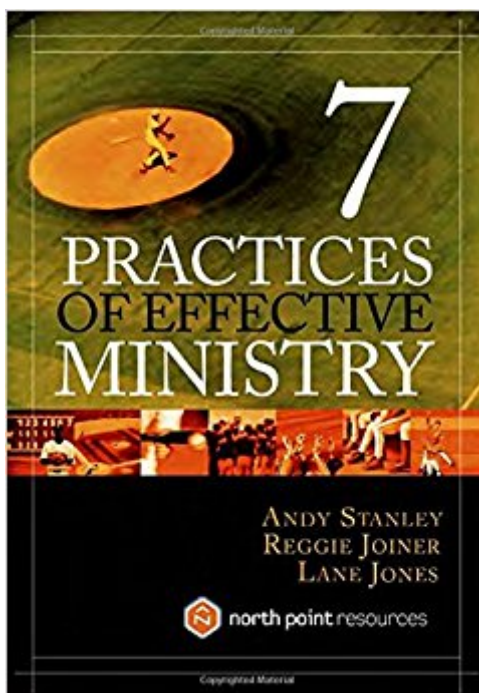


The book was found

Seven Practices Of Effective Ministry (North Point Resources)



Synopsis

There's no scoreboard in the sanctuary, and the only plate is probably for the offering. But every church leader needs to know how to win, and every congregation needs to know when to cheer. This insightful book speaks to every church leader who yearns for a simpler, more effective approach to ministry. An engaging parable about one overwhelmed pastor is followed by an overview of seven successful team practices, each one developed and applied in a ministry setting. Reinforced by relevant discussion questions, these clear, easy, and strategic practices can turn any ministry into a winning team. Your ministry is perfectly designed to produce the results you are currently experiencing. If you are satisfied with those results, you don't need this book. If not, it's time for a change. Like your own personal trainer, *7 Practices of Effective Ministry* is an insightful guide for any leader who yearns for a simpler, more effective approach to ministry. Here are seven strategic principles that when put into play will bring focus and clarity to everything you do and turn your ministry into a winning team.

Story Behind the Book Looking for ways to help pastors faced with hectic lives and depleted resources, Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner, and Lane Jones decided to write a parable about the complicated life of a local pastor. Rather than come straight at those in ministry with formulas and lists, they engage readers in an effort to have them identify with the character.

“For many years, I practiced and taught church growth. What I have witnessed as a member at North Point takes church growth to a whole new level. Andy and his team communicate principles that will add value to you and the church you love.” -John C. Maxwell, founder, The INJOY Group

“Every professional athlete recognizes the value of solid coaching. The best are always working to get better. From what I've seen at North Point, these seven practices can improve the game of any church in America.” -John Smoltz, Cy Young Award-winning pitcher

“The practices covered in this book are down-to-earth, practical, and come from real difference-makers who know what church leadership is all about. Andy, Reggie, and Lane have definitely hit the ball out of the park with the *7 Practices of Effective Ministry*.” -Ed Young, Jr., senior pastor, Fellowship Church

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Customer Reviews

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Andy Stanley is a communicator, author, and pastor. ANDY STANLEY founded Atlanta-based North Point Ministries in 1995. Today, NPM is comprised of six churches in the Atlanta area and a network of 30 churches around the globe collectively serving nearly 70,000 people weekly. As host of *Your Move with Andy Stanley*, with over five million messages consumed each month through television and podcasts, and author of more than 20 books, including *The New Rules for Love, Sex & Dating*, *Ask It*, *How to Be Rich*, *Deep & Wide*, *Visioneering*, and *Next Generation Leader*, he is considered one of the most-influential pastors in America. Andy and his wife, Sandra, have three grown children and live near Atlanta.

This is a great resource for ministry leaders who want to personally grow and help their organizations grow in effectiveness. North Point's ministry has a demonstrated track record of reaching unchurched people, and the ideas behind its success are embedded here in a short work that can be read quickly but can have big impact on how a ministry operates. I thought the first

section (baseball analogy) had good points but could probably have been handled in less space (more of an extended vignette rather than an extended section accounting for almost half the book). The second half is terrific, with 7 practices that are really insightful and helpful (although be warned! not easy to implement). I got the most impact out of ch. 14, which talks about how we should do more listening to outsiders rather than catering to insiders, as so many churches do. North Point has made countercultural moves in reaching out to the unchurched crowd, and I think that reflects the heart of Jesus. So I applaud this book's usefulness for helping the church be more strategic, practical, sensible, and effective.

Clearly written for business, but there are so many great points and perspectives, I am referring to my business leaders as well. For Ministry, highly recommend pastors and lay leaders to read this book. Stanley does not mess around with sugar coating things - which is great - he is up front with the challenges and approaches for stronger ministry today ... He starts with a "story" in the first 1/2 of the book and finishes with the tactical explanation of the 7 practices. The style at the start is similar to books like "The Anatomy of Peace" or other books that teach through a story - very effective. Then his hands on and practical direction for applying the practices is easy to follow and consider what that looks like for your organization. Highly recommend this book. We listened on audio and then bought the book because there were so many things we wanted to reference and review.

If you like baseball metaphors, you will enjoy this book. It's a well written and engaging book about running the church efficiently using a business model. The outline has two parts and sixteen chapters full of practical applications of seven practices. Outline: Part I: Getting in the Game: Ray's Story
1. The Best-laid Plans
2. Throwing Strikes
3. Keeping Score
4. Getting on Base
5. Staying Focused
6. Teaching the Fundamentals
7. The Roar of the Crowd
8. Developing New Talent
9. Managing Your Way to Victory
Part II: Putting the 7 Practices to Work
10. Clarify the Win
11. Think Steps, Not Programs
12. Narrow the Focus
13. Teach Less for More
14. Listen to Outsiders
15. Replace Yourself
16. Work On It
Epilogue: A Final Challenge

This book completely changed my mindset. Honestly, I wasn't looking forward to reading it. I have read similar books and felt like I was being punished, but I flew through this book in weekend. I am now better able (and more willing) to delegate tasks. I am also better at relating tasks to the actual mission of my ministry and able to make them more meaningful (both to myself or those I delegated

them to). I read this book in preparation a retreat and I feel it helped me to center my goals and make the retreat more meaningful to those that attended. It helped me remember that ministry is not just about the people that you are trying to help. The people that are working with you want to feel closer to God as well. They need to feel like a valued part of the ministry, and they need to have ownership in it too. There may be some things you are doing that aren't at all related to your goals that you need to stop. There may be needs in front of you that aren't being met. This book helped me to focus my ideas and my ministry. I highly recommend this book for anyone involved in any level of ministry. It can also make it easier for you to understand the intentions people in charge.

This was book #7 of 2014 and I have to say it was probably the most ministry changing book I have ever read! That's not really an exaggeration. It's not that I had never heard bits and pieces of these seven practices before, it was just that I never saw them as practically necessary for my ministry. In *Seven Practices of Effective Ministry*, Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner, and Lane Jones of Atlanta's North Point Community Church detail how these seven practices have helped them sustain long impact as one of America's most successful churches. Simple? Yes. Profound? Incredibly. Easy? Not by a long shot. It is so easy to get caught up in running the programs and maintaining from week to week that it is hard to make the necessary systemic changes required to stay effective over a period of time. It takes a maturity and security that not many leaders possess and I am not even sure if I possess yet. But reading these steps has changed the way I think about ministry from a organizational level but also personally as a leader. I know that I need to build tie into my schedule to step back and examine how I am doing things and to examine where I am as a leader. Even in my limited experience, I can see that this is a new necessity for me. I would recommend any church take their staff through this book and incorporate these tools. Jesus desired that we bear fruit, and these practices will help churches be more fruitful for His Kingdom.

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