

RENEGOTIATING FAITH

The Delay in Young Adult Identity Formation
and What it Means for the Church in Canada

Erikson's 8 Stages



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Emerging Adulthood

- Identity Exploration
- Instability
- Self-focus
- Feeling in-between
- Possibilities / Optimism

Jeffrey Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood*

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Delayed Adulthood

- Age at first marriage
- Leaving school
- Leaving home
- Family formation
- Full-time work

Differentiation

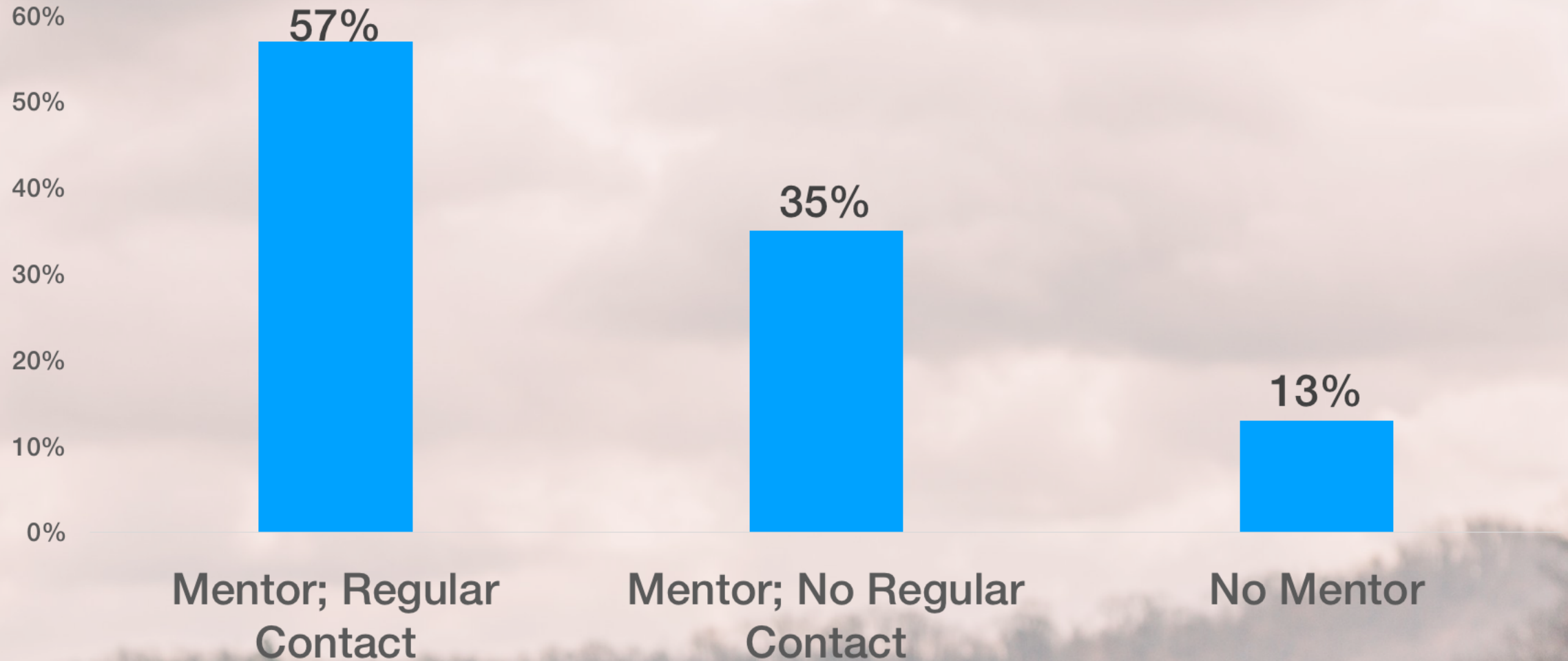
The process of setting out identity markers between you and your family of origin.

Adulthood markers used to be differentiation markers. Now these are out of reach for many young adults until their mid- to late-twenties.

Mentors ...

- Call out what God has placed inside
- Are re-introducers
- Are negotiation advisors
- Are continuity

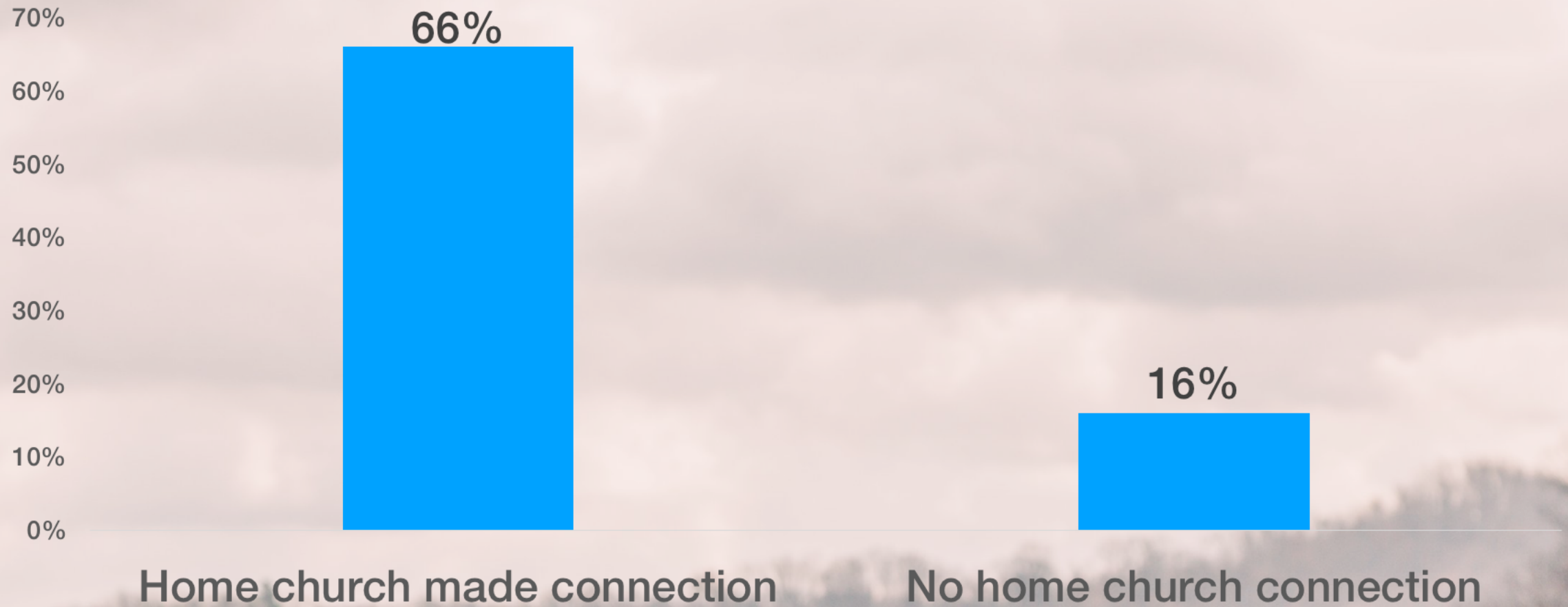
Connected to a Christian Campus Group



Only for those who went on to postsecondary education

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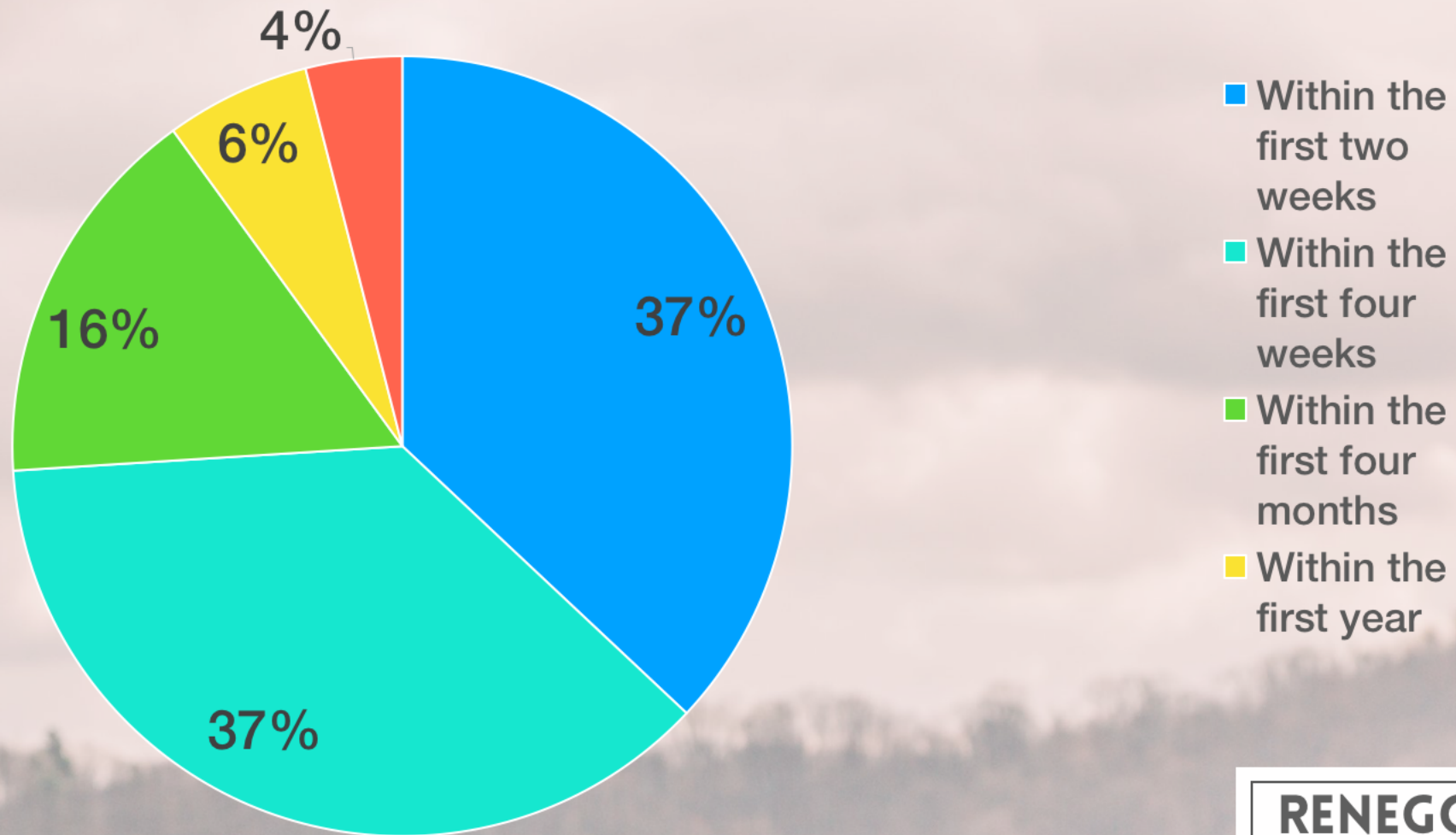
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How long was it after starting college or university before you connected with a Christian campus group?



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Only for those who went on to postsecondary education and connected with a Christian campus group.

Fears ...

- FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out
- FNBA – Fear of Not Being Amazing
- FOPM – Fear Of Passionless Monotony

Emerging Adulthood	Real World
People are young, beautiful and healthy	People are older, less beautiful and less healthy
Creating is easy	Creating is hard
I am in control	Others are in control
Socially rich environment	Socially isolating environment
Rich variety of activities	Dull or repetitive activities
Networking is easy	Networking is hard
Groups are customized to me	Have to fit in with groups as they present themselves

Moralistic, Therapeutic Deism (MTD)

- A God exists who created and orders the world and watches over human life on earth.
- God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when needed to resolve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

Universal Gnostic Religious Ethic (UGRE)

- All religions are the same, if you can get behind their external trappings. This realization is understood as a special knowledge for the enlightened.
- Religion is functional. It fulfills a set of psychosocial functions.
- The the most important thing is to preserve social harmony.
- Good human beings preserve social harmony.
- A “higher power” is not necessary, nor is a notion of heaven or hell.

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