Title: **Run Church Run**
Speaker: Pastor Mark Scarr, November 22, 2026
Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:1-33, NIV

2 Samuel 18:1-18, NIV
1 David mustered the men who were with him and appointed over them commanders of
thousands and commanders of hundreds. **2** David sent out his troops, a third under the
command of Joab, a third under Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruiah, and a third under
Ittai the Gittite. The king told the troops, "I myself will surely march out with you." **3** But
the men said, "You must not go out; if we are forced to flee, they won't care about us.
Even if half of us die, they won't care; but you are worth ten thousand of us. It would be
better now for you to give us support from the city." **4** The king answered, "I will do
whatever seems best to you." So the king stood beside the gate while all his men
marched out in units of hundreds and of thousands. **5** The king commanded Joab,
Abishai and Ittai, "Be gentle with the young man Absalom for my sake." And all the
troops heard the king giving orders concerning Absalom to each of the commanders.
6 David's army marched out of the city to fight Israel, and the battle took place in the
forest of Ephraim. **7** There Israel's troops were routed by David's men, and the casualties
that day were great—twenty thousand men. **8** The battle spread out over the whole
countryside, and the forest swallowed up more men that day than the sword. **9** Now
Absalom happened to meet David's men. He was riding his mule, and as the mule went
under the thick branches of a large oak, Absalom's hair got caught in the tree. He was
left hanging in midair, while the mule he was riding kept on going. **10** When one of the
men saw what had happened, he told Joab, "I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree."
11 Joab said to the man who had told him this, "What! You saw him? Why didn't you
strike him to the ground right there? Then I would have had to give you ten shekels of
silver and a warrior's belt." **12** But the man replied, "Even if a thousand shekels were
weighed out into my hands, I would not lay a hand on the king's son. In our hearing the
king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'Protect the young man Absalom for my
sake. **13** And if I had put my life in jeopardy—and nothing is hidden from the king—you
would have kept your distance from me." **14** Joab said, "I'm not going to wait like this for
you." So he took three javelins in his hand and plunged them into Absalom's heart while
Absalom was still alive in the oak tree. **15** And ten of Joab's armor-bearers surrounded
Absalom, struck him and killed him. **16** Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops
stopped pursuing Israel, for Joab halted them. **17** They took Absalom, threw him into a
big pit in the forest and piled up a large heap of rocks over him. Meanwhile, all the
Israelites fled to their homes. **18** During his lifetime Absalom had taken a pillar and
erected it in the King's Valley as a monument to himself, for he thought, "I have no
son to carry on the memory of my name." He named the pillar after himself, and it is
called Absalom's Monument to this day.

Do you run like _____ or do you run like _____?

1. Run _____.
2. Run _____.
3. Run _____.

2 Samuel 18:19-33, NIV

19 Now Ahimaaz son of Zadok said, “Let me run and take the news to the king that
the Lord has vindicated him by delivering him from the hand of his enemies.” **20** “You are
not the one to take the news today,” Joab told him. “You may take the news another
time, but you must not do so today, because the king’s son is dead.” **21** Then Joab said
to a Cushite, “Go, tell the king what you have seen.” The Cushite bowed down before
Joab and ran off. **22** Ahimaaz son of Zadok again said to Joab, “Come what may, please
let me run behind the Cushite.” But Joab replied, “My son, why do you want to go? You
don’t have any news that will bring you a reward.” **23** He said, “Come what may, I want to
run.” So Joab said, “Run!” Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite.
24 While David was sitting between the inner and outer gates, the watchman went up to
the roof of the gateway by the wall. As he looked out, he saw a man running alone.
25 The watchman called out to the king and reported it. The king said, “If he is alone, he
must have good news.” And the runner came closer and closer. **26** Then the watchman
saw another runner, and he called down to the gatekeeper, “Look, another man running
alone!” The king said, “He must be bringing good news, too.” **27** The watchman said, “It
seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok.” “He’s a good man,” the
king said. “He comes with good news.” **28** Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, “All is
well!” He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, “Praise be
to the Lord your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord
the king.” **29** The king asked, “Is the young man Absalom safe?” Ahimaaz answered, “I
saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king’s servant and me, your
servant, but I don’t know what it was.” **30** The king said, “Stand aside and wait here.” So
he stepped aside and stood there. **31** Then the Cushite arrived and said, “My lord the
king, hear the good news! The Lord has vindicated you today by delivering you from the
hand of all who rose up against you.” **32** The king asked the Cushite, “Is the young man
Absalom safe?” The Cushite replied, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who
rise up to harm you be like that young man.” **33** The king was shaken. He went up to the
room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: “O my son Absalom! My son, my
son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!”