

Links Players International Bible Study Series

THE LINKS PLAYERS COMMITMENT
Study 5 Share Christ through
the great game of golf

Linking golfers around the world in Christ

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RESOURCES TO HELP YOU AS YOU SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS

This final study in The Links Players Commitment series encourages men and women to share Christ with others through golf. At Links Players International, we can assist you with resources to help you cross the line into spiritual conversation with golfers. These resources include an annual magazine of golfers' testimonies, scorecard-sized pamphlets, Tour players' personal stories, videos, and more. To find out about these resources, visit our Web site at www.linksplayers.com or call us at 800-90-LINKS.

The First Tee

WHAT IS A LINKS PLAYER?

A **LINKS PLAYER**, FIRST AND FOREMOST, IS A PERSON WHO HAS SAID YES TO JESUS CHRIST'S OFFER OF ETERNAL SALVATION. Usually this person is a golfer, but to follow the mission of a Links Player, you might be only a golf fan, or have little to do with golf at all. The mission of a Links Player has nothing to do with golf, really. But it has everything to do with life.

Of course, there is a lot more than the simple word "yes" to making a decision to give your life to Christ. In fact, it is a decision that must be coupled with a commitment.

Jesus told His disciples to consider the cost of following Him. This was only fair of Him, for He also made it clear that suffering would be part of the lot in a Jesus follower's life. Suffering, the Bible tells us, is the most significant way that God blesses us, for in trials we learn, we grow, and we are brought into fellowship with Jesus Himself.

If you have never made a decision to follow Jesus and enter into fellowship (relationship) with Him, this study will still have value for you. It will help you consider the cost of making such an important decision and commitment. If at any time during this study you decide you are ready to move into fellowship with Jesus Christ, we invite you to turn to page 19 and follow the simple guide to giving your life to Him.

For Links Players, the commitment to follow Christ means that they are willing to accept the mission of a Links Player. There's no magic formula to following Christ; we must live the whole of our lives for Him everyday. But the five points of the Links Players mission are designed specifically to help you remember what was most important to Christ and to encourage you to give top priority to those same five points in your own life.

Here they are:

L **LOVE GOD AND OTHERS.** Jesus confirmed that the two greatest commandments were these: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and Love your neighbor as yourself.

I **INTEGRATE CHRIST'S REIGN AND INTEGRITY INTO ALL OF LIFE.** You can't have "just a little bit of Jesus." For this reason, Links Players find ways to walk like Jesus in all areas of life.

N **NETWORK FRIENDS TOGETHER IN CHRIST.** Links Players understand that fellowship with other believers has great value in our walk as God's people.

K **KINDLE COMPASSION FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY.** Jesus and His most prolific teacher, the apostle Paul, placed great emphasis on compassion for those in need. Links Players seek to incorporate this teaching into their own ministries.

S **SHARE CHRIST.** The walk with Christ is not a private stroll on a secluded path. We walk in the open, shining as a light that leads others to this wondrous life we have found.

In the eight-week study you are about to begin, we will look closely at the Bible's principles with regard to the first point of the Links Player's mission: Love God and others.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." —2 Corinthians 5:20

LESSON 1 FISHERS OF MEN

THE BIBLE, THE WAY IT IS OFTEN PRESENTED, IS FULL OF STORIES. In many ways, though, we need to be careful. Because if we get to categorizing the Bible as “stories,” our minds can slip into thinking of the Scripture as fiction—just as it might do when we call all the people of the Bible “characters.”

FACT OR FICTION

What are some of the Bible's accounts that have lost their meaning in our time because they have been relegated to “stories”?

In truth, outside of Jesus' parables, nearly all of the Bible is history. It traces events that actually happened. Some have called it “His-story,” for it tells us how God has written the books of people's lives, and how He will write the book that is our life.

So let's be careful when we read today's passage of Scripture. Just because it involves a charismatic protagonist and a few weather-worn fishermen in a quaint old fishing village, we can't discount it as a “tale.” We must listen and learn, for it provides us with one big lesson. Here it is, from Mark 1:16-18 (NIV):

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

The term “fishers of men” is well-known among those who have chosen to follow Christ. It is an expression that has come to mean that we will go out among those who do not know Christ and bring them in.

IT WAS TED SPRAGUE, A BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTANT FROM ATLANTA, WHO SLIGHTLY TWEAKED THE TERM A FEW YEARS BACK. He says we can be “golfers of men.” The syntax is not so clean as “fishers,” but the idea remains: we are to go out among the people of the world and show them that Christ is the One to follow.

FIRST IMPRESSION

What is your initial reaction to “golfers of men”? Are you on the end of the spectrum that says, “That's just silly”? Or is your mind churning with possibilities?

Some, like Simon and Andrew, will drop their nets almost immediately and begin an earnest walk with Christ. Others may be far more resistant. But the response of others does not change our mission. That some folks will never drink anything but Coca-Cola does not keep Pepsi from advertising. Their mission—to have people drink Pepsi products—does not change because of people's response to their messages. Their methods may change, their slogans may change, their logo may change, even their products may change. But their mission never does. Pepsi wants people to consume their product (which, of course, makes Pepsi just like any other company out there!).

You may have a lot of questions about being a fisher (or a golfer) of men. Particularly, you may be interested in how-to. But as we shall see, it is the mission that matters most—bringing others to Christ. The methods will vary, from generation to generation, from region to region, and from person to person.

SO LET'S BEGIN WITH SOME GENERALITIES, THE KIND OF OPEN-ENDED THOUGHTS THAT INCLUDE US ALL IN GOD'S GREAT PURPOSE. It is actually rather unusual that God holds us all to the same way of doing things, but He does want us all to pursue many of the same goals, such as bringing people to Christ.

1 You'll use what you know. Jesus knew how to attract people: He spoke their language. There is a reason He did not call Simon and Andrew to be golfers of men! God will most often call you to a context with which you are already familiar. In fact, it is pretty unlikely He will send you off to a distant land and a new language and lifestyle unless you have first proven faithful in the places where He has already made a way for you.

Here is an exception: prophets are still often disregarded in their hometown (Matthew 13:57). That is, because people are reluctant to give up their long-held ideas about "Little Johnny," you may see limited fruit in speaking among those who know you best. You may have to go elsewhere—to another golf course, for instance—and establish new friendships. But it will still be familiar ground.

2 You'll be bringing Good News. Few metaphors are perfect. Jesus said that He would make Simon and Andrew fishers of men. The problem with the metaphor is that fishermen bring fish to their death, but fishers of men bring people to new life in Christ. What is excellent about the metaphor is this: both fishers of fish and fishers of men have something very attractive to offer to those they are seeking. Fishermen have bait; fishers of men have the gospel. Often, we forget that. We worry that people will not like what we have. While it is true that some people will reject the Good News of Christ that does not change either the goodness of that news or the fact that many will see it is as good and choose to follow Christ themselves. That means we can go out with confidence that we are offering people the best thing they can ever have in life and for eternity.

3 You can't win 'em all. The 1974 Miami Dolphins football team stands as an anomaly in the sports world: they actually did win 'em all. But it doesn't happen elsewhere. The best teams in most sports max out at about 70 percent victories; the best individuals come in much lower than that—in fact, just two wins per year over a 10-year career would give you a lifetime exemption on the PGA Tour.

The same is true with fishing. Let's say you use a hook, line and sinker. There will always be those fish that get away; they take your bait but not your hook. OK, so use a net if you want. Some small fish will go right through it, and when you do haul in your net, you'll end up tossing many back because they're not up to snuff. Jesus told a parable about the weeds growing up with the wheat. In the end, He said, we'll get to sorting them out. There's a measure of perspective that comes from knowing this truth. For one, we can gain fishing experience even when our catches aren't staying caught! For another, when a person choose to ignore Christ, we know that this is a normal occurrence. We may not know why God would have it so, but we must leave that to His wisdom.

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ARE YOU FULLY READY?

Does today's teaching come as a surprise to you—that you are called to take Christ's message to others?

now you are thinking, "I never signed up for *this*. You mean this isn't just a thing between me and God?" If that is a discomfort you feel, pray with a friend that you, like Simon and Andrew, can drop your nets today and do even this bold thing.

GAME ON! The first purpose of your warmup is to loosen up. Start by swinging your driver with its head cover on in a long, slow motion. Then hit an array of clubs, just as you will on the golf course. Close with a club you'll likely hit on the first hole.

"All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves."
—Matthew 11:29

LESSON 2 FAR BEYOND SMALL TALK

THE JOY OF GOLF FOR MOST GOLFERS IS NOT SO MUCH THE GAME ITSELF AS THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE BUILT AND MAINTAINED AROUND THE GAME. **Golfing friends are usually close friends, if only because the game allows us to relax into conversation with others. (Competitive players often shake their heads in amazement at those who say they play the game to relax, but that is why most of us play, even if we do try to score our best each time out.)**

GETTING OUT

Besides the game, why do you go to the golf course?

But rich friendships take a long time to build, so many of us would rather stay home than show up at the course as a single, asking to be paired with just anyone. Will they be like us? Is there any chance that the camaraderie will extend beyond golf? In fact, if our games are quite different will it extend even that far?

So many unknowns, so many variables. Jesus was afraid of neither.

IF EVER THERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS WILLING TO STRIKE UP NEW RELATIONSHIPS—AND NOT JUST NEW, BUT STRANGE AS WELL—IT WAS JESUS. **Consider this list: fishermen, tax collectors, children, cheats, liars, lepers, prostitutes, and guileless Pharisees. Jesus befriended people of great repute, no repute, and ill repute. All of these He considered worthy of His attention. We can't miss that lesson.**

Of the many people Jesus befriended, one incident that was recounted in great detail is found in John 4. Here it is:

When Jesus knew that the Pharisees heard He was making and baptizing more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), He left Judea and went again to Galilee. He had to travel through Samaria, so He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from His journey, sat down at the well. It was about six in the evening.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.

"Give Me a drink," Jesus said to her, for His disciples had gone into town to buy food.

"How is it that You, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked Him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would ask Him, and He would give you living water."

"Sir," said the woman, "You don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again—ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life."

"Sir," the woman said to Him, "give me this water so I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

"Go call your husband," He told her, "and come back here."

"I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,' " Jesus said. "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

"Sir," the woman replied, "I see that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, yet you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus told her, "Believe Me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will explain everything to us."

"I am He," Jesus told her, "the One speaking to you."

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND TWO THINGS FROM THIS REMARKABLE ACCOUNT:

1 Jesus and this Samaritan woman were about as different as you might imagine. Their cultures did not readily allow conversation between men and women who do not know each other (though because Jesus knew everything about this woman's past, He was aware that she would not be shy in talking to Him as other women might have been). Beyond that, their backgrounds—hers as a "half-breed Samaritan" and His as a "pure Jew"—would normally have been a prohibitive barrier. Then there was the matter of the woman's unrighteousness. The Jewish leaders would not have put themselves in such close proximity with a known adulterous, for fear that they would be spiritually contaminated. Jesus set all of these potential obstacles aside and struck up a conversational relationship with someone he had never met before.

2 Jesus based this relationship on conversation—a give-and-take of questions and answers, with some provocative statements mixed right in. Nearly every man or woman you meet will—if they have even a moment or two—engage in such a dialogue. We are built to converse—far more than we are built to be preached at or railed against.

Jesus' approach is a perfect example to us (no surprise here). He was not afraid to strike up a conversation with someone who did not know Him. His approach to the woman was different in content than with others He met, and His method was disarming—as ours should be. What was clear, however, was Jesus' message: He had something wonderful to offer to this woman.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

In what ways is it easiest and in what ways is it a tough challenge to learn from Jesus?

GAME ON! The second purpose of your warmup is to build confidence. Do this by hitting the clubs you feel best about. Then finish your warmup with a string of good shots. Even if you leave a few balls behind, you'll have a good mindset as you head to your round.

"Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil."
—Ephesians 5:15-16

LESSON 3 AT THE READY

THE FIRST HALF OF BEING FISHERS (OR GOLFERS) OF MEN IS STRIKING UP A CONVERSATION. The second half has much to do with keeping the conversation going. Often, this will depend on either (1) your expertise, (2) your interest, or (3) your study. Of course, you might have a combination of these.

In golf, some teachers are particularly good at teaching the full swing, as it is used to drive the ball and play normal approach shots with your irons. Others, like Dave Pelz, are known for their ability to teach the short game, as golf is played around the greens. And some, such as Links Player and tour professional Stan Utley, have gained a reputation for being able to transfer their knowledge of putting right into the game of another.

In the same way, some of us will be especially good at striking up conversation through small talk. We can follow a conversation with our full attention and we follow up when we again see the person to whom we have been talking. This conversational strength works wonders in communicating with a "people person."

FIND YOUR STRENGTHS

What are your interests? At what do you excel? These are places to start looking when building your ability to "fish for men."

Others of us will feel better going out as an ambassador of Christ if we have done some preparation. This is because we want to be ready for the questions that come our way. The people we feel most comfortable talking to are those who read a lot perhaps, or are given to talking politics or economics or technology—the stuff that really requires your brain. Small talk won't keep the conversation going with these people. They want some evidence. So we get ready to answer them, by learning key passages of Scripture, knowing what's going on with scientific discussion, and reading books about apologetics (the reasoned defense of the faith).

THE BIBLE OFFERS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO BLENDED COMPELLING CONVERSATION WITH SHARP STUDY OF HIS SURROUNDINGS AND HIS FAITH. This man was Paul, and much of his life is recounted in the book of Acts (also known as the Acts of the Apostles, of which Paul was one).

Originally named Saul, he gained a reputation as a fierce opponent of The Way, which was Paul himself later called the pursuit of Christ as Savior. But in a moment on the road to Damascus—to advance the persecution—Christ stopped Saul in his tracks and made him a fisher of men (if you don't know this part of Paul's life story, you can read it in Acts 9). Paul spent nearly all of the rest of his life fishing for others. And he did so with a powerful combination of passion and provocativeness.

For our purpose today, we find him in Athens. Watch him at work, as presented in Acts 17:

Then Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed:

TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it—He is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in shrines made by hands. Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. From one

man He has made every nation of men to live all over the earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live, so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Being God's offspring, then, we shouldn't think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image fashioned by human art and imagination.

"Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has set a day on which He is going to judge the world in righteousness by the Man He has appointed. He has provided proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

A PLACE IN HISTORY

Consider why Dionysius and Damaris were named here. All who follow Christ are named in such a way in what the Bible calls "the book of life" (see Philippians 4:3).

When they heard about resurrection of the dead, some began to ridicule him. But others said, "We will hear you about this again." So Paul went out from their presence. However, some men joined him and believed, among whom were Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

AS WE DID WHEN WE EXPLORED THE EXAMPLE WITH JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL, LET'S EMPHASIZE SOME KEYS FROM PAUL'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE ATHENIANS.

1 It is possible that you will be called on at times to present the Good News of Christ to a larger audience. This comes more naturally (and hence, more easily) for some people than for others. But the Holy Spirit—and we sure see this in the book of Acts—also moves supernaturally. And you may someday find Him giving you strength to share Christ in a formal or public setting.

2 You will make your best presentation in a new environment when you have taken a look around. Find what stirs people's interest. For the Athenians, it was their many gods. For golfers, it may be the host of new drivers that are on the market. You will do best at communicating with people when you speak their language (and by now you understand that we're not talking about their "native tongue," but instead about the words and phrases that go along with their interests and affinities).

3 Even when the crowd does not agree with you today, you can make progress by piquing the curiosity for the long run. In the final paragraph of the account of Paul in Athens, we find that some rejected him outright and some believed what he had to say right away. But there was a third group. These were those who wanted to hear more. Perhaps they were just being polite, but surely Paul knew how to use that to his advantage too! He would gladly seize the opportunity to give fill their jugs of thought even more.

TODAY'S STUDY RELIES ON THIS KEY VERSE: "Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise—making the most of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). Other translations tell us to "make the most of every opportunity." That is a terrific challenge, but one that we can handle as God equips us. Preparing through study, surveying your surroundings, practicing spiritual conversation with a friend, even stumbling into mistakes your first several times out—all of these lead to making the most of every opportunity when taking Christ into the marketplace or behind the walls of the country club.

GAME ON! Remember, a warmup is not the same thing as practice. Set aside time to practice after a round or on an afternoon or evening when you can't get out for a full round. During practice, work on all your shots, but especially those that give you trouble.

For we are not like the many who make a trade in God's message for profit, but as those with sincerity, we speak in Christ, as from God and before God. —2 Corinthians 2:17

LESSON 4 FINDING THE WORDS TO SAY, PART 1

IS IT A TEE SHOT WITH TROUBLE LEFT? Maybe a long iron or a short wedge? Which shot terrorizes you?

One of the hardest things to admit about golf is that we all have shots that scare the daylights out of us. Even if you're an accomplished player and your practice regimen has removed the utter inability to play this shot, it's still the last shot you'd want to face in the competitive cooker. In fact, you may do just about anything you can to avoid that shot—laying it up, missing it long and left, you name it.

FACING YOUR FEARS

What's the shot that makes you most nervous on the golf course? What is a good plan of action for overcoming this fear?

BRAVE AS WE MAY PRESENT OURSELVES TO BE, LIFE ITSELF CHALLENGES US IN WAYS THAT MAKES OUR KNEES QUIVER—IF WE GIVE IT THE CHANCE. The truth is, we're all pretty good at hiding our fears by filling our days with other endeavors.

People who fear risking a dollar don't take jobs in investment firms. Those bothered by animals don't own pets. And some friends you know may never play golf because of the embarrassment it has caused them the few times they've tried. You see, it's not that difficult to walk around our fears.

The trouble comes when our fears are handed to us by those who lead our lives. It's the day the boss walks in with the project that has always in the past gone to the guy down the hall. Or the day we make a costly mistake that will swamp the family budget, and we have to go home and own up to our spouse.

But the greatest challenges we will ever face are the ones given to us by God.

Moses was given this kind of challenge when God told him that he was the man to walk into Pharaoh's court and demand the release of the Israelites. Moses balked.

Gideon was given this kind of challenge when he was told to tear down the community idols and muster an army, for he was now the Lord's commander. Gideon begged for a sign of confirmation.

Jeremiah was given this kind of challenge when he was called to prophesy woe to God's people. The young man's eyes fell to his youth, and he tried to offer this as an excuse against his commissioning.

No, God never offered us a trouble-free life. More commonly, He creates "trouble." Mary knew this—pregnant but unwed. The blind man knew this—restored to sight but ridiculed for praising his Healer. Paul and Silas knew this—imprisoned for simply preaching the Good News of Christ. But look at where their "trouble" led! Into the joy of the Lord!

WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER A NEW CHALLENGE FROM THE LORD—AS WHEN YOU STUDY A NEW CONCEPT OF SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTION—IT CAN BE IMMENSELY VALUABLE TO KNOW HOW GOD HAS WORKED IN OTHERS' LIVES THROUGH THE CENTURIES. When, for instance, you are told that you should "be prepared to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15), it can be extremely helpful to know that you have two great things going for you:

RIGHT UP FRONT

How prepared do you consider yourself right now to tell others what Christ's offers to them?

1 **God's past.** As we have already mentioned, God has a long history of calling people to do things that not only are unexpected in general, but which do not seem to fit the individual's station in life. But God has always known what He was doing, of course, and He has a similarly long history of pulling His people right through the assignments He gives them.

2 **The Holy Spirit's enabling.** When we read the Bible only as a book of history, we can wrongly forget that He is still working as actively today as He has ever worked in the lives of men and women. He does this through His Holy Spirit, who equips and strengthens us for every instruction that comes our way.

You may wonder why we are spending so much time preparing you to step out in talking about your faith in Christ with others. Perhaps you are a very new believer and the excitement of your own new life has you talking with nearly everyone about what Christ has done for you. Or you may be more mature in the faith, but this concept doesn't daunt you because God has wired you as a conversationalist. If these descriptions fit you, great! But whether your trouble comes early or later—in the form of discouragement when others don't share your excitement or of ridicule when people can't believe that you would follow such a "myth"—you need to know ahead of time that talking about your faith will not always be easy. That way you're ready to go get the help you need.

That help comes from the Holy Spirit. Look at these three passages of Scripture:

[Jesus told them], "So when they arrest you and hand you over, don't worry beforehand what you will say. On the contrary, whatever is given to you in that hour—say it. For it isn't you speaking, but the Holy Spirit." (Mark 13:11)

[Jesus told them], "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak God's message with boldness. (Acts 4:31)

AN APROPOS REMINDER

Consider 1 Thessalonians 4:8: "The person who rejects [God's work in them] does not reject man, but God, who also gives you His Holy Spirit." How does this help us act in our role as Christ's ambassadors?

In each case, there is a direct connection between the Holy Spirit at work in us and the words we speak on behalf of God. There can be no greater encouragement (and no greater program) than the Holy Spirit emboldening you to tell others what you know to be true about God—that through His Son Jesus Christ you can "have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10).

Study can help. Practicing what you might say can help. Reading books on apologetics can help. But there is no substitute for being influenced in your words by the Holy Spirit. This is because the Holy Spirit knows precisely the state of your hearer's heart.

So let us end our study today with a prayer: *Heavenly Father, You have asked us to be Your ambassadors and tell others about what Christ has done in our lives. Give us the courage we need to begin this work and continue in it even as troubles come, knowing that by Your Holy Spirit, you have give us the words we need for the precise needs of the people we talk to. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

GAME ON! Practice can be mundane—unless you practice with a partner. Make games out of hitting it closest to targets or shaping shots. Use putting contests as practice times, to prepare you for the challenge of on-the-course play.

"But I count my life of no value to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace."

—Acts 20:24

LESSON 5 FINDING THE WORDS TO SAY, PART 2

WHILE IT'S A BIT UNNERVING AS AN EXPRESSION, "THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT," HAS COME TO MEAN THAT A CHALLENGE CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY MET IN MULTIPLE WAYS. Taking this literally, some golf course architects have included holes with split fairways, offering golfers two choices. You can go the wider, longer route. Or you can take a narrower but more direct path.

Some days, if you are hitting it well, you may be up for the riskier challenge. But most days you would elect the more forgiving option—unless, of course, you don't mind playing out of trouble!

WHEN WE LOOKED IN OUR LAST LESSON AT FINDING THE WORDS TO SAY WHEN TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT WE SPOKE OF TWO LINES OF CONVERSATION. The first of these was to tell others what Christ has to offer to them. The second was to tell others what Christ has done for you. In the long-time church vernacular, you might put it this way: you can preach, or you can testify.

Most of the time, you will probably find it more comfortable to testify—to offer a "testimony" of what God has done in your life. That is because, if you are like most folks, you already find it easy to talk about yourself. Few of us struggle to recount our own experiences. In fact, it's what nearly all of us do—at least for a few minutes—when we come home at the end of the day.

So as we move through today's lesson, let's look at how you might tell your own story of what Christ has done for you. Our objective is to allow you to revisit some of the highlights in your life with Christ. This activity should rekindle the fire of His presence in you, exciting you to be Christ's ambassador in the days and weeks to come.

1 The day God "gotcha." If, as was suggested in Lesson 3, you read the Acts 9 account of the apostle Paul's sudden conversion on the Damascus road, you know what an amazing story that was. Certainly it has not been God's norm throughout history to strike people blind in order to bring them to Him, though modern day stories of recovering addicts and those plucked from spiritual destitution also abound. Often these kinds of testimonies can shut the rest of us up. In comparison, our stories are bland. But when you are talking to others about what it means to give your life to Christ at a certain point in time, they want to hear it. They want to know whether there is some strange ritual required or some supernatural tingling they will feel. Sure, their interest might be heightened if you who were once akin to Charles Manson came to be Mother Teresa in a moment marked with thunder and lightning. But most of us have not been moved this far or this dramatically (at least on the surface!)—which is plenty interesting to the majority of earth's people, the millions who consider themselves quite average.

YOUR DAY

Reflect on the day you gave your life to Christ. Think like a journalist: who, what, where, when, why, how. How would you recount this day to others?

2 The changes God has made. We know in our own lives that in truth God has moved us quite far. We were sinners, but He has made us saints. We would be wise not to go around announcing that we are saints—the world tends to look awkwardly at those who say such things—but the New Testament is clear that when we are in Christ, God sees us in a whole new way. He sees

YOUR LIFE

What were you living for before Christ entered your life and how did you get those things? In what ways has God changed your pursuits and perspectives?

us as saints, He calls us His friends. And because He loves us, He will work changes in our lives. Some of these are changes that happen quite rapidly—an old habit pulverized, a sudden joy around our spouse and children, a heightened sense of responsibility (and the actions to back that up). Other changes He makes more slowly and painfully, increasing our patience and faith in the process. Either way, we know the difference. God is working miracles in our lives.

3 Who God has made you. Very often we think that because we have God in our lives, we need to effect changes. We do this not so much because others expect this of us, but because we think this is what “Christians” should do. This may lead you to dress a certain way or some other external change, but the most common change is in the way we talk. If you were given to foul or unwholesome talk before Christ entered your life, it is likely that He has been moving you toward a greater righteousness in this area, and that is good. But what can also happen is that we start adopting new phrases. These may be even biblical phrases, such as “the blood of the Lamb.” In church, these phrases may have important meaning. Outside of the church, they may mean little at all. In fact, to some of our friends, they may mean we have lost our marbles! The important thing is that we not surrender our God-given personality. Don’t adopt preachiness or academic language if that is not your style. Put things in terms that come naturally to you and make sense to those you’re talking to. Just like you, your hearers like “real people.”

YOUR PERSONALITY

If you are telling old friends about this new aspect of your life—Christ’s reign—what kind of person would they expect you to be? How would they expect you to talk?

IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE PRESSURE IS OFF OF YOU. That is because you are not giving a testimony to your own work at all. You are giving testimony to the work of Christ. Paul told the Ephesian elders that he had been commissioned in his ministry to testify to God’s grace.

Above all your own experience, above all your Bible learning, above all that has changed in your life, what you want to tell others is that Jesus Christ has done amazing things. He has done them in your life and He has done them in other people’s lives. And the Good News is that He is offering to do the same thing in the lives of your friends and family and others who are listening.

The apostle John knew this as well. Look at the prologue to his first general letter to Christ’s followers:

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have observed, and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life—that life was revealed, and we have seen it and we testify and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—what we have seen and heard we also declare to you, so that you may have fellowship along with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3)

You see, the testimony is not really ours; it is Christ’s. If we lift Him up, if we tell others what He has done in our lives, we will have done one part of our job as His ambassadors. In the next lesson, we’ll discover what the second part is.

GAME ON! The world’s best players hit tens of thousands of practice balls in their lifetimes. Few of us need that much practice. You should practice until you start to see a decrease in your consistency—this means your muscles have had their fill.

Do everything without grumbling and arguing, so that you may blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among who you shine like stars in the world. Hold firmly the message of life. —Philippians 2:14-16a

LESSON 6 LIVING YOUR TESTIMONY

“HE CAN TALK A GOOD GAME.”

There are a lot of things we would love to hear said about the way we play golf: “You sure have a nice swing,” “Your putting stroke is so smooth,” “It sure is fun to play with you.” But “you can talk a good game”? There’s no compliment in that!

OVERHEARD

How do you think your golf partners would describe your game?

In fact, nowhere in life is it a ringing endorsement to have it said that you are all talk. That is because—even in our media-saturated society—actions still speak louder than words.

Advertisers might argue with that assessment. They can make millions with clever slogans and well-packaged images. But they do this at a distance. They know how to catch our eyes from afar.

When, on the other hand, we’re dealing with people close-up, watching them on a day-to-day basis, it becomes apparent rather quickly who is living a life of substance and who is simply babbling.

Golfers do that. They spend a lot of time close-up. So do people who work together or live next door to one another. You hear these people, sure. But you also see how they behave and what they produce. You soon know whether they are only words, or whether their lives are worth more than that.

THERE MAY BE NO MORE IMPORTANT OBSERVATION WHEN CONSIDERING HOW WE WILL SHARE CHRIST WITH OTHERS. Until now in these lessons, in fact, we have spoken almost exclusively of “telling” others about Jesus. Without a doubt, we must learn to do that. But we must also be aware that with “showing,” our telling won’t mean much to most of the people we know.

This is especially true in that media-saturated environment we’ve already alluded to. In such a culture, playing with words and images is to play in one of our time’s most competitive games. Say it quickly and say it cleverly, or you’ll be clicked right through in a moment—your hearers will go find something that *really* captures their attention. Needless to say, that can be a rough playing field. As an amateur, you’ll have a hard time competing with the professionals.

YOU’VE SEEN IT

Tell of a time when you were discouraged or harmed by someone who did not live what they taught.

Unless you have established strong credibility with your actions.

Let’s see how Scripture confirms this truth. We’ll begin with a parable Jesus told about two sons, found in Matthew 21:

“But what do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘My son, go, work in the vineyard today.’

“He answered, ‘I don’t want to!’ Yet later he changed his mind and went. Then the man went to the other and said the same thing.

" 'I will, sir,' he answered. But he didn't go.

"Which of the two did his father's will?"

"The first," they said.

Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you! For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him. Tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him, but you, when you saw it, didn't even change your minds then and believe him.

Jesus told this parable in Jerusalem during the final week of His life, when His parables frequently established the difference between those who thought they were in God's kingdom and those who truly would be there. His audience consisted largely of Pharisees, the first century experts at words and images. Jesus let them know, with parables such as this one, that words were weak; they needed action.

Once more, let's look at the teaching of Christ. The context here is much earlier in His earthly ministry, from the passage in Matthew known as the Sermon on the Mount:

"You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
(Matthew 5:14-16)

The light that shines before others is not the light of our words. Rather, it is our good deeds. What people are looking for is to see whether our actions *line up* with our words—or, as has long been said, whether we practice what we preach.

SHINING OUR LIVES

What are some elements of "showing" Christ by the way that we live? Which of these can you begin working on in your life today?

ON THE SURFACE, ALL OF THIS MAY SEEM QUITE DAUNTING. Not only do I have figure out how to talk to people about Christ and what to say, you may be thinking, but I also have to get my whole life in order to even begin making an impact in people's lives. You're right that a certain responsibility is laid upon you. But consider two truths we know are utterly founda-

tional to anything we do in God's kingdom.

First, we are still living in the flesh. As long as we reside on earth, we will make mistakes that keep us from full holiness. Owning up to this fact not only keeps us authentic before Christ, but it keeps us real before others as well. And authenticity is as important a character trait as any when letting others see how you live your life.

Second, we are not empowered by our own strength. As we considered in depth in lesson 4, the Holy Spirit is at work in you, enabling you to live the life you could not live on your own. Through the centuries, many followers of Christ have returned again and again to Philippians 4:13 to draw encouragement for big tasks: "I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me."

Let us go forward, then, with our lives. Let's live them in a way that *shows* Christ.

GAME ON! We joke about the executive stroking putts in his or her office. But when weather keeps you inside, you can keep your game up by finding little spots to practice your putting or keep your swing muscles loose—even if you're not holding a club!

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

—1 Corinthians 11:1

LESSON 7 DISCIPLE MAKERS

WHEN BEN CRENSHAW WON THE 1995 MASTERS, HE LET HIS PUTTER FALL TO THE GROUND AND HE HELD HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS, WEEPING. Past his prime, Crenshaw had played his heart out as a tribute to his longtime teacher, Harvey Penick, who had died the week before. In the end, Crenshaw was simply overwhelmed by the emotion of it all.

MEMORY LANE

What is one of the favorite moments you have witnessed in watching golf through the years?

In the years to follow, nearly every golfer became aware of Harvey Penick, chiefly through his *Little Red Book*. Through this collection of wisdom for golf and life (the best-selling golf book ever written), we discovered why Mr. Penick was not just a swing teacher but a life mentor.

Among those who counted themselves among Mr. Penick's "disciples" were Crenshaw, who twice won the Masters, and Tom Kite, winner of the 1992 U.S. Open. Certainly, his influence stretched far beyond these greats. For more than 30 years, he coached the University of Texas golf team. He taught for more than 60 years at Austin Country Club. This was a man who made his mark on people's lives.

OF COURSE, JESUS CHRIST WAS THAT KIND OF MAN. His influence over His disciples—not just the Twelve, but also the other men, such as Lazarus and Nicodemus, and many women—is recorded with great detail in the Gospels. Because of His words and His actions, people chose to follow Him nearly everywhere He went.

But then again, you might expect this. After all, Jesus was God in flesh. Of course He would have this kind of influence.

And yet, at the end of His time on earth, He gave His followers this Great Commission:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

CHALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

With any significant challenge, we must accept the accompanying responsibility. What responsibilities do you find in living out Christ's Great Commission?

What Jesus had done, He was directing His disciples to do. He wanted them to raise up followers. They were to go out into the world, tell and show people who Jesus was and how He changed lives, baptize these people into God's name, and teach them to live according to Christ's commands.

That's no flimsy fan club.

It is relatively easy to gain popularity on earth. Jesus' parable of the prodigal son showed how friends can be bought rather readily, if you provide them with the things their flesh craves.

But discipling requires far more than surface attachments. Watch:

1 Building disciples requires time. Perhaps more than anything else, if you are going to raise up disciples, you must be prepared to spend time with people. Jesus took plenty of time

alone with His Father, aligning His life with the Father's will. But when it came time to do that will, He went to where the people were. Some of these people He related to only quickly or occasionally, as when He was healing or answering the criticisms of the Pharisees. But those He was discipling received much of His time and attention. And not all of this time was deeply purposeful. Jesus relaxed in the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, for instance. He slept in the boat of the fishermen. Don't be fooled: "Quality time" is nearly always the result of quantity time. There are almost no shortcuts in discipling.

2 Building disciples requires faith. Jesus commissioned His disciples to duplicate themselves, and one of the key acts in doing so is to baptize others. This baptism is the symbolic act of being reborn in Christ. You might think of baptism as the exclusive realm of "the clergy," but know that the Bible never mentions "clergy." The Bible gives spiritual responsibility to "elders" and "leaders"—those whose own faith demonstrates firm commitment to Christ. So we must have faith ourselves; otherwise we will not be able to transfer faith to others. We must believe strongly that Christ is God, and that He has equipped us by His Holy Spirit to bring others to believing faith in Him (and maybe even to baptize others into that faith!).

3 Building disciples requires commitment to God's Word. Jesus told His disciples that their task of discipling required them to teach others to observe His instructions. In order for that to happen, His disciples must know those commands themselves! And, in keeping with James' exhortation to "be doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22), we must show how the Lord's instruction is lived out in the life of His followers.

4 Building disciples is done in Christ's presence. Jesus ended His brief but great commission by reminding His disciples that He would be with them to the end. By this, He meant He would be with them through His Holy Spirit. Remembering that Jesus still walks with us as we do this work of building disciples sets us up in two ways: (1) we are careful to honor Him in all we do, and (2) we are encouraged by the strength He gives us as we go about His business.

AS WE CONCLUDE OUR STUDY OF WHAT IT MEANS TO SHARE CHRIST, WE SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT CHRIST IS FAR BIGGER THAN WE WILL EVER BE. This means that we will not be able to present Him as accurately as we would hope—at least not alone. It is very important in all aspects of serving in Christ's kingdom that we walk with others who have been given different gifts in His body. Together, we may present Christ according to the completeness of our collective spiritual gifts, earthly talents, and God-given personalities.

Jesus sent His own disciples out two-by-two. Throughout the book of Acts, we see the apostles going out with others, doing their work in teams. Indeed, Paul's letters often lament the loss of fellow workers to waywardness or illness or the needs of a particular fellowship. That's right, even the steadfast apostle did not like working alone.

READY TO GO

In a quiet place with God, honestly assess how He would have you share Him with others.

Take a few moments to think about how you can tell and show Christ among those who still need His salvation. Consider what it will take for you to accept the responsibility of building disciples. And then think of those Christ may already have set aside to minister with you as you go

forward in the great kingdom business of sharing Christ.

GAME ON! When it comes to practice, stay balanced. Spend plenty of time on your short game and your putting. And don't forget to play! That is the reason, after all, that we work at getting better.

"Therefore, get your minds ready for action, being self-disciplined..." —1 Peter 1:13

LESSON 8 REVIEW AND ADVANCE

FOR SEVEN LESSONS NOW, WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE FIFTH ASPECT OF BEING A LINKS PLAYER IN DEPTH. Now let's spend a day reviewing what we have studied and consider how we might enact this principle in our lives. James wrote, "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who acts—this person will be blessed in what he does." (James 1:22,25). So let's make it our goal today to move from study to practice.

In review, answer the following questions:

1. What is the fifth aspect of being a Links Player?

2. How does this particular aspect of being a Links Players relate to the first aspect: Loving God and others?

3. The theme verse for this fifth aspect is 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV): "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." From what you know of an ambassador's work, how does this idea apply to the way we present Christ to others?

4. From lesson 1, what truths give us a positive perspective on being "fishers of men"?

5. From lesson 2, what understanding do we gain from Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well?

6. From lesson 3, how did Paul attract and keep the Athenians' attention? How can we use the same methodology?

7. From lesson 4, how important is the role of the Holy Spirit in assisting us as we share Christ with others?

8. Which is more important, speaking out your testimony or living out your testimony?

9. From lesson 7, what are the four elements of building disciples? Which of these represents the greatest personal challenge to you?

IF YOU ARE DOING THIS STUDY AS PART OF A GROUP, YOUR GROUP SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO TALK ABOUT THE THOUGHTS YOU HAVE RECORDED FOR SHARING CHRIST THROUGH THE GREAT GAME OF GOLF.¹ There are three critical advantages to doing this. You may recognize the first two from the business world. First, your good ideas may generate good ideas for others. Second, others may have resources that can help you with your own idea. But the third reason to present your ideas to others is the most important—so they can affirm and pray for you as you go forward with implementing your plan.

Sometimes it is difficult to know what to pray for others. Beyond healing in a time of sickness or relief in a time of trouble, our tongues are often tied when it comes to prayer. Having a list of each other's commitments to share Christ with others should help you as you talk to God. Ask God to encourage your friends, even as He encourages you.

Don't forget the follow-up here, either. In the days to come, call your friends and ask them about how they are progressing. Even with prayer, our best plans don't always go smoothly. Reaching out to others in new, sometimes uncomfortable ways can really stretch us. That's when it is good to have a supportive friend call to listen to your story and pray with you again.

AS WE CLOSE THIS STUDY, LET'S DO SO AS CHANGED PEOPLE. Christ's saving work in our life has made us new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). But it can take a while to get used to this "new skin." Each day your life is going to be tainted by sin, whether you seek it out or you step in it without seeing it coming. But we are a people freed by Christ, and we do not need to dwell on our failures. We need to stand on the truth of His forgiveness, confessing our sins to Him and moving on in His grace (see 1 John 1:9).

Today let's make a fresh commitment to building relationships with those who do not know Christ and sharing Him with them through our words and our actions.

¹Large groups may need to break up into smaller groups of 3-5 in order to best accomplish the exchange of ideas and prayer for one another. If, on the other hand, you are not in a group, write out your commitment and hand it to a friend who will call you in the next few days to ask how you are progressing and to pray for you.

FOR GROUP LEADERS USING THIS STUDY

IT CAN BE DAUNTING TO BE CALLED ON TO TEACH THE WORD OF GOD. Indeed, many potential leaders have told us that while they are capable of and eager to bring a group together, or to act as host, teaching is an entirely different level, one for which they do not consider themselves prepared.

QUESTION

Why are you being called upon to lead a Bible study group? In what way do you feel best prepared?

Other don't feel so much weight when it comes to teaching. They know their Bibles well, or they're naturals when speaking to a crowd.

It is, then, the precise goal of the structure of these Links Players Bible studies to provide a fully operational Bible study for those teachers who need much assistance and yet a format that leaves room for experienced leaders to bring their own learning to the table.

In each lesson, you will find five features:

- **THE OPENING SCRIPTURE VERSE.** You might encourage members of the group to memorize the verse each week. This may depend on the interest of your group, but even the newest in Christ need to begin committing the Word of God to memory, as it will hold them to righteousness when times of decision come in their lives.
- **THE NARRATIVE LESSON.** This lesson uses golf analogies to tie into Scriptural truths. Many non-golfers read our daily devotional, so the analogies are not necessary, nor are they normally meaningful only if you deeply understand golf. In some cases, you may wish to go to your Bible to provide more context for the Scriptures as they are presented in each lesson.
- **THE QUESTION BOXES.** These boxes may help individuals in your study reflect more personally on the lesson, but the questions can also open honest, rich discussion in your group setting. As you progress with your group, you'll acquire a sense of whether they are interested in open discussion, or whether they would simply desire to be taught in a straightforward style.
- **FOR FURTHER STUDY.** This final box always give the group something to beyond the boundaries of the brief study. They may do this before they come each week, or they may do the further study after you gather and discuss the main topic.
- **GAME ON!** These golf tips are provided to build a bridge for those who play the game. It might help your group get to know each other better if they work on these tips together when they head to the golf course.

Finally, the set of lessons concludes with a Review and Advance lesson. While you may emphasize life application of the study each time you meet, this lesson is intended to bring personal application to the forefront, so that each member of the group can assess their own position before God and move forward in their relationship with Him.

However you choose to use these studies, be it verbatim or as a loose guide, we pray that your group will be enriched and motivated by the studies. Should you have any questions or suggestions for us as we develop more of these studies, please give us a call at Links Players, 1-800-90-LINKS.

BECOMING A LINKS PLAYER

THE GOLF COURSE IS A PRETTY STRANGE PLACE TO GO LOOKING FOR GOD. The truth is, though, that God is infinite and able to meet us where we are. So people have met God through Jesus Christ in just about every imaginable venue, from the finest country clubs to the most despicable of the world's prisons. What matters is the readiness of your heart. When you're desperate for God, it is usually because everything else in the world has left you wanting something more. If you find yourself in that state today, God has quite an offer for you, made through His Son Jesus Christ with these simple words: "Follow Me."

In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation." —Isaiah 25:9

When He said these words to His various people when He lived on earth, their responses varied. Some made excuses. Some considered what was involved and found it to be too much for them. But His disciples, those who chose to follow Him, set aside all they had tried before and followed. Was it easy? Often not. Was it what they expected? Once in a while. But was it what they desired? In their heart of hearts, yes. And the same holds true for the men and women in our time who have said, "Yes, I will follow."

If you have completed this study and reviewed the five points of the Links Player's personal mission as outlined on page 1, you have a good sense of what is involved in following Christ. You can't know everything, but you have enough information to "consider the cost," as Jesus said. If you now find yourself ready to commit to following Christ, here's what you do:

FIRST, if possible, make your commitment in the presence of someone who has already done so. This is not necessary, but from the moment of your surrender, you will have a partner in the faith, a person who can encourage and support you.

SECOND, begin to pray. This is a holy act, but it requires no special words or patterns. The Bible tells us that Jesus intercedes for us, carrying our prayers to the Father in heaven.

THIRD, give your sinful life to God. Tell Him that you are sorry for what you have done in the past, but that you know He can free you from the eternal consequences of that past.

FOURTH, tell God that you are thankful for the death of His Son, whose shed blood cleanses your sin.

FINALLY, let God know that you are ready for a new life, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to do things you have never done before, replacing sinful habits with righteous ones. Ask Him to guide you step-by-step, particularly in the next few days as you tell others about this important decision and commitment you have made.

Now that you have made this commitment to follow Christ, you are a Links Player. That's it.

But remember, too, that you are just a seedling. God has it in mind for you to grow. You can do this through important acts of faith, such as baptism and implementing your spiritual gifts. You will also want to form the habits of Bible reading, memorization and prayer, to learn more about God and to develop your communicative relationship with Him. If you're not sure how to go about all of this, your group leader can help answer your questions and point you to others who can help as well. Don't go it alone! God's plan includes rich fellowship among His people, for "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).

