

VIDEO 3

Transcript

What Does Runner Church Do?



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Hey there, thanks for checking out this third installment in our video series. Once again, this is Pastor Jimmy from *Runner Church* and I am answering a few frequently asked questions so you can “*get to know*” us and what we’re all about. In this video I’ll be addressing the question...

“What does Runner Church do?”

I briefly introduced our purpose in the first video, but will unpack it in greater detail over the next few minutes.

We find our purpose in Matthew 28:18-20...

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We have been called to “*make disciples*”. We define that call like this...

Runner Church exists to help others take the next step in their spiritual journey by the power of God to the glory of God.

We want to help other runners believe in Jesus more fully in more areas of their lives. That takes place ... One. Step. At. A. Time. Disciple-making is the ongoing process of helping others take the next step in their spiritual journey.

- For some people the next step is to voice their skepticism at the claims of Christianity.
- For some people the next step is to ask spiritual questions for things they don’t understand.
- For some people the next step is to attend a Sunday morning gathering to check us out.
- For some people the next step is to join us for a long-term Bible study.
- For some people the next step is to start attending or join a local church.
- For some people the next step is learning to share their faith.
- For some people the next step is overcoming an addiction or sin.

- For some people the next step is volunteering, serving, and using gifts.
- For some people the next step is in their marital life, financial life, vocational life, recreational life, or social life.
- For some people the next step is forgiving someone, dealing with a hurt or anger, or seeking help for an everyday life issue.
- For some people the next step is learning to experience peace, joy, hope, contentment, rest, security, comfort, guidance, companionship or any other void that Jesus promises to fill.

There – literally – are thousands of different steps that might be the next one in front of any unique and specific person.

Our aim is to help them identify what that next step is, show them the model / means / motivation found in the Gospel so they can take it, and lovingly walk with them as they journey on.

In reaching for that goal, every *Runner Church* activity falls into one of the following three categories...

- 1. GOING:** We go where the runners are and simply love them like Jesus. Whether this is meeting up for a run with a friend or participating in a Taco Tuesday group run, we go have fun with our runner friends and try to show them the heart of our loving God. We model Jesus' servant attitude by volunteering at events, hosting aid stations, supporting causes, and helping out our runner friends on and away from the course. All along the way, we pray for people, inject the Good News of Jesus into the conversation when appropriate, and invite people to join us for a...
- 2. GATHERING:** A few times each month (weather permitting) we meet at a popular running locale for a FAITH AND FUN GROUP RUN that I spoke about in video two. The singular purpose of those gatherings is for every runner in attendance to hear Good News that is relevant to something specific they deal with in everyday life. Additionally, we host cookouts, game nights, Christmas parties, running documentary screenings, and a variety of other events for runners in our home. We welcome them in just like Jesus welcomes us in. With each of these there is usually a very short gospel-centered devotional that is shared with those who attend. We use these events to genuinely love others by modeling the love of God that we have received. Our gatherings are "on ramps" to invite people to dig deeper into the messages through a small group Bible study.
- 3. GROUPING:** We'd really like runners to join us in a Sunday night Bible study in our home where we can talk more in-depth about how God desires to change our lives for our infinite good and His glory. We host a long-term discipleship program on Sunday nights where we talk about real life issues, how the Good News of Jesus provides a solution to those issues,

and encourage each other to live in line with the truth of the Gospel for our joy and His praise. In these studies we show the beauty of God's design for all things, the brokenness that occurs when we abandon His design, and how restoration is possible as we believe the Good News of Jesus more fully in more areas of our lives. For those who are not plugged into a local church, we encourage them to start attending and join one so they can further experience and participate in the community of God as He intends.

We view it as a sort of "good-better-best" progression. "Good" is coming to a 10-15 minute message at a *Runner Church* gathering on Sunday mornings. "Better" is coming to a 2-hour *Runner Church* Bible study in our home. "Best" is getting plugged into a local church and attending *Runner Church* events as a supplementary part of your spiritual journey.

Wherever we are and whatever we do, we use running as a platform to help meet the physical and, especially, spiritual needs of other runners as God works through us.

Of course, all along the way...

We encourage runners to bring other runners with them for the journey!

We're all in this together. In fact, we're better together because God has wired us for community.

The end result we'd like to see is simply this...

As runners grow in their faith, they too GO, GATHER and GROUP to multiply.

The ultimate aim is "disciple-making disciples". That is, as runners take the next step in their spiritual journey they also help other runners take next steps. We want to see every runner doing "whatever they can, wherever they are" to fulfill the Great Commandments ("love God, love people") and Great Commission ("make disciples"). We all get to be a part of the most important work in the universe as ambassadors to bring honor and glory to our God and see His image-bearers span the globe into every nation, tribe, people and tongue.

We are passionate about runners. This is our tribe. We care deeply about their well-being, and we are committed to helping them experience the fullest life possible that is found in knowing and following Jesus.

What do we do? We help other runners take the next step in their spiritual journey. Step after step, mile after mile, we lovingly run through life with others to serve them in any way we can.

Short Version: *We help others take the next step in their spiritual journey.*