

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION

2024-2025 Cohort #2

This program is designed for ministerial staff and lay leaders of the Youth Ministry of a church who have a passion for ministry but have no formal education on the basics of ministry. These certification courses equip the ministry leader to meet the needs of teenagers, teachers and parents through events, training events and outreach opportunities.

Details and Requirements

- Our 2024-25 cohort will be limited to 12 students.
- Cost is \$500 for the year or 2 payments of \$250 (August & January).
- Monthly meetings from August - May.
- Texts and readings will be required throughout the course along with brief, written summaries of each session.

Dates

Unless otherwise noted, all classes will take place at the Texas Baptists Offices in Dallas from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. For each class a Zoom option will be available.

There will be a 1 hour break for lunch.

- August 15, 2024
- September 12, 2024
- October 7-8, 2024 (Conclave NextGen included in price of certification registration)
- November 14, 2024
- December 10, 2024
- January 23, 2025
- February 20, 2025
- April 3, 2025
- May 1, 2025

We will not meet the month of March 2025.

Assignments

Each time we meet you will have 2 different types of assignments:

1. Book Review – You'll write at least a 3-5 sentence overview of each chapter of the book we read. For example, September 12 would include an overview of Chapter 2 in *Your First Two Years of Ministry* as well as the Intro & Chapter 1 in *Emotionally Healthy Leader*.
2. Session Review – Using the notes you will take from the previous session; you will

submit a 2-3 page report of the most helpful insights from the previous Zoom meeting. This could be an overview of the discussion we had OR it could be an action step that you would like to integrate after the session.

For example, on September 12 you will turn in a session review of our opening Zoom gathering on August 15. This is why it's so vital to keep notes throughout the day.

These papers will need to be emailed to me and Nicole.

While you won't receive a grade, I will read each paper and will give it back to you to complete if you haven't completed it in full.

Please don't get behind with your work. You will have a grace period of one month to get the assignments turned in. For example, if you are unable to turn in everything that is due on September 12, you will have until the following session (October 7-8, Conclave) to turn it in. If you are reading and keeping up, this shouldn't be a problem.

Youth Ministry Certification Sessions

- **Philosophy of Youth Ministry - August 15, 2024** Why do churches invest in youth ministry? What is the best way to start in youth ministry? We'll answer these questions and many more as we take a closer look at discovering your personal philosophy of youth ministry.

Book Requirement: 1. *Fields, Doug. (2002). Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: a personal and practical guide to starting right. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties.*

2. *Scazzero, Peter. (2015). The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming your inner life will deeply transform your church, team and the world. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective.*

First Two Years – Intro and Chapter 1

Guest – Doug Franklin & Les Bradford

- **Teaching Teenagers the Bible through Small Groups**
– **September 12, 2024**

Teaching students starts with the right Bible study leader who is called to lead teenagers. There are various learning styles you can implement to help create a more effective environment. We will discuss various options to optimize learning during a small group Bible study.

Book Requirement: *Blanks, Andy. (2012). The 7 Best Practices for Teaching Teenagers the Bible. Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.*

First Two Years – Chapter 2 & 3

Emotionally Healthy Leader - Intro and Chapter 1

Guest – Andy Blanks

● **Conclave NextGen 2024 – October 7-8, 2024**

You will be free to attend whatever breakout sessions you feel might be most helpful. You will need to be prepared to write a 2-3 page review of your experience at Conclave and what you learned. Our cohort will meet in person on Tuesday morning @ 8:30 am during the Coffee Conversations.

IF you are unable to attend to attend Conclave NextGen, you will need to watch 4 breakout session videos and write a 2-3 page review on EACH session.

● **Leading Volunteer Leaders - November 14, 2024** Recruiting, training and empowering adults is a vital skill in leading youth ministry. We will discuss some proven techniques to build a framework that will help volunteer leaders onboard into your ministry.

Book Requirement: Blevins, Nick. (2023). *The Volunteer Playbook: A proven framework to help your church recruit, train and empower more volunteers.*

Volunteerplaybook.com

First Two Years – Chapter 4

Emotionally Healthy Leader - Chapters 2 & 3

Guest – Nick Blevins

● **Family/Parent Ministry – December 10, 2024** Family Ministry isn't just an 'add-on' to youth ministry. The work of reaching & serving parents should be woven through everything happening in a church's youth ministry. This session will address the different models of family ministry so you can implement the best method in your church context.

Book Requirement: Earley, Justin Whitmel. (2021). *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms.* Grand Rapids, MI:

Zondervan **First Two Years** – Chapter 5

Emotionally Healthy Leader - Chapter 4

Guest –

● **Event Planning 101 – January 23, 2025**

Camp, D-Now, Retreats, and Mission Trips are just a few of the events that happen during a calendar year for a youth ministry. There are some tools that can help any church leader navigate these events to help you work smarter and not harder. How you protect students, youth leaders and your church is also an important part that we will consider.

Book Requirement: Dean, Jody and Jackson, Allen. (2019). *Protect: A Youth Worker's Guide to Navigating Risk.* Birmingham, AL: *youthministry360.com*

First Two Years – Chapters 6 & 7

Emotionally Healthy Leader – Chapter 5

Guest – Norman Flowers

● **Communication and Navigating Relationships in Youth**

Ministry – February 20, 2025

Leading youth ministry in the local church can feel isolating but it doesn't have to be. Youth leaders have more influence than they realize when it comes to building relationships with other individuals and ministries in the church. The youth ministry should exist to serve the church and not as a parachurch organization looking from the outside in.

Book Requirement: Scroggins, Clay. (2017). *How to Lead When You're Not in Charge: Leveraging Influence When You Lack Authority*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. **First Two Years** – Chapter 8

Emotionally Healthy Leader – Chapters 6-7

Guest –

- **The Youth Leader's Health and Family - April 3, 2025** Youth ministry is a calling. For some that is for a lifetime and for others it's a season. However long you serve in youth ministry, you need to make sure you are taking care of yourself and your family.

Book Requirement: Trent, Chris. (2022). *Youth Ministry for the Longer Haul: A Field Guide for Longevity*. Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.

First Two Years – Chapter 9 & 10

Emotionally Healthy Leader – Chapter 8

Guest – Chris Trent

- **Student Leadership & Calling out the Called - May 1, 2025**

Youth ministry has the unique opportunity to enlist teenagers to help serve in their own ministry. There are some effective ways to help empower these students as they begin their leadership journey. Some of these students will be our future church leaders, ministers and pastors. We will discuss how to encourage those sensing God's call to ministry and how to pursue that calling.

Book Requirement: 1. Franklin, Doug. (2010). *Student Leaders Start Here; Assessments & Tolls to Help You Grow as a Leader*. Carol Stream, IL:

LeaderTreks. 2. Byrd, Grant & Wheelington, Rusty. (2022). *Following Your Call to Ministry: Recognizing and Responding to God's Call*. Dallas, TX: GC2 Press.

First Two Years – Chapter 11 & 12

Emotionally Healthy Leader – Chapter 9

Guest –

Youth Ministry Certification

Textbooks & Resources

(included in registration cost)

- Fields, Doug. (2002). *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: a personal and practical guide to starting right*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties.
- Scazzero, Peter. (2015). *The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming your inner life will deeply transform your church, team and the world*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective.
- Blevins, Nick. (2023). *The Volunteer Playbook :A proven framework to help your church*

recruit, train and empower more volunteers. Volunteerplaybook.com

- Blanks, Andy. (2012). *The 7 Best Practices for Teaching Teenagers the Bible.* Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.
- Earley, Justin Whitmel. (2021). *Habits of the Household: Practicing the Story of God in Everyday Family Rhythms.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan
- Scroggins, Clay. (2017). *How to Lead When You're Not in Charge: Leveraging Influence When You Lack Authority.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Dean, Jody and Jackson, Allen. (2019). *Protect: A Youth Worker's Guide to Navigating Risk.* Birmingham, AL: youthministry360.com.
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