

Lesson 8 / July 25, 2010

# Always Do What's Right

for use as

## STEP 1

### Lesson 8 Focus:

Never tire of doing  
what is right.

### Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

2 Thessalonians 3:1-15

### OPENING ACTIVITY: *I'm Tired*

**A**sk your students to finish the following statement: "One thing that I have to do regularly that tires me out is. . ." Some answers might include going to work every day, mowing the grass, washing dishes, cleaning house, or raising children. After the class has discussed their answers, lead into the following story about a man who has been "tirelessly" serving the Lord for most of his 73 years.

**OPENING STORY** [read it aloud to your class, or make copies and pass it around]:

### FORMER PASTOR BATTLES CANCER, CONTINUES SERVING

Lynn Anderson's 73-year journey is a clear indication of how God choreographs lives for His purpose. From humble beginnings in the tiny town of Kincaid, just north of Montana in the prairie province of Saskatchewan, Canada, Anderson has touched thousands of lives doing the Lord's work.

Anderson was the preaching minister at Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, from 1971 to 1990. Today, he is an author, well-known speaker, and founder of the San Antonio-based Hope Network Ministries, a ministry dedicated to coaching, mentoring, and equipping church leaders.

"I have always had the gift of gab," Anderson said as he spoke about his call to ministry. "There was always kind of an unwritten perception as a young man that I was going to be a minister, but one of the more vivid memories I have of God speaking to me about ministry came through Alvin Jennings, a missionary minister who came to our little town in southern Saskatchewan to plant a church. He asked me if I felt the calling from the Lord to ministry—and that just lodged in my heart."

After his college years at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees, Anderson helped plant two churches in British Columbia over the next 11 years before coming to Highland Church of Christ in 1971. While in Abilene, Anderson attained something no one had ever done before: he was the first person to earn a doctorate of ministry from Abilene Christian University (ACU).

Lesson 8  
**Memory Verse**

But the Lord is faithful,  
 and he will strengthen  
 and protect you from  
 the evil one.

—2 Thessalonians 3:3

He served as an adjunct professor at ACU for more than 28 years, teaching Bible and missions courses, and also he taught ministry courses at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, and Preston Road Center for Christian Education in Dallas.

“He is very much a relational person,” said David Wray, who was minister of education at Highland from 1975 to 1990. “He would study every day from 7 a.m. to noon to prepare for a sermon, and then spend the remainder of the day collaborating with people across the city. He often describes his 19 years at Highland as the best. I would say they were the best of my life as well, in large part due to Lynn.”

Anderson has authored several well-known books, including *If I Really Believe, Why Do I Have These Doubts?*, *The Jesus Touch*, *The Shepherd’s Song*, and *They Smell Like Sheep*. Anderson just released his 13th book, *Talking Back to God*, subtitled “Speaking through Your Heart to God through Psalms.”

Best-selling author Max Lucado, a student of Anderson’s at ACU but now his minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, has high praise for Anderson and his new book.

“For over three decades, Lynn Anderson has nourished my soul and directed my path,” said Lucado in his endorsement of the book. “When he speaks, I listen. When God speaks, Lynn listens. In this book, he teaches us to do the same, taking us to the wellspring of worship: the Psalms.”

“Faith is hard, and Lynn is the kind of minister who puts a positive voice to life’s challenges, emphasizing the ultimate triumph of God,” says Rick Atchley, now the minister at Richland Hills Church of Christ near Dallas but formerly at Southern Hills.

Faith has sustained Anderson through his recent battle with lung cancer. Anderson said the psalms have been a source of strength in his battle.

“I am definitely getting help from the psalms—more than I could have expected—as I’ve been battling cancer,” he said. “But my readings aren’t a new thing. For several decades, I’ve been reading and praying a psalm every day and also memorizing a psalm every month. Psalms have always been food for my God-hunger.”

Anderson readily acknowledges that God’s fingerprint is on virtually every step in his life and is thankful for the good times—as well as the challenging.

“Some people get 50 years of experience,” he said. “Others get one year’s experience—50 times. I hope and pray that I may be among the former. Among our most valuable experiences, Carolyn, my wife, and I would certainly rate our hard times. God has sustained and taught us—

**Lesson 8**  
**Memory Verse**

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and he will strengthen  
and protect you from  
the evil one.  
—2 Thessalonians 3:3

and the joy and fulfillment exponentially outweigh the minor hassles.”

[Now form small groups and have your class discuss the following questions.]

- ▶ Why do you think those who know Anderson have such high respect for him?
- ▶ What keeps Anderson serving the Lord in spite of his serious health concerns?
- ▶ How long have you been serving the Lord?
- ▶ When has serving Him been especially difficult or tiring? What made it so?

[When you are finished with the questions, go on to Step 2 in your *Adult Teacher's Guide*, where you read the Scripture and begin to discuss it.]

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News Source:

“A Lifetime of Experience,” by Dan Carpenter, Abilene Reporter-News  
<http://www.reporternews.com/news/2010/jun/17/a-lifetime-of-experience>

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## STEP 4

### Lesson 8 Focus:

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### Lesson 8 Bible Basis:

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## KEEP ON KEEPING ON FOR HIM

**W**hen we trust in Jesus Christ as our Savior, it is a lifelong commitment. We may become discouraged, drained, and tired at times as we serve Him. We may at times phase out of one role of service into another, but we must never stop using our gifts in His service. He is always there to lift us up and help us be a consistent witness for Him, every day He gives us to serve Him.

As Paul told the Galatians, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9).

[Activity]

Ask your students to return to the small groups they had in Step 1 to discuss their answers to the following:

- ▶ How do you stay encouraged to do God's work when you are tired, discouraged, or your work for Him seems to go unrecognized by those around you?
- ▶ What benefits from your service have you seen that have encouraged you along the way?
- ▶ How can you help others "keep on keeping on" for Him?
- ▶ Who has been an inspiration to you because of his or her continuing service to the Lord?
- ▶ Ask God to help you find creative ways to remain encouraged in your dedication to Him, even when you feel weary.

Pray together as you close the class time this week, asking God to help all of you continue to serve Him and not grow weary in doing good.

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