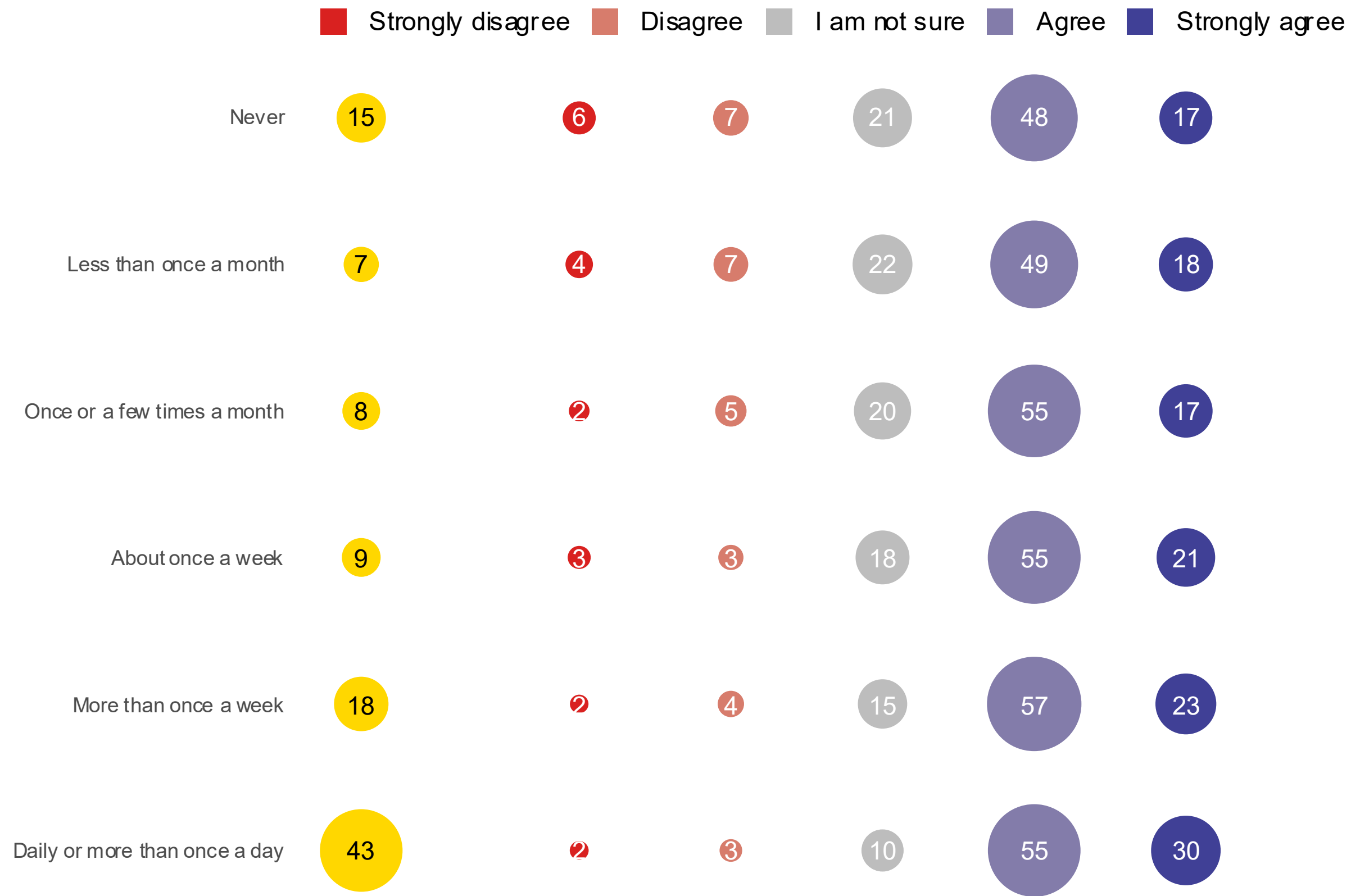
Never Less than once a month Once or a few times a month About once a week More than once a week Daily or more than once a day



Substantial Differences in Applying Ellen White’s Writings by Frequency of Family Worship (Lifelong Adventist Education)



Frequency of Family Worship





Conclusion

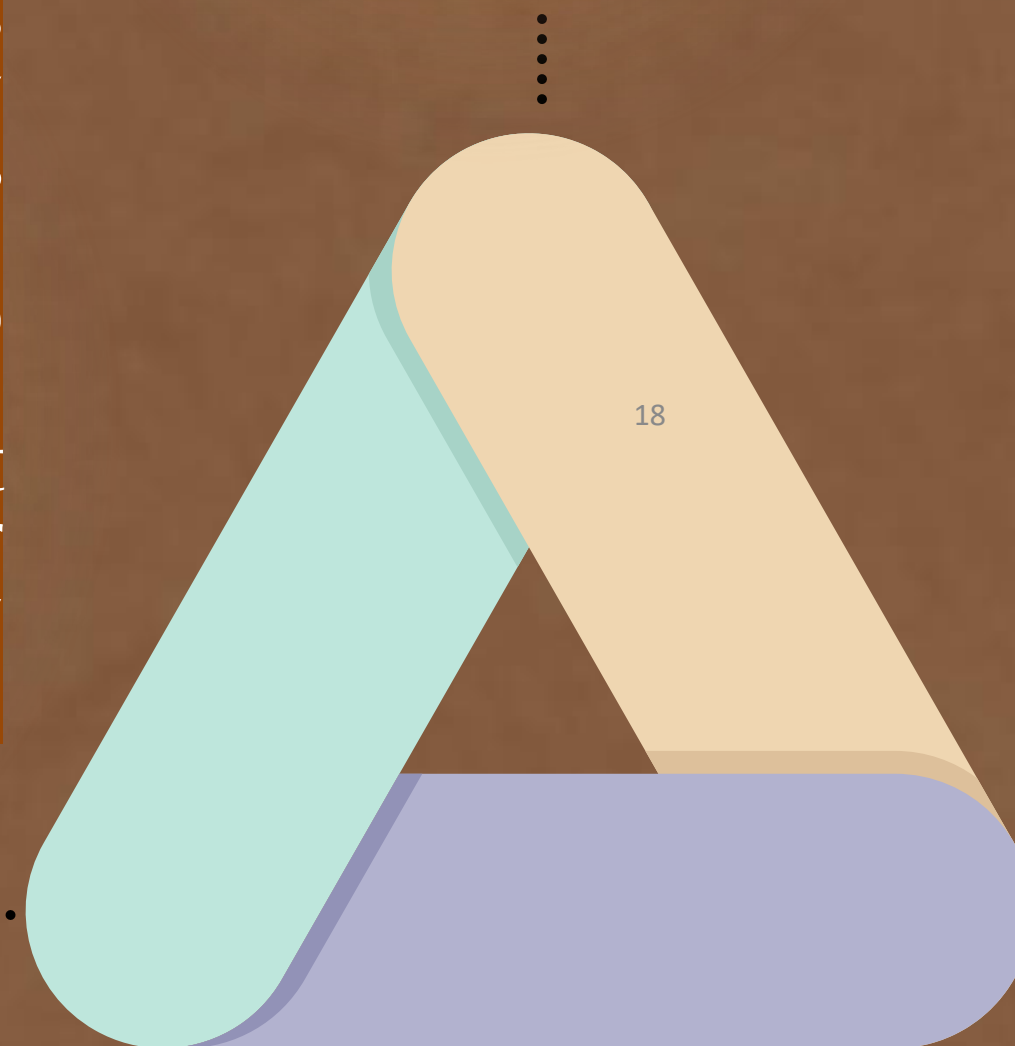
- The home, evangelistic meetings, and Adventist education cooperate to nurture the faith of Adventist church members (Rosario et al., 2014).
- The home must be protected as an environment to study the Spirit of Prophecy.
- Adventist schools could serve as training centers for developing family worship skills and plans for Adventist church members and should help church members learn how to integrate the Spirit of Prophecy into a regular and meaningful family worship practice.



Implications

The home, evangelistic meetings, and Adventist education cooperate to nurture the faith of Adventist church members (Rosario et al., 2014).

Adventist schools could serve as training centers for developing family worship skills and plans for Adventist church members and should help church members learn how to integrate the Spirit of Prophecy into a regular and meaningful family worship practice.



The home must be protected as an environment to study the Spirit of Prophecy.



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