



Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition: Practical Ideas to Nurture Long-Term Faith in Teenagers

By Kara E. Powell, Brad M. Griffin, Cheryl A. Crawford

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Most churches in America would give anything to develop a deep, growing faith in kids that "sticks" and continues to mature long-term. That interest is dwarfed only by parents' desire to develop a deep, growing faith in their own kids. Yet both national leaders with broad spheres of influence as well as local, grassroots practitioners are waking up to the reality that **almost half of their graduating seniors will drift from God and the church after high school**. As leaders and as parents, we're not satisfied with that. We suspect you're not either.

In response to this problem, the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) conducted a national longitudinal study following over 500 high school seniors during their first three years in college. The goals of this research were to understand the dynamics of youth group graduates' transition to college and to identify the relationships and best practices in youth ministries, churches, and families that can help set students on a trajectory of lifelong faith and service.

In *Sticky Faith*, the team at FYI presents youth workers with both a philosophical framework and practical programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers. Each chapter presents a summary of FYI's quantitative and qualitative research, along with the implications of this research, including program ideas suggested and tested by youth ministries nationwide. This resource **equips youth ministry leaders with what they need to help foster a faith that sticks long after young people leave the youth room.**

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Editorial Review

Review

Sticky Faith will change the way you see the role of your church in building authentic faith in the next generation. This book is starting a critical conversation with parents and leaders that should reshape the church.

--**Reggie Joiner**, founder of the reThink Group, leader of the Orange Conference

One of the many reasons I'm a huge fan of *Sticky Faith* is because it's so timely! The Sticky Faith content is helping move youth and family ministry in the direction we all need to head. It not only raises crucial questions about the gospel, the church, and families, but it also provides practical answers and ideas any youth leader can try. I'm so thankful we have this great resource.

-- **Doug Fields**, veteran youth worker and author

Sticky Faith isn't a "read once and your done" type of resource. It's a way of life and serving that has the potential to transform detached, silo youth ministry into a fully functioning, faith sharing community. As you read through ministry tested experiences and research, you uncover plenty of possibilities that could work in your own ministry context. My copy of this book can be found on my desk, on my e-reader, and on my phone. It's that important.

--**Brooklyn Lindsey**, author, youth worker, leader of The Justice Movement

The world of youth work is desperate for reliable pylons of truth to which we can anchor our ministries. Fuller Youth Institute's work with *Sticky Faith* provides such rare value to our Youth for Christ staff around the country. Our mission calls us to "...reach young people...engaging them as lifelong followers of Jesus Christ." *Sticky Faith* research helps our ministry staff all over the country to understand what they can do NOW to help these young people--initially distant from local churches--develop a faith that lasts for a lifetime. I'm so grateful for FYI's rich contribution to our mission.

--**Dr. Dave Rahn**, Senior Vice President and Chief Ministry Officer, Youth for Christ

From the Author

Most churches in America would give *anything* to develop a deep, growing faith in kids that "sticks" and continues to mature long-term. That interest is dwarfed only by parents' desire to develop a deep, growing faith in their own kids.

Yet both national leaders with broad spheres of influence as well as local, grassroots practitioners are waking up to the reality that almost half of their graduating seniors struggle deeply with their faith in college. Offering a few special "Senior Seminars" or giving seniors a "graduation Bible" and hoping for the best are both too little and too late.

In response to this problem, the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) has conducted the College Transition Project, a national longitudinal study following over 500 high school seniors during their first three years in college. The goals of this research are to understand the dynamics of youth group graduates' transition to college and

to identify the relationships and best practices in youth ministries, churches, and families that can help set students on a trajectory of lifelong faith and service.

FYI's research confirms that it's never too early or too late to start developing faith that continues to grow and lasts. Sticky Faith gives parents and leaders both a theological/philosophical framework and a host of practical relationship and programming ideas that develop long-term faith in teenagers.

For more information and follow-up resources see stickyfaith.org/

About the Author

Kara Powell is the executive director of the Fuller Youth Institute and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary. Named by *Christianity Today* as one of "50 Women to Watch," Kara is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Sticky Faith*, and a regular speaker at national leadership and youth ministry conferences.

Brad Griffin is associate director of the Fuller Youth Institute. A speaker, blogger, and youth pastor, Brad is the coauthor of several *Sticky Faith* resources as well as *Can I Ask That? 8 Hard Questions about God and Faith*. He speaks nationally at churches, denominational training events, and youth ministry conferences.

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