

From the **FIELD**

KEITH POLK **A MENTOR'S STORY**



Keith Polk, one of the first *Fathers in the Field* Mentor Fathers, recalls the moment when he knew he had made a heart connection with his Field Buddy, Taylor. "We were coming home from

turkey hunting. I dropped him off and he turned and waved at me. I was likely to explode with excitement! Little things like that are important," exclaims Keith, who, having mentored Taylor for numerous years, has learned to rejoice in the small victories of life with a fatherless boy.

The wound of abandonment runs deep and mentoring a boy who bears it can be challenging. But as Keith concludes, the reward is far greater. "It's worth it because it's what God called me to do. And I get to see Taylor grow. One day, I believe I will see more than a wave when he turns around and walks away. But whether I do or not, I am obedient to the Lord. And, I have grown to love Taylor like a son. I mentor him now because I love him. I want to see him grow like I want to see my own son grow."

About

Fathers in the Field



Based in Lander, Wyoming and created by a man who was deserted by his own father at a young age and keenly felt that loss his entire life. Upon accepting Christ as his Savior in 2002 and being

reconciled to his Heavenly Father, John Smithbaker started a journey of understanding, acceptance and, most importantly, extending and asking forgiveness. In 2005, John was inspired to create a way to seek and help others suffering the pain of a father's abandonment, and *Fathers in the Field*—a natural outgrowth of his faith and his love for the outdoors—was born.

DEFEND THE CAUSE OF THE FATHERLESS

ISAIAH 1:17

The cause of the fatherless strikes at the very center of God's heart and He has promised great rewards for those who defend the cause of the fatherless. Consequently, some of His harshest judgments are reserved for those who abuse or take advantage of the fatherless, and on those who sit idly by watching the abuse take place.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS?

If you are a man, who loves the outdoors; who has a passion for following Christ; believes that God has the power to use you to make a difference and can commit to a few hours a week to make a difference in a young boy's life, then this program is for you.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

To discover more about *Fathers in the Field* or to get started, contact your Church Champion or go to www.fathersinthefield.com. If you would prefer to have the Church Champion contact you, please fill in your information below and give this brochure to an usher, pastor, elder or place it in the offering.

Name _____

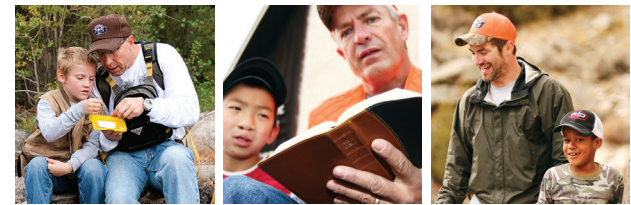
Email _____

Phone _____

SPECIAL NOTE FOR SINGLE DADS:

Even if you only see your son a couple of times a month, you can engage with him in a relationship with Christ. *Fathers in the Field* offers a Deuteronomy 6 program for fathers and sons.

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OUTDOORSMEN

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A BOY'S LIFE

GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE MENTORED BY A GODLY MAN THROUGH

Fathers in the Field[®]

OUR MISSION is to rekindle and establish the spirit of boys who have been abandoned by their fathers; mentoring them one-on-one in life skills through outdoor activities, and by sharing a Christian understanding of our Heavenly Father's love and sacrifice for His Children.

WWW.FATHERSINTHEFIELD.COM

How the **Journey** works

FATHERS IN THE FIELD® WORKS TO ACHIEVE 3 IMPORTANT GOALS

FAITH

Share and demonstrate to boys that they have a Father in heaven who created, loves and cares for them, and will never forsake them.

Joshua 1:5



FATHERHOOD

Demonstrate fatherly love and commitment, to repair broken spirits and prepare the foundation for future fatherhood.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9



FORGIVENESS

Share the need for boys to forgive the failings of their earthly fathers, as our Heavenly Father forgives His children in Christ.

Mark 11:25



Combining

Faith, Fatherhood, and Forgiveness with the kind of blood-pumping, outdoor **Fun** that no videogame can match, *Fathers in the Field* works through local churches across America.

Avid outdoorsmen in Christian congregations are empowered and equipped to reach out to fatherless boys in their communities and introduce them to the Father who will never leave or forsake them-God Himself.

Journey Step **Commitments**

Mentor fathers and boys meet four times a month, using the tools of the ministry, to gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special end of year celebration outdoor activity.

JOURNEY TALKS™

A monthly hands-on activity, progressively preparing for their special year-end “Adventure Passage” event, while incorporating a Life-Journey curriculum that guides boys into authentic Christian manhood. The Mentor Fathers share their love for the Heavenly Father in their comfort zone... God’s Creation.

CHURCH FAMILY

The Mentor Father commits to pick-up and bring his Field Buddy to Sunday school and Church two out of the four Sundays. Here the boys foster their church family relationships that provide caring, faith-nurturing affirmation and instruction of the Heavenly Father’s wisdom and love.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Here the boy develops a serving attitude and learns that he has value, working each month serving and giving back through ministry activities by helping people in need such as widows and the elderly.

ANNUAL “ADVENTURE PASSAGE” EVENT

Boys and Mentor Fathers apply their new knowledge and skills in their own special, multi-day outdoor journey that celebrates their time together and their rite of passage toward authentic manhood.

- > Mentor Fathers commit to about 5 hours per month.
- > Mentor Fathers and Field Buddies meet (4) times a month (two of which are Sunday school and Church) and using these tools, gain insight and understanding, serve others, worship, and plan a special outdoor activity so they have a year-end “rite of passage” adventure celebration to prepare and look forward to.

The only way to heal the wound of abandonment is through the radical, counter-cultural truth of **FORGIVENESS**



We are confident that through a faithful commitment to a fatherless boy, his future will be much brighter and that godly outdoorsmen will have the distinct privilege of introducing him to the Heavenly Father and to His Son, Jesus Christ.