

Ministry Mutiny: A Youth Leader Fable

Book By Greg Stier | gregstier.org | [Buy it on Amazon](#)

Youth Ministry Mentorship Discussion Guide | by Tim Schmoyer | timschmoyer.com

Chapter One: The Letter

- Have you ever felt like Ty? When? In what ways can you identify with him?
- Are you usually envious of ministries like Ty's that seem to be "cutting edge" from the outside?
- If you could describe the perfect youth ministry, what would it look like?
- Is your youth ministry viewed as a babysitting service? Do you sometimes feel like that's all you're doing?
- Do you ever fall into the trap of becoming an "entertainment-driven" youth ministry?

Chapter Two: One Last Network Meeting

- Page 30 talks about how we typically choose curriculum for our youth ministries. How does your ministry choose? Are you intentional about moving students in a certain direction spiritually in what you teach?
- The end of page 30 talks about evaluating the youth ministry paradigm. What questions are you asking that challenges the way we typically do youth ministry? (Tony's questions are at the top of page 31.)

Chapter Three: Listen for God's Whisper

- Like Elijah, do you feel that you're "coddling a group of self-centered teens" "instead of launching revival" and want to quit (page 50)?
- Honestly, how are you doing spiritually?
- What does your time with the Lord usually look like?
- Do you take time to regularly be still before the Lord and just listen for His Spirit to whisper to you? If not, why not? If so, what's He been whispering to you lately?
- How has the Lord worked in your life this past week? What is He teaching you?
- This week ask the Lord what He wants you to do at your church and with your youth ministry.

Chapter Four: Get Real

- Do you feel that you teach in a way to try to remove the doubts of teenagers or do you embrace the mystery and struggles of Christianity with them (page 57)?
- Do you tend to lean more toward creating a safe, sterile and prepackaged youth ministry, or do you confront the real and difficult issues head-on (page 58)?
- How would you describe most of the teens in your youth ministry: spiritually apathetic, interested, excited or passionate? Why?

- What value could there be in taking a spiritual inventory of your teenagers? (Sample questions for that inventory meeting with the student are on the bottom of page 160.)
- What student in your youth ministry comes to your heart first when you think about developing a spiritual growth plan with someone? Can you have that conversation with him or her this week?

Chapter Five: Go Wide

- Do you have any students who are evangelists in your youth ministry? If so, do you give them leadership roles that help them equip and prepare the rest of the group for outreach? How so, or why not? How can you help the students become more concerned about their lost friends? (Page 74.)
- Honestly, do you feel that your youth ministry and church share Christ out of a burden for lost souls or out of “recruitment” for your ministry?
- Any growing believer who strives to become more Christlike, as scripture commands (Rom. 8:29; 12:2; etc.), means that our heart for lost people must continually grow because, ultimately, that’s the very reason why Christ came to earth in the first place – out of a love and burden for lost people. To become more like Christ means that our hearts share His desire to see sinners come to faith in Him. Do you feel that this evangelism aspect of discipleship is a part of your spiritual journey with the Lord? Why or why not?
- The next chapter talks about theology, but let’s kick-start that discussion now. Pretend I am an unsaved teenager and I flat out ask you how to get to heaven. What would you say to me? *(Note to mentor: make sure their gospel includes sin, our death penalty for it, and faith in the deity of Christ as our substitute. If their answer is long, help them make it concise and clear.)*
- How passionate are you for sharing your faith with unsaved people around you?
- Do you consider yourself to be a good role model for the teens in sharing Christ with unbelievers?

Chapter Six: Grow Deep

- Does your ministry try to combine outreach and discipleship into the same program and events? Why or why not?
- How possible is it to really combine “seeker sensitive” and “deep truth” together (page 95)?
- How do you think the teens in your ministry would respond to teaching that’s based on theology and communicates mystery (page 95)?
- On page 97, Tony says, *“This passage implies that the more truth you learn and the more you put that truth into practice, the more spiritually mature you get and the more truth you can handle. I believe this is one of the reasons youth groups across America are often filled with spiritually immature teenagers. They haven’t learned the basis of the Christian faith and put them into practice!”* Given a brief evaluation of your ministry, would you say your teens are learning the basics of the Christian faith and putting them into practice?

- How much do you push your kids to apply the Word to their lives? Where's the balance between demanding obedience and no accountability? (Page 98-99)
- Do you think most of the teens in your youth group can answer the 30 questions on page 100-101? Is there anything you feel is missing from this list?
- Are you at a place spiritually where you feel confident teaching the depth of God's Word?
- How can you start "going deep" in the Word for your own spiritual nourishment?

Chapter Seven: No More Outsourcing

- Do you feel that the parents in your ministry have hired you to be the professional to teach their kids the basics of Christianity and life (page 115)? If so, is it because you think "if they tried to start leading their teens spiritually, their kids would point out their hypocrisy in nothing flat" (page 116)?
- Is there any possible way we can *enforce* parents to take ownership of the spiritual development of their teen? If so, how? If not, why not? (page 119)
- Do you have any parents in your ministry that take their teenager's spiritual growth seriously? If so, what impact is it having on the teen? If not, what should your role be in changing that?
- The spiritual development of the parents sometimes rests largely rest on the shoulders of your sr. pastor. How can you talk with your pastor about this and team up together to challenge parents to be the spiritual role models their kids need?

Chapter Eight: Build on Values, Not Fads

- Read Acts 2:42-47 together. This passage gives the principles for a spiritual lift that every youth ministry needs: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. How do you build your ministry on biblical values, not passing fads? (Page 137)
- What do these five values (not purposes) look like in your ministry? (*Page 144, "If we want to get into the disciple making, then we must reach them through evangelism, teach them how to worship, train them through discipleship, unleash them for ministry, encourage them through fellowship, and turn them loose to do the same with others."*)
- What is your vision for the students in your youth ministry? Is your approach to youth ministry moving them in that direction? Why not, or how so?
- How do you decide what curriculum to teach and what events and youth activities to invest your time into? Are they all aligned with your vision for the ministry?
- Where do you spend time in ministry that's "neutral" and could probably be eliminated so you can intensify your focus on what's truly important: taking students deep into the Word and wide with the gospel?