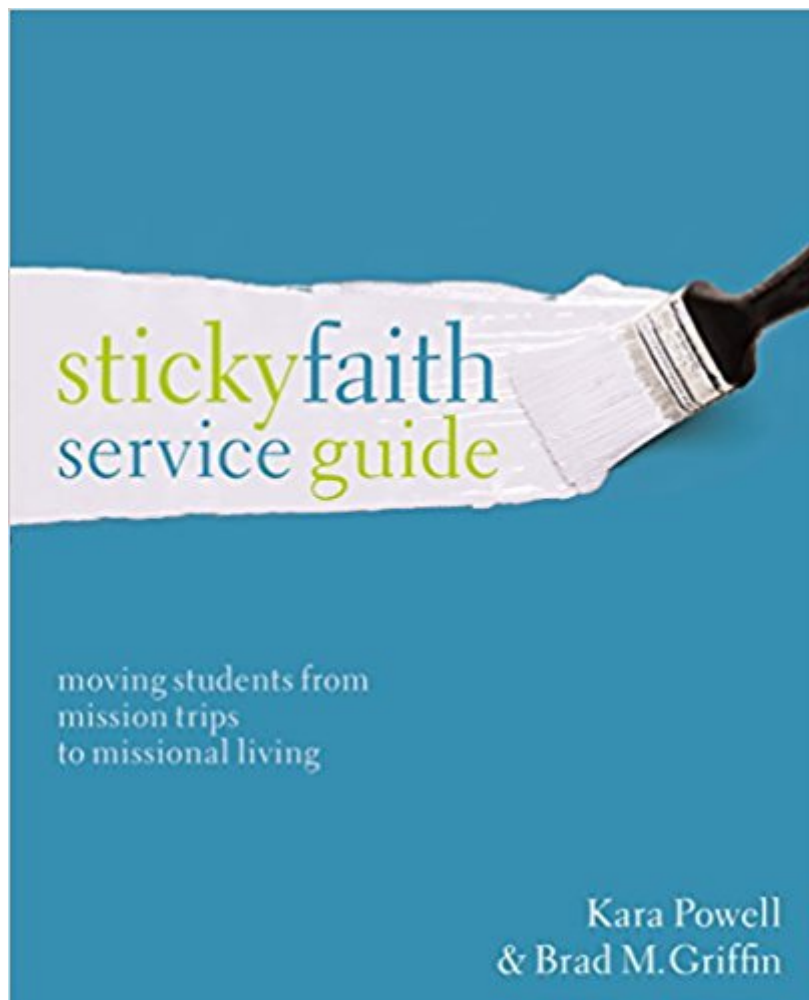




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Sticky Faith Service Guide: Moving Students From Mission Trips To Missional Living



Synopsis

Anyone who serves teenagers today knows that more and more young people are eager to make a difference in the world. When students participate in short-term missions, service, and justice causes, parents and youth leaders hope these experiences will lead to real transformation. But research shows that our efforts don't always stick. If we truly want short-term work to translate into long-term change, leaders and students must spend more time before, during, and after service projects preparing for and processing their experiences. The sessions in this leader's guide will help you create experiences that stick both for the students you take and the communities you serve. This guidebook offers a host of practical and field-tested exercises for each phase of your experience, whether it's a half-day local service project or a two-week trip overseas. Participants will engage in hands-on experiences to gain new insights about themselves, their relationship with God, their teammates, and the world we're called to love and serve. Each of these steps is a catalyst in helping students apply what they have learned in the field to their own lives back at home. Also included are ideas to help get parents and the whole church engaged in service together. A companion student journal is also available to boost the potential for personal application throughout the journey.

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Customer Reviews

"I find that missions are consistently the best and the worst programs we offer in youth ministry. The potential for transformation and Kingdom impact is palpably real; but the hidden curriculums of

self-actualization, pity and judgment, and tourism too often turn what could be beautiful and good into a narcissistic mush. How wonderful to have a research-based guide to avoiding the worst of what short-term missions can be, and leaning into the best." --Mark Oestreicher, Partner, the Youth Cartel

"Short-term trips have massive potential to make long-term impact, especially when combined with thoughtful planning and preparation. Sticky Faith Service Guide offers the most practical and thorough advice on equipping teams for effective service that I've ever seen. Team leaders and participants, you don't want to miss out on the many ways that this outstanding book can help make your next trip a life-changing experience." --Peter Greer, president & CEO of HOPE International and coauthor of Mission Drift

"Sticky Faith Service Guide creates an engaging, accessible guide to maximize the transformative impact of short-term mission trips. Based on years of experience coaching youth leaders, solid theology, cross-cultural sensitivity, and rich insights into spiritual formation--this resource will deliver for groups what it promises: short-term service trips being translated into long-term change. I warmly recommend this resource as a ready-made guide for leaders and youth to make the most for the kingdom of their short term service." --Tim Dearborn, author, Short Term Missions Workbook

"What an incredible resource for churches and families. This book affirms and guides the influence of the families and ministries while giving leaders practical help to move beyond thinking "service projects" to practicing justice in a compassionate and sustainable ways. Every youth ministry and family would benefit from this read. Love it!" --Brooklyn Lindsey, Youth Minister; Justice Advocate, The Justice Movement

"As an urban youth ministry practitioner, I have used mission trips to fortify my students in middle and high school. The challenge of maintaining a long-term lesson from a short-term trip is multi-faceted. This book and workbook provide multiple ways for youth leaders to facilitate this process before, during and after the trip. Youth leaders will embrace this material as another gift from the Sticky Faith family." --Virginia Ward, Director of Leadership and Mentored Ministry Initiatives, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Dr. Kara E. Powell is an educator, professor, youth minister, author, and speaker. She is the Executive director of the Fuller Youth Institute and a faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary (see fulleryouthinstitute.org). Kara also serves as an Advisor to Youth Specialties and currently volunteers in student ministries at Lake Avenue church in Pasadena, CA. She is the author of many books including *Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids* (with Chap Clark) and *The Sticky Faith Guide for Your Family*. Kara lives in Pasadena with her husband, Dave, and their children, Nathan, Krista, and Jessica. Brad Griffin serves as the Associate Director for the

Fuller Youth Institute where he coordinates FYI's team, writes, speaks, and consults with youth workers. Brad has co-authored Can I Ask That? Volume 1 and 2 (Leader and Student Guides, the Sticky Faith Launch Kit, Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition, and Sticky Faith Teen Curriculum. A native Kentuckian, Brad now lives in Pasadena with his wife Missy and their three children. After 20 years in youth ministry, he now serves as a volunteer youth pastor at Mountainside Communion and teaches undergraduate youth ministry as an adjunct at Azusa Pacific University.

Great guide for helping with missions trips. Youth pastors and leaders are busy people; and this is a great tool to use when going on a missions trip. Everything pre, during, post, and future help for the mission trip. You have enough to worry about in the small details of the trip, let this book come along side and be a great resource to help prepare and mature your students fully experience missions and service!

Mission trips usually have two important, simultaneous outcomes. First, those to whom the missionaries minister are blessed and they get encouragement, which sometimes leads into a lifetime of ministry. Second, and probably more reliably, the missionaries themselves go through a transformation through the act of service and ministry (well, if they go for the right reasons), resulting in more spiritual maturity for the missionaries. This book covers both to a point but is heavily lopsided towards the latter. While this is the general idea with this guide, it's a little too unbalanced. This is a mission leader's guide. The guide is broken down into five major sections which I will paraphrase as follows: 1. The call to go on a mission, 2. Preparing for the trip, 3. The experience and service of the trip, 4. Immediately after the trip ends, and 5. Continuing the journey. Each of these sections is very well written and includes excellent information, solid preparatory advice for preparing missionaries for the field service, study topics and more. From this perspective, it seems to be decent and has a lot of good ideas and material. However, it over-emphasizes the expected changes in the missionaries to the point that it feels like this is the sole objective in places. Perhaps these changes are the intended purpose, but it crowds out the point of reaching others and bringing them into relationship with God. Sure, it's there, but it seems very secondary and almost an afterthought. Doesn't seem like much salt to me. I struggle with this book. It does have some excellent study helps and is a good preparatory guide for missionary training and building, but it does so by grossly under-emphasizing the need to reach others. A mission trip where there is little attention to reaching the lost is not a mission trip, it's a church retreat.

Being a parent of three teenagers and having been a volunteer in our student ministries at church for five years, I can tell you that one of the greatest challenges with mission trips and service projects is having more than just a momentary impact. StickyFaith Service Guide takes the adult leaders/pastors step-by-step through the process of creating a meaningful service project/trip that will impact teens for years to come. The five parts of this book cover: 1. The initial steps of getting started, how to partner with parents and the church-at-large, crafting a service trip that sticks 2. Exercises and devotions that prepare adults the students for their upcoming trip/project. This part includes an emphasis on prayer and a section on becoming aware of where God's story intersects with yours. 3. Exercises to complete while you're on trip/project.. These daily quiet times help students reflect on their day, prayers, impact they are having, and how they see God working. 4. Debriefing exercises that you complete with the final hours of your trip. 5. After trip sessions that focusing on ongoing transformation. There is so much that I like about this book I really don't know where to begin. It is laid out in a realistic manner that is very doable, but not watered down. I love the emphasis on family and community. I can really see this book having an impact on both adult leaders and students.

As a trainer and leadership/management coach with three college degrees in how people learn, I am impressed with this book, and its companion Journal book ---Â Sticky Faith Service Guide, Student Journal: How Serving Others Changes You So many activities in both business and the church are just, "get 'er done." Very little THOUGHT is given to projects beyond how to make them happen. These books establish an *excellent* framework for learning: 1. The "pre-event" planning, which goes past the "what" and deep into the "why." 2. Methods for observing and giving thought to the events as they're happening. 3. "Post-event" debrief activities, to help build and/or strengthen the core lessons in one's mind and heart. Naturally, the book can only be used "so many times" - but hopefully one recognizes the patterns to the point that they could be modified / replicated to meet people where they're at in their spiritual growth. One additional point I'd like to make: These books are not just for missions trips! My daughter is in American Heritage Girls (a very Christian form of scouting for girls), and they are required to do "service projects" throughout the year. I've seen some of these projects get planned and executed, but sometimes they happen with that "just get 'er done" mentality. These books are written/designed in such a way that they help cement solid, valuable lessons in the girls' service projects, too! If you have anything to do with service projects / missions trips, these books WILL be helpful!!

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