

VIDEO 1

Transcript

What Is Runner Church?



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Hey there everyone, Pastor Jimmy here of *Runner Church*. Thanks for joining me for part one of a series of short videos where I'm going to tell you about *Runner Church* by answering some frequently asked questions. In this video, I'm going to answer the #1 question we get asked...

"What is Runner Church?"

Let me begin by giving you a one-sentence answer, and then I'll unpack it a bit to add some clarity.

Runner Church is a ministry and community that exists to help others take the next step in their spiritual journey by "loving God" and "loving people" through running.

It is a ministry that was founded by myself and my wife, Paula, and has grown to include a wider community of runners who share in our mission to carry out the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40 ... "love God with all your heart, soul, and mind" and "love your neighbor as yourself" - and the Great Commission - (Matthew 28:18-20 ... "make disciples" IE to help others take the next step in their spiritual journey). And we do this through running.

Our 3-word tagline summarizes it nicely: Love. Train. Race.

Our lives are built on God's love and, as we are training and racing, we demonstrate and declare that love in how we interact with other runners. Our aim is to show other runners what God is like as we represent Jesus in our running community.

We are not a traditional church that meets on Sunday mornings in a building, but we were commissioned by one of them. Redeemer Church in Omaha, NE sponsored and sent us out, and we are affiliated with the Heartland Church Network. I have been ordained in the Gospel ministry and served as associate pastor in a traditional church for several years. As a ministry and community, *Runner Church* is a part of THE church, the people of God (IE "body of Christ", the "household of faith", "the family of God") who go and gather to serve His purposes in the world.

2 Corinthians 5 tells us that we have been given a new life, new identity and new purpose. We now serve as ambassadors FROM Jesus TO runners (among other people), sharing and showing the story of His love and the kind of life that He invites them into.

Paul David Tripp says...

What is the biblical story? It's the story of a God of love invading the world in the person of his Son of love to establish his kingdom of love by a radical sacrifice of love, to forgive us in love and draw us into his family of love, and to send us out as ambassadors of the very same love.

We believe that God gives us opportunities to run with other people so we can be a part of the most important work in the universe as His ambassadors in order that others might better experience the immeasurable riches of a life that is anchored to Jesus. We want to communicate one thing through running...

Life with Jesus is far better than life without Him!

As Steve Timmis and Tim Chester say, "*What's the question? Jesus is the answer. What's the problem? Jesus is the solution.*" What we don't want to do is simply give people answers to their questions or solutions to their problems, but rather we want to give them Jesus, who is both of those and more.

God transforms our lives for infinite good and sends us out to be agents of transformation in the lives of other people for their infinite good as He works through us. When we run with others, we try to answer a simple question: how would Jesus act if He were in His favorite pair of Hokas running with us? And we aim for that.

So, running is a platform that we use to model the Christian faith and talk about the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus.

Ultimately, we want to help other runners believe the Good News (gospel) of Jesus more fully in more areas of their lives for their good and God's glory.

In our next video, I'll answer the question, "*Who Is Runner Church For?*" What you'll find out is this: if you're a runner, then *Runner Church* is for you! Regardless of where you are at in your spiritual journey, we would welcome the opportunity to have you attend a gathering or join us for a group run, even if you haven't started a spiritual journey at all. Watch the next video for more information.

For now: What is *Runner Church*? A ministry and community of runners who see roads, tracks, trails and treadmills as places to show who Jesus is TO us and who Jesus is THROUGH us so other people might experience the abundant life that He alone can deliver. We are a group of runners who love God and love people through running. And we do it for their good and His glory.

Love. Train. Race.

Short Version: *We are a group of runners who love God and love people through running.*