

RUNNING — WITH THE — GIANTS

Part 4: John the Baptist

Big Idea

For the final installment of *Running with the Giants*, we're pulling Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, out of the stands. John lived a life of humility, always pointing people back to Jesus.

John prophesied the coming of Jesus and baptized hundreds (including Jesus), but he was imprisoned just as his ministry took off. His life didn't look the way he thought it would, and, for a moment, John's reality began to shape his faith. Like John, we often find ourselves in situations we didn't hope or ask for, and it can be easy to doubt or feel like God is absent. In spite of everything he faced, John would tell us that when life doesn't make sense, we can put our faith in God's purpose.

John would encourage us to know God's promises, experience what God is doing, and remember who God is. When we know the promises of God's Word, we can walk confidently in His truth no matter the circumstance. God's Word isn't meant to just be a part of our lives; it's meant to inform every aspect. Also, when we see and share what God is doing, it's easier to take our eyes off our current situation and put them on our Savior and His promises. There's nothing like a good "God testimony" to help us put our faith in God's purpose. Lastly, when we remember who God is, we can claim Matthew 11:6 (AMP), "And blessed [joyful, favored by God] is he who does not take offense at Me [accepting Me as the Messiah and trusting confidently in My message of salvation]."

Even when life doesn't make sense on this side of eternity, Jesus is our confidence and hope!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

Discussion Questions

- When John questioned his situation, Jesus responded with truth and grace. How will becoming more familiar with God's Word allow you to hear both the truth and the grace He's promised you? Share a current situation you're going through.
- As a group, let's take our eyes off our current situation and put them on God's promises. Take this opportunity to share a moment when you could see what God was doing in your life.
- Do we walk in full confidence of who God is, or does our reality often shape our faith? What's your biggest takeaway from this week's message?

Prayer Focus

This week, let's ask God to help us see areas where our reality has become bigger than our faith. Ask Him to help us find revelation in His Word and to become secure in His promises.

Next Steps

Consider ways you can see what God is doing by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus!

Leader Tips

Share a "small thing" you've witnessed God do in your life or in the life of another. Hopefully this will help others recognize that God is in all the details.