

Lesson 8 / April 29, 2018

The Right Path

By Sandra Higley

for use as
STEP 1 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

Worship isn't just ceremony, it's a way of life.

Lesson 8**Bible Basis:**

Micah 6:3–4, 6–8;
James 1:22–27

Lesson 8**Memory Verse:**

He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8

Students will consider a man who spent his entire life walking uprightly as they explore worship as a lifestyle.

Materials:

- Internet access
- Whiteboard and marker

Before class, write the following words on the whiteboard: HONESTY, INTEGRITY, PURITY, HUMILITY.

Last month, a funeral was held for Billy Graham—an evangelist who preached the Gospel to millions of people during his lifetime. The funeral was televised live and reached millions more.

Play this video [2:37]:

Billy Graham funeral attendees will include President Trump

<https://www.today.com/video/billy-graham-funeral-attendees-will-include-president-trump-1175027779819>

In a recent tribute, Graham was described this way: “Evangelist Billy Graham lived ninety-nine years, wrote thirty books, met with twelve sitting American presidents and preached the gospel to millions. But when he is buried this Friday, March 2, in his hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, he will be remembered not only as a world-changing hero of faith but as a humble preacher whose personal integrity set the gold standard for every minister in this country.”

Early in his ministry, Graham challenged his ministry team to pray about what codes of behavior they needed to adopt in order to keep the ministry clean. They came up with four key elements:

1. Honesty: They resolved not to inflate or exaggerate the size of the crowds or the numbers that responded.

2. Integrity: All financial matters would be submitted to a board of directors for review. They would maintain an “open books” policy and publish how all money was spent.

3. Purity: They resolved to pay close attention to avoiding temptation—never being alone with any woman besides their wives, remaining accountable to each other, and keeping their wives informed of all their activities on the road.

4. Humility: They resolved they would never speak badly of another Christian minister, regardless of his denominational affiliation or differing theological views. They were determined to strengthen the body of Christ as well as build it.

- **What do you think motivated Billy Graham to come up with this code of behavior?** (Answers will vary but may include his love for God, knowing how easy it would be to get proud after meeting with all the presidents and drawing such huge crowds, seeing other ministers fall because of their indiscretions.)
- **How effective do you think Billy Graham’s ministry would have been had he not lived by this standard?** (Allow students to speculate; accept all reasonable answers.)
- **Even non-Christians had good things to say about Billy Graham though they disagreed with his beliefs. Why do you think that was so?** (Answers might include: they respected his integrity and humility, etc.)

Showing up for a worship service once a week to pay tribute to God can’t hold a candle to living a lifestyle of worship on a daily basis. Let’s see what God has to say about it.

Additional resources:

How Billy Graham Avoided Scandal His Entire Life

<https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/69841-how-billy-graham-avoided-scandal-his-entire-life>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

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STEP 4 

Lesson 8**Focus:**

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humbly with your God.
—Micah 6:8

Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

Ask a volunteer to read Micah 6:8. **Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Micah recorded how to live a worshipful lifestyle.**

- **What primary elements did Micah list as God's requirements for worshipful living?** (To be just, merciful, and humble in our walk with God.)

Refer to the words written on the whiteboard in Step one.

- **How did Billy Graham's codes of behavior measure up to Micah 6:8?** (Answers will vary. Students may point out that honesty, integrity, and purity would fall under the category of acting justly; keeping their wives informed of everything they did while away from home might fall under mercy as would not speaking ill of people they disagreed with; humility is obvious.)

Hand out index cards and pens/pencils. Have your students copy down the four-point code of behavior from the whiteboard. Ask your students to find a spot in the room where they can process and respond quietly. Ask them to spend some time writing down anything in their lives that falls outside of this code of behavior as well as any behaviors that fall within the code. Encourage them to continue the positive behaviors and challenge them to work on changing at least one of the negative behaviors this week in pursuit of a worshipful life response.

As your teens think and write, you might want to play this music video [3:34]:
Lincoln Brewster—Made New (Official Lyric Video)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jd4qtmDGIWQ>

Close in prayer.

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