



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear RSM Parents & Students...

Hello 2018! The old is gone and the new has come! New possibilities, new goals, new endeavors! What a great year I am sure the Lord has in store not only for you and your family but for the RSM ministry. There is much to be excited about when it comes to this ministry season and the months to come. See below for upcoming retreat dates for High School and Middle School Students - registration has already begun and spaces are now limited!

Parents – THIS MONTH We have a SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY coming JUST FOR YOU!!!! Please plan to attend!!!

We are aware that parents of teenagers have many questions when it comes to the challenges your kids face. Whether it is sexual desire, body image and identity, technology, dating, communicating, connecting; the teenage years can be tough for both parents and children to navigate. We desire to encourage and equip you more fully as we continue to partner with you in your parenting ministry. On January 28th from 6:30-8:30pm we will be hosting Regeneration Ministries as they present “[PG] Conference” in the Great Room at GFC. This event is a gift to you from RSM and comes with no cost or strings attached. Come, be encouraged, be equipped, and be

empowered as a parent. YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!!! See details below.

We as an RSM staff and leadership team are so blessed and privileged to be partnered with you in the discipleship of your child. We pray many blessings and abundant peace for you and yours in the new year.

In Him,

Luke and the RSM Team



RSM high school seniors and leaders along with young adults from GFC Timonium and Shrewsbury traveled to D.C. to start the New Year worshipping God and hearing from the world's best teachers with 50,000+ other 18-26 year-olds at PASSION Conference 2018!

Events and Opportunities...



January 28th - [PG] Conference (RSM Parents)

6:30pm-8:30pm

Great Room at GFC

Drop your child off for RSM and stay for this no-cost learning opportunity! We are partnering with Regeneration Ministries to bring you the *[PG] Conference*. This event, designed for parents of middle and high school students, will help you to cultivate healthy desire in your kids.

Become your son or daughter's greatest ally and guide in the areas of identity, healthy relationships, sex, and sexuality. At this event, you will gain further insight on: connecting with your teen, understanding the experience of and exposure to social media, addressing sexual behavior including pornography, and facilitating conversations about sexual identity according to God's design. We will join other parents, hear from several speakers, and have a time of Q & A. Come, be encouraged, be equipped, and be empowered as a parent.

Questions? Contact [Christine Seese](#)

[What is the \[PG\] Conference?](#)

February 4th - RSM Super Bowl Break

RSM will not be meeting - enjoy time with your family!

See you on February 11th, 2018!

February 16th-18th - Winter Meltdown (High School)

River Valley Ranch in Manchester, MD

Registration Ends January 26, 2018

All high school students are encouraged to join us at River Valley Ranch for Winter Meltdown!

Printed Winter Meltdown information packets are also available to pick-up during the RSM program on Sunday nights.

Questions? Contact [Christine Seese](#)

[Information & Registration for HS Winter Meltdown](#)

February 18th - RSM Break

RSM will not be meeting - middle school students will enjoy time with their D-Teams off-site while high school students are away on retreat at River Valley Ranch! Contact your child's D-

Team leader for more information.

See you on February 25th, 2018!

March 9th-11th - Winter Meltdown (Middle School)

River Valley Ranch in Manchester, MD

Registration Ends February 16, 2018

Every middle school student is encouraged to join us at River Valley Ranch for Winter Meltdown! Printed Winter Meltdown information packets are also available to pick-up during the

RSM program on Sunday nights.

Questions? Contact [Christine Seese](#)

[Information & Registration for MS Winter Meltdown](#)

March 11th - RSM Break

RSM will not be meeting - high school students will enjoy time with their D-Teams off-site while middle school students are away on retreat at River Valley Ranch! Contact your child's D-Team leader for more information.

See you on March 18th, 2018!

RSM Calendar Updates...

Rooted Student Ministries FAMILY Calendar 2017-18

January 2018
Mon 1st - Wed 3rd - **PASSION CONFERENCE** (6th-15^{yr})
Sun 7th - RSM
Sun 14th - RSM
Sun 21st - RSM
Sun 28th - RSM and **PG Conference with Regeneration Ministries**- Parents Only
(6:30pm-8:30pm in Great Room)

February
Sun 4th - Super Bowl Break (no RSM)
Sun 11th - RSM
Fri 16th - Sun 18th - **WINTER MELTDOWN (HS)***
Sun 18th - No RSM - MS D-Teams meet offsite
Wed 21st - **RSM One Wednesday in Shrewsbury (Student Leaders)**
Sun 25th - RSM

March
Sun 4th - RSM
Fri 9th - Sun 11th - **WINTER MELTDOWN (MS)***
Sun 11th - No RSM - HS D-Teams meet offsite
Sun 18th - RSM
Sun 25th - RSM

April
Sun 1st - **Easter Sunday Break (no RSM)**
Sun 8th - RSM
Sun 15th - RSM
Sun 22nd - RSM
Wed 25th - **RSM One Wednesday (Student Leaders)**
Sun 29th - RSM

May
Sun 6th - RSM
Sun 13th - **Mother's Day Break (no RSM)**
Sun 20th - RSM
Sun 27th - **Memorial Day Break (no RSM)**

June
Sun 3rd - Last RSM before summer break

July
Mon 23rd - Fri 27th - **LEAD THE CAUSE* (Student Leaders)**

KEY RETREAT DATES:
Feb. 16th-18th - WINTER MELTDOWN (HS)
March 9th-11th - WINTER MELTDOWN (MS)
July 23rd-27th - LEAD THE CAUSE (Student Leaders)

MEETING TIMES:
RSM Evening Program - 6:30-8:30 pm
RSM One Wednesday - 6:30-8:30pm

1/10/18

Please check-out and print our [UPDATED RSM Family Calendar](#) for a peek at the events, activities, retreats, and breaks planned for this winter/spring!

Current Teaching Series...



I'M IN

January 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

To follow-up with your child and to gain more insight into what we are teaching in this series, download our [Parent Cue](#) or visit gfc.org/rsm/currentseries.

“Are you in?” A question we all answer over and over again. When there’s a party, when our coach says it’s time for tryouts, when we’re offered a summer job, when our friends go to the movies, or when someone invites us to church, we all have the chance to decide if we’re “in” or “out” for that particular activity. Sometimes the answer is an easy, “Count me in!” Other times it’s tougher. There are good reasons on both sides. Some of Jesus’ friends were faced with the same decision of whether they were “in” or “out.” They had good reasons to join the Jesus movement, but they also had some pretty compelling reasons to step out—things like doubt, guilt, pride, and the fear of what they might miss. As we get to know these sometimes famous and devoted followers, we’ll talk about the decision they faced, why they could have walked away, and what led them to say, “I’m in.”

January 7th

Bottom Line: Following God starts with knowing your need.

Have you ever felt far away from God? Maybe you've been a part of church your entire life, but now, when you're singing songs, reading your Bible, or listening to your pastor talk about God, you don't feel anything. Or maybe you've never really felt close to God at all and find yourself wondering how everyone else seems to have figured it out. No matter where you're coming from, it's hard to feel *in* with God when we feel far from Him. But the good news is that we're never as far from Him as we think we are. In fact, the Bible gives us story after story of some of God's most faithful followers who at one time or another seemed to be far away—on the outside wanting to get in. This week we'll look at one of those people in particular and how drawing close to God and choosing to be *in* changed her life forever. And as we do, we'll learn that the first step to drawing closer to God—to saying we're all in with Him—is simply acknowledging how much we need Him.

January 14th

Bottom Line: Relationship > Rules

When it comes to rules, most people fall into one of two categories: rule-keepers or rule-breakers. Think about it! There are those who are bound to following even the simplest of rules no matter what, while others are just as bound to breaking them. It seems like the two couldn't be more different, but, believe it or not, there's one thing both types of people have in common: they're always focused on the rules. And sometimes there's no place we see this more than at church. Whether you're a rule breaker or a rule keeper, it's easy to become so concerned with what you're doing right—or *not* doing right—that the rules become the point. But when we make the rules our primary focus in our faith, we tend to lose sight of what's most important: a relationship. When God invites us to be in with Him, He's not inviting us to live a rules-focused life, but rather a relationship-focused life with Him. And as we look this week at how that truth impacted someone close to Him, we'll see that when we shift our focus from rules to relationship we'll begin to truly step into the life Jesus called us to live.

January 21st

Bottom Line: Don't let doubt keep you out.

Have you ever known someone who tells the truth no matter what? One of those people who can't help but be honest even when the outcome might not be great? We all probably know someone whose honesty has gotten them (and maybe even us) in

trouble. And when that happens, we find ourselves thinking that things probably would've been better if they'd not been as open and honest. In other words, we think sometimes honesty isn't the best policy. And for a lot of us, this is the way we approach our relationship with God. There are some things we talk about openly and honestly and other things we think we shouldn't talk about at all. And one of the biggest things we tend not to be honest about is our doubt. When we question if God's real, when we wonder if He's going to do what He promised, when we don't know if He's good—those are doubts. And believe it or not, they aren't always bad things to have! The problem with our doubts isn't that we *have* them, but rather that we don't do anything *about* them. How can we truly be *in* with God if we're not being honest with Him? This week we'll look at the story of Thomas, a guy who struggled with doubt throughout His walk with God. And we'll see that when Thomas was honest about his doubts, Jesus was able to meet him and invite him in.

January 28th

Bottom Line: Following Jesus starts with a step.

When faced with a decision in your life, have you ever stopped to ask yourself this question: is it worth it or not? Maybe for you it was something simple, like trying to decide if you wanted that second helping of dessert or if you should purchase an expensive pair of shoes. Or maybe it was a bigger decision in your life, like whether or not you should end a friendship or make a choice in a relationship that you can't take back. Though we typically know what the right or smart choice might be, sometimes we wonder if making that decision will really be worth it in the end. Sometimes a relationship with Jesus feels just like this, too. We know what God says about following Him—what choices we'll have to make, habits we might have to change, things we might have to give—and we find ourselves wondering if it will be worth it in the end. The good news is that asking this question doesn't make you any less *in* with God. In fact, some of Jesus' own disciples probably asked themselves the very same thing before they followed Jesus! As we wrap up this series we'll learn from Matthew, a tax collector that had a lot to lose, that taking that first step to follow God is always worth it in the end.



