

# Incarnation in the Digital World

**NW Minnesota Synod Assembly 2026**

# Hi, I'm Jeremy

I'm a deep skeptic, also a pastor

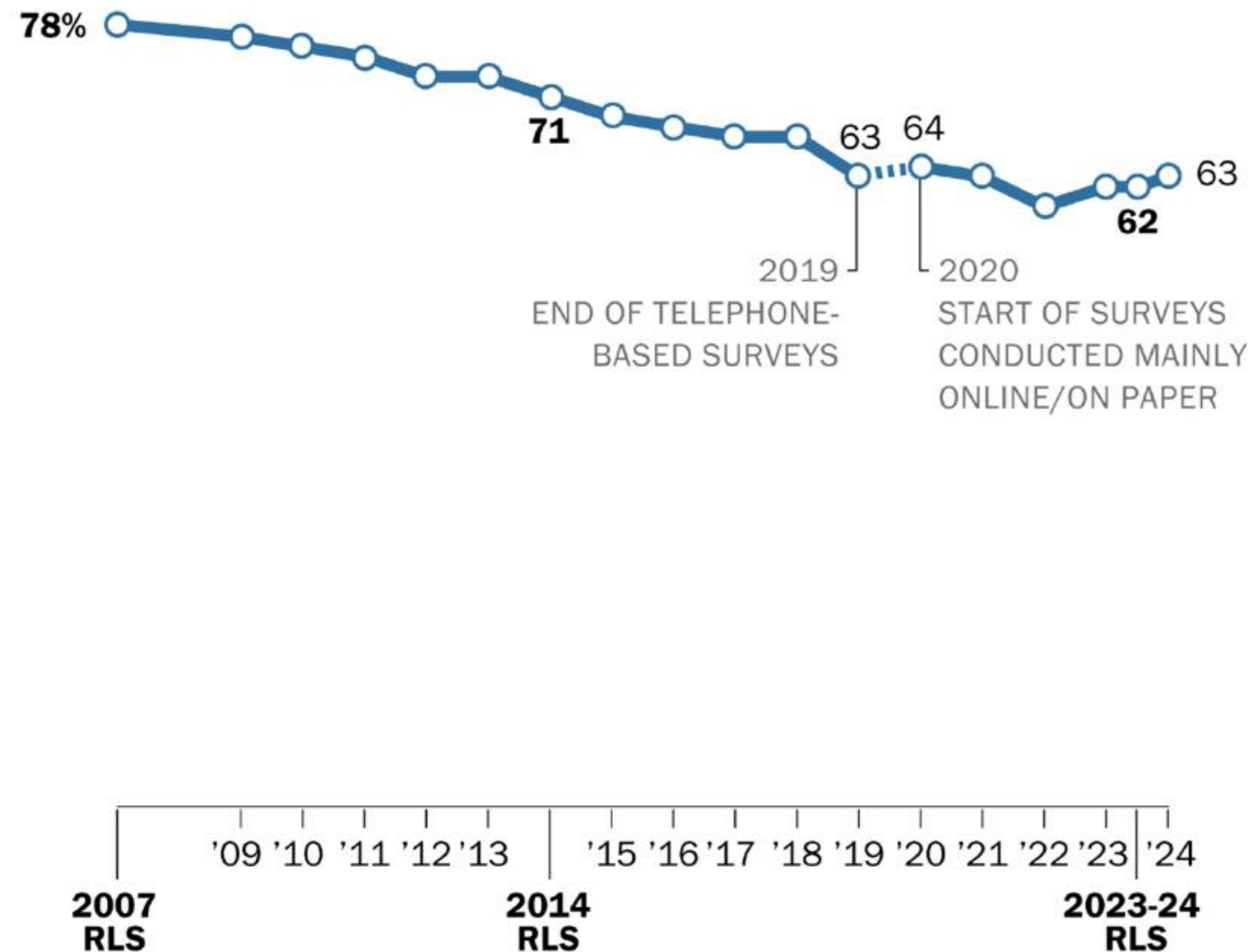
- Professional Christian for 28 Years
- Served churches of all sizes
- Digital ministry since Napster was a thing
- Founder of the Nooma Community



# The Reality of the Situation

## After years of decline, the Christian share of the U.S. population stabilizes

*% of U.S. adults who identify as Christian*



62% of U.S. adults identify as Christian

Down from 78% in 2007

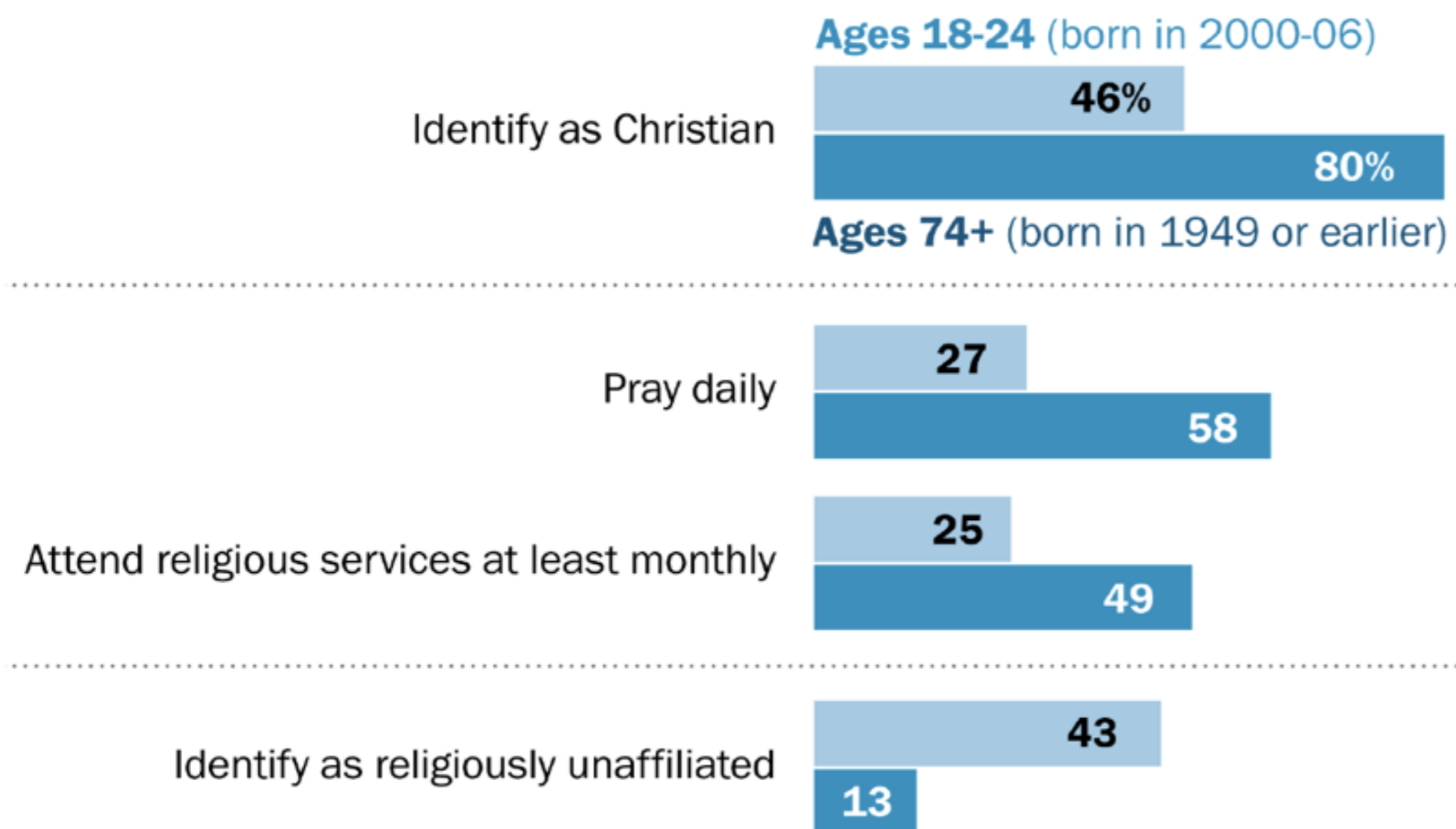
Decline Slowed or leveled off since 2019

Overall 29% of US adults are religiously unaffiliated

# The Reality of the Situation

## Big age gaps in shares of Americans who identify as Christian, pray regularly

*% of U.S. adults who say they do the following, by birth cohort*

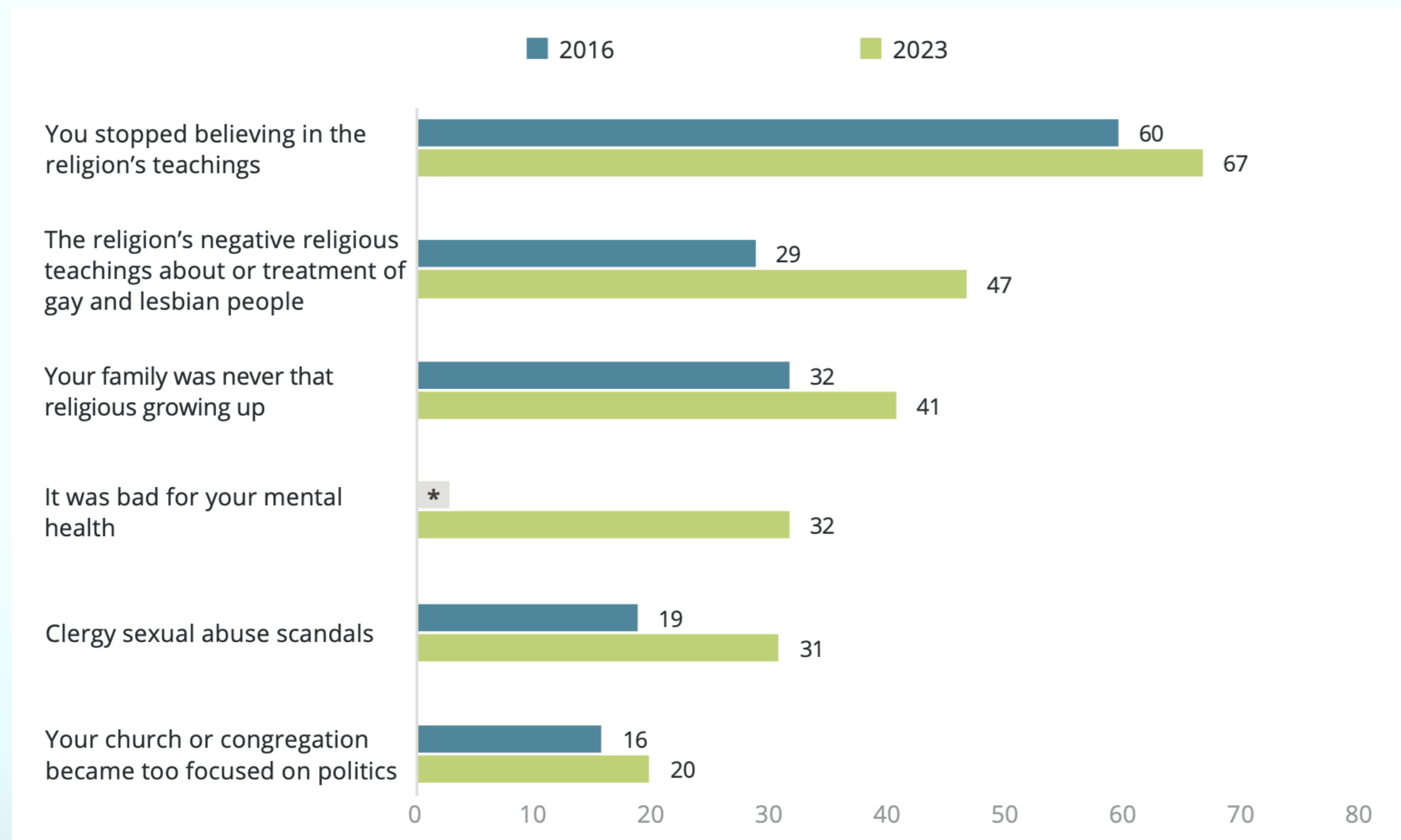


Pew Religious Landscape Study

Overall 29% of US adults are religiously unaffiliated

43% of young adults are religiously unaffiliated

# The Reality of the Situation



PRRI Religious Change in America

But Why?

67% Stopped believing

47% Negative Teachings about LGBTQ+

60% of unaffiliated

# The Reality of the Situation

A Bit of Hope

White Evangelicals are declining while Mainline Protestants are leveling off (PRRI)

People leaving evangelicalism but remaining Christian in Episcopal, ELCA, UCC, progressive Baptist, UMC (PRRI)

LGBTQ acceptance strongly correlates with retention (PRRI)

# The Jesus Version of Incatnation

Caesarea Phillippi

- Matthew 16:13-20
- Sacrifices to Pan
- Emperor worship
- Erotic rituals
- Peter's confession doesn't happen in Jerusalem



# What is incarnation in the digital world?

- We must translate the term “in the flesh” for our digital reality.
- How do we travel to Caesarea?
- How do we value OUR Caesarea as Jesus did?

