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The State of **Marriage & Relationship Ministry** What Churches Report



COMMUNIO

Barna



53%

of all churches report having an
ongoing marriage ministry

63%

of Evangelical churches
report having an ongoing
marriage ministry

35%

of Mainline churches report
having an ongoing
marriage ministry

39%

of Catholic parishes report
having an ongoing
marriage ministry

But what do they mean?

Peeling back what that means



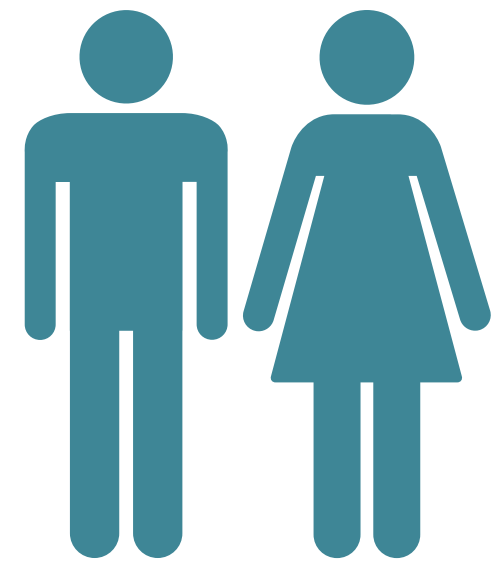
71%

of Evangelical churches report **not paying anyone** to run a marriage ministry



85%

of **Mainline churches** report **not paying anyone** to run a marriage ministry



24%

of all churches report having some staff role devoted to **marriage** ministry



73%

of all churches report having some staff role devoted to **youth** ministry

 **80%**
of **Evangelical churches** report spending **0 percent** of their
ministry budget on marriage ministry

 **85%**
of **all churches** report spending **0 percent** of their ministry
budget on marriage ministry

 **94%**
of **Mainline churches** report spending **0 percent** of their
ministry budget on marriage ministry



72%

of all churches **lack** a
substantive marriage ministry

Substantive Marriage Ministry

72% of all churches report **not having more than 2** of the below substantive marriage ministry activities

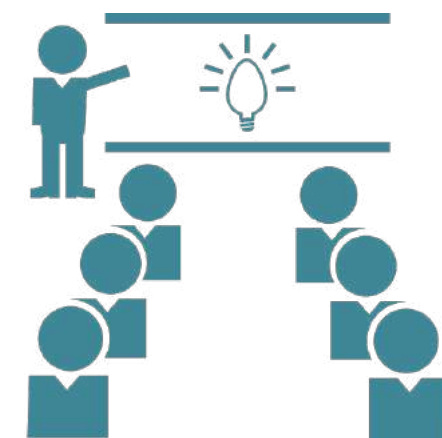
54% of all churches report **offering 0 or 1** one of the below substantive marriage ministry activities



Train and equip leaders to mentor married couples



Host a marriage retreat



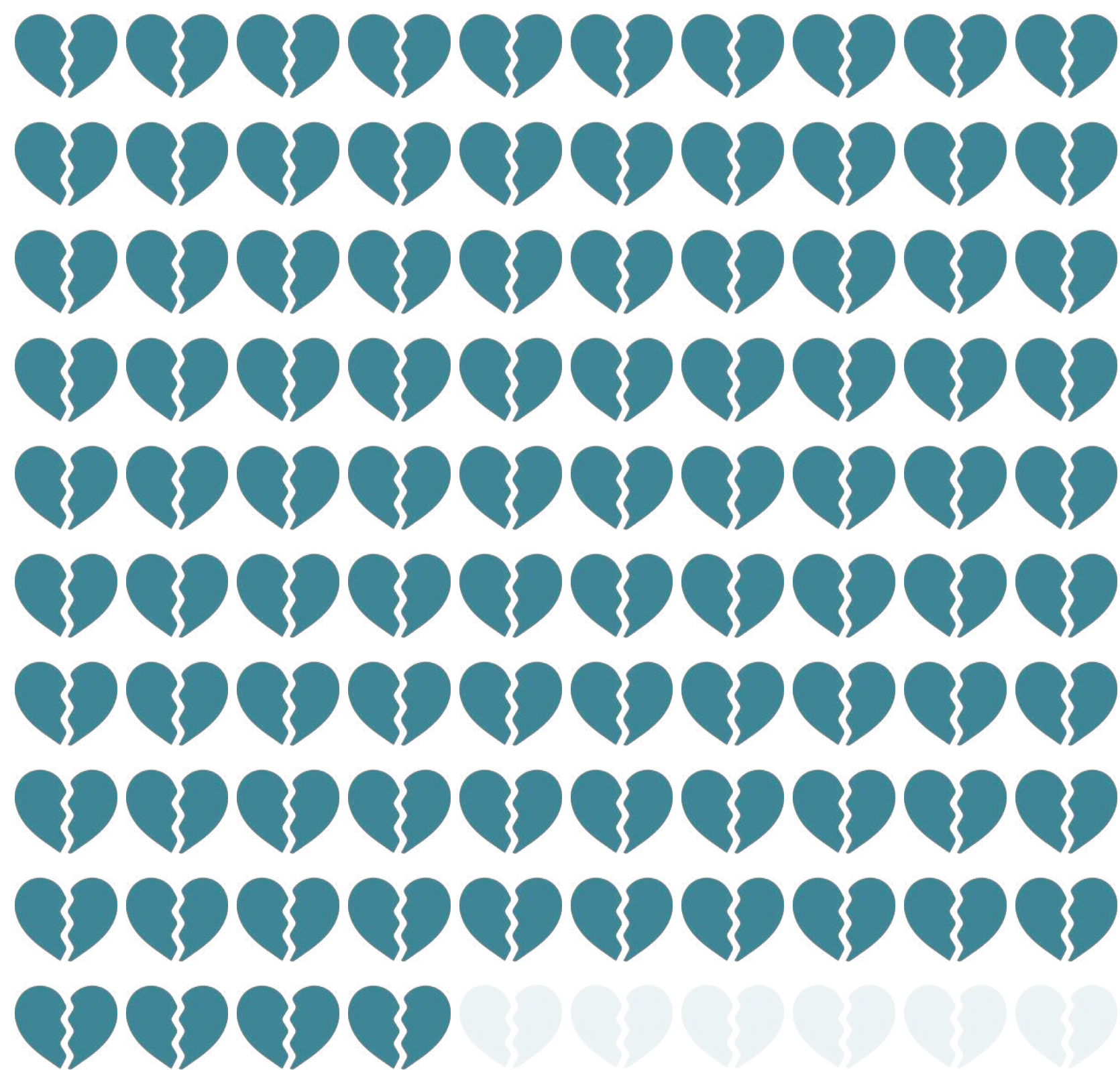
Host a marriage workshop or seminar



Host date nights



Marriage support small group

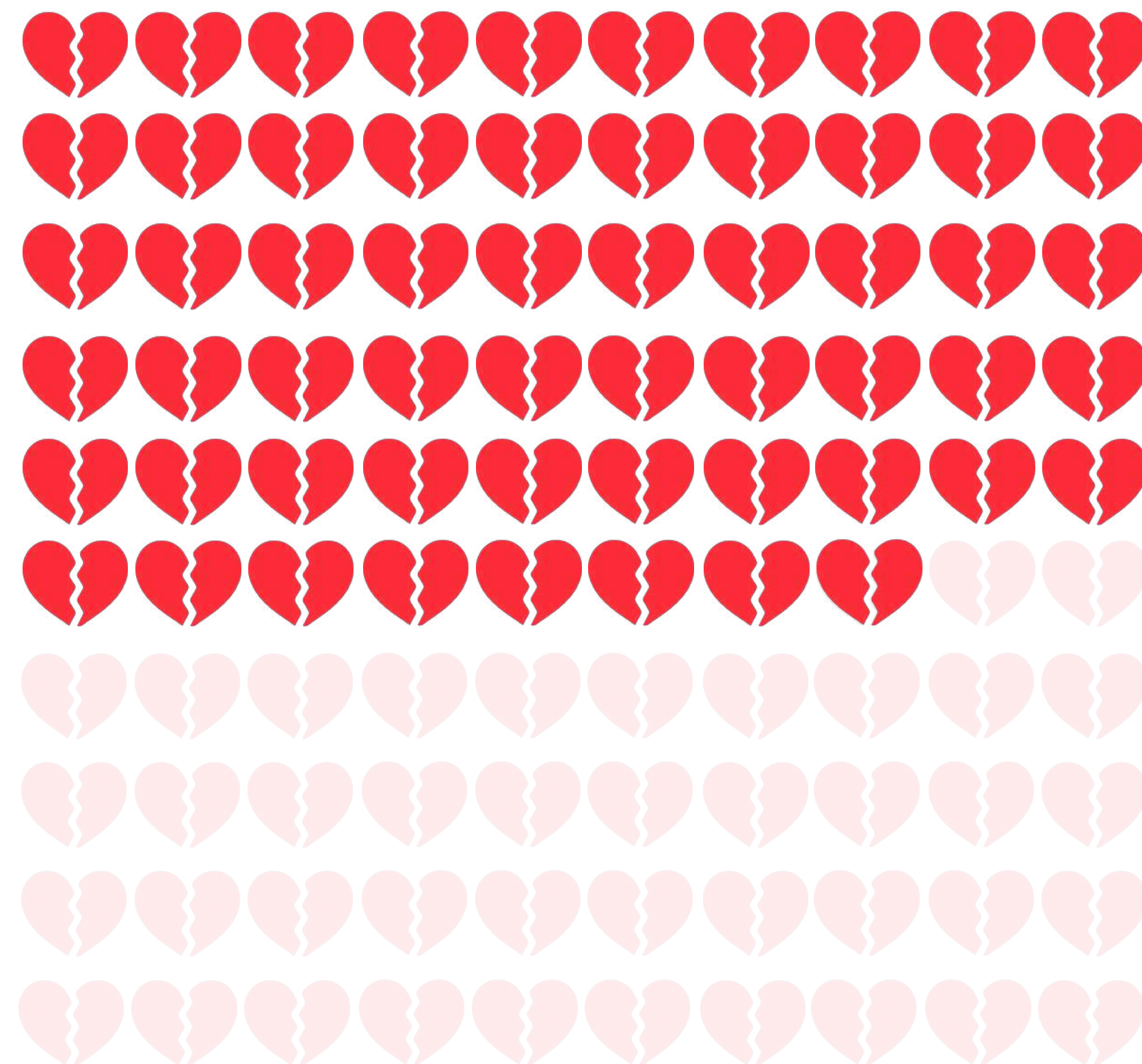


94%

report providing pastoral
counseling for married couples

58%

feel either not very qualified or only
somewhat qualified to provide pastoral
guidance to couples considering **divorce**



If church growth in the future is tied to marriages today, how are churches encouraging **new marriages**?





8%

of all churches report having a ministry for
singles that promotes healthy dating

1% of Mainline churches
10% of Evangelical churches



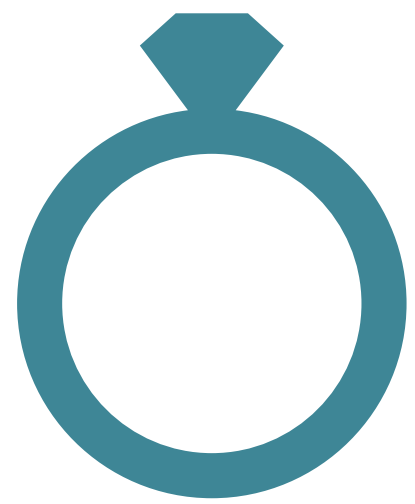
96%

of all **Evangelical churches** report spending **0 percent** of their ministry budget on singles or healthy dating ministry



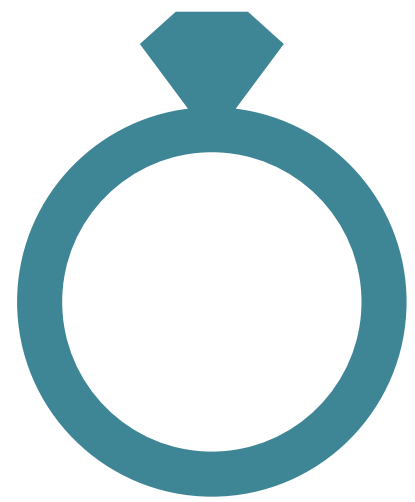
97%

of **all churches** report spending **0 percent** of their ministry budget on singles or healthy dating ministry



74%

of Catholic parishes reported having ministry for marriage preparation



58%

of Evangelical churches reported having ministry for marriage preparation



48%

of Mainline churches reported having ministry for marriage preparation



72%

of all churches report having no ongoing ministry to support newlyweds



67%

of Evangelical churches report having no ongoing ministry to support newlyweds



84%

of Mainline churches report having no ongoing ministry to support newlyweds

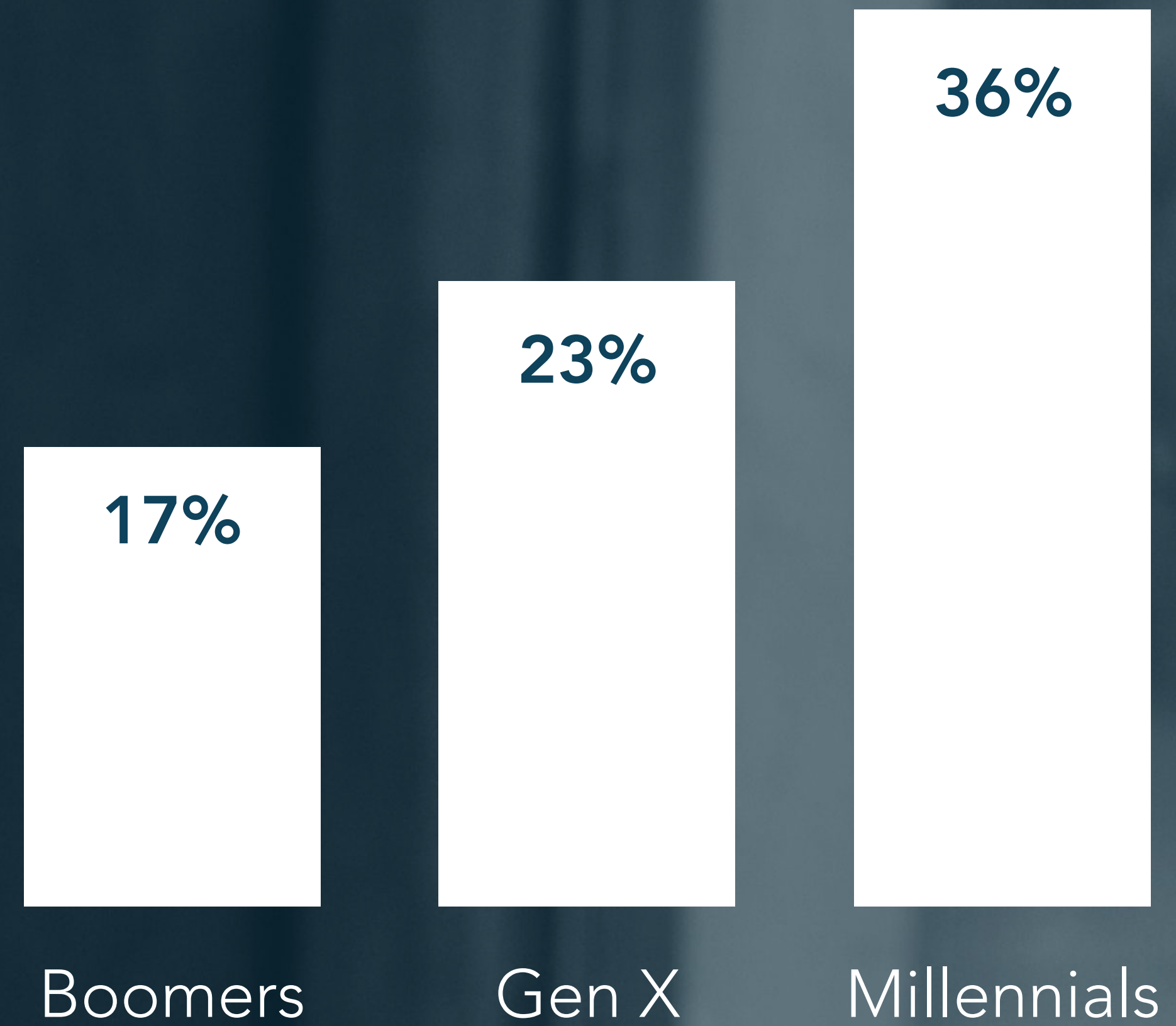


COMMUNIO
exists to help churches fill
these gaps

There is a **faith and family crisis**, and the church has struggled to address it

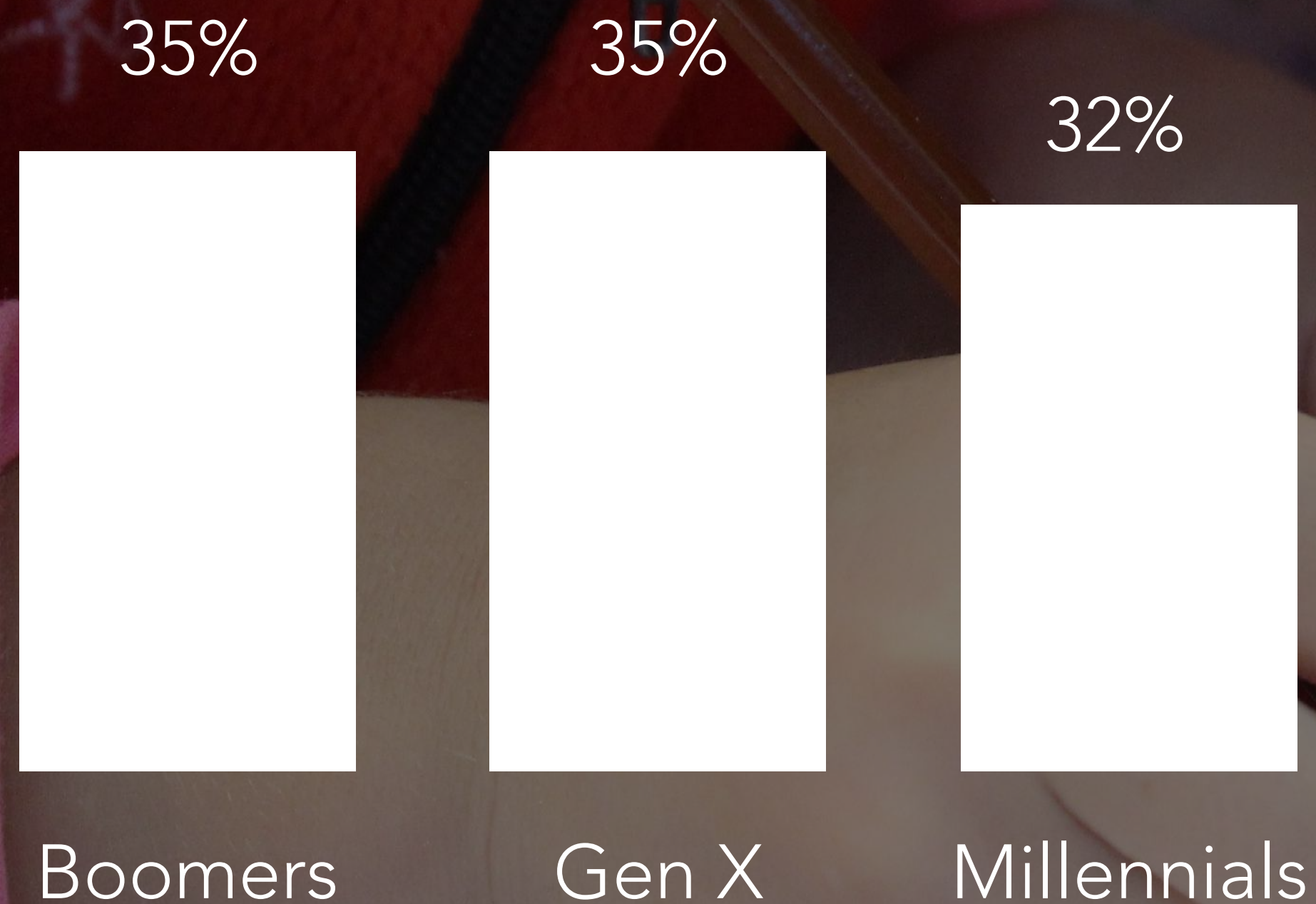


Millennials have a much higher **detached** religious status



Source: The American Family Survey 2015-2018

All generations attend church regularly at nearly the **same rate** if they were raised in homes where their parents were continuously married



Source: The American Political and Social Behavior Survey 2018



A millennial with married parents is

78%

more likely to go to church

Source: The American Political and Social Behavior Survey 2018



3 out of 4

people sitting in pews
under age 60 were raised
in **married homes**

Source: The American Political and Social Behavior Survey 2018





The trouble is...

54%

of children born in the U.S.
reach their 17th birthday
without a married mom
and dad in the home

40%

of all births in the
United States occur
outside of marriage

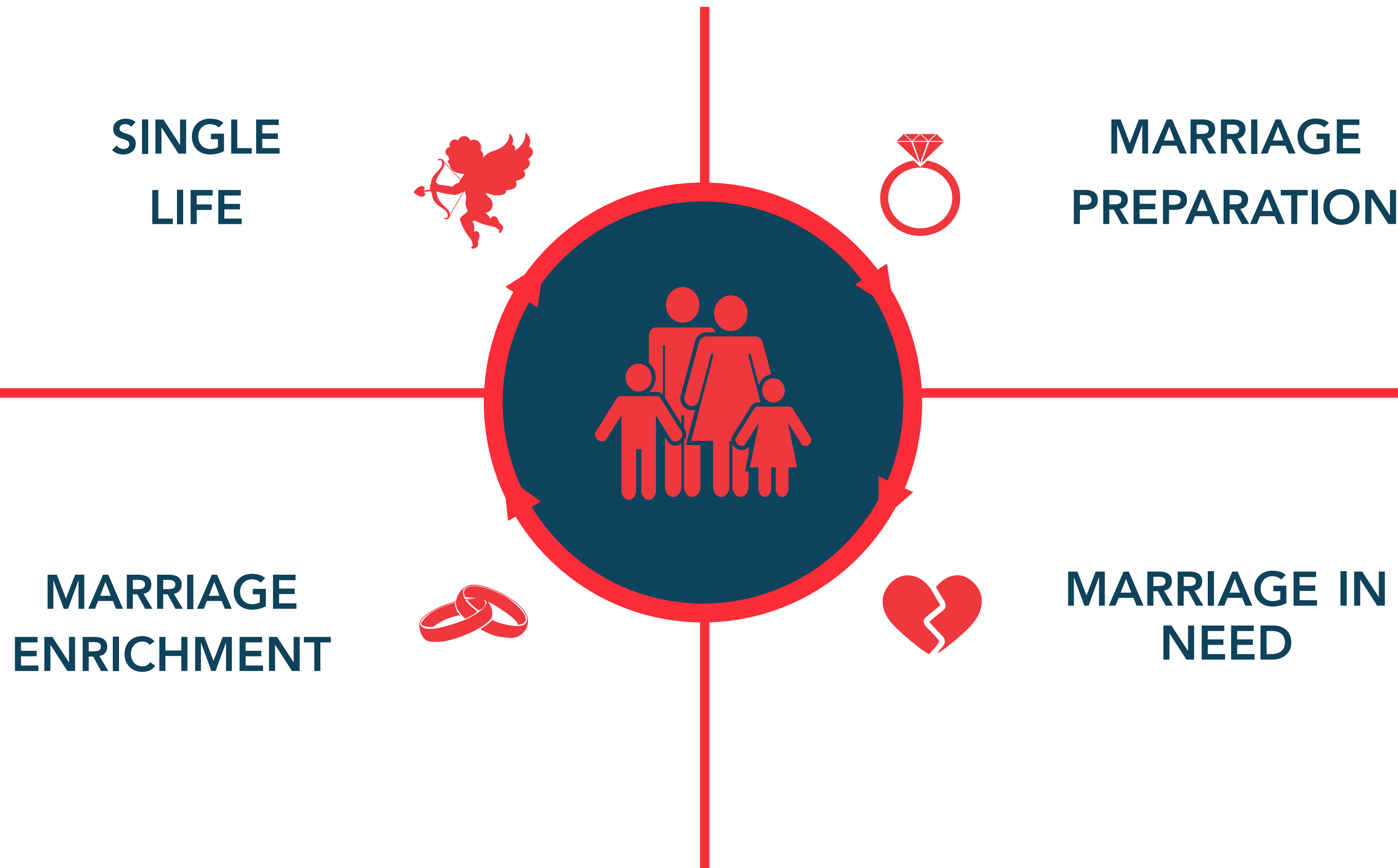
Source: Institute for Family Studies



COMMUNIO'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Data Informed, Full-Circle Relationship Ministry™

This is a holistic ministry strategy that equips your church to provide sound vision, relationship skills, and strong community at each stage of romantic life:



Ministry Engagement Ladder™



4

GROWTH JOURNEY

3

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

2

OUTREACH EVENT

1

INVITATION

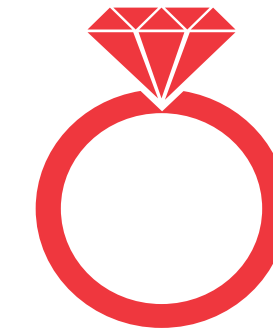
Single Life

Establishes healthy dating habits and encourages marriage discernment.



Marriage Preparation

Couples assess compatibility and work with mentors before and after their wedding.



Marriage Enrichment

Married couples continuously learn skills to strengthen their relationship.



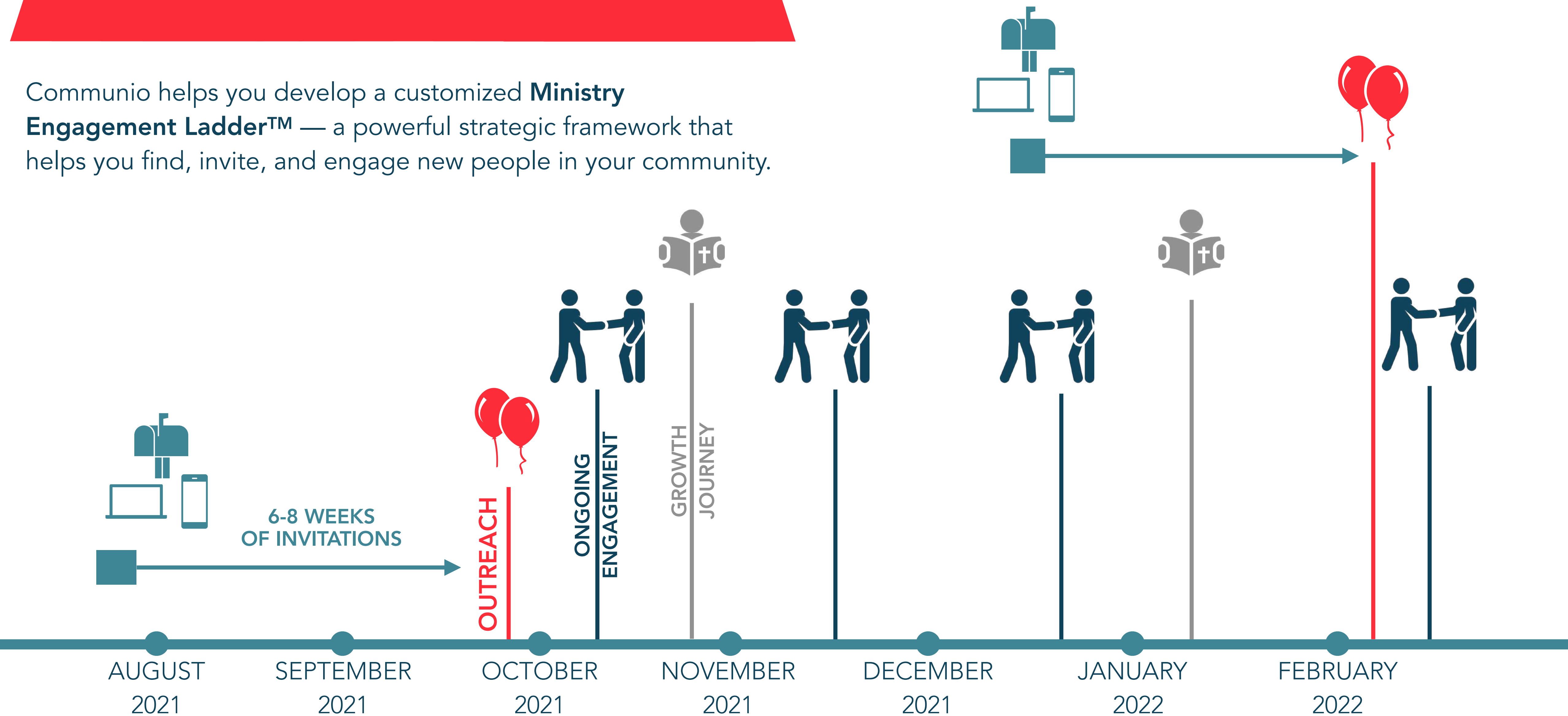
Marriage in Need

Couples have access to marriage intensives to help save marriages.



COMMUNIO'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Communio helps you develop a customized **Ministry Engagement Ladder™** — a powerful strategic framework that helps you find, invite, and engage new people in your community.

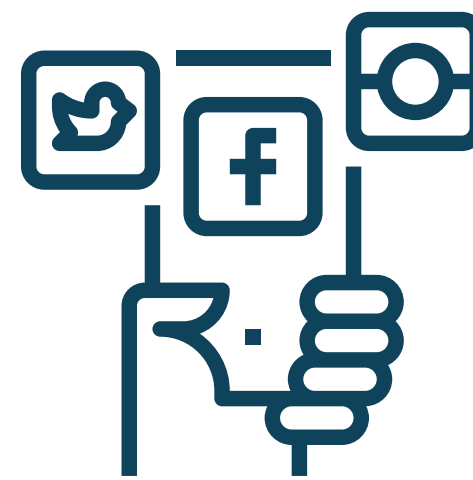


OUTREACH & TECH SUPPORT

Communio empowers you to grow your new relationship ministry through sophisticated marketing, outreach, and tech support.



SURVEYING & MODELING



**DIGITAL TARGETING ON ANY
PLATFORM**



EMAIL PROSPECT TARGETING



BLOCK WALKING MOBILE APP



**DIRECT MAIL
TARGETING & EXECUTION**



GRASSROOTS CONSULTING

COMMUNIO'S PROVEN PROCESS



Use survey and data tools to identify **relationship health problems**



Teach church about **Communio model** and how it works



Put that strategy on paper and **calendar it**



Build a strategy to address the church's specific problems—set goals to achieve over 2-year period



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