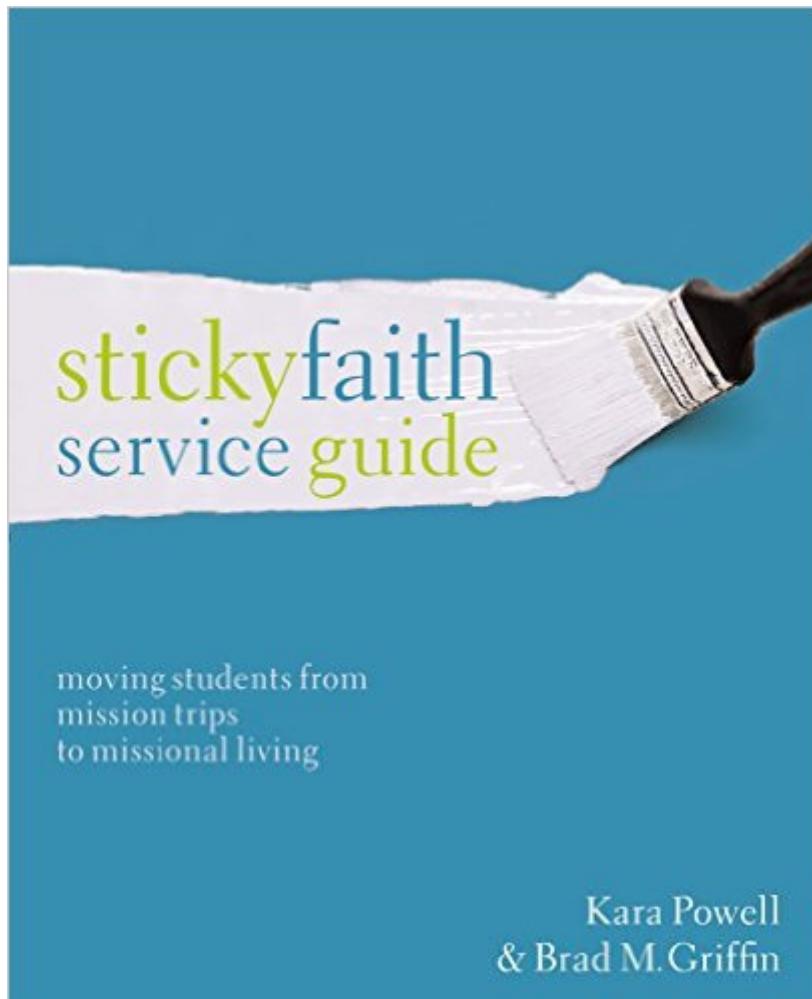


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# Sticky Faith Service Guide: Moving Students From Mission Trips To Missional Living



## **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. Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

You've been to a developing country. You've participated in some building project; outreach programs; and lived with people from another culture. You've also learned a lot about cross-cultural

missions and how to share the gospel in a different context. You've ministered to the marginalized or the poor. You've contributed both money and time to a worthy cause. After the mountain high experience, you return to your home country. What next? Will your mission end after the mission trip? According to a missiology research journal published in 2013, over one-third of US congregations had sponsored 1.6 million churchgoers overseas. With such huge outlay of expenses, yet there is a troubling lack of 'career missionaries.' Materialism concerns continue to remain high. Most worrying, many mission-trippers never really go beyond what they had done at their mission trips. In other words, the mission enthusiasm doesn't seem to stick. Authors Kara Powell and Brad Griffin have been promoting the need for 'sticky faith.' They are not interested in people going just for a mission trip. They desire to find out how best to help such people go beyond the trip to become missional people everywhere they go. Following Powell's powerful book entitled, "Sticky Faith," which aims to help young people maintain a passion for God, and to build lasting faith, this book uses the same concepts and apply them to short-term mission trippers. Beginning with an assumption that people always wanted to do more, Powell and Griffin shares their model of framing the needs; experiencing and reflecting on what has been done; debriefing; and steps toward ongoing transformation. Part One of the book describes the initial steps of preparing for life after the mission highlight.

Every year, hundreds of churches, across the spectrum from fundamentalist to the most main line of main line congregations, embark on a short term mission trips. • All are well-intentioned, whether their main thrust is evangelism or mercy or both, but all too many of these groups are not fully prepared for the experience. There are so many ways these activities can go wrong, from failure to understand the culture of the area visited to inattention to safety to lack of planning for how both participants and those with whom they partner in the target area will ultimately benefit. Enter the Sticky Faith Service Guide. As the title indicates, this is a guide that will work best for those trips focused on service and mercy rather than one that is designed to be overtly and completely evangelistic. However, the sticky faith part of the title is also an important part of the book's focus. The authors are concerned with helping those who go on these trip to move from mission trips to missional living, • pointing out with examples and exercises how seeking justice and mercy are part of an intentional Christian faith. (In fact, while other reviewers have seemed to indicate that the guide could be used for secular groups, I doubt that most such groups would find this to be very relevant.) Even if you are well into the planning of a short-term mission trip, the guide is something all the leadership will benefit from. The beginning section gives some overall

hints for all stages of the process, while later chapters focus on specific activities to use with the group before, during, and after being on location.

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