



# Links Players

## RESCUED FROM DEATH 8: DISCIPLES & PROTÉGÉS

*Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. (1 Timothy 4:15-16, NIV)*

**T**HERE'S A HERO WHERE YOU PLAY GOLF. It's probably not anyone a tour player would recognize. This hero doesn't have time for all it would take to make a life of competitive golf. Why? The hero is too busy watching others take their swings.

By the time we're adults, we may not look at our local teaching professionals this way, but kids are still starry-eyed. Take some time for them, offer them instruction and advice, and they will love and even admire you.

As grown men and women, we're not above admiring others either. Matter of fact, we're as prone to going overboard as giggly teen fans. If you don't think so, let me ask how you reacted when Chip and Joanna Gaines announced they were done with *Fixer Upper*. If you didn't love the show yourself, you know a dozen people who did. It was a funny, family-oriented program, and whether or not you connected with their decor, you can still appreciate their work ethic and business savvy.

The real role models we should be looking for in our lives, however, shouldn't be TV stars or golf professionals. We can learn from all kinds of people, but those who give us what we really need are those caring for our souls. This is what Paul became for many people with whom he ministered. Paul was a team player, and he encouraged men and women, young and old, to gain from each other.

We know of Paul's instruction to two of his protégés because his letters to them are found in the Scriptures. Timothy and Titus were younger than Paul, but they were caring for souls among the people, serving them as pastors. So Paul provided his own soul care, encouraging these young men, inspiring their faith, and passing on the wisdom he'd been given by the Holy Spirit. Still, Paul placed no stock in hero worship, something we know by way of his strong words to the Corinthians about not arguing over who was the "super apostle" among them.

You may be humble like Paul, not wanting to be known as some sort of spiritual champion. That's great. But you must be confident enough that God by his Spirit has given you learning and faith to pass on to others. Teach as you've been taught; give because you have received.

**Opening questions** Did you grow up around the game? What made the people who helped you "heroic"? • Who helps you make progress with your faith at this stage of your life?

### READING Titus 1:4; 1 Timothy 4:12-16; Titus 2:1-10

#### A personal connection (Titus 1)

What strikes you about Paul's greeting to Titus? What do you think gets in the way of people being closely connected around their faith? Do you have those in your life whom you can call "true friends" in the faith?

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#### Go get 'em (1 Timothy 4)

What blend of encouragement and instruction do you see in Paul's words? How can this be a model for the way you communicate with those who are learning from you?

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#### Good examples (Titus 2)

In what ways does the body of Christ cut across generational and societal lines? What is the highest purpose in living with integrity and excellence?

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2019 Links Players International. An introductory video for this study is available at <https://youtu.be/TInSJgCJ20Y>.