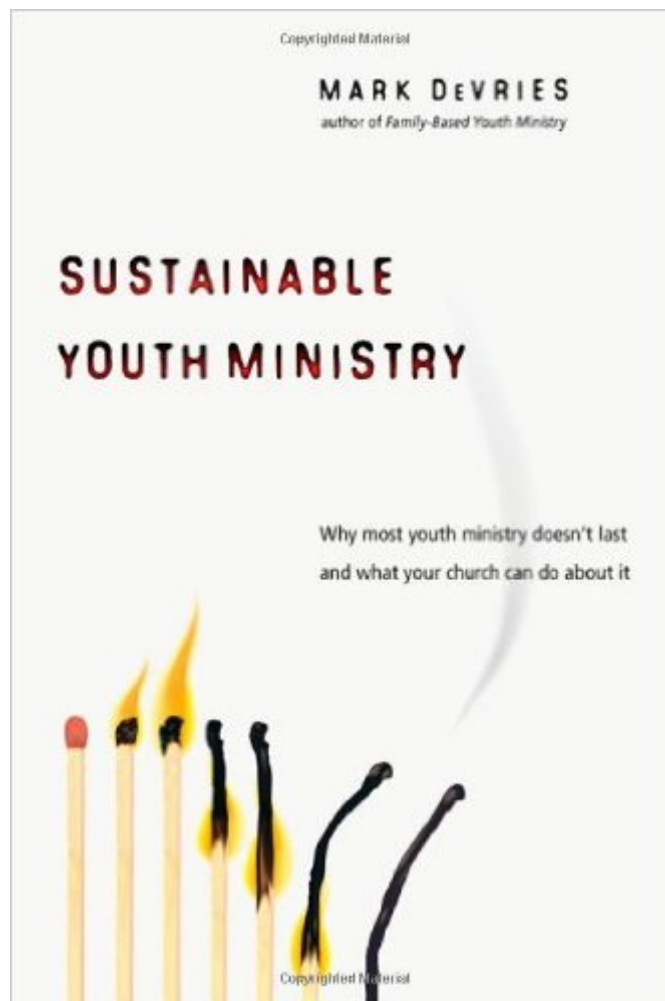


The book was found

# Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last And What Your Church Can Do About It



## Synopsis

You're looking for a youth pastor. Again. What goes wrong? Why do youth ministries crumble? And what is the cost to students, parents, volunteers and church staff? Is a sustainable youth ministry possible, even after a youth pastor leaves? Youth ministry expert Mark DeVries knows the answer is yes, because he helps build sustainable youth ministries through his coaching service called Youth Ministry Architects. So take heart: No matter what state the youth ministry at your church is in--in need of a leader and volunteers, full of battles and stress, large or small in number--it can be built to survive and to last for the long haul. Based on his own experience and on his many conversations and interviews with churches in crisis, DeVries pinpoints problems that cause division and burnout and dispels strongly held myths. He then provides the practical tools and structures pastors and church leaders need to lay a strong foundation for your ministry so that it isn't built on a person or the latest, greatest student ministry trend. His accessible guidance helps senior pastors and search committees create a realistic job description for a youth pastorprovides tips for making wise hiring decisionsequips youth pastors to build a strong volunteer teamoffers creative solutions to help youth pastors set and keep boundariesgives a road map for navigating church politicsand more Building a sustainable youth ministry is not easy, and it's not quick. But with commitment to the process, hard work and DeVries's guidance, you can put together a healthy youth ministry--one that fits your church and lasts for the long haul. Youth ministry can last. Here's how.

## Book Information

Paperback: 225 pages

Publisher: IVP Books; 1 edition (November 10, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0830833617

ISBN-13: 978-0830833610

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (91 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #37,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Youth Ministry #43 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Leadership #50 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Pastoral Resources

## Customer Reviews

I'm a paid youth minister in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, and I've been doing youth ministry of one kind or another for a couple years (including the infamous "camp counsellor" position). Lots of my friends are youth ministers, or are involved in ministry in one way or another, and our Diocesan coordinator gave us all a copy of this book. The following is a copy of a message I sent out to our friends after reading DeVries' book. "Dear Yute Minister Types,...I'm just writing to STRONGLY encourage you all to read Sustainable Youth Ministry by Mark Devries...if you haven't already. I'm about 2/3 of the way through it, and other than the knowledge that Jesus loves me even when I screw up, this might be the single most important thing I've ever read/heard in furthering my ability to minister to people. It's honest, to the point, empowering in a very practical way, and creates a vision of what a healthy youth program is/can be that is bigger than the one I've always had, I think. It's also called me out on one of my bigger shortcomings as a youth minister, which is my tendency to create myself as a "victim" of church politics, poor volunteer turnouts, etc., and using that as an excuse whenever I need to. Anyway, I can't recommend this book enough, and we should probably all buy copies for all of our clergy AND another one to make available to parents. AND I think it's a good thing for the Episcopal Diocese in AL to read anyway since generally our view of youth ministry is to vamp young, able-bodied and enthusiastic people of their energy for 18 months or so until they're all used up and quit, and then hire somebody else. Plus, the book has this really fun analogy about having to 'eat that frog' that is both entertaining and to the point.

There's a reason why Mark DeVries's Sustainable Youth Ministry is one of those rare books that has an average ranking of 5-stars: this is the best book on youth ministry as far as explaining the "architecture" or structure of how to set up youth ministry. I met Mark DeVries at a youth leaders' conference in 2009: his session was by far and away the most relevant to the kind of church I was the youth pastor of at the time, a more traditional, Episcopalian parish. For any of you who have been involved in youth ministry, as students, parents, or youth leaders, then you know that perhaps the #1 problem with youth ministry is a lack of longevity. Youth ministers and their programs come and go. When I was active as a youth minister, I read that the average length a youth minister stayed at a church was 27 months! This book shows churches and youth leaders how to structure your ministry so that it will last and have a lasting impact. Here's a great side by side comparison of Sustainable Youth Ministry vs traditional youth ministry:

Sustainable	Traditional
Long-term focus on a single issue	Episodic focus with key issues buried
Responsibility shared by the team	Responsibility carried by the youth worker
Regular Meetings	Concerns raised reactively at random
Regular time for strategic thinking	
Expectations of a multiyear building process	

meetingsIssue addressed between urgent demands of ministryExpectation of the quick fix DeVries confronts head on the false "gambling" view of finding a hot shot superstar who is going to fix the youth program. He then builds, brick by brick, a systems approach to youth ministry.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It Why Can't I Learn Like Everyone Else: Youth With Learning Disabilities (Youth With Special Needs) Youth Ministry in the 21st Century: Five Views (Youth, Family, and Culture) Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the Family of Faith (Youth, Family, and Culture) Purpose Driven Youth Ministry: 9 Essential Foundations for Healthy Growth (Youth Specialties (Paperback)) Soccernomics: Why England Loses, Why Spain, Germany, and Brazil Win, and Why the U.S., Japan, Australia&#151;and Even Iraq&#151;Are Destined to Become the Kings of the World&#146;s Most Popular Sport Soccernomics: Why England Loses, Why Spain, Germany, and Brazil Win, and Why the U.S., Japan, Australia&#151;and Even Iraq&#151;Are Destined to Become the Kings of the World's Most Popular Sport Half Truths Youth Study Book: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore: And How 4 Acts of Love Will Make Your Church Irresistible Growing an Engaged Church: How to Stop "Doing Church" and Start Being the Church Again Re-engineering for Sustainable Industrial Production: Proceedings of the OE/IFIP/IEEE International Conference on Integrated and Sustainable ... in Information and Communication Technology) Who Runs the Church?: 4 Views on Church Government (Counterpoints: Church Life) One Size Doesn't Fit All: Bringing Out the Best in Any Size Church Church Refugees: Sociologists reveal why people are DONE with church but not their faith Economix: How and Why Our Economy Works (and Doesn't Work), in Words and Pictures Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A personal and practical guide to starting right Why Motivating People Doesn't Work . . . and What Does: The New Science of Leading, Energizing, and Engaging Building Your Volunteer Team: A 30-Day Change Project for Youth Ministry Why Doesn't My Floppy Disk Flop?: And Other Kids' Computer Questions Answered by the CompuDudes Free Trade Doesn't Work: What Should Replace It and Why, 2011 Edition

[Dmca](#)