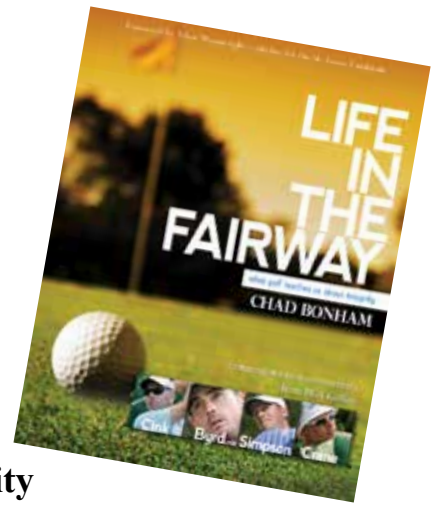


Author's Note: This study guide contains discussion questions and Scripture references for seven of the ten chapters from *Life in the Fairway*. Three of the chapters simply did not fit the format for additional dialogue and questions.



LIFE IN THE FAIRWAY

— Study Guide

Chapter 1 — A Love Story, Golf: The Driving Force Behind Integrity

1. Why do you love golf? _____

2. What do you find most challenging about the game? _____

3. Do you think it's possible to achieve perfection on the golf course? Why or why not? _____

4. Do you think it's possible to achieve perfection in life? Why or why not? _____

5. What can the pursuit of perfection as a golfer tell us about the pursuit of perfection as a follower of Christ?

6. Read Matthew 5:48 and Ephesians 5:1. What do you think is the purpose behind those passages? _____

7. Who are some individuals that you consider to have great integrity and what about their life makes you feel that way? _____

8. What do you think integrity has to do with striving for perfection as a Christian? _____

9. What are some ways that you can begin living more like Christ today? _____

For further study on becoming more like Christ and the pursuit of perfection, read the following passages: Romans 12; Ephesians 4:14–16; Philippians 3:12–15; 1 John 3:6–10; and 2 Peter 3:17–18.

Chapter 2 — Jonathan Byrd: Integrity Has No Regrets

1. Has a frustrating situation ever gotten the best of you and caused you to do something you later regretted? Explain. _____

2. Read Proverbs 19:5. What are some ways that dishonesty might cause trouble for the one being dishonest and/or those on the receiving end of that dishonesty? _____

3. What are some ways that God has humbled you? Is it possible to be thankful for those humbling moments? Explain. _____

4. How important is it for you to avoid having regrets when it comes to your personal life? What are some ways you've tried to minimize mistakes within your family dynamic to keep from having to deal with those regrets?

5. Spiritually speaking, what does the phrase "excess baggage" mean to you? Can you think of some "excess baggage" you've had to dump from your life? Is there any "excess baggage" you're still holding on to now?

6. Can you think of a time when you had to confess something to someone else? What was the result of that confession and how did you feel after revealing the truth? _____

7. Read Romans 3:23. What does that passage mean to you? _____

8. Read 1 John 1:9. Have you confessed your sins to God? If not, what is keeping you from taking that step of faith? _____

9. What are some changes you can make in your life today that will help allow the peace of God mentioned in Philippians 4:7 to fill you up? _____

For further study on living without regrets, read the following passages: Matthew 6:14–15; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:17–32; and Colossians 3:13.

Chapter 4 — Webb Simpson: Integrity Has No Price

1. Can you think of a time, like Webb Simpson, when you were penalized for something that you didn't do? How did you respond to that circumstance? _____

2. Have you ever been tempted to skirt the rules or be less than honest in a situation where a different outcome might personally benefit you? What did you decide to do and how did things turn out? _____

3. Is there ever any justification for breaking the rules? Explain. _____

4. What characteristics do you think it takes to make tough decisions like the one Simpson made at the Zurich Classic? Do you possess those characteristics? Which ones are you still working on? _____

5. Read Galatians 5:16–18. What do you think it means to “walk by” or follow the Spirit? How much of a role does the Holy Spirit play in your decision-making each day? Can you think of a time when He specifically helped you make a hard choice? _____

6. List in order the most important things in your life. What are some tough decisions you've had to make regarding priorities? What helped you make the right choice? _____

7. Read Luke 16:10–12. Because Simpson made a good choice in New Orleans, his influence was increased. Can you think of another situation where someone's influence was increased because he or she did the right thing? How does the passage in Luke relate to this concept of increased influence and responsibility? _____

8. Can you think of a situation where someone's influence was decreased because he or she made a bad decision? _____

9. Earlier, you named some characteristics that it takes to make tough decisions. What are some things you can do today in order to begin developing those characteristics more fully in your life? How do you think utilizing those characteristics and relying on the Holy Spirit might change the way you approach daily choices that you face? _____

For further study on making tough choices, read the following passages: Proverbs 3:1–2; Mark 8:34–38; Luke 16:1–14; and Galatians 6:7–8.

Chapter 5 — The Money List: How Integrity Is Reflected in Our Finances

1. Have you ever been in a situation where being honest cost you an opportunity or possibly even financial gain? _____

2. What are some pressures that people in today's society often face when it comes to finances? What are some pressures that you have personally faced? _____

3. Kevin Streelman talks about a decision he made on the golf course that cost him a few thousands dollars — a large sum for him at the time. What are some temptations involving finance or material things that present themselves on a regular basis? How difficult is it to resist caving to those temptations? _____

4. Read Proverbs 3:5. Is this a passage that you generally have an easy time or difficult time living out? Explain.

5. Read Matthew 6:25–34. What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us in this passage? In what ways is this teaching counter-intuitive to our human nature? _____

6. Read Luke 6:38. Why do you think the Bible teaches so much about giving? Have you experienced the principle that Jesus is sharing in the verse? _____

7. What are some obstacles that you sometimes face when it comes to giving of your finance, resource, and time? Read Proverbs 3:5. How does that verse relate to the command given in Luke 6:38? _____

8. What are some things that you can start doing today that will help you trust God more for your finances and your physical needs? _____

9. What are some ways that you can start to be more generous with your finance, resource, and time?

For further study on financial integrity, read the following passages: Genesis 22:14; Malachi 3:10; Philippians 4:19; Acts 20:35; and 1 Timothy 6:3–10, 17–18.

Chapter 6 — Stewart Cink: Integrity Has No Secrets

1. Stewart Cink says, “Golf teaches you so much about yourself — like who you really are and what you’re made of.” Can you relate to that statement? _____

2. Is there another aspect of your life or a past situation that has taught you “what you’re made of”? If so, what did you learn about yourself? _____

3. In what areas of your life (i.e., home, work, friendships, etc.) have you found it easiest to keep secrets from those close to you? Why do you think that is the case? _____

4. What are some circumstances in which you’ve felt compelled to keep secrets from people you care deeply about? What kind of emotions did you deal with during that time? _____

5. Read Proverbs 10:9. Have you ever kept a secret and been “found out?” How did that situation turn out? _____

6. Do you think it’s possible to keep a secret from God? _____

7. Read Luke 9:62. How can keeping secrets or having unresolved sins keep you from being effective in your professional life, in your family life, in your ministry life, etc.? Can you think of an example of how keeping secrets has negatively impacted you in one of these areas? _____

8. How would you define hypocrisy? Can you give an example? In what areas of your life have you struggled with hypocrisy? _____

9. Read 1 John 1:9. How might this passage help you deal with any secrets or unconfessed sins that are holding you back? _____

For further study on peace of mind, read the following passages: Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 7:13–14, 18:15–17; Romans 2:12–16; Hebrews 4:12; and James 5:16.

Chapter 8 — Ben Crane: Integrity Has No Fear

1. Ben Crane tells a story about how fear was negatively impacting his golf game. What are some of your fears and how have they negatively impacted your life? _____

2. Do you tend to be more afraid of doing the wrong thing or more afraid of taking a stand and doing the right thing? Explain. _____

3. Job was described as “blameless in the sight of God” yet he was persecuted and tried more than any Old Testament figure. Do you think Job experienced fear during that time? How do you think he was able to still trust God? How do you think you would handle a similar situation? _____

4. Read James 1:2–4. Can you think of a time when your faith was tested? Did you experience fear? Were there any benefits to that trying time in your life? Explain. _____

5. Read Joshua 1:7–8. Why do you need to be “strong and very courageous” in order to live with integrity? What do you think it means to be “prosperous and successful”? Have you experienced any benefits from making godly choices? _____

6. Read 2 Timothy 1:7. If the spirit of fear isn’t from God, where do you think it comes from? Why is it important to understand the source of your fears, and how does knowing that help you overcome them? _____

7. Crane says, “If we’re allowing God to prune us and make us more like Him, then we’re on the greatest journey in this life.” What do you think he means by “allowing God to prune us”? What are some areas in your life (and specifically with regard to your integrity) that you might need pruned? _____

8. Read Romans 8:28. What do you think that passage has to do with integrity and fear? _____

9. What are some things you can start doing today that will help replace your fears with peace, confidence, and courage? _____

For further study on peace and living without fear, read the following passages: Isaiah 12:2; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6–9; 1 Peter 5:7 and 3:8–22.

Chapter 10 — Making the Turn: What God Wants to Teach Us about Integrity

1. What does the phrase “making the turn” mean to you? Can you describe a time in your life when you “made the turn”?

2. How would you describe the state of integrity in our world today? Can you give some examples where integrity is lacking? What about some examples where integrity is being upheld? _____

3. What do you think are the reasons that God wants us to live with integrity? Which of those reasons most resonate with you? _____

4. What about Jesus’ life challenges you the most? Do you think it’s possible to live like Him? Explain.

5. Read Romans 12:1. What do you think it means to be a “living sacrifice” and what do you think that has to do with integrity? _____

6. Of the five keys to living with integrity listed (in the section “Making the Turn”), which have you actively pursued in your life? What are some benefits you’ve experienced from those pursuits? With which ones have you struggled the most?

7. Read Galatians 5:22–23. Of these fruits of the Spirit, which ones can you honestly say are actively visible in your life? Which ones tend to be more difficult for you to exhibit? _____

8. What does it mean to you to “be courageous?” From where do you personally get the courage to make right decisions in your life? _____

9. Why is it important to understand that “integrity has no end”? What are some consequences you’ve experienced from lapses in integrity? What are some benefits you’ve enjoyed because you maintained your integrity? _____

For further study on pursuing a life of integrity, read the following passages: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:18–25; Ephesians 1:17–18; Colossians 3:8–10; Romans 12:2; and John 14:23–27.

Write down a prayer that you can daily communicate to God, asking Him to help you follow Christ, submit to the Spirit, commit spiritual discipline, set up an accountability system, and be courageous to make tough choices, correct mistakes, and continue moving forward. Make sure to say that prayer every morning before you start your day as a reminder of the commitment to godly integrity.

For more information, please visit: nlpg.com/lifeinthefairway