

Guard Against Improper Desires

David and Bath-sheba—Part 1

Instructions: Do this exercise in a quiet place. As you read the scriptures, imagine that you hear the voices. Feel the emotions of the characters. Let the account come to life.

Main characters: David, Bath-sheba, Uriah, and Joab

Summary: David commits a serious sin and then tries to conceal it.

1 THINK ABOUT THE SCENE.—READ 2 SAMUEL 11:1-27.

Draw a diagram showing the proximity, as you imagine it, of the rooftop upon which David stood to the area in which Bath-sheba was bathing.

How would you describe the personality of each principal character in this dramatic story?

David _____

Bath-sheba _____

Uriah _____

Joab _____

What emotion do you “hear” in Uriah’s voice as he speaks to David in verse 11?

2 DIG DEEPER.

What responsibility, do you think, did Joab have in the death of Uriah?

(Reread verses 14-17.) _____

What responsibility, if any, do you think Bath-sheba had in the incident?

(Clue: Reread 2 Samuel 11:4; then read Leviticus 20:10.) _____

Where, perhaps, *should* David have been when he saw Bath-sheba?

(Reread 2 Samuel 11:1.) _____

The Bible foretells that God will resurrect many who have died. What are some

complex issues that will no doubt need to be settled between David, Uriah,

Bath-sheba, and Joab? _____

What laws did David break, and what punishment could have been administered? (Clue: Read Exodus 20: 13, 14, 17; also Genesis 9:6; Deuteronomy 22:22.) _____

In what way might it also be said that David violated the law stated at Exodus 20:15? _____

3 APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED.

Write down what you learned about . . .
The danger of nurturing improper desires. (James 1:14, 15) _____

Blindly “following orders” when these conflict with God’s laws. _____

The consequences of sin, even if the wrongdoing is not immediately apparent to you or to other humans. (*Reread 2 Samuel 11:27.*) _____

4 ASK YOURSELF.

In what situations might I be tempted to keep looking at something that will nurture a wrong desire? _____

How can I protect myself from desiring things that God hates? _____

What lesson from this account is most meaningful to me, and why? _____



Suggestion: Turn this account into a news story. Include interviews with the main characters and eyewitnesses.