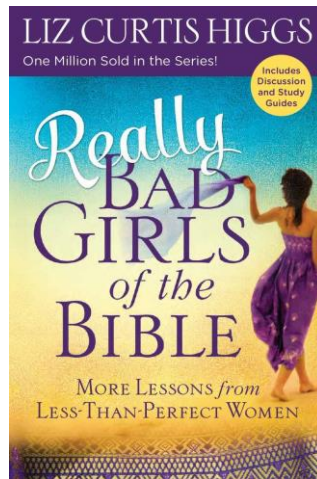


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network
Bible Study Guide for February 9-10, 2018 | The Medium of En Dor
from *Really Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. You'll find the story of the medium of En Dor in 1 Samuel 28:3-25. In 1 Samuel 15:23, words like "sin" and "evil" make it clear what God thinks of this woman's activities (and King Saul's as well). Have you ever been drawn—even a little—to horoscopes, fortune tellers, phone psychics, tarot cards, séances, Ouija boards, and the like? Is the fact that God says in his Word, "Don't do it!" sufficient motivation to keep your distance? What do Job 24:13 and Psalm 107:17 teach us about having a rebellious nature? And how might the plea of King David in Psalm 25:7 apply to your life?
2. Addressing the Daughter of Babylon—in truth, an entire nation—the prophet Isaiah railed against the same sins we've seen in the life of the medium of En Dor. Isaiah 47:10-15 begins by describing two lies which people who are deceived tell themselves. What are they? Perhaps you've mumbled similar statements under your breath, as I once did. What does David call such people in Psalm 14:1? How has God shown you the futility of that kind of thinking?
3. Many aspects of the scene described in 1 Samuel 28:12-19 challenge our understanding of life after death. All the more reason to examine each verse more closely and see what God might be teaching us. In 1 Samuel 28:12-14, why do you think the medium of En Dor screamed? How would you explain the medium seeing Samuel, yet Saul not seeing him? Was God rewarding the medium's efforts or punishing Saul for seeking her out—or might there be some other divine purpose? In 1 Samuel 28:16-19, how many times did Samuel say "the LORD"? Surely a medium, accustomed to consorting with evil spirits, wouldn't risk speaking God's name so boldly, so often? What might that tell us about who was actually doing the talking?

4. Since God clearly told his people he found such practices detestable, how can we come to grips with this seemingly effective séance? Look at Daniel 2:27-28. What does Daniel say God can do, while those trafficking in the dark arts cannot? And, in 1 John 4:2-3, what does the Spirit of God do that the spirit of the antichrist does not? What assurance do you find in these verses that God was in charge of this eerie scene, start to finish?
5. In 1 Samuel 28:19, what did Samuel explain would happen on the battlefield the next day? Now read Psalm 39:4. David wasn't actually asking God to tell him the day he would die. Rather, what was David asking? According to Psalm 139:16, does the Lord know the exact moment we will die? When was that date and time determined? How might the fact that the Lord knows the number of your days—and you do not—give you a measure of peace? Can you let go of any need to know what your future holds, and simply trust God?
6. What's the most important lesson you learned from the shadowy figure of the medium of En Dor?