



Bible Class With Dr. Ricky Temple
January 22, 2025
The Power of Your Decisions
Scripture Reading-1

Introduction Review Supplemental Reading: Better Decisions and Fewer Regrets by Andy Stanley

Andy Stanley's Five Questions for Better Decisions

1. The Integrity Question

“Am I being honest with myself... really?”

This confronts self-deception. Most bad decisions don't start with bad intentions—they start with excuses we believe.

2. The Legacy Question

“What story do I want to tell?”

Decisions are chapters. This question forces you to think beyond the moment and consider the narrative your life is writing.

3. The Conscience Question

“Is there a tension that deserves my attention?”

Pay attention to inner unease. Ignoring conscience today often creates regret tomorrow.

4. The Maturity Question

“What is the wise thing to do?”

Not the legal thing. Not the permissible thing.

The wise thing—based on experience, values, and future consequences.

5. The Relationship Question

“What does love require of me?”

This frames decisions through the lens of others, not just personal benefit—especially powerful in leadership and family contexts.

Chapter Four Events:

The Ark of God is Captured: Let's review the Tabernacle



- Israel loses a fight with the Philistines
- The Sons of Eli Hophni and Phinehas, die fighting the Philistines
- Eli dies when he hears about the Ark and the death of his sons
- His daughter-in law dies when she hears her husband Phinehas has died and has sons name Ichabod (His name became a symbol not a story. Ichabod is the child whose name announces that God's glory left—not because God failed Israel, but because Israel abandoned God)

Chapter Five Thru Ten

- Chapter Five : The Ark is taken
- Chapter Six: The Ark is returned
- Chapter 7 : Samuel defeats the Philistines
- Chapter 8:1-5

“When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders. 2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” ([1 Samuel 8:1-5](#), NIV)

- Chapter 8-10: : Samuel anoints Saul King

Scripture Reading-2

Chosen but Unfinished: The Tragedy of Saul ([First Book of Samuel](#) 8–31)

1 Samuel 8:4–7

- So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”
- But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.”

1 Samuel 13:11–14

- “What have you done?” asked Samuel.
- Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling... I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”
- “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you... now your kingdom will not endure.”

1 Samuel 15:22–23

- But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
- For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.”

1 Samuel 28:6

- He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets.

Session 3 - Scripture Reading-3

Anointed but Waiting: The Rise of David

Text: ([First Book of Samuel](#) 16 → [Second Book of Samuel](#) 5)

1 Samuel 16:7, 12–13

- But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height... The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”
- So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

1 Samuel 24:

- He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.”

2 Samuel 5:3–4

- When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years.

Session 4 – Scripture Reading-4

When Success Becomes the Greatest Test

Text: ([Second Book of Samuel](#) 6–24)

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... but David remained in Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 12:7, 13

- Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

- Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
- Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.”

2 Samuel 12:10

- “Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.”

2 Samuel 23:3–4

- “When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning...”