

YMX SEMINAR: Innovating Our Way Forward



Fuller Youth Institute

With Yulee Lee and Steve Argue, Fuller Youth Institute

If there was ever a time to experiment in youth ministry, it's now. Maybe you're rethinking your regular programming, your ministry approach, or your own role in this season. None of us know for sure what's coming next, but we can all learn innovation tools that prepare us to keep playing even while the game keeps changing.

We want you to be the first to know about *Sticky Faith Innovation*, a new book for youth ministry leaders that we're launching in January 2021. Visit <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/ymx> to find free downloadable resources from the FYI team and sign up with your email to find out more about *Sticky Faith Innovation*.

COMPASSION

Compassion, expressed through empathy, is more than a feeling or aspiration. It is actually a skill that helps us tune in to the people we serve. Empathy is the way we attempt to understand others, feel their emotions, and seek to see the world through their perspectives. It helps us pause before we move too quickly to critique teenagers' actions or rush to give them advice. Empathy not only helps teenagers; it can transform us.

Try This

Take time in the next few weeks to invest in conversations with your teenagers—online, socially distanced, zoom. Whatever works best for you. Talk with them for one purpose—to listen for what matters to *them*. To get you started, here are some great question prompts:

- Tell me about your friends. What do you appreciate about them?
- What's on the heavy rotation on your digital music?
- Describe for me your best Saturday ever.
- Who do you look up to, and why?
- What do you think is the toughest part of being a teenager?
- What do your friends think about religion/spirituality/faith? What about you?

CREATIVITY

You are most creative when you create together! When you exercise your creativity, you make possibilities happen for yourself and for others.

Try This

Ask: How can I nurture my creativity?

- When do I feel most creative?
- What people, activities, literature, topics inspire me?
- How will I make time for creative space in my life?

Ask: How can I nurture the creativity of others?

- Who do I share my ideas with? Who else might I add to that list?
- What holds our team back from being creative together?
- What is a first step we might try?
- Might fear, division or agendas be keeping us from creating together? What can we do to heal and grow together?

COURAGE

Courage is the stuff that probably brought you into youth ministry in the first place. It inspires you to be brave and keep taking ministry risks on behalf of your teenagers!

Try this

Ask Yourself: Where in my life do I need to be more courageous? What might be holding me back?

Reflect on your team: Where might our team need to grow in order to risk more to serve our teenagers?

- How might we be a healthier team?
- How might we follow through on a project we know we need to do?
- What must we stop doing in order to try something new?

Name where you are at: Some risks are bigger than others. If you and your team can dream up some things you want to innovate- which ones make the most sense?

- Which change do we value the most?
- Which change requires more or less effort?

VALUE VS. EFFORT

