

# LOSING HEART

In **Autumn 2015**, Youthscape and Onehope carried out a nationwide survey of youth and children's work in churches. **2054** churches responded, and the three key findings from the survey were released in the **Losing Heart report** (for the full report, visit [youthscape.co.uk/research/publications](http://youthscape.co.uk/research/publications)). Here are the highlights:

## 01

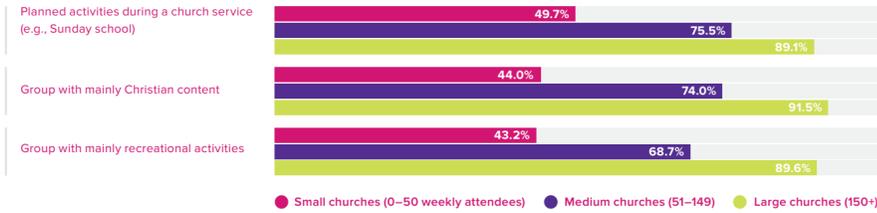
Churches, especially smaller ones, do more children's work than youth work.

We asked the churches which children's and youth work activities they offered, and how regularly. The graphs in section A represent the responses for youth and children's work, divided into size of church.

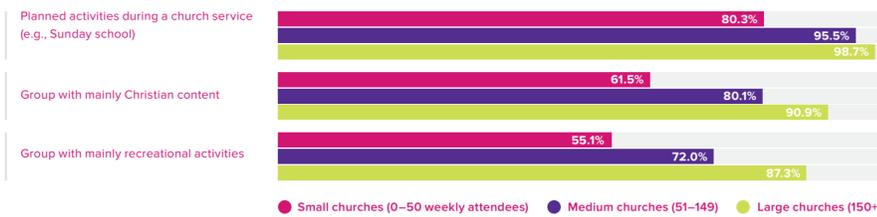
Overall, the churches consistently offered more children's work than youth work, with regard to Sunday morning activities, groups with mainly Christian content and groups with mainly recreational activities. There also seems to be greater fluctuation according to size of church when it comes to youth work than children's work. Regardless of size of church, churches seem more able to offer children's work activities than youth work. (See charts A)

The churches were also more likely to perceive their children's work to be 'effective' than their youth work. The graphs in section B show how effective the churches rated their children's and youth work to be, with children's work being deemed more effective overall, and with a uniform pattern of larger churches being most confident, and smaller churches being least confident. (See charts B)

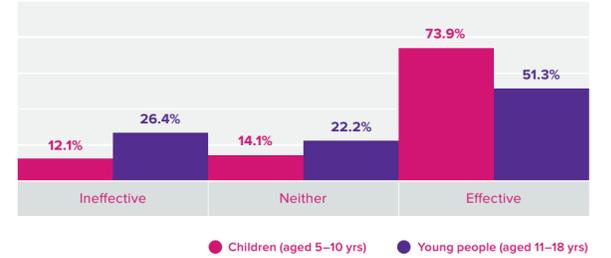
### A YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROGRAMMES / ACTIVITIES BY CHURCH SIZE.



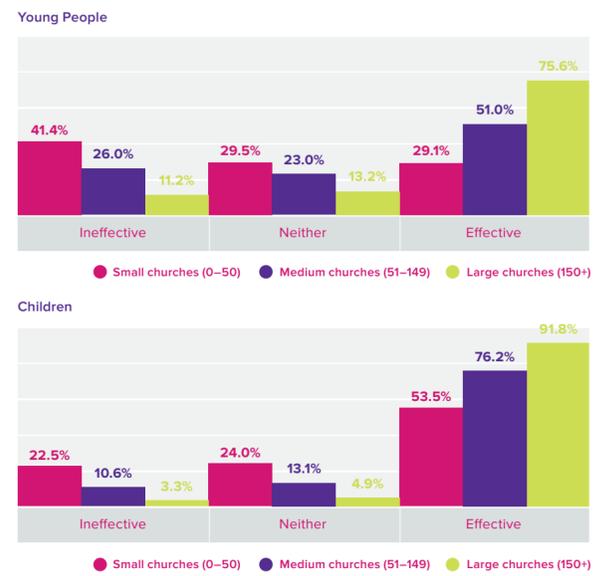
### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES / ACTIVITIES BY CHURCH SIZE.



### B THE PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF CHURCHES' WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.



### THE PERCEIVED EFFECTIVENESS OF CHURCHES' WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BY CHURCH SIZE.



## 02

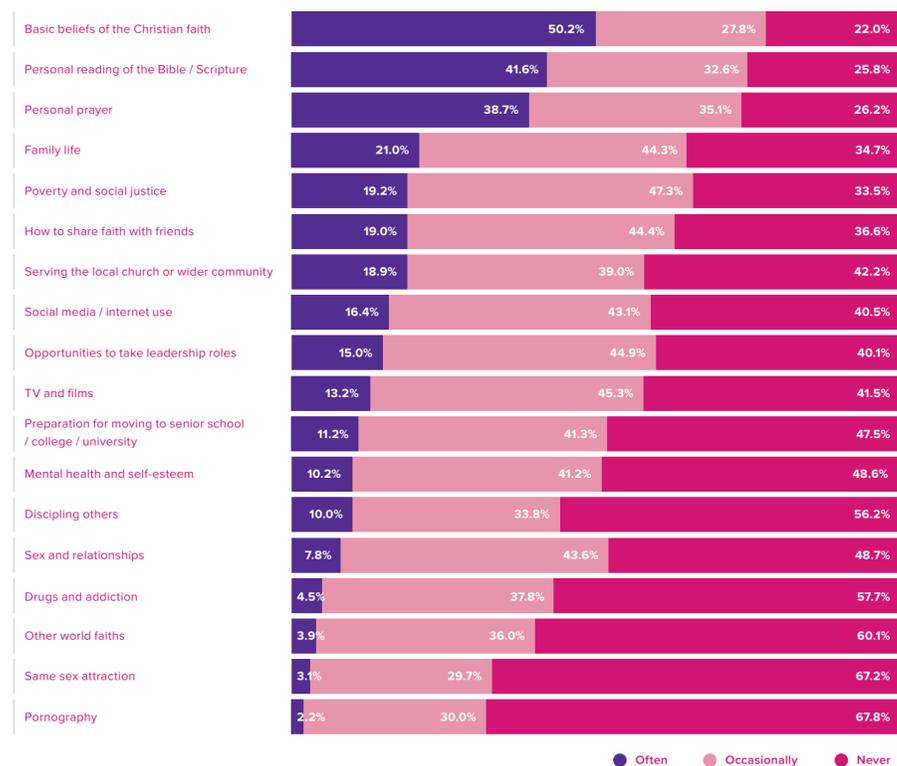
Churches are failing to talk about the topics young people want to discuss.

We asked the churches to share how regularly they talk about the following topics with their young people. Chart C shows their responses.

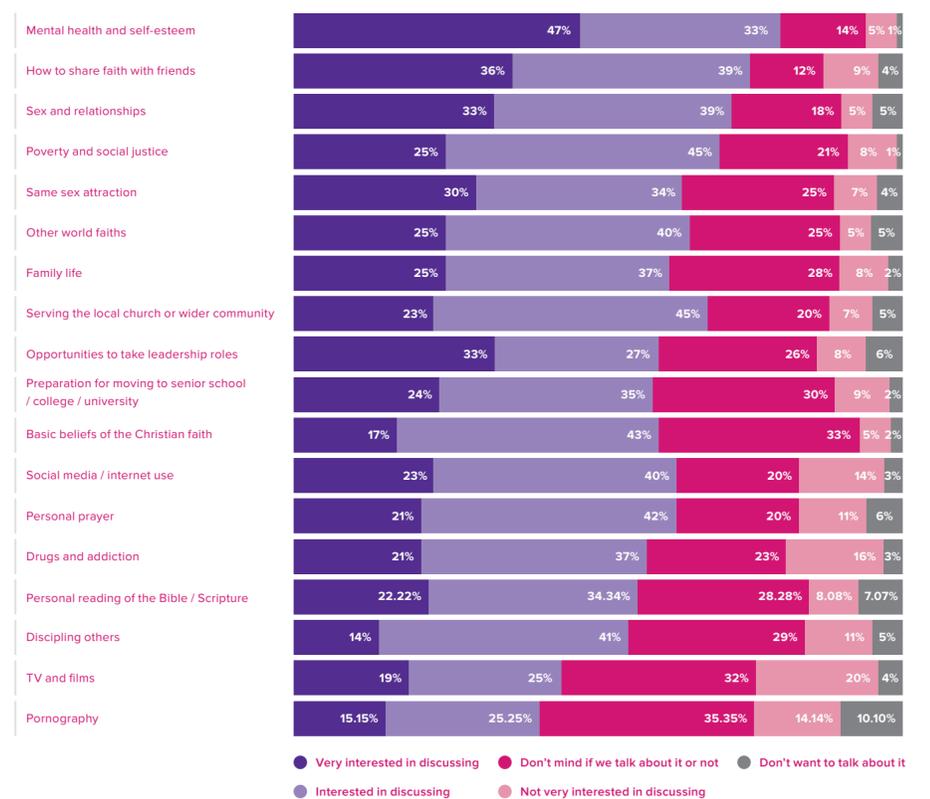
To find out how young people felt about these topics, we polled 100 young people belonging to Christian youth groups about how interested they were in discussing them. (See chart D)

On the whole, young people were interested in talking about all of the topics on the list. Interestingly, many of the topics young people wanted to talk about most were among the least talked about topics in church youth groups.

### C TOPICS COVERED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.



### D YOUTH POLL RESULTS ON TOPICS OF INTEREST TO DISCUSS IN YOUTH GROUPS.



## 03

Churches know that they are struggling with their youth and children's work, but don't know how to fix it.

We asked the churches what their greatest need was in relation to their children's and youth work. These were some of their responses:



For the full report, including further insights and reflections, visit [youthscape.co.uk/research/publications](http://youthscape.co.uk/research/publications)