

YOUTH RESOURCES

WEBSIGHTS

All of these sites have specific theological and philosophical slants about youth ministry. Some may fit your context and beliefs well and others may not. Take each site with a grain of salt and just try to find some good ideas among the not-so-good. Sometimes I just look through them and one idea, resource, suggestion may spark an idea of my own.

1. **The Youth Ministry Notebook**

www.youthministrynotebook.com

A site maintained by Rev. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker that is a resource For youth groups and leaders with ideas and tips for games, skits, music, & more. There are ideas for all different categories with instructions, pictures, and videos. It is a new site so content is being added frequently.

2. **The Source For Youth Ministry**

<http://www.thesource4ym.com>

A site that has lots of resources for games, events, ideas, and more. The site can be useful but use with caution because many of the ideas are open sourced (that means anyone can add to it) so some game/mixer ideas may not be appropriate or good ideas.

3. **YouthMinistry.com**

<http://www.youthministry.com/>

This site is maintained by Group Publishing. It has some free resources, ideas, and training tips and of course suggestions of things you can buy from Group. If you are looking for curriculum, DVD's, etc and you like Group publishing you may want to check it out.

4. **YouthPastor.Com**

<http://www.youthpastor.com/>

YouthPastor.com provides free youth ministry resources for youth pastors, ministers, workers and volunteers. Online resources include a job center, free lessons, a searchable directory of ministries and game ideas.

5. **Pastor2Youth**

<http://www.pastor2youth.com/>

Another site with lots of freebie ideas maintained by a youth pastor with 25+ years experience.

6. **Simply Youth Ministry**

<http://www.simplyyouthministry.com/freebies.html>

This site has both paid and free resources for youth ministry maintained by Doug Fields. The link takes you straight to the free resources for games, handouts, ideas, training, and much more.

7. **Youth Specialties**

<http://www.youthspecialties.com/>

Youth Specialties is one of the largest youth ministry companies out there. The site has articles, ideas, and many paid resources like curriculums, videos, and much more. This is a great site to use to keep your pulse on what is happening in youth ministry.

8. **Youth Ministry Ideas**

<http://www.youthministryideas.net/>

A site with blog posts, ideas, suggestions, and other resources to get you thinking about what to do with your youth group.

9. **Skit Guys**

<http://www.skitguys.com/>

This is a site to purchase or find good skit ideas/videos/books to use with your youth group. You can also find clips on YouTube you can show to your youthgroup to just try it out. There is even a way to download YouTube clips to show them easier. (ask me later if you're interested). Their YouTube address is www.youtube.com/theskitguys

10. **Young Life Playbook**

<http://www.ylplaybook.com/>

A bloglist type site developed by a young life leader full of skits, games, and mixers.

BOOK RESOURCES

Chbosky, Stephen The Perks of Being a Wallflower New York: Pocket Books 1999. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

Like J.D. Salinger's Catcher in the Rye this is a novel that will help you understand what is going on in the mind of an adolescent.

Dean, Kenda Creasy Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

Adolescents are looking for a place to belong, a place that is exciting and is passionate about Christ and passionate about them. According to Dean, this passion is experienced through fidelity, transcendence and communion.

Folmsbee, Chris A New Kind of Youth Ministry El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2007. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

Folmsbee encourages the church to evaluate their own youth ministry program and determine if it is truly meeting the needs of our students.

Jones, Tony Soul Shaper: Exploring Spirituality and Contemplative Practices in Youth Ministry El Cajon, CA: Youth Specialties, 2003. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

This book is a great practical guide to leading spiritual disciplines in the youth group setting. Jones puts forth 17 different spiritual disciplines with short historical and theological background for each one.

Kinnaman, David and Gabe Lyons UnChristian: What a new Generation Really thinks about Christianity...and Why it Matters Grand Rapids MI: Baker Books 2007. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

If you are looking for a book with a ton of raw data on young adults and older adolescents, than this is the book for you. In it Kinnaman and Lyons unpack 1000s of questionnaires through interviews with young adults, trying to understand why they do not trust the church, and what the church can do to regain their trust.

Miller, Mark Experiential Storytelling: (Re)Discovering Narrative to Communicate God's Message El Cajon, CA: Emergent YS 2003.

In this book you can learn a style of teaching that is not only biblical but also helpful for the post-modern ear.

Root, Andrew Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From a strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press 2007. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

Root emphasizes the importance of forming relationships with adolescents for the very purpose of forming relationships with them. It's not about forming a relationship with the student with some goal in mind, rather it is about experiencing life with the student and allowing them to enter into our own pain and despair.

Smith, Christian and Melinda Lundquist Denton Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

Although the data is a little dated for current aged adolescents, the results and conclusions that Smith draws help to shed light on how the average American views his/her spirituality as being moralistic, therapeutic and deist.

Anderson, Mike, Jim Cain Christ Cart and Tom Heck Teambuilding Puzzles: 100 Puzzles and Activities for Creating Teachable Moments in Creative Problem Solving, Consensus Building, Leadership, Exploring Diversity, Group Decision Making, Goal Setting, Active Learning, Communication & Teamwork Brockport, NY: FUNdoing Publications 2005. (recommended by Joel Vander Waal)

This is a great resource for games or ice breakers which require a little bit of thought. Some of the activities require a lot of set-up, but most of them require very little. It's a great way to build group dynamics and form relationships.

Stevens, Tim Pop Goes the Church: Should the Church Engage Pop Culture? Indianapolis, IN: Power Publishing 2008. (recommended by Jordan Knight)

(official product description) Whether you're a regular attender, a leader, or have yet to step foot in a church, you may have questions about church that aren't being answered. How can the church remain relevant while communicating the unchanging integrity of God's truth? Author Tim Stevens makes an inspiring case for leveraging pop culture to reach out to people in the language of their lives. He offers a new perspective that gives relevance and impact to the church by using pop culture meeting people in the real world with words, sounds and images that speak to them. He encourages us to get out of our comfort zones and look people in the eyes, meeting them wherever they are, relating to their problems and society's challenges--even celebrating pop culture, where there are exciting signs of spiritual seeking. Pop Goes the Church will open your mind to church in a way that breaks down walls, engages the culture and speaks to a generation that needs to hear good news.

Kinley, Jeff The Losers Club: Lessons From the Least Likely Heroes of the Bible. El Cajon, CA Youth Specialties, 2006. (recommended by Jordan Knight)

(From Back Cover) We usually think of Bible characters as dressed with their Sunday best---lookin' good, smelling of accomplishment, and holding the posture of unshakeable faith. We marvel at these 'flawless saints' while thinking, 'Wow! I'm not worthy!' Hey, not so fast. Believe it or not, the most celebrated people in the Bible were plagued by doubt, bad decisions, and less than perfect reputations. In a word, most were losers! And yet, God had plans that would take them beyond their humble, imperfect lives and dub them proud members of the 'losers' club. Losers Club is a real-life look at famous Bible figures such as Moses, Solomon, David, Thomas, Rahab, and others. Each vignette reveals people who struggle with weak faith, confusion, and frustration---people very much like you and me! These stories will help you connect with these flawed heroes, find encouragement in their stories, and get inspired by God's love and care for 'losers.'

McKee, Jonathan Getting Students to Show Up: Practical Ideas for Any Outreach Event---from 10 to 10,000 El Cajon, CA Youth Specialties, 2007. (recommended by Jordan Knight)

(Official Product Description) The heart was there, the vision was set, the motives were genuine . . . but no one showed up. The book will help youth workers program to an audience that they're not used to reaching. Programming an outreach event is much more than booking a band and a speaker. Unfortunately, most people don't know that---and the students they wanted to reach aren't making it there . . . they don't show up.