



Links Players

RELATING TO GOD 10: THOSE WHO GLORIFY GOD

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever. (Psalm 86:12, NIV)

AMONG THE SURPRISES OF THE 2019 PGA TOUR SEASON was that we suddenly became familiar with Amy Bockerstette. It didn't take long. Just the length of time needed to play a par-3.

Bockerstette was the unheralded collegiate player who joined Gary Woodland on the sixteenth tee during his practice round for the Phoenix Waste Management Open. Down syndrome has only allowed Amy only a diminutive stature, but her spirit is huge, and it showed that day. She took a lash at her tee shot, which wound up in the greenside bunker. Woodland offered to get it out for her, but she was ready to play the shot. "I got this," she told him. Which she did. She also "got" the putt for par, and everyone went off that day with smiles.

But the Amy Bockerstette phenomenon would not stop. The video of her three shots is the most viewed PGA Tour video ever to play on social media. Not Tiger. Not Rory. Not Phil. *Amy*. From that day in Scottsdale, Amy emerged with a foundation dedicated to helping others with Down syndrome learn and enjoy the game.

That, friends, is glory. When something is made bigger than it otherwise would be, it has gained glory. At least in the human sense.

It's different with God. God cannot be made bigger. He is as big as they come. But God can be made bigger in our hearts and in our minds. It's like a telescope, teaches John Piper, where something brilliant and vast is brought into our view like never before.

Jesus taught that those who shine do so with their good deeds, and that by way of those works, others glorify God (Matthew 5:16). We become the telescope that opens the eyes of those who may have yet to believe. How does this happen? By the way God is working in us. He is, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, transforming us into the image of Christ with ever-increasing glory.

We should always look for ways to glorify God—to make him bigger in the eyes of others. But in the wonder of our relationship with him, he is placing his glory within us, that we might reflect him in a way we certainly could not otherwise do. What a reason to enjoy relationship with him!

Opening questions What's the most anyone has ever made of a shot you hit or a round you played? How did you soak up this moment in the spotlight?

READING Exodus 15:2-11; John 17:1-5; 1 Peter 2:11-12

Song of Moses (Exodus 15)

How did Moses both tell of God's glory and assign him glory in this song? What personal story could you tell of God's hand in your life that would testify to his glory?

Father and Son (John 17)

How did Jesus glorify the Father? How did the Father glorify the Son? How might we glorify both of them—with our words? with our deeds?

God's glory through us (1 Peter 2)

What are two different ways non-believers can react to the life of Christ in us? How does this encourage you to live as God would have you live?

Written by Jeff Hopper ©2020 Links Players International. An introductory video for tis study is available here: <https://youtu.be/3oPIS3HmJps>