

# Avoiding Implosion

## *Trajectory Lessons from David and Bathsheba*

2 Samuel 11:1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army... But David remained in Jerusalem.

### **Stay engaged in your mission.**

1 Timothy 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from [the love of money], and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. NIV

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. NIV

### **Don't get separated from your support system.**

Proverbs 18:24 One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. NIV

### **Set a trajectory aligned with who you are and who you want to be.**

Romans 13:13-14 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery... <sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. NIV

### **Steer your trajectory with disciplines, habits, and choices.**

2 Samuel 11:2 One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,

### **Take the door out while you still want it.**

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

### **Run!**

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. NIV

2 Timothy 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue... NIV

1 Corinthians 6:18a Flee from sexual immorality. NIV

### **Make tough choices to stay on trajectory.**

Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young woman." NIV

Proverbs 4:25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. NIV

2 Samuel 11:3a and David sent someone to find out about her.

Proverbs 22:3 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

**Make tough choices to stay on trajectory.**

**Realize that the death spiral is easier to enter than exit.**

2 Samuel 11:3b The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”

**Don’t expect to be rational in the throes of temptation.**

Jeremiah 17:9; 1 Timothy 6:9; Romans 1:21

Ephesians 4:17-19 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.<sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

<sup>19</sup> Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed [NIV84: with a continual lust for more]. NIV

2 Samuel 11:4a Then David sent messengers to get her.

**Don’t depend on others to stop you.**

Proverbs 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

2 Samuel 11:4b She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.)

**Meet legitimate needs in legitimate ways.**

Proverbs 5:18 Rejoice in the wife of your youth.<sup>19</sup> A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

2 Samuel 11:4c-5 Then she went back home.<sup>5</sup> The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, “I am pregnant.”

**Don’t be shocked when your desires give birth to sin.**

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

James 1:14-15 ...Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.<sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. NIV

2 Samuel 11:6-27

**Life is hard. You can make it harder.**