

Youth



✔ Prepare in Advance

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the videos listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Practice

Play the "Allen Iverson Press Conference" clip. Stop at 2:13.

Use these questions to facilitate discussion.

- Do you agree or disagree with Iverson about the importance of practice? Explain.
- Some have said that a game is won or lost on the practice field. Do you agree or disagree?
- What is the point of practice? What happens if you entered a competition without practice?
- Do you think it is necessary for someone to practice spiritually? Why or why not?
- How does someone practice following God? What does that look like?
- What happens if someone faces a spiritual battle without first entering practice? Explain.

✔ Striving

Read Philippians 4:1-9.

- What do you think is going on in this text with Eudia and Syntyche?
- Which instruction in verses 4-9 do you find the most difficult? Why?
- What reward will they get from practicing these things?

Play the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- Using the list in Vs. 8, what should you strive for in the following situations?

Someone is being picked on because of their clothing.

Your parents won't let you stay out past curfew.

You can easily cheat on a test without getting caught.

Everyone you know uses curse words and it looks like fun.

✔ Choices

Play the "Fireproof" clip.

- Do you think this was an extreme reaction to his addiction? Why or why not?
- How important do you think it is to control our thoughts? Why do most of our sins start in our thoughts?
- In the text for this week, how many of Paul's instructions originate in your thoughts?
- What would it look like to practice focusing on the characteristics Paul has presented?
- Do you think following God is a choice or a product of your circumstances? Explain.
- What is the key to choosing joy and gentleness even in tough situations?
- Give some examples of situations at your school that would put those choices to the test.

By Don Breeden

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