



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: I Am He

Suggested Week of Use: April 30, 2023

Core Passage: John 18:1-11

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### News Story Summary

It has been ten years since the bombing at the Boston Marathon, yet stories of healing and restoration continue to emerge from the tragedy. Paul Norden and Jacqui Webb were both at the race in 2013, waiting to cheer on a friend running in the marathon. Following the first blast, they started looking for a way to help, but they ended up next to the spot where the second blast occurred. Their injuries were extensive and took months to heal. Webb endured numerous surgeries, while Norden lost his right leg above the knee.

As a result of their experiences, they established a charitable organization. The Webb Norden Foundation mirrors the help they each received during their hospital stays and recoveries, helping those who have felt the impact of traumatic events. To survive and ultimately thrive after an event like the Boston Marathon bombing requires commitment and determination. Through all of this, Paul and Jacqui have grown and have seen their lives make a difference for others.

For more about this story, search “Boston Marathon road to healing.”

### Focus Attention

To supplement **FOCUS ATTENTION**, read the story of Boston Marathon bombing survivors Jacqui Webb and Paul Norden. Encourage adults to think about a time when they wanted to ask God why something had happened, either to them or to someone close to them. Ask: *What kind of emotions do we feel when it seems like God isn't around?* Explain that this session examines a time when Jesus struggled. Emphasize that He had done nothing wrong, yet He was about to be betrayed, arrested, abandoned, tried, and executed. Note that, in a similar situation, many of us would feel like God had left us. Say: *His example reminds us that, even in our darkest moments, we can know that God has not left us. In those moments, we should turn to Him in prayer.*

### Summarize and Challenge

To supplement **SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE**, remind adults of the Boston Marathon story. Say: *Paul Norden and Jacqui Webb were committed to healing and to bringing something good out of their trauma.* Share that Jesus was committed to His Father's plan because it would provide salvation for humanity. Say: *Jesus knew what awaited Him, yet He submitted to the will of the Father. Trusting God in difficult times does not happen naturally, but it does strengthen our relationship with Him.* Close by praying that each adult would be open to what God is doing in and around them as they seek to obey His purpose and will.