



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Jesus never said “Do what I do.”

WWJD

When Christians began wearing WWJD bracelets with the acronym for “What would Jesus do?” In the 1990s, the phrase was a reminder for them to attempt to act in a way that personifies Jesus’ teachings from the Gospels. While most know the WWJD movement as a recent development, the wording has been around for more than 100 years as Charles M. Sheldon, a Topeka, TN minister and evangelical Christian writer, used it in his 1897 novel, “In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?” “What would Jesus do if he were in my shoes right now? And you’re supposed to try to conscientiously figure that out and decide what you should do.”

I recently saw a board game called WWJD that caught my eye. I looked at it with great interest. It was produced in 1998 by Cadaco, a board game company. It contains 600 questions, 16 response cards, 16 WWJD tokens, 40 scoring chips, gameboard, 4 pawns, dice and a spiritual guide. “WWJD is a game that gets you thinking and talking about your beliefs. By playing your thoughts with other players. You advise each other and listen with the ultimate goal of strengthening your faith. There are no easy answers in life, and you will often be called upon to attest to your faith and beliefs. Take the challenge and see how you measure up to the tests you may someday face.”¹

As I looked at some of the questions, they were tough with no clear and dry answers. I did not play the game, nor look at it in detail. I do believe the intention was Godly. However, the more I thought about the game, the more it bothered me. It should really be called WWGD. What Would the Game Do. To get head, you must give the answers the game has listed. But in life, the solution could be different based on the circumstances. As a game, I would not call it appealing for people to just sit around and open up about deep “what if situations.” Instead of creating harmony and growth, it may cause dissension with each person defending what they think is right.

The answer to every WWJD situation should be to pray, seek God’s Word, and ask Godly counsel. He knows the specifics about your situation. You do not need to throw the dice, guess at the answer, and hope for the best with Jesus. He knows what you should do even before you ask. Ask Him to prepare the way. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” Josh 1:8

	<p>Charles Stambaugh Mt Wolf, PA “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” Matt 7:7-8</p>	
	<p>“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matt 6:33</p>	

¹news.ku.edu/2015/04/24/book-traces-origin-phrase-wwjd-movement-topeka-minister-social-activist#:~:text=Mon%2C%2005%2F04%2F2015,Jesus%20teachings%20from%20the%20Gospels

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