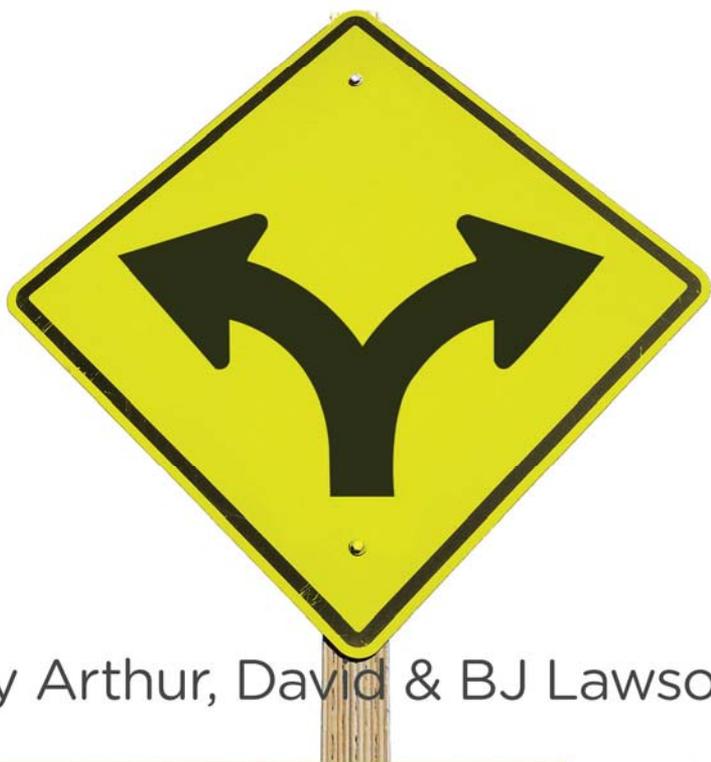


How to Make Choices You Won't Regret



Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson

4minute
BIBLE STUDIES

How to Make Choices You Won't Regret

Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson

PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



WATERBROOK
P R E S S

HOW TO MAKE CHOICES YOU WON'T REGRET

PUBLISHED BY WATERBROOK PRESS

12265 Oracle Boulevard, Suite 200

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80921

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), © Copyright The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

Italics in Scripture quotations reflect the author's added emphasis.

ISBN 978-0-307-45764-6

Copyright © 2003 by Precept Ministries International

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Published in the United States by WaterBrook Multnomah, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House Inc., New York.

WATERBROOK and its deer colophon are registered trademarks of Random House Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SPECIAL SALES

Most WaterBrook Multnomah books are available at special quantity discounts when purchased in bulk by corporations, organizations, and special-interest groups. Custom imprinting or excerpting can also be done to fit special needs. For information, please e-mail SpecialMarkets@WaterBrookMultnomah.com or call 1-800-603-7051.

HOW TO MAKE CHOICES YOU WON'T REGRET

I hate you! How can you stand there and say you love me? You don't call or come by except when you and your 'friend' don't have any plans or when I beg to see you! Don't tell me you love me!"

As his teenage daughter screamed, his heart was breaking. Finally he left, wondering, *How did I get to this point—divorced, with my daughter hating me? All I ever wanted was to be a great husband and father.*

Perhaps you, too, are wondering how you ended up where you are, whether your life would be better if you had made different decisions along the way. Maybe your current situation is great, but you're facing some difficult choices.

Every day we're faced with decisions, many of

which are benign, with no lasting consequences. Others have the potential to change the course of our lives—whether for good or bad. Certain avenues open to us are marked with hidden pitfalls or lead in harmful directions, and in some instances the wrong choice can even bring death. Where do you go for direction?

This inductive study will give you guidelines for making these difficult choices. By inductive we mean you will go straight to the source—the Bible—to see what God has to say. Knowing His Word for yourself will equip you to make choices that bring honor to Him and lead you to peace.

WEEK ONE

David was Israel's great and celebrated second king. His obedience had resulted in an unprecedented outpouring of blessing, not only on his household, but on all of Israel. A married man with a number of wives who had borne him many children, David had much about which to be thankful, but with his success came new opportunities and decisions. Let's take a look at this man David and the choices he made.

OBSERVE

Leader: Read aloud 2 Samuel 11:1-5.

- *Have the group say aloud and underline every reference to **David**, including pronouns.*

INSIGHT

It was normal for kings to go to war in the spring, which marks the end of the rainy season. The roads would be passable, there would be fodder for the animals, and an army on the move would be able to raid the fields for food.

DISCUSS

- What did you learn from marking *David* in verse 1?

2 SAMUEL 11:1-5

¹ Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem.

² Now when evening came, David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a

woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance.

3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

4 David sent messengers and took her, and when she came to him, he lay with her; and when she had purified herself from her uncleanness, she returned to her house.

5 The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, and said, “I am pregnant.”

- What happened to David when he stayed home and didn't go to battle as kings should have?

INSIGHT

The woman David sees is “very beautiful.” The Hebrew phrase used here is reserved for people of striking physical appearance.

- What course of events led to Bathsheba's pregnancy?
- What choices could David have made to change the outcome of this story?

OBSERVE

Did David have any information that would have helped him make the right choice? According to Deuteronomy 17:18-20, every king who came to power was supposed to write his own copy of the Law—the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy. This means David would have written out Exodus 20:1-17, which lists the Ten Commandments.

Leader: Let's read these commandments.

- *Number each of the commandments as you read them. The first commandment is found in verse 3.*
- *When you come to a commandment that involves sexual activity, number it and put a check mark beside it: ✓*

DISCUSS

- Did David break any of these commandments when he slept with Bathsheba? If so, which ones?

EXODUS 20:1-17

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

2 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 “You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

5 “You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth

generations of those who hate Me,

6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 “Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your

- Look back at what you marked about David in the passage from 2 Samuel. Was David made aware in any way that he would be breaking one or more of these commandments if he slept with Bathsheba?

- When David decided to sleep with Bathsheba, what was the basis of his choice?

- Do you see any similarities between what happened with David and Bathsheba and the choices many are making today? Explain your answer.

- When faced with a moral decision, what path are many people choosing and on what basis?

male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.

11 “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

13 “You shall not murder.

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

WRAP IT UP

God refers to David as “a man after His own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). This description is reflected in David’s earlier choices to follow God’s commands and statutes, choices that resulted in blessings not only for him but for the entire nation of Israel. But in his life we also see a series of choices to go against God’s commands, commands with which he was intimately familiar.

David could have chosen to obey God’s Word at any point in time, but instead he chose to continue on a path that took him further and further into danger. A seemingly insignificant choice to stay home from battle led to his coveting a neighbor’s wife, which in turn led to adultery and murder. David’s actions were evil in the sight of the Lord.

What about you? Are you known as a man or woman after God’s heart, or have you done evil in the sight of the Lord? Are you making choices based on the Word of God or on your own desires? If the latter is the case, know this: You can choose to follow the Word of God at any time and turn from the path that leads to disaster.



WATERBROOK MULTNOMAH PUBLISHING GROUP

A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC.

© Material

Excerpted from *How to Make Choices You Won't Regret* by **Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson**. Copyright© 2003 by Precept Ministries International. Excerpted by permission of WaterBrook Press, a division of Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

No-Homework Bible Studies

That Help You Discover Truth For Yourself

