

RUNNING WITH THE GIANTS

Part 6

Big Idea

Throughout the “Running With the Giants” Series, we have been learning key truths from some of the greatest heroes of the faith found in the Bible. This week, we talked about Sarah, the wife of Abraham and ancestor of Jesus Christ. Sarah dreamt of being a mother her entire life, and God had promised her husband that he would be the father of many nations, but Sarah was unable to conceive a child. Taking matters into her own hands, Sarah told Abraham to sleep with her maidservant, Hagar, so that she could raise a child. As a result of this impulsive action, Hagar bore a son named Ishmael, and his life caused division in an otherwise great family. When Sarah was 90 and long past childbearing years, God fulfilled his promise and miraculously gave her a son, Isaac, which means “laughter” – an appropriate name in response to the beautiful absurdity of his birth. If Sarah were here today, she would advise us on moments when we can’t understand God and impatience threatens to overwhelm us, saying, “Don’t complicate God’s promise with your solution.” We must trust God to fulfill His promises – even if it takes time; even if it seems ridiculous; even if those around us don’t trust Him – because He is faithful. Sarah would encourage us not to try to get ahead of God when He isn’t moving fast enough for us. God is a patient God, and we need to adopt the same spirit of patience, being willing to worship as we wait. And as we wait, we need to focus on what God is doing within us, not what’s happening to us. We mustn’t try to rush God, because even our very best cannot possibly compare to anything God has in mind. Let’s persevere in patience, because He has a much better plan for our lives than we have for ourselves.

“And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered Him faithful who had made the promise.” – Hebrews 11:11

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time when you were standing on a promise from God that wasn't fulfilled as quickly as you expected. How did you persevere as you waited? How did you see His faithfulness in the fulfillment of His promise?
- Discuss this quote: “Patience isn’t the ability to wait but how you act while you’re waiting”. What do you find difficult about waiting for God to move? What can you do to make the most of a waiting season?
- Talk about a promise you are currently waiting for God to fill. What practical steps can you take to ensure that you are waiting well?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His unfailing love and faithfulness to you. Praise Him for being a God of His word. Ask Him to help you trust Him as you wait for Him to act. Pray for the discernment to know which voices you need to dismiss from your life. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you with patience and increase your hope for the fulfillment of His promise. Thank Him for having great plans for you.

Next Step

Commit to trusting God regardless of your circumstances, and turn off any outside voices that cause you to doubt Him. Worship daily, and be still in His presence. Develop a joyful expectancy for the fulfillment of His promise to you!

Leader Tip

Plan creative ways to get new group members into your group and to help them feel welcome. Encourage current group members to help you.