

Case, S., and Cisneros, H. (2015). *Building a Great Team: Youth Group Essentials*. Lincoln, NE: AdventSource. 112 pages.

“Now what do I do?” This is a question often asked in youth ministry. While many good resources exist to help answer the question of what to do, sometimes there are pieces missing or that don’t apply to your specific youth ministry because it is a smaller, volunteer-run, Adventist operation.

Steve Case and Hubert Cisneros must have sensed the need for better resources and teamed up to create *Building a Great Team*, the second in a series of five books designed to help youth workers, both paid and volunteer, “build a strong, team-centered youth group.”

*Building a Great Team* is full of solid, thought-provoking, and engaging exercises designed to help tackle the tough questions youth workers face by helping build a solid foundation for youth ministry in the reader’s context. While finding answers to specific, pressing questions that resulted from a previous youth group event like, “how do I get chocolate pudding out of a baptismal tank?” the truth is that we would all do well to take a few steps back and grapple with the big picture. *Building a Great Team* helps one do just that.

As the reader works to solidify the big picture, the pressing nuts and bolts of ministry must also be addressed, particularly with functioning in the context of a church. *Building a Great Team* gives lots of resources in dealing with the pastor, church board, conference office, as well as assembling and resourcing a team. It is in the number of resources that the book finds its greatest weakness.

Due to the numerous resources, having them in print format is laborious. Additionally, any changes that need to be made, or forms that need to be used over and over again would be better served in a digital format. Therein lies the beauty of this work: the greatest weakness is the number of resources!

Everyone’s reading list is no doubt long, but I believe any youth worker would do well to prioritize *Building a Great Team*.

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