



## RELEVANT PRACTICAL MINISTRY FOR MEN

# 2019 FATHERING ADVENTURES

Tom Gensler takes the lead in organizing and running RPM's annual *Fathering Adventures* weekend at Little Galilee Christian Camp. "It is the most rewarding thing I get to do all year long," Tom says of the July event.

"This was our sixth year. The camp has been at max capacity the last four years. It is very popular.

"What we aim for is the perfect blend of structure, free time for fathers and sons, and biblical learning. We want to help dads to encourage and bless their sons as they move into the next phase of manhood."

Ryan Stacey, fresh off his second year at the two-night camp, offers his perspective:

"My son and I had a great experience. Alexander is eight, and this was his second time also. The zip line, the swimming, the giant swing, the food...and all amid wonderful fellowship and excellent teachings.

"The one-on-one time with your son is something I found valuable," Ryan says. "You have these discussions that help you grow closer to God. Us fathers attended teaching sessions while the kids were out playing that helped to guide these discussions. We were taught how to do a timeline through life and interact with our kids; how to be that godly parent we all want to be.

"We were encouraged to ask our sons questions, like: 'How do you think I'm doing as a father?' I know I learned from the answers."

Praise God for providing another awesome weekend for Christian men and boys at our *Fathering Adventures* camp.

### CALENDAR

#### BOLD MEN'S CONFERENCE

August 24  
Monticello IN

#### IGNITE PATHWAY TRAINING

September 21  
Grace Bible Church, Florissant MO

#### REAL-LIFE DISCIPLESHIP PAPERBACK RELEASE

September

#### NAT. COALITION OF MEN'S MINISTRY

October 22-23  
Dallas, TX

#### LEADING NOBLE MEN

November 7  
1st United Methodist Church  
Springfield IL



Fathering Adventures 2019

## AFFIRMATION OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS



When my girls were still young I was shown, by the grace of God, that the first thing out of my mouth in response to their achievements was often critical. "You should have done it this way," and so on.

I had a critical nature when it came to my children, which is a common tendency among men. So, I made a conscious effort to hold my tongue until I had something positive or encouraging to say.

Matthew 17:1-5 shows us how, during the transfiguration of Jesus, God audibly affirms his son. If God the father finds it valuable to affirm Jesus, don't you think we, as Dads, should follow that example? Not that we want them to think they can walk on water, but we need them to know we love them unconditionally.

At *Fathering Adventures* camp we heard a talk on this subject, then held a ceremony in which fathers publicly professed their love for their sons, focusing on positive character qualities over performance qualities. Not, "you're really good at football," but "you have a heart for honesty," or "I love that you have compassion."

If affirming your kids comes easy for you, great! If not, it's time to make that conscious effort. Our children need to know foremost that *God* loves them, and right below that, that *you* love them.

Tom Cheshire

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" -- Matthew 17:5

## GENSLER'S CORNER



I thought I'd give an update on our book release. "Real-Life Discipleship" is out as an ebook, and the paperback is due out September 9. We also had a professional reading of the book accompanied by music for Audible. I don't personally listen to books, but I'm told that it is getting to be very popular, especially among men.

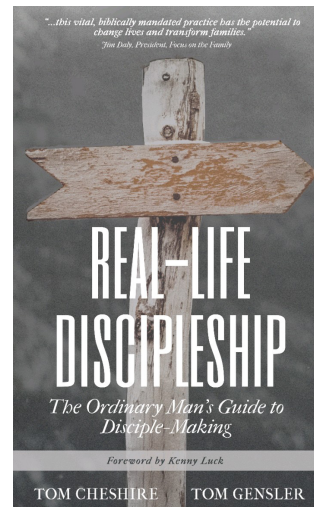
The whole book publishing journey has been a fun experience, seeing how it works, getting the book onto Amazon, Audible, Google Books and so on. The marketing is interesting.

We've had 300 presales already, praise God. That suggests we're reaching beyond central Illinois and getting our thoughts to a wider audience. We want them to hear RPM's brand of ministry.

You can't always see the eventual impact of ministry, but sometimes you can be encouraged in the moment. That's what I enjoy about

Fathering Adventures—getting to see fathers and sons blessed and walking closer. To me, the book is similar in that it is gratifying to see the effort is being noticed, and to imagine how God's kingdom might be enriched in the future.

Tom Gensler



Your support of RPM actively encourages and assists local church pastors. Your prayers and financial contributions make this ministry possible. Together, we are RPM!



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PO BOX 8171, SPRINGFIELD IL 62791  
Tom Cheshire. 217.622.4069 tom@rpmfm.org  
Tom Gensler. 217.685.1726 tgensler@rpmfm.org  
Mark Eason. 314.398.9398 bkeason@rpmfm.org

**WWW.RPMFM.ORG**