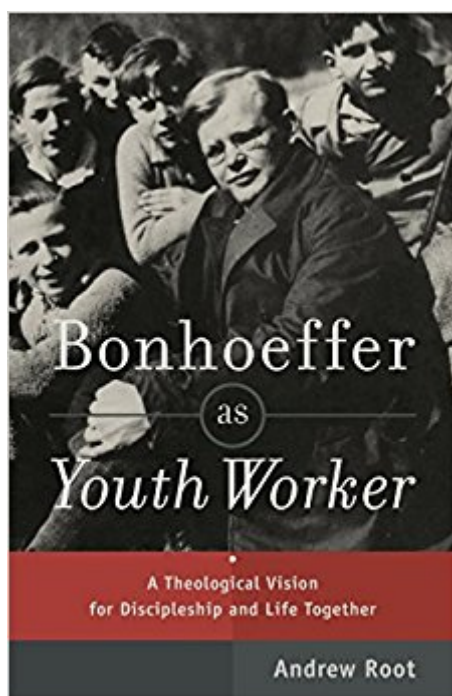


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# Bonhoeffer As Youth Worker: A Theological Vision For Discipleship And Life Together



## Synopsis

A youth ministry expert presents Bonhoeffer as the forefather and model of the growing theological turn in youth ministry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A compelling addition to the literature on both youth ministry and Bonhoeffer" "Bonhoeffer as Youth Worker reads like the labor of love that it is, introducing Bonhoeffer as a fellow pastor who shares your passion for young people's journey of faith and your conviction that Christ's church should receive youth without using them. Andrew Root is at his best here, warmly introducing us to an old friend who we didn't know knew us so well."--Kenda Creasy Dean, Princeton Theological Seminary; author of *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church* and *A More Excellent Way: What Youth Ministry Can Teach Theological Education If We Let It* "I read everything Andy Root writes, and I hope you do the same. Andy sheds new light on one of my theological heroes, illuminating Bonhoeffer's timeless power to shape your understanding of both ministry and our faith itself."--Kara Powell, Fuller Youth Institute, Fuller Theological Seminary "I have quite literally never read a youth ministry book anything like this: full of history, story, theological articulation, and implication. Absolutely fascinating."--Mark Oestreicher, partner, The Youth Cartel "In Andrew Root's first book, he made an intriguing connection between Dietrich Bonhoeffer and youth ministry, and that left a lot of us wanting more. Now Root has given us a great gift by mining that connection deeply and thoroughly. And the result is wonderfully rewarding. This book is a

compelling addition to the literature on both youth ministry and Bonhoeffer, and it will be read widely."--Tony Jones, theologian in residence, Solomon's Porch; author of *Did God Kill Jesus?* (tonyj.net)"Andrew Root argues convincingly that Bonhoeffer scholars have overlooked a significant and animating aspect of his theological formation: his regular interaction with youth and children.Â In recovering this thread of Bonhoeffer's ministry, Root finds a forefather for the kind of theological youth ministry that he has been promoting, critiques contemporary technological approaches to youth ministry, and weaves together a practical-theological 'place-sharing' approach to youth ministry that engages the concrete and lived experiences of youth.Â This is an important book."--Benjamin T. Conner, Western Theological Seminary

Andrew Root (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Children of Divorce*, *Revisiting Relational Youth Mini*

Root has done a fine job of demonstrating Bonhoeffer's passion for and ministry to young people. His overview of Bonhoeffer's life (part 1 - the majority of the book) is very inspiring and the insights drawn from his early years are insightful. His interaction with *Discipleship and Life Together* (as the subtitle directs) is helpful but very brief - just two chapters. Here he summarizes both works and keys in on a few of the major themes, connecting them appropriately to youth ministry today. True to form however, he stops short of providing practical steps for the youth worker to implement these insights - cautious not to make faith a program or idea. Altogether this is a well researched, well written and well-worth-reading book for anyone in youth ministry (and even those looking for a great brief introduction to Bonhoeffer). However, if your looking for something more practical (and equally inspiring) I'd recommend starting with *The Theological Turn*, *Christopraxis* and *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry*. I also found his *Theological Journey Through Youth Ministry* series (*The chronicles of Nadia*) to be very thought provoking and inspiring. All-in-all I'm a big fan of Root.

This was more of a biography of Bonhoeffer than I was expecting. It turned out to be an excellent surprise, but a surprise nonetheless. At the time I read this, I was a new youth minister who was searching for any help I could find. I found both a comfort and a challenges in Bonhoeffer's life experience with youth ministry. Andrew Root does an excellent job briefly, but adequately, explaining difficult German theologies that inspired Bonhoeffer's work. At times, I felt like Root was pushing his other book on youth ministry a bit too much.

There are many books on the life of Bonhoeffer, and some of them much longer than this. The outstanding difference here is that Root helps us to see Bonhoeffer's role as a youth minister, not just an academic or lecturer. For those interested in recent church history, youth ministry, or even those who want to hear more about Bonhoeffer, you will enjoy and value this book.

There are many Bonhoeffer biographies but Root's stands alone in illuminating Bonhoeffer's time and care as a youth worker. This one stands alone in illuminating the timeless key to youth work and to any ministry of a community. Bonhoeffer is seen here in a new light that helps scholars and practitioners alike. Kudos to Root.

This book clearly articulated both Bonhoeffer's rich history and contributions to youth ministry, as well as Andy Root's deep commitment to theological reflection and practice. While I knew about Bonhoeffer's life, I appreciated the connection and application for youth ministry.

An outstanding, fresh take on Bonhoeffer. He convinced me of his claim that Bonhoeffer was first and foremost a youth pastor, from beginning to untimely end. A must read for anyone who claims to be a Christian and certainly for anyone who works with youth and family ministry in the Church.

One of the best youth ministry books I've ever read... impetus for a near-central shift in my philosophy of ministry.

Intriguing- suggest reading along with Eric Metaxas biography-

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