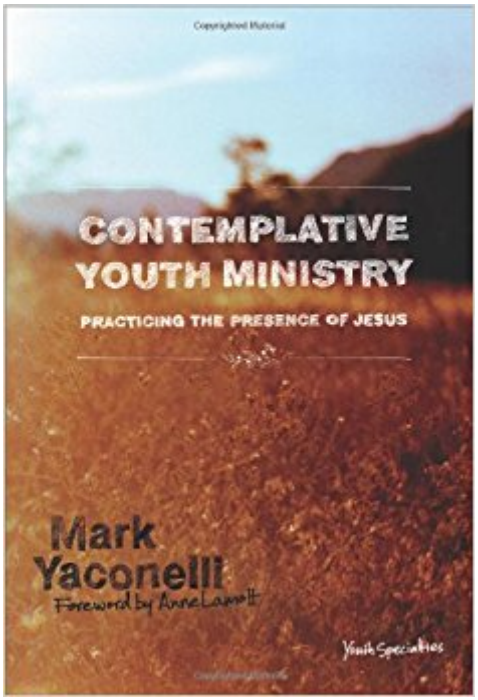
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Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing The Presence Of Jesus (Youth Specialties)



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Contemplative Youth Ministry is refreshing rain for dry youth workers and barren youth ministries. More than the same old youth ministry tips and tricks, it gives principles and practices to soak in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s grace, love, and power. I wish I had read it 15 years ago.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Kara Powell, Ph.D., executive director, Center for Youth Ministry and Family Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary Ã¢â ¬Å“Mark invites readers to be encountered by the presence of Jesus who is always near. This book is transparent about the challenges that churches and families face as they desire to be effective in youth ministry. The book is filled with the honest stories of different kinds of youth ministries representing the breadth of Christianity in the United States. I heartily endorse Contemplative Youth Ministry as a rich encounter with the souls of youth and adults whose lives have been transformed by our very present God.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Bill Kees, director of youth ministries, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Ã¢â ¬Å“Mark Yaconelli not only reminds us of some of the long-forgotten pathways of faith, he shares with us how it actually looks when men and women who love God practice it with young people. I especially appreciate MarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s optimism in his perspective of todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s kids, for his insights are grounded in GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s view of them.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Chap Clark, Ph.D., associate professor of youth, family, and culture, Fuller Theological Seminary Ã¢â ¬Å“Mark Yaconelli was experimenting with contemplative youth ministry practices before contemplative youth ministry practices became cool. This book has about it the unique air of authenticity. He shares with us in these pages his own journey as a youth worker who actually believes that GodÃ¢â ¬â„¢s still small voice speaks louder than the roaring windstorm of our busy youth ministry calendars. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a book about creating for our students places of silence and opening up spaces for God to speak.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Duffy Robbins, professor of youth ministry, Eastern University; author of Enjoy the Silence and This Way to Youth Ministry Ã¢â ¬Å“Mark Yaconelli has emerged as one of youth ministryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s most provocative Ã¢â ¬Ëœvoices in the wilderness,Ã¢â ¬â„¢ calling us back to our theological taproots: The contemplative practices that bind our lives to the life of Christ. If MarkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s research has taught us anything, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s that these practices do not cause youth ministry to take fl ight into a spiritual never-never land; rather they anchor young peopleÃ¢â ¬â ¢and their churchesÃ¢â ¬â ¢in the fertile soil of Christian tradition, in the nitty-gritty of daily life, and in the explosive transformation that awaits us when we wait upon God.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Kenda Creasy Dean, parent, pastor, and professor of youth, Princeton Theological Seminary; author of Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church

Book Information

Series: Youth Specialties

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Zondervan/Youth Specialties; First Edition edition (April 30, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0310267773

ISBN-13: 978-0310267775

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #165,152 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Youth Ministry #183 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Education > Children & Teens #524 inÃ Â Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Pastoral Resources

Customer Reviews

’Contemplative Youth Ministry is refreshing rain for dry youth workers and barren youth ministries. More than the same old youth ministry tips and tricks, it gives principles and practices to soak in God’s grace, love, and power. I wish I had read it 15 years ago.’ - Kara Powell, Ph.D., executive director, Center for Youth Ministry and Family Ministry, Fuller Theological Seminary ’Mark invites readers to be encountered by the presence of Jesus who is always near. This book is transparent about the challenges that churches and families face as they desire to be effective in youth ministry. The book is filled with the honest stories of different kinds of youth ministries representing the breadth of Christianity in the United States. I heartily endorse Contemplative Youth Ministry as a rich encounter with the souls of youth and adults whose lives have been transformed by our very present God.’ - Bill Kees, director of youth ministries, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ’Mark Yaconelli not only reminds us of some of the long-forgotten pathways of faith, he shares with us how it actually looks when men and women who love God practice it with young people. I especially appreciate Mark’s optimism in his perspective of today’s kids, for his insights are grounded in God’s view of them.’ - Chap Clark, Ph.D., associate professor of youth, family, and culture, Fuller Theological Seminary ’Mark Yaconelli was experimenting with contemplative youth ministry practices before contemplative youth ministry practices became cool. This book has about it the unique air of authenticity. He shares with us in these pages his own journey as a youth worker who actually believes that God’s still small voice speaks louder than the roaring windstorm of our

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Mark Yaconelli is the co-founder and co-director of Triptykos School of Compassion. The author of Downtime, Contemplative Youth Ministry, and Growing Souls, Mark lives in Oregon with his wife and three children.

This is the way of connection between adult and youth our congregation has been looking for.

Great book with some excellent ideas and insight in ministering to youth.

Great product. Fast Shipper.

I grew up much like mike did. I am still young in age, 28. My Dad is still in youth ministry and other ministry, he has been doing this for 33 years or so. Anyway, I found this book very difficult and challenging. I grew up under the model and was taught the model of ministry, like doing a 1 hr to 1 1/2 hr program of a game or two and come listen to me speak go home.This book has challenged me to step away and analyze how I approach ministry as a whole. It brought to light that I don’t seek the Holy Spirits guidance and let Him move over all. I also, appreciate the testimonies that begin each chapter along with stories of failure and successes. I will be implementing this in my own life along with the youth that I have the privilege to minister to.

This is a stunning book. It’s grounded in a seven year Lilly Endowment study of youth ministry. The power of the book is in its authenticity, its deep reality. We lived in a speeded-up, multi-tasking

society. A richer life lies in a real connection with God and deep relationships with others. Youth yearn for real conversations with loving adults, they need and respond beautifully to authentic prayer and silence. Please read this book - use it. Our youth, our adults, our churches deserve the chance to shift to God’s timing and God’s reality. What a gift of the Spirit!

Mark Yaconnelli’s work is the BEST I have read on this topic. I recommend it for any parish or community which cares about the youth in their midst. From my experience as a parish priest (Episcopal Church) I know that he "gets it" - the approach to the work, the preparation of the adult leaders, the support of the congregation, etc. I am persuaded that the future of the Church (all Christian traditions) would be transformed by the fulsome use of his wisdom.

Contemplative youth ministry is a welcomed book. It’s a book that seeks to put God at the centre of youth ministry instead of programs that stem from good ideas. The title of the book sums up the theme and direction of the book. Basically if Brother Lawrence had done youth ministry, he probably would have written a book like this. He instructs youth leaders on how to listen to God, how to minister from a place of silence and hearing God’s voice, and how to encourage these activities among the youth.One of the strengths of the book would be his testimony at the beginning of the book in which he describes himself as being program driven and success seeking. He then recounts his transformation to a place where he ministers out of love instead of anxiety. I felt that I could relate.The part that I got the most from was when he called us to be "fully present" to the individual youths. He made me realise how often I’ve only given someone half of my attention. His challenge to me to slow down and give a youth my full attention and listening ears is much appreciated.I felt the book had a couple of weaknesses that made me give this otherwise unique book only three stars. First of all, he fails to ground his (what are for many) new and somewhat radical ideas in scripture. With the exception of the odd verse, he bases his ideas more in church history than in scripture. Not to say that I think that his ideas are unbiblical; for at least the most part they are not. But, when calling the church to fundamentally change how we do things, we want a surer guide then a few testimonies and a "this is how Ignatius Loyola would have done it". Often I thought that he had a good idea which made me think of different texts of scripture, but he failed to ever interact with them. I felt that this decreased the potential power of the book.The second weakness I felt the book had was the somewhat negative tone towards preaching or what he called "word heavy youth ministry". Preaching is very uncool in today’s post-modern era where authority is downplayed. There is a general shift away from preaching and teaching and I feel like this book is affected by that wave

of thinking. The author encouraged the exercise of meditating on scripture together and then sharing what each person felt that the text was saying. What the author failed to teach us was what to do when some outlandish, nut-job or even heretical ideas are being shared. How do we bring correction and instruction into a moment like that? Is there really no value at all in having a gifted teacher authoritatively say, "here is the text, let me explain what it means and how to apply it to your lives"? The gospel needs to be preached and not just reflected in the way we live.Also, the author never uses the term "prophetic", but what he describes in some areas could be termed "prophetic youth ministry". Hearing what God is saying and acting on it is a prophetic action. Though this is unfortunately terribly under lived among us, I felt a desire to say during the book, "There are other types of prayer we can engage in to make effective youth ministry. What about the "loud crying and tears", what about the intercession? We need to do more than just listen to what God is doing; we also need to pray things into being."

This was bought for my son who is a youth pastor. He says it is very right on

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