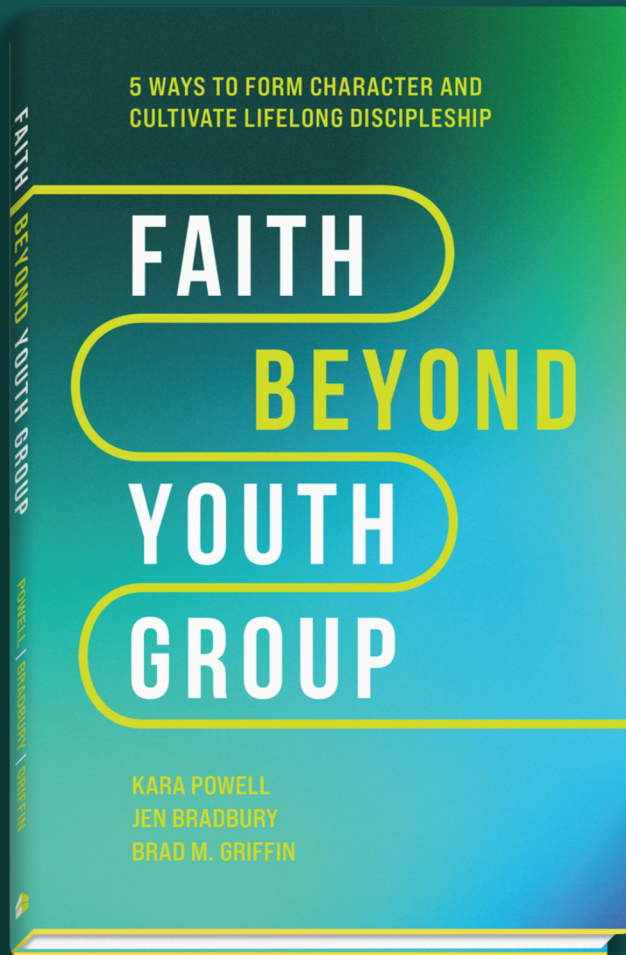


ABOUT THE BOOK



***Faith Beyond Youth Group:
Five Ways to Form Character and
Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship***

By Kara Powell, Jen Bradbury, and Brad M. Griffin

Publisher: Baker Books,
a division of Baker Publishing Group

ISBN: 978-1-5409-0351-8

\$24.99; 224pp

Ebook ISBN: 978-1-4934-4333-8

Release date: November 7

KEEPING CHARACTER AND FAITH INTEGRATED NOT JUST IN OUR YOUTH ROOM, BUT EVERYWHERE THEY GO

The end goal of youth ministry is to form disciples with the character of Christ, yet studies indicate that about half of students drift from their faith after graduation. This statistic begs the question: How do we keep students engaged in their faith outside of youth group?

Faith Beyond Youth Group: Five Ways to Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship (Baker Books, November 7, 2023) offers the latest research on how to encourage a lasting faith in the next generation. Fuller Youth Institute's Kara Powell, Jen Bradbury, and Brad M. Griffin seek to increase the impact youth leaders have on their students' lives by rediscovering Christlike character in Scripture and in everyday life.

Powell, Bradbury, and Griffin offer a compass that moves leaders beyond their burnout, increases their impact, and fills in the "character gap" that causes students to abandon their faith. The five points of the Faith Beyond Youth Group Compass are:

- **Cultivating Trust**—leveraging relational strengths to develop identity, belonging, and purpose
- **Modeling Growth**—modeling consistency and integrity while living out faith authentically
- **Teach for Transformation**—using the strategies of Jesus to transform teenagers' identities
- **Practice Together**—moving faith out of students' heads and into their hands and feet
- **Make Meaning**—helping students understand who they are and who they can be in Jesus

"We believe we can rediscover how Scripture keeps character and faith integrated rather than either obsessing over rules or separating spirituality from the rest of life," writes Powell. "If faith is what is believed, then character is faith lived out in real time."

Let's disciple teens today so they won't have to deconstruct their faith tomorrow.

MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Scheevel, (952) 829-2555
hscheevel@bakerpublishinggroup.com



ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Kara Powell, PhD, is the chief of leadership formation and executive director of the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) at Fuller Theological Seminary (see FullerYouthInstitute.org). Named by *Christianity Today* as one of "50 Women to Watch," Kara serves as a youth and family strategist for Orange and speaks regularly at parenting and leadership conferences. Kara has authored or coauthored numerous books, including *3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future*, *3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager*, *Growing With, Growing Young*, *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family* and the entire Sticky Faith series. Kara and her husband, Dave, are regularly inspired by the learning and laughter that comes from their three teenage and young adult children. You can find Kara at KaraPowell.com.



Jen Bradbury serves as content director for the Fuller Youth Institute and a volunteer youth pastor at her local Episcopal church. With more than twenty years of experience in youth ministry, she's the author of several books, including *The Jesus Gap*, *The Real Jesus, Called: A Novel About Youth Ministry Transitions*, and *What Do I Believe About What I Believe?* Jen and her husband, Doug, live in the Chicagoland area where they can regularly be found adventuring with their two young daughters. You can find Jen at YMJen.com.



Brad M. Griffin is the senior director of content and research for the Fuller Youth Institute, where he develops research-based training for youth ministry leaders and families. A speaker, writer, and volunteer pastor, Brad is the coauthor of over fifteen books, including *3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future*, *3 Big Questions That Change Every Teenager*, *Growing Young*, and several Sticky Faith books. Brad and his wife, Missy, live in Southern California and share life with their three teenage and young adult children. You can find Brad on Instagram at [@BGriffinFYI](https://www.instagram.com/BGriffinFYI).

MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Scheevel, (952) 829-2555
hscheevel@bakerpublishinggroup.com



PRAISE FOR FAITH BEYOND YOUTH GROUP

"I hope that every youth ministry leader reads *Faith Beyond Youth Group*. This book not only locates where young people are at but provides insightful, practical, and doable ways to truly cultivate lifelong discipleship. This book is for all youth ministry leaders regardless of the size or context of their ministry. It is not a one-size-fits-all approach; it's an approach that values and esteems every young person entrusted to you by God. This book is hope-filled and provides a way forward for discipling young people in these rapidly changing times."

— **CHRISTINE CAINE**, founder of A21 and Propel Women

"The church is facing a crisis of disintegration. Too many Christians have been formed to dis-integrate their spiritual life with Christ from their life at work, school, and the public square. As a result, the way of Jesus may inform how they conduct their private relationships or manage their households but may not be carried into the more public or communal parts of their lives. Unfortunately, this has severely damaged the witness of the church and the reputation of the faith—particularly among the young. How can we avoid making the same mistake with a new generation? Rooted in research and data, *Faith Beyond Youth Group* reimagines what youth ministry can look like if our goal isn't behavior management but rather character formation. It presents a vision of youth ministry that isn't primarily about disintegrated events but rather teaching, practices, and relationships that occur throughout a young person's life. There is wisdom here for every church that cares about the next generation."

— **SKYE JETHANI**, author of *What If Jesus Was Serious?* and cohost of *The Holy Post* podcast bar

"I genuinely want the teenagers I work with to develop Christlike character. (I desire this in my own life as well.) But that's not because I want them to be good girls and boys who grow up to be well-behaved church members; my motivation is that I want teenagers to experience vitality and a glorious partnership with Jesus in his redemptive work in the world. *Faith Beyond Youth Group* provides rails to run on with research, theological insight, and plenty of practical ideas, bringing to life what some might wrongly think of as a rusty relic of the past."

— **MARK OESTREICHER**, founder and partner, The Youth Cartel

"*Faith Beyond Youth Group* is a game-changing resource for anyone in youth ministry. Kara Powell, Brad M. Griffin, and Jen Bradbury present new research along with stories from their ministry experiences to offer a practical tool for youth workers. The book provides effective ideas and insightful reflection questions to help readers chart their map forward, empowering them to help young people move beyond the traditional youth group experience with a rooted, sustainable life of faith. If you're a youth worker who wants to significantly impact young people's spiritual development, this book is a must-have resource."

— **CHRISTINA LAMAS**, executive director, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry

"This book had me at the title: *Faith Beyond Youth Group*. It's what we all want, hope, and pray for—faith that matters long after our games, teaching, camps, and programs are over. Even better, the book delivers a clear and hopeful compass to reorient youth ministry toward what matters most."

— **DOUG FIELDS**, youth pastor and president of DownloadYouthMinistry.com

MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Scheevel, (952) 829-2555
hscheevel@bakerpublishinggroup.com



SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Why do you think it's so important for us to be talking about youth ministry today?
- Your new book, *Faith Beyond Youth Group*, is a timely message for the Church because so many kids leave the faith after high school. We hear a lot about church dropouts, religious “nones”—those who claim no affiliation—and faith “deconstruction.” What surprised you as you researched character-forming discipleship in light of this backdrop? What stood out the most?
- “Character” is a surprisingly loaded term and has been mishandled in ways that can make it feel outdated or even harmful to young people. What is a more helpful view of character today?
- It seems like everywhere we turn, we hear about another person with a moral / character failing. How do such stories impact young people? How does your research suggest we deal with such failure?
- Youth leaders so often feel burnt out, and in many cases, they feel this way because they are having too little impact. Tell us about a story of burnout—either from you or a youth leader you know. How would/did the Faith Beyond Youth Group Compass have helped in those moments?
- Cultivating trust is all about relationships. How can we foster better relationships with Gen-Z specifically? What makes this generation different than previous generations?
- Modeling growth is one way adults can have a really big impact on students because we live in a world where a person's character, or their private life, doesn't always match what we see publicly or in church. How can youth leaders do more to model integrity and virtue?
- You mention that “character is caught before it's taught.” Can you give us an example of this?
- We've talked a little bit about what sets Gen-Z apart from other generations. How can we take that knowledge and apply it to our interactions with teens? How can we teach in ways that actually lead to transformation?
- “Practice Together” and “Making Meaning” are the last two points on the Faith Beyond Youth Group Compass. What are some of the events / circumstances that young people need to make meaning from? How can we help them do this, particularly by practicing together?
- What can youth ministry leaders do to get started? How can they implement this new compass in their ministries?
- Where can our audience go to connect with you and purchase a copy of *Faith Beyond Youth Group*?

MEDIA CONTACT

Holly Scheevel, (952) 829-2555
hscheevel@bakerpublishinggroup.com

