

# Recommended Good Reads

For Leadership  
Development

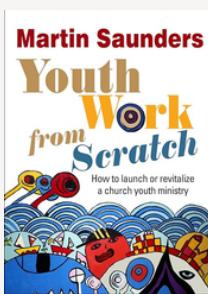
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## **Sustainable Youth Ministry**

### Mark DeVries

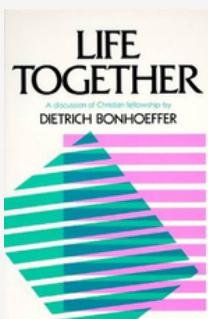
Mark DeVries brings practical ideas to life through real stories from youth ministry, tackling challenging issues such as why a ministry may thrive under one leader but struggle under the next. This book is relevant to anyone involved in youth ministry and applies across all levels of leadership. It explores team culture, long-term stability, and how to create a healthy system that enables a ministry to flourish.



## **Youth Work from Scratch: How to Launch or Revitalise a Church Youth Ministry**

Martin Saunders

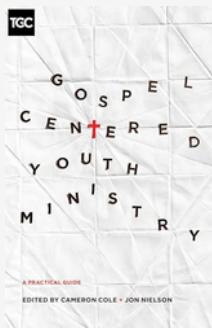
Martin Saunders offers a practical guide for churches looking to start or rebuild a youth ministry. This book explores the purpose of youth ministry, volunteer recruitment and training, programme design, and setting aims and vision. Saunders also discusses the joys and challenges of youth work and provides practical tools for evaluation. It's an essential read for anyone seeking to build a sustainably, effective ministry from the ground up.



## **Life Together**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

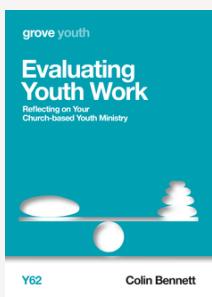
Bonhoeffer explores the meaning of Christian community and the importance of living out faith together. Using Scripture, he presents a compelling case for why pastoral care is central to the Christian life. Reading this will challenge you to reflect on how genuine community and spiritual care are expressed in their ministry contexts.



## **Gospel-Centred Youth Ministry**

Cameron Cole and Jon Nielson

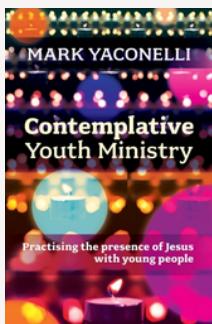
Cole and Nielson argue that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection must be the foundation of all youth ministry. Drawing on insights from experienced youth leaders, they explore the roles of parents, community, and discipleship in nurturing faith.



## **Evaluating Youth Work: Reflecting on Your Church-Based Youth Ministry**

Colin Bennett

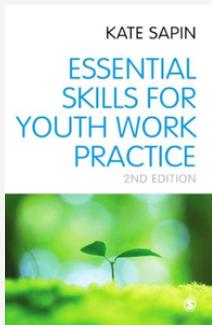
Colin Bennett provides a framework for assessing the effectiveness of church-based youth ministry. This book helps leaders identify what is working, what isn't, and how to refocus on discipleship and community. Through reflective exercises, readers are encouraged to evaluate their ministry honestly, ensuring alignment with church vision and the needs of young people.



## **Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practising the Presence of Jesus with Young People**

Mark Yaconelli

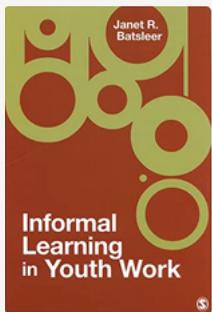
Yaconelli invites leaders to move beyond rigid programming and embrace authenticity and relational ministry. This book encourages flexibility and attentiveness to the spiritual needs of each young person, helping youth workers cultivate genuine, Christ-centred relationships. It challenges the tendency to prioritise activity over presence and calls for deeper spiritual engagement in ministry.



## Essential Skills for Youth Work Practice

Kate Sapin

Kate Sapin offers practical advice on building effective and ethical youth work practice. She explores how to form healthy relationships with young people, empower them, and maintain professional boundaries. Filled with real-life examples and reflective exercises, it provides a realistic picture of the challenges and rewards of youth work and highlights the importance of amplifying youth voice.



## Informal Learning in Youth Work

Janet Batsleer

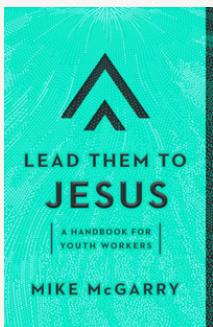
Janet Batsleer explores how young people learn outside formal educational settings. She highlights the role of youth workers in fostering informal learning through creative, relational, and justice-oriented approaches. The book encourages practitioners to see every interaction as an opportunity for growth and learning, when addressing issues like social justice and environmental awareness.



## Rebooted: Reclaiming Youth Ministry for the Long Haul

Tim Gough

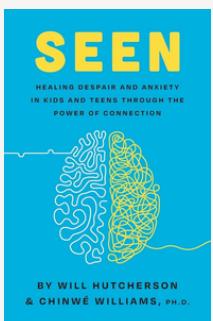
Tim Gough challenges the idea that youth ministry should be built around individual personalities rather than Scripture. He calls for ministries rooted in the Bible and structured to last over time. This book offers guidance on developing values, habits, and systems that ensure longevity and depth. It reinforces the importance of spiritual formation over entertainment in nurturing young people's faith.



## **Lead Them to Jesus: A Handbook for Youth Workers**

Mike McGarry

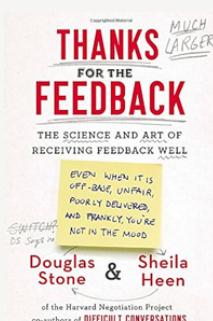
Mike McGarry presents a practical, scripture-based approach to gospel-centred youth ministry that helps youth leaders engage with Generation Z, understand their beliefs and struggles, and guide them through difficult cultural and moral questions. It provides thoughtful insight into topics such as sexuality, relationships, and digital influence, equipping leaders to respond with truth and compassion.



## **Seen: Despair and Anxiety in Kids and Teenagers**

Will Hutcherson

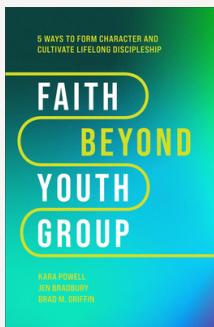
Will Hutcherson addresses the growing emotional struggles among young people, including anxiety, despair, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts. This book highlights the importance of empathy, presence and hope in ministry relationships. It offers practical tools to help youth leaders support and connect with young people facing emotional and mental health challenges.



## **Thanks for the Feedback**

Sheila Heen and Douglas Stone

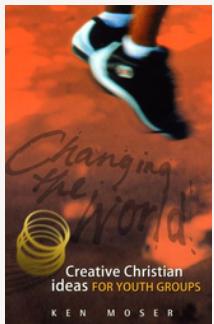
Sheila Heen and Douglas Stone explore how to give and receive feedback effectively. They helpfully explain why both positive and negative feedback are essential for growth and examines how emotional responses can hinder or help learning. It provides strategies for handling criticism constructively and improving relationships in both professional and ministry contexts.



## Faith Beyond Youth Group

Kara Powell & Jen Bradbury

Powell and Bradbury examine why many young people drift from faith in their late teens and offer research-based strategies to help them develop lasting faith. This book highlights the importance of mentors, intergenerational relationships, and faith-filled friendships, alongside the support of a church community. It is an essential resource for churches seeking to help young people sustain their faith beyond their youth group years.



## Creative Christian Ideas for Youth Groups

Ken Moser

Is it possible to have youth meetings that are thoroughly Christian, build strong relationships and are fun from start to finish? Yes!

Ken Moser creatively unpacks ways to lead all elements of a great program with no further need to rely on shallow entertainment. It will help give you the confidence to run attractive programs that will build disciples of Christ, develop a culture of relationships within the group and enable young people to begin owning their own faith (and have fun whilst doing it.) Lots of practical and easy to implement ideas can be found in this book.

**This list of recommendations  
is just one way we're here to  
walk with you!**

Discover more free tools, training and resources to equip you in discipling young people.

[urbansaints.org](http://urbansaints.org)

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