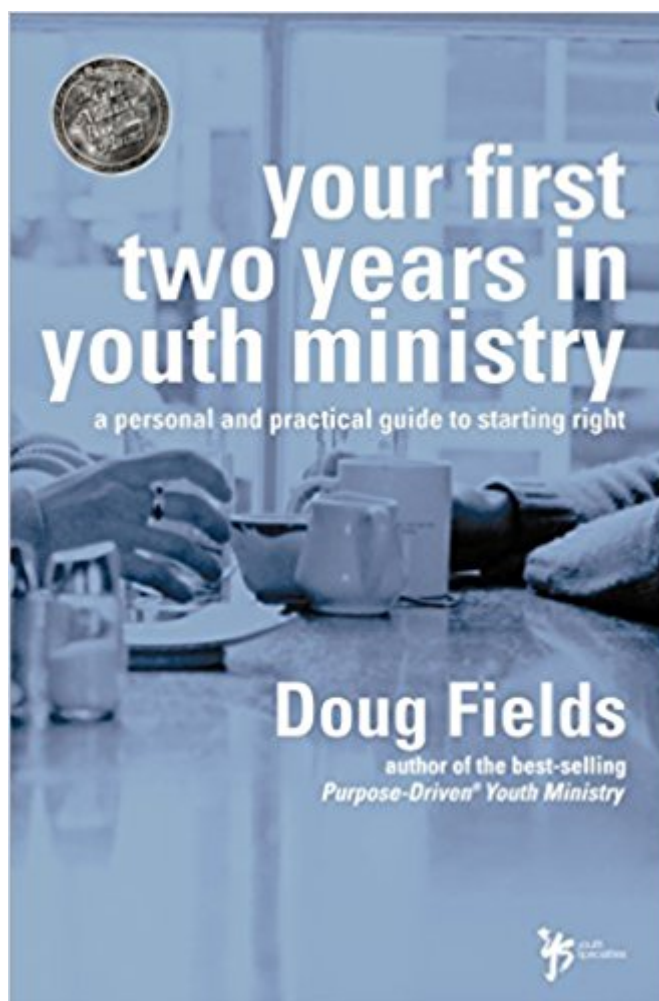


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Your First Two Years In Youth Ministry: A Personal And Practical Guide To Starting Right



Synopsis

Since forever altering the course of the youth ministry world with his best-selling, groundbreaking book, *Purpose-Driven® Youth Ministry*, Doug Fields’s 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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Customer Reviews

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!'

Doug Fields has been a leader in youth ministry for over 30 years. In addition to being a youth pastor at two churches for 11 and 20 years, Doug is the founder of Simply Youth Ministry, the

co-founder of Downloadyouthministry.com, the author of more than 50 books, and is currently working with Youth Specialties & Azusa Pacific University (HomeWord's Center for Youth/Family). More information about Doug is available at www.dougfields.com.

If you get the Kindle version, read this. First, content-wise, this was a great book. From start to finish. Fields does a good job of putting youth ministry back into the category of Christian ministry. While he deals very specifically with the facets of youth ministry, his broader-picture perspective is much needed. But if you get the Kindle version, be warned:- this was probably scanned and never kindle-edited. There are a lot of missing spaces between comma and word. And occasionally there are entire words missing.- there are no page numbers. Not a big deal, but when I read a Kindle, I like it to feel like a book.- no X-Ray. I don't use this feature, but if you do (fyi). It's still readable on Kindle, but if I knew this, I'd have gone with the paperback.

This is not a "how to" guide directing you what to do or how to lead your group. It is a book that discusses the pitfalls and dangers of leading, and how you as a youth leader can avoid those traps. This book has given me a tremendous amount of confidence as a youth director. I've been working in youth ministry for 4 years, and I wish I'd read this earlier. It is extremely helpful! Highly recommended. This isn't for just youth pastors, or people who are interested in ministry. It is extremely helpful even for people who just want to volunteer once a week. Great book! Very practical and applicable!

I was hired part time by my church 8 months ago to be the student minister. I had been a volunteer for a few years in a ministry that had no official youth pastor. With two degrees in music performance, I said yes to the church because they saw my interaction with the youth and I saw a need and enjoyed interacting with the teenagers. Thank you for this book. There were so many times when reading it, I thought, "Hey! I'm actually doing that!" Or "well no wonder that didn't work." This book is so encouraging, motivating, humbling, discerning and eye-opening. I will refer to it over and over again. Thank you so much.

I'm very impressed at how thoroughly this book covers youth ministry and how a Youth Director can really shape, structure, and lead their ministry in a smart and effective way, while still maintaining good working relationships with the entire church staff, youth volunteers, and youth families. It has great applications. I am really happy to have gotten it my first year in ministry leadership, but have

even seen crossover into other areas of my life as a manager and team member. Highly recommended.

I will refer back to this book over and over throughout the years. I may get a hard copy, however. The kindle edition was difficult to follow. I imagine the hard copy of this book has small blocks with quotes from various youth ministers scattered throughout the pages, but in digital form there are no blocks, meaning that you see quotes stuck in the middle of paragraphs for no apparent reason or indication that the speaker has changed.

I have been a full-time youth and young adult pastor for over four years now and I found much of what Doug had to say to be very accurate and insightful. It may not be very deep theologically, the jokes may be a little silly, and the grammar may be occasionally poor, but those are just minor complaints in comparison to an overall very enjoyable read. I recommend this book to any person planning on becoming a youthworker and definitely to any youth pastor who feels a bit discouraged or burned out. The purpose of the book is not to give you a step by step guideline as to how to run a youth ministry (that is found in Doug's other well-known book "The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry"), but instead its focus is on the spiritual health of the youthworker. The demands of serving in youth ministry are many and Doug does a tremendous job at giving practical advice to help any youth worker thrive. I am teaching a "Youth Ministry" class at CCBC this semester and I plan on using this book as our required textbook.

I am not a youth director but this book has it all. Very easy to understand and practical tips you could read and implement. No theological background required. I purchased these and gave them out at our denominational youth adult conference. They loved them. As a pastor I feel that the contents of this book could and will also help new pastors, just replace youth with congregation and you are up and running.

Doug Fields' *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry* was an interesting read. It was pretty enlightening in the field of youth ministry overall. I had to read it for a college class, and I expected it to be a shallow, uninteresting read. I was very wrong. Fields has a lot of great advice to offer those wanting to get into youth ministry (or those already involved but looking for advice) thanks to his many years of service in youth ministry. It was a very accessible read and the insight provided will doubtlessly be valuable to those looking for a solid primer on working in youth ministry. I

recommend it due to its breadth of information and the fact that it in no way overcomplicates anything.

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