

Jeanne Mayo

Keeping Yourself Relevant For The Long Haul

The paradox of youth ministry is that about the time we have been in youth ministry long enough to have a little perspective, seasoning and depth, we begin to feel we are a little out of touch and maybe a little too old.

Ten simple things to help keep yourself relevant for the long haul:

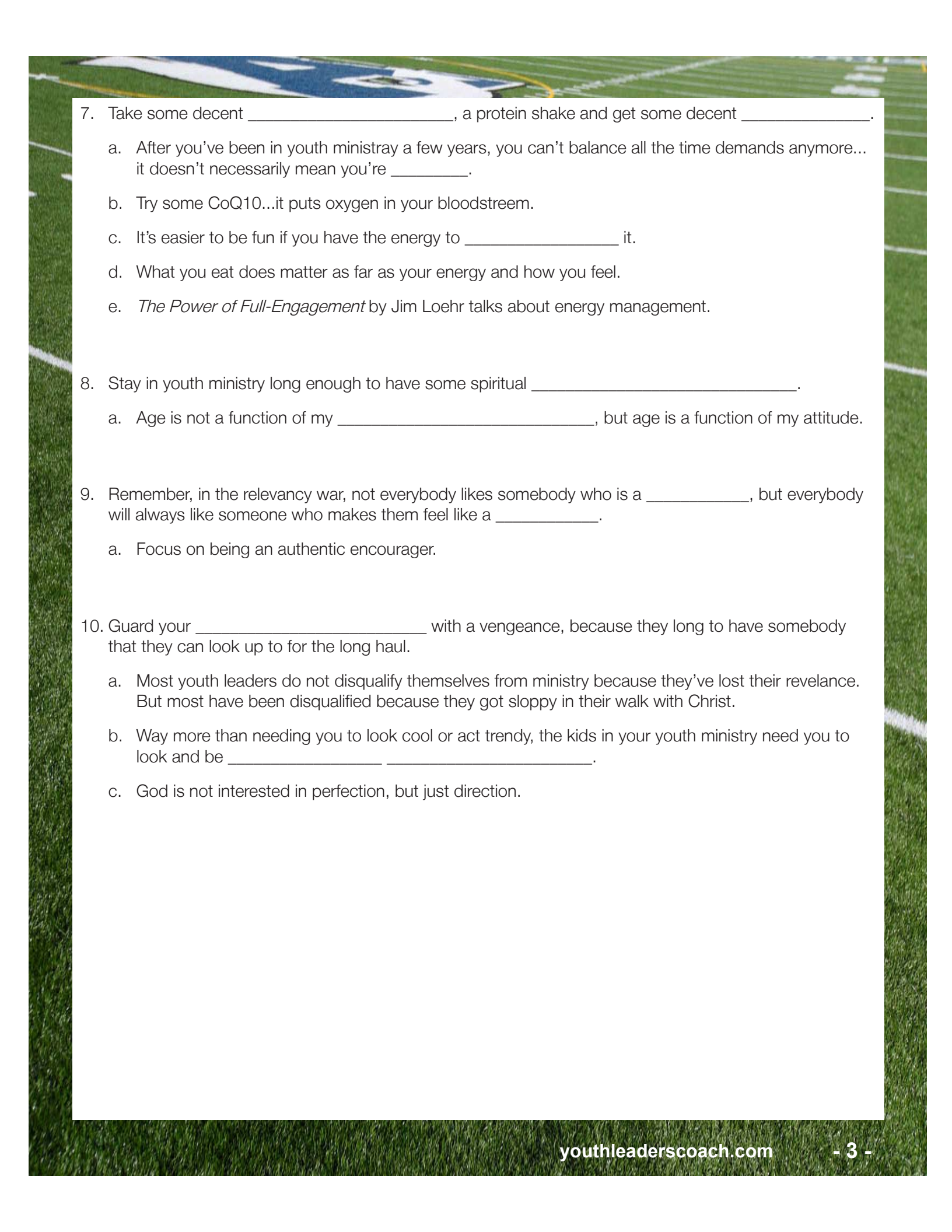
1. Don't focus on the _____.
 - a. You will stay relevant because you have loved on kids and are an _____ friend and _____ to them.
 - If you have to choose between coach and companion, choose the coach side.
 - b. Don't focus on the fads but don't be stupid...have your kids help you keep up on what's _____.

3. Make sure you _____ yourself strategically into some _____ leaders.
 - a. Pretto Principle = _____% of your efforts will give you _____% of your reward.
 - b. Give yourself away to some younger emerging leaders or "_____" and be their hero, so they can be heroes to some of those kids younger than they are.
 - c. Being a decipler and mentor will keep you relevant for a long time.

3. The kids in your youth ministry represent a generation without a _____ and many of them a generation without real _____ attached moms or dads.
 - a. You can almost violate every other rule, if you make them feel _____.
 - b. There has never been another time when kids needed an adopted big brother, big sister, mom or dad like today.
 - The stats say the typical American dad talks seriously and intimately with his son or daughter less than two minutes a week!

- Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 4, 14-17 (KJV), *“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”*

4. Choose your _____ wisely.
 - a. Remember, most trends will pass...be careful because you have only a limited amount of _____ in your bank...spend it wisely.
 - b. It's okay to set higher standards for your leaders, but when it comes to your kids, concentrate on the _____ issues and the _____ issues.
 - c. With all the voices in their heads, teenagers need us to be fixed points to _____ them, as we come back with the right _____-_____ voicetone and ask them to take a look at what they're doing, because it does matter where they are headed.
 - The more touchy your truth is, the more you need to make sure your voicetone radiates confidence and yet love and non-defensiveness.
 - d. Whatever and whomever you _____, will always draw to you, but whatever and whomever you _____, you will push away from you.
5. You are going to have to get out of your _____ church world and spend some time in their world.
 - a. Time is the _____ commodity today.
 - b. It can be a little scary to connect on their turf, but if you want to stay relevant, you will overcome the fear, awkwardness and time crunch and show up in their world...it is such a big deal. Occasionally showing up at their high school, getting a Coke together, going shopping, playing basketball with them or going to a recital will make you beyond relevant in their eyes, that action will make you _____.
6. Choose to stay _____ to be around.
 - a. Attitude is _____.
 - b. Fun is an attitude, not an _____.
 - c. Fun is choosing not to get upset over the _____ things.
 - d. Remember to look in the _____ at your own face. A smile on your face makes a totally different attitude come across.

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7. Take some decent _____, a protein shake and get some decent _____.
 - a. After you've been in youth ministry a few years, you can't balance all the time demands anymore... it doesn't necessarily mean you're _____.
 - b. Try some CoQ10...it puts oxygen in your bloodstream.
 - c. It's easier to be fun if you have the energy to _____ it.
 - d. What you eat does matter as far as your energy and how you feel.
 - e. *The Power of Full-Engagement* by Jim Loehr talks about energy management.

 8. Stay in youth ministry long enough to have some spiritual _____.
 - a. Age is not a function of my _____, but age is a function of my attitude.

 9. Remember, in the relevancy war, not everybody likes somebody who is a _____, but everybody will always like someone who makes them feel like a _____.
 - a. Focus on being an authentic encourager.

 10. Guard your _____ with a vengeance, because they long to have somebody that they can look up to for the long haul.
 - a. Most youth leaders do not disqualify themselves from ministry because they've lost their relevance. But most have been disqualified because they got sloppy in their walk with Christ.
 - b. Way more than needing you to look cool or act trendy, the kids in your youth ministry need you to look and be _____.
 - c. God is not interested in perfection, but just direction.



Answers:

fads; authentic; coach; out of style; multiply; younger; 20%; 80%;
champions; family; emotionally; loved; battles; influence; heart; character;
anchor; non-condemning; respect; repel; ivory tower; biggest; revolutionary;
fun; everything; activity; small; mirror; vitamins; sleep; old; endure;
grandchildren; chronology; hero; hero; integrity; Christ honoring