

2017 MAGAZINE BIBLE STUDY

LINKS PLAYERS

The six lessons in this study are intended to accompany the articles
in the 2017 LINKS PLAYERS MAGAZINE.

This free magazine is available for order at
www.linksplayers.com/magazine.

LESSON 1 MOTIVATION & MOTION

read **BILLY HURLEY III** WAITING OUT THE STORMS

Where do you find the most compelling examples of perseverance in Billy Hurley's life?

Read Romans 5:1-5. What brings us peace with God? How can the hope of God's glory help us rejoice in sufferings? What progression of traits is initiated with suffering?

Read James 1:2-4 and verse 12. What motivates us to consider it joy when we face trials? If maturity and completeness mean we "lack nothing," how far would you say you have to go? How will you get there? What makes the one who perseveres under trial blessed?

Billy Hurley's own favorite verse is Colossians 3:15. *Read Colossians 3:15-17.* Having read Billy's story, how do you see peace working in his life? What practices do you find in this passage that can help establish right motivation and right action in walking with Jesus, whether in trial or in triumph?

GOOD PRACTICE *Read 1 Peter 5:7.* What cares should you give over to Jesus today?

LESSON 2 FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND FRIENDS

read AMELIA LEWIS A WORLD OF SUPPORT

What does it mean to Amelia Lewis that “God is on her side”? How does this line up with your own thinking about the advantages of having God in your life?

Read *Romans 8:28-39*. List the assurances you find in this passage. Is there a place of hesitation or fear in your life that is met by the promises of this passage?

With help from *Romans 8:1-8*, under what circumstances would a person be assured of the promises of *Romans 8:28-39*, and under what circumstances would they not be living under these promises?

Read *Acts 2:42*. Consider two words in particular: *fellowship* and *devoted*. If the breaking of bread (eating and communing together) is listed separately, what other practices of *fellowship* might have been conducted among the believers (you might use the whole *Acts 2:42-47* passage for help)? And what do you think their *devotion* to one another looked like (among other things, the Greek suggests steadfastness and perseverance)? Are you devoted to fellowship with others in a way that supports you and them?

GOOD PRACTICE Read 1 *John 1:6-7*. By what acts can you improve your fellowship with God and others?

LESSON 3 ACHIEVEMENT AND SURRENDER

read AARON BADDELEY GOOD DAYS & BADDS

Consider the balance with which Aaron Baddeley views his life, co-holding a desire to have achieved more, but also pleased with the way God has strengthened Baddeley's relationship with him through tough times. In what ways do you share this perspective? Where do you find it hard to do so?

Read Genesis 50:15-17. Joseph's betrayal by his brothers had led to slavery, false accusations, imprisonment, and separation from his beloved father—yet he maintained a recognition of God's sovereign hand in his life. Is this a realistic perspective or an exceptional one? In what ways should the men and women of God be exceptional in their views, and how might this impact those around us?

Read Acts 16:11-15, 40. Lydia was a successful businesswoman whose priorities changed immediately when her heart was opened to the gospel. How much should our priorities change when Christ becomes essential in our lives? In what ways has your work/home/recreation life changed because of Christ's influence? Where might it also still need change?

GOOD PRACTICE *Read 1 Timothy 4:15-16.* Are you as diligent in your spiritual practices as you are in other areas of your life? How can you change this emphasis on a day-to-day basis?

LESSON 4 FUNDAMENTALS AND FRIENDSHIPS

read **SAM HOLBROOK FRONT ROW SEAT**

What fundamentals are required of an umpire behind the plate? How do umpires stand firm and support one another when fans or players are impugning these fundamentals and the work they do?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What fundamentals of our faith did Paul list here? What words did he use to encourage his readers in to remain steady in their beliefs?

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4. Paul praised the Thessalonians for their faith, love, and perseverance. What value do you think came out of the fact that the believers were practicing these traits in community? How can a faithful and faith-filled friend help us in our pursuit of our own faith?

Read Proverbs 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4. Sam Holbrook speaks of the way his growing up in the church fed his interest and kept him close to the influence of Christ. How might we support the faith our own children (and grandchildren) when they are young? Does this support change as our children reach adulthood? What is the role of prayer in supporting our children of any age?

GOOD PRACTICE *Read Galatians 6:2.* Whose burden might you help bear today? How can you help?

LESSON 5 A MATURING LIFE

read **LARRY MIZE** AN ANNIVERSARY THAT NEVER GETS OLD

Larry Mize's long walk of faith is obviously marked by seasoned maturity. What evidences of this maturity do you find in this article?

Mize speaks of the thankfulness that pervades the PGA Tour Champions. Why do we grow more thankful over time? How is this also true of our understanding of what God has done for us?

Read Leviticus 12:17 and Luke 22:17-19. Both the Passover/Unleavened Bread feasts and the Lord's Supper (Communion) are intended as ceremonies of remembrance. What do they help us remember? How do practices such as these support our view of God, faith in him, and thankfulness to him?

Read Proverbs 15:22 and 31:10-11. Mize credits the wise counsel in his life (including that of his wife) with helping him maintain a righteous course. Where do you find such wisdom and how does it contribute to the longevity of your faith?

GOOD PRACTICE *Read Romans 12:12.* How can you feed your joy, patience, and faith?

LESSON 6 CHAMPIONING THE WEAK

read SEAN MARTIN MORE THAN WORDS

What particular experiences have shaped Sean Martin's view of the "little guy"? How does this appreciation show up in his work?

Read Proverbs 12:6 and Ephesians 4:29. How do passages like these set the basis for the kind of speech we should employ? Beyond the spoken word, how should the rules for speech govern our "speech" in emails and on social media?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-3. What metaphor did Paul employ in describing the effect of the apostles' ministry? Do you have a ministry like this, or support one, as Sean Martin supports College Golf Fellowship? How do gospel preachers and "gospel patrons" team up to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?

Read Isaiah 58:6-11. What did God set forth as eminently important to him in this passage? How might you support and engage in this kind of work where you live?

GOOD PRACTICE *Read Mark 9:41.* Where might you give a cup of water in Jesus' name today?
