



Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right

Doug Fields

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Since forever altering the course of the youth ministry world with his best-selling, groundbreaking book, Purpose-Driven® Youth Ministry, Doug Fields' mind—but especially his heart—has been focused on the many unique needs of new youth workers. Doug translated his passion, insight, and vision for his beloved “rookies” into what you’re now reading, *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*—hands-down the most comprehensive companion to not only surviving, but also thriving, during the most crucial phase of youth ministry. Employing his renowned wisdom and humor—as if you and Doug were chatting over a long, relaxing meal—the author disarmingly relates stories and principles from his own successes and failures over 20-plus years in youth ministry. In the end, he offers treasure troves of practical advice, all in the hope that new youth workers can travel a smoother path and achieve real longevity in a church culture that all too often chews them and spits them out. Doug covers all-important issues such as: · Dealing with discouragement · Establishing a solid spiritual foundation · Building effective relationships with students · Resolving conflict · Ministering to parents and families · Trailblazing change · Working with volunteers · Defining a realistic job description · And many others! In addition, a chorus of insightful sidebar voices joins your conversation with Doug, among them ministry veterans Jim Burns, Steve Gerali, Mike Yaconelli, Helen Musick, Chap Clark, Marv Penner, Rick Warren, Jana L. Sundene, Bo Boshers, Duffy Robbins, Tony Campolo, and Richard Ross, all who’ve composed extensive, topical essays for each of the dozen chapters. *Your First Two Years of Youth Ministry* is a must-have tool for new youth workers, volunteers, seminary professors and students, senior pastors, elders, church boards—even veteran youth workers who’ve been ministering in unstructured environments and are now asking, “What did I miss? What can I still learn?” The first two years of youth ministry are never easy. But never fear. Doug fervently assures us: “Hang on. Hope’s coming!”

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Author : Doug Fields

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From Reader Review Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right for online ebook

Doug says

As the title suggests, this book is a how to guide for the new youth minister. It lays out the difficulties and struggles that you may face and how you should deal with them. Everything from how to deal with discouragement to building effective relationships, and from dealing with parents to leading a team. The author, Doug Feilds is a 25 year veteran of youth ministry. He has been through a lot, and he shares personal examples tendered with encouragement and advice from his heart for the "rookie" youth minsiter.

I felt the book gave me great practical advice for how to deal with the emotional difficulties of staff, parent, and personal conflict, but not much beyond that. I would have liked more encouragement to connect with our Savior. Must read for anyone starting youth ministry.

Logan says

If books were food, then this one is a juicy steak that comes in a four-course dinner.

There's just so much good information and advice in this book that it's easily a must-read for anyone about to be in youth ministry, is currently serving in youth ministry, or has an interest but doesn't know what to expect. Doug Fields has been in youth ministry for quite some time now and clearly knows what he's talking about (there's even a chapter that discusses things he's learned from his mistakes). Though I could do without his attempts at humor at times, and odd wordplay, I did enjoy this book. It is certainly meant to be taken slow, however. I would not recommend someone pick this book up and try to power through it quickly. Each chapter is thick with information (though some do drag quite a bit) and tips on ministry that are better consumed slowly, and with plenty of thought afterwards.

As someone who just started as a youth pastor, I greatly appreciated Doug's insight and advice. Some of the things he discusses seem like no-brainers but are often overlooked. Again, if you're someone about to be, or currently serving, in youth ministry, pick this up and give it a thorough read.

Joshua Thomas says

Great encouragement and advice as I am beginning this journey myself.

Amber says

Extremely helpful! This has both calmed my fears as a new director of youth ministry, and given me some concrete steps going forward in a way that both delved deep enough to satisfy, but didn't overwhelm. A great "beginner's" book for youth ministry in any Christian denomination!

Ryan King says

As a new church youth ministry person (aside from previous years of camp experience) Doug Fields book was a great overview. Though I have no degree, this book laid out the practical guidelines and struggles that one experiences in their first two years. I enjoyed this book because it really felt like talking to a friend who understands the weird, stressful, joyful, tough, amazing world of youth ministry.

At first I didn't like this book, it seemed obvious and redundant and kind of Christian-cliche. It took me meeting Doug at a conference to understand his experience and thus respect this book as the words of a mentor. Knowing why and with what authority he was writing this book helped me a lot. At times it drags and at times it was life-giving. And that makes complete sense seeing as there are things that do and don't make sense to me in my first years as a youth pastor. Fortunately, Doug covers it all.

Ultimately, I would recommend this to any person serious about positively impacting the young people of the church for Christ.

Ryan Mills says

Great insight!

Jang David Kim says

I have been giving this book out to all my youth ministry pastoral staffs over the years. It is very practical and helpful insights on how-tos of youth ministry. This is important for those who only had theological training or had limited experience in youth ministry. So as the title says, "a personal and practical guide to starting right," it accomplishes its vision.

I think others are too harsh in their complains that it's not theological or spiritual but that's NOT what his book was meant to be. But I do sense that people wanted more than just a practical discussion. All in all, it's a good book to read AFTER learning the theological vision of youth ministry and spiritual aspects of the ministry.

Lou says

Pese a que prefiero los libros de ficción, este libro me gustó.

Drew Fajen says

Doug Fields is an expert. He lays out quality, specific guidelines for how to go about your first two years in

youth ministry-- whether youth staff or full time minister. This book is overflowing with great advice and guidance. Doug writes as if he were mentoring you and the whole book feels very pastoral. He lays out how to go about solid evaluative, structural, and spiritual leadership as a leader in youth ministry. While this book says its for the first two years, I've just finished my first two years of full time ministry, and I can say that I'll be referring to this book for a long time to come. Very thankful for Doug and for Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry.

Thomas says

References. Great for building a team in youth ministry. Dog-eared a few good bits.

Jon says

As the title suggests, this book is a how to guide for the new youth minister. It lays out the difficulties and struggles that you may face and how you should deal with them. Everything from how to deal with discouragement to building effective relationships, and from dealing with parents to leading a team. The author, Doug Feilds is a 25 year veteran of youth ministry. He has been through a lot, and he shares personal examples tendered with encouragement and advice from his heart for the "rookie" youth minsiter.

Fluffy. I kinda expected that coming into this book. It is written by Rick Warren's Youth Pastor after all. So, yes, true to line, this one was fluff. I felt the book gave me great practical advice for how to deal with the emotional difficulties of staff, parent, and personal conflict, but not much beyond that. The book spent more time on how to make yourself feel good, than connecting with the Savior. I didn't hate the book, by any means. The personal examples and illustrations were perfect. Doug really opened up and shared some failures and mishaps. Hilarious, but also encouraging. I mean, if Rick Warren's Youth Pastor did that, I don't feel so bad. Hah. Overall, I really enjoyed the read. But it is much more practical, than passionate spiritual.

Travis Johnston says

Good. More scripture would have been of benefit, but a good book of one is heading into youth ministry.

Matt says

I was a youth director for a little under two years at a small church plant in Minnesota. On my best day, I had 5 students...right before I transitioned out of the role, I was down to 1. I started reading this book about 4 months after I accepted the role as Youth Director, but only read the beginning of the book. Even though I've heard good things about Doug Fields, I did not find this book very engaging. There were a few helpful hints, so I'll give it a 2-star rating, but overall, I didn't love it. In the end, I gave this book away to a friend in youth ministry.

Wilson says

Really solid and thorough book for beginning youth pastors and workers.

One of those books that people recommend when you first start out, and is actually worth the time. (Even if it takes you almost 2 years to read, like it did me, haha. My fault, not the book's)

Jordan says

Didn't expect much, was pretty skeptical of it being well thought-out. It had a surprisingly strong philosophical foundation, and was incredibly practical (of which I need help with). It's definitely a book I will go back to and refer to to help plan and evaluate my ministry.
