

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

Beautiful — Week 3 — An Interview with Shaunti Feldhahn

Shaunti Feldhahn's book, *For Women Only* talks about the unique design God has for men and women and how understanding this design can help as we communicate with each other. This past Sunday, Shaunti was interviewed at NewSpring. Today, we'll talk a little about what was said and how we can improve communication between the sexes.

- What is the most surprising thing you heard during the interview Sunday?
- What is one thing you will do differently based on what you heard Sunday?
- Shaunti has said that women assume that they have interpersonal skills and men don't. So, if there's a problem, it's the man's fault. How do differences in men and women contribute to conflict?
- Shaunti has said that men would rather feel alone and unloved than inadequate and disrespected while women are the exact opposite. Does that ring true with you? With that in mind, should we change the way we are communicating? How?
- Philippians 2:3 says, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." How does working to communicate well with others show your maturity in Christ?
- Read Ephesians 5:33. Why do most people believe that love is unconditional but respect is earned? Is that a biblical view? Why is it important for respect to be unconditional?

What would happen if we thought about the other person before we spoke? How would our marriage or relationships be different if we thought of the needs of others first? This week, let's commit to putting others needs before our own and communicating with love and respect.

MONDAY

Read Esther 2:1- 9. Esther's great beauty opened doors of personal opportunity for her. Later, because of her integrity and courage, God used Esther to save her people from annihilation. What opportunities to influence others have been opened to you? What opportunities to demonstrate your integrity and courage have been given to you?

TUESDAY

Read Esther 2:10. Because of fear, Esther had been instructed not to reveal her nationality or family background. Do you ever feel like you are hiding who you really are? When was the last time you told your family, friends and co-workers that you are a Christ-follower?

WEDNESDAY

Esther 2:15 says, "...and Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her." What does it mean to have God's favor? What characteristics did Esther possess that allowed her to win the favor of the people around her? What are you doing to grow your character?

THURSDAY

Read Esther 4:11. Esther was afraid that if she approached the king she would be killed. How do you react when the odds are stacked against you? How often do you make a decision based on the fact that God is on your side?

FRIDAY

Esther 4:14 says, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Do you feel that God has placed you here for a purpose? What is your purpose? God is going to accomplish his will. He has chosen you to help. How does that make you feel?

SATURDAY

Esther 4:16 says, "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." Can you remember the last time you took a risk for Jesus?

SUNDAY

Esther 6:6 says, "When Haman entered, the king asked him, 'What should be done for the man the king delights to honor?' Now Haman thought to himself, 'Who is there that the king would rather honor than me?'" What is the danger of feeling like you deserve to be honored? How can an attitude of entitlement negatively affect your relationships?

BONUS

Read Esther 8:15-17. We celebrate a lot of stuff. Birthdays, anniversaries, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day, Easter, Christmas, Independence Day, Labor Day, St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day - the list goes on and on. What has God done on your behalf? When was the last time you stopped to celebrate what Jesus has done in your personal life?