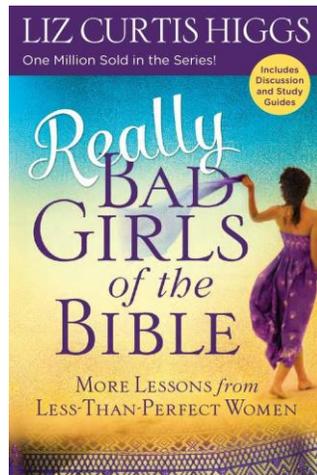


*Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network*

**Bible Study Guide for June 16-17, 2018 | Bathsheba**

from *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. Read 2 Samuel 11:2. Do you think David was looking for trouble when he strolled around on his roof? Boredom and routine may find us gazing beyond the safety of home for something to pique our interest, as Proverbs 17:24 describes. Be honest: when have you been tempted to let your eyes wander? And how did you handle the situation? What do James 1:13-14 and 1 John 2:16 tell us about temptation? As we read in 2 Samuel 11:3, David's men returned to the palace with important information about his beautiful neighbor. What two things did they tell David that should have stopped him in his tracks? Sadly, it didn't work. In 2 Samuel 11:4 the facts of their affair are brief and to the point.
2. David's sins are obvious. What about Bathsheba's? Was she victim or vixen? How might Romans 7:18-19 and Galatians 5:17 describe Bathsheba's conflicting desires? If you were Bathsheba, brought to the king's opulent palace on a warm spring night, could you have said no to David's invitation? What would have made the idea hard for you to resist? Or easy to reject? Even if we choose to be bad, God's Word offers incredible hope. What do these verses tell us about our sin—and God's grace: Ephesians 1:7, Romans 5:8, and 1 Timothy 1:15?
3. In 2 Samuel 11:5, when Bathsheba finally speaks, what does she say? She discharged the duty of handling this matter completely to David. Why might that have been the case? Among other things, this story is about taking responsibility for our actions and facing the consequences. What consequences might Bathsheba have faced as an adulteress? David had other consequences to think about—like her wronged husband, as we read in 2 Samuel 11:6-7. When David devised Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, is there any indication he sought God's counsel? What does Proverbs 16:3 reveal about making plans? Why do you think David ignored such wisdom?

4. David's story of rebellion, repentance, and restoration is meaningful for all of us who have fallen short of God's glory—which is all of us, according to Romans 3:23. If you've ever attempted a simple cover up scheme, only to find yourself piling lie upon lie, what happened next? Once we realize we've dug ourselves into a pit of sin and regret, 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 shows us the way out. Describe the fruit of godly sorrow in our lives. God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David with his sins. The result was a remarkable exchange, recorded in 2 Samuel 12:13. David offered a confession; Nathan offered forgiveness. In the New Testament, we have the same two-step process described in 1 John 1:9. What comfort does that offer you when you fear, as David must have, that you've ruined your relationship with the Lord forever?
5. As for Bathsheba, it seems her love for David grew, as did his affection for her, as we read in 2 Samuel 12:24. And, in 1 Kings 1:28-31 she remained a favored wife at the close of David's life. What indication is there that her own relationship with God was restored? Matthew 1:1 reminds us that Jesus was called, "the son of David," and in Matthew 1:6 we see where King David falls in the lineage of Christ. How does this passage from the Gospels assure us that not only were David and Bathsheba forgiven by God, but that we can be forgiven as well?
6. What's the most important lesson you learned from the soap-opera story of Bathsheba and her flawed but faithful king?