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The 9: Best Practices For Youth Ministry



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Synopsis

We’ve never met a youth worker who wanted to be ineffective. Why would anybody enter the turbulent world of youth ministry unless they wanted to make a difference! But where to start, what to do, and how do you know if your efforts really are effective?In The 9: Best Practices for Youth Ministry, Kurt Johnston and Tim Levert unwrap nine characteristics of effective youth ministry. They specifically tackle this vital question: "What can churches and youth groups do to keep students from walking away from church after high school?"This book takes an up-close look at some "best practices" discovered in an extensive study led by leaders from seven different denominations. Researchers surveyed more than 6,000 lead pastors, youth pastors, paid and volunteer youth workers, parents, and teenagers who have found success in creating ministry settings that foster long-term Christ-followers, not just youth group attendees-and they found some solid, real-world answers.So, what are these nine practices? We’re glad you asked!1. Nurture Your Own Soul2. Build an Awareness of God’s Active Presence3. Encourage Personal Spiritual Growth4. Foster a Sense of Evangelistic Urgency5. Increase the Congregation’s Appreciation of Students6. Provide Opportunities for Relationships7. Develop Confident, Competent, and Committed Adult Leaders8. Consistently Value Families9. Create Contextualized Programs and EventsThis isn’t a textbook-it’s a practical guide for anyone who works with teenagers in a local church setting. If you’re committed to effective, real-world youth ministry, this book will help you build, lead, and support the cause of helping teenagers own their faith and maintain that faith once they graduate from high school.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Simply Youth Ministry (October 3, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0764441345

ISBN-13: 978-0764441349

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #421,396 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #291 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Youth Ministry #84025 inÃ Â Books > Religion & Spirituality

Customer Reviews

Kurt Johnston has been in youth ministry since 1988 and currently leads the student ministry team at Saddleback Church in Orange County, California. His ministry of choice is the junior high department, where he tries to spend approximately 87.4% of his time. Kurt and his wife, Rachel, have been married for a long time and have two teenage children, Kayla and Cole.Tim Levert has been working with students since 1992.Ã Â He earned a PhD in youth ministry and pastored a missional church in the Baltimore-Washington corridor.Ã Â Tim is currently the youth pastor at Reynoldsburg United Methodist Church in metro Columbus, OH.Ã Â

i don’t know tim (though he seems like a guy i’d really like); but kurt is one of my favorite human beings. deeply humble and wildly gifted as a youth worker, he is a passionate utilitarian, constantly asking, "what works?" not that this is a fluffy book of game ideas -- not at all; but it’s a deeply practical book, as one would only expect from the creator of simply junior high. based on the findings of the exemplary youth ministries study (well, there were 8 findings in that study -- tim and kurt, rightly, add a 9th), the book simply (ha) lists those practices, then riffs on what they look like in the real world of church-based youth ministry. particularly good reading if you’re in your first 5 years of youth ministry, this will be a book i’ll recommend often. sure, there are a couple places i don’t completely agree with the authors (for example, i think they’re overly optimistic about the health of youth ministry in general, and they would clearly say the opposite of my writing, that i’m overly pessimistic); but the book is a conversation, not a manifesto -- so wholesale adoption isn’t required. whatever our youth ministry health, these are (9 of) the things we’ve gotta pay attention to.

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