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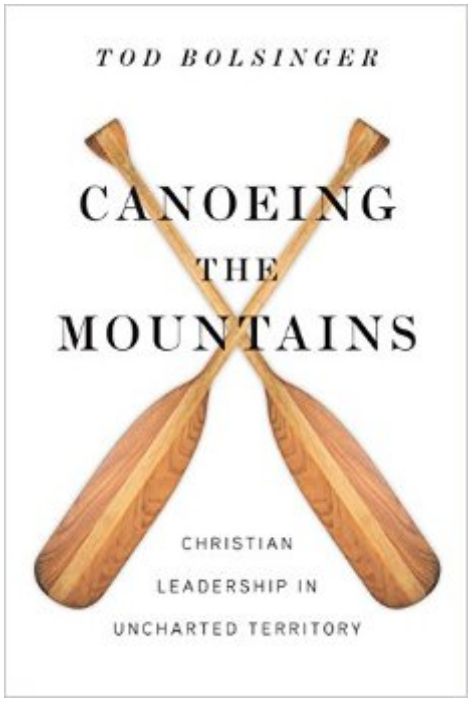
Canoeing The Mountains: Christian Leadership In Uncharted Territory



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Synopsis

Explorers Lewis and Clark had to adapt. While they had prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves in the Rocky Mountains. You too may feel that you are leading in a cultural context you were not expecting. You may even feel that your training holds you back more often than it carries you along. Drawing from his extensive experience as a pastor and consultant, Tod Bolsinger brings decades of expertise in guiding churches and organizations through uncharted territory. He offers a combination of illuminating insights and practical tools to help you reimagine what effective leadership looks like in our rapidly changing world. If you’re going to scale the mountains of ministry, you need to leave behind canoes and find new navigational tools. Reading this book will set you on the right course to lead with confidence and courage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a fantastic book for any church leader who is struggling to navigate culture change and culture wars. The book balances great academics with practical application and is well written. Every pastor needs to read this more than once and keep it close at hand. Excellent material.

Canoeing the Mountains is one of the great textbooks on pastoral leadership for our time. Donâ ™t buy it if you like the title or are looking for a few tips to tweak what you already think you know about leadership. This is a serious book. It synthesizes the best of secular leadership thinking with the

best Christian understanding of pastoral leadership. Very few people could write a book like this. Tod Bolsinger could do it because he has very unique gift set: a pastorâ ™s heart, a humble spirit, a brilliant mind, and a consultantâ ™s ability to frame issues.Iâ ™ve read a ton of leadership books. Before I retired from the Air Force and went to seminary, I taught leadership to senior officers from around the world at the Air War College, the Air Forceâ ™s senior school for professional military education. I find myself now as senior pastor of a transforming church in the center of rapidly changing city. This is one of the best and most important books for pastors and Christian leaders available today.I wish I had this book when I was in seminary. It would have helped me take what I knew from leading in secular world and apply it to leading in the church. The book challenges you to admit your weaknesses while confirming your best instincts. Pastors should study it together. Seminaries should make it required reading.There are many good books on leadership out there that deal with one particular aspect of pastoral leadership. This book puts them all together.

The Kindle version of Canoeing the Mountains is poorly formatted so the charts and text boxes are dropped into places that make no sense. This was a total waste of my money and I was forced to purchase the paperback to read.Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory

I am telling everyone I know in ministry to read this book. Every generation faces change but we are in the middle of truly radical change from christendom to post-christendom. Bolsinger not only helped me understand this change within our culture but also how to reframe the challenges facing the church into opportunities for adventure and transformation. Being a pastor in a mainline congregation, it’s s a gift to have someone describe the ’elephant in the church’ so that I can help my congregation not only grieve the church’s loss of cultural privilege (by naming the elephant) but actually learn how to adapt to this new context with evermore faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ. The chapters on relationships and resistance are gold for anyone trying to lead change but feel stuck. I’m a better pastor for reading this book and feel like I am seeing more clearly the challenges facing me and the church... and I’m excited for what’s ahead!

Tod Bolsinger masterfully uses the Lewis and Clark expedition to illustrate the need to adapt and move forward in the world around us. This is specifically written for Christian leadership as they engage in the paradigm shifts of the 21st century but I highly recommend it to anyone in business as well.

In my work of training leaders I now have a strong word of encouragement â " Donâ ™t engage your leadership journey unless this book is in your backpack. â œCanoeing The Mountainsâ • deals with one of the most daunting questions we face as Christian leaders - How are we to lead in a world that is increasingly ambiguous, uncertain, and complex? The wise counsel to master â œon the mapâ • leadership so as to establish trust for â œoff the mapâ • leadership was worth the price of the book. As a professor dedicated to teaching the art and craft of Christian leadership I know of no better resource for understanding and applying the concept of adaptive leadership than this work.Terry Young, Ambrose University

This is one of the best books on leading transformation in a local congregation that I have read. Tod Belsinger draws on an impressive amount of current literature about leading adaptive change; grounds the insights in solid theological reflection; and translates it all into very practical and practicable actions. I have recommended it to many of my friends and colleagues already.

I train pastors in a variety of places across the country, integrating missional theology, adaptive leadership, spiritual formation and family systems. This book synthesizes those disciplines in a comprehensive and practical way with great story telling that resonates with the authors boots on the ground experience. I'm recommending it everywhere I go to pastors, congregational leaders, and to anyone who is seeking to learn "off the map" leadership competencies.

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