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Week 47: Fall Mission Feeding
Shaunti Feldhahn and Craig Gross

James: Thank all of you! I appreciate it. Thank you so much. We welcome you to *LIFE Today*. I'm James Robison. Betty and I are thrilled to be with you.

We've got a man and a woman who co-authored as they have done some other books together and they've written a lot that has helped so many people. Here's one that they have agreed to cooperate on that's important, *Through a Man's Eyes*: Helping women understand the visual nature of men. You ever had any trouble understanding that?

Betty: I was having trouble understanding you period.

[Laughter]

...Sometimes!

James: Well said! Well said! You don't have to make up. It's all alright. We've got counselors here. We're going to get help. It will be all right.

Now here's the deal: Men are visual. They just are. They notice beauty. Men, most of them, of course, the world is changing now but men are normally attracted to women in an unhealthy fashion sometimes, and they're misdirected.

Now then we've got all of the images that come, video images on the Internet. You can just look up an innocent word to find something, it will take you down some trail in directions you'd never want a child or anyone to go. It is so easy to be so misdirected, misguided, that you can find yourself trapped. Men are finding themselves trapped, and boys, and now even girls are finding themselves trapped and a lot of times the parents don't know what to do.

Well, Shaunti Feldhahn and Craig Gross have come together with their unique abilities to write a book to try to help understand and deal with this issue. They're very courageous, very compassionate and caring or they wouldn't take it on. But I don't know of anything that I think needs to be more effectively addressed by the church than the issue of visual

distraction/attraction and being trapped, oftentimes, even addicted to images and places and things that we see that we should not be trapped by.

But when you're trapped a lot of times, you don't know who to talk to. If the wife finds out, well, the men feel so scolded and beat up when they may need some understanding and help, which Shaunti's done a real study of minds of both men and women; and men need someone to understand not just clobber them because they're already kind of -- especially if they're a professing Christian or know Christ -- they're already on a guilt trip and they're desperate and they're crying out. How do we answer it?

Would you welcome Shaunti and Craig back to *LIFE Today*?

Shaunti: Thank you!

James: I'm going to come to you Shaunti because there were some things you wanted to share. And then I think you also wanted to tell kind of a personal story, something that happened to -- I think your son was pretty young so just tell us about it.

Shaunti: Yeah! It's interesting. It's easy for us as wives to hear that men are visual and you kind of cross your arms and you're like, "Well, he could not be if he chose to." That's sort of what we, as women think; I hate to say that. And it is interesting. In the last show we were talking about how the male brain is actually wired differently from the female brain, and that there is actually a center in the male brain that is stimulated by these sights in a way that he may not want to be stimulated; that it doesn't happen the same way in a female brain.

I saw this when my son was four. I had just done that study of men in general and just released *For Women Only: The book about men*. My son was in the mall with us; we were all there as a family and we lost him in the mall. You know how scary that feeling is. We run back through the mall and we find him standing completely thunderstruck in front of the Victoria Secret window.

[Laughter]

He was staring at these life-size pictures of the women wearing not much. Right? And we run back and are like, "Oh, no!" And so of course, we're like, "Buddy!" We're bending down talking to him. "Are you okay? You scared us!"

He was not listening. He just raises his little arm and he's like, "I like those ladies."

[Laughter]

And I'm like I cannot believe I'm doing research on my four year old but...

James: That was an honest, honest... thank you, son! You did good!

He was totally honest. In my opinion, one of the worst things to happen to him would be to shame him.

Shaunti: Well, here's even -- guess what happened next. Okay?

James: I hope you did good!

Shaunti: Well, thankfully my husband had talked to me about some of these things enough that when we... He's staring at these... he is not listening to us and I'm like, I can't believe I'm doing research on my four year old but I'm going to go for it.

It was like, "Yeah, they're really pretty. What do you like about those ladies?"

And he said, "Their bare tummies make my tummy feel good."

He's four! But he has a male brain and that center in his brain was being stimulated. And that's what so many of us as moms and as women, as wives, we don't recognize that there's a biological reality here where boys and men are living in a culture that is saturated with images in public that they were only supposed to see in private with their wives.

So I thought, okay, this must start a lot earlier than I thought it did. What do I do?

And so suddenly, you know that song: Be carefully little eyes what you see? Right? It took on a whole new meaning and we realized we had to start now to help him learn how to navigate this culture so that when he sees those sights -- okay what do you do with that without shaming? Right? And saying, "You're normal, this is the way God designed you but we're not supposed to be seeing these sights or having those thoughts or following those thoughts, what do you do?"

So we started a thing as a family where if one of those commercials comes on TV or whatever, that Jeff, my husband and our son, they'll just go, "Eyes down."

And they'll just look down until I say, "Okay, it's off."

And it's interesting now, he's 12 and we don't say "eyes down" anymore, he just does it. I'm praying and hoping that that is setting him up for choices, and then the next choice, and then the next choice that gets easier and easier -- that's my prayer for him.

James: I think you've addressed it appropriately to build that into him to where it is not a guilt thing, or "I know they're looking to see what I'm doing" but rather he's just learned this is better and safer.

You want to jump in here, Craig and just add to what you've observed being a church leader and trying to help with your own kids.

Craig: Yeah, Shaunti and I both have 12-year-old boys. So this is something that we can't talk about as if we're done. We're right in the heart of this right now.

[Laughter]

What I've learned with, especially with my son, I have a daughter that's 10, and we've talked to our kids. I talked to both of them at age 7. My daughter, totally different reaction, "I'm done! That's gross! I'm eating! I'm eating, mom!" And then when I tried to jump in, she didn't want anything to do with it.

But now with my son it was just like a note pad of questions when we first had that... No, he just had a lot more questions. I think a lot of parents are scared to address this with their kids. Let me just give you some encouragement. You might not have to say a lot. Let them lead. Let them ask those questions and just be honest. Share some values, share where you've maybe gone wrong and share where you've done things right.

What I've learned is kids will talk to you about things that you talk to them about. Kids won't talk to you about things that you don't talk to them about. I can't tell you how many phone calls I get from other kids' parents and they're wondering what to do. Why they're the last ones to know about this situation, whether their kid was looking at porn or whether this happened at school. Luckily, my son's only 12 but we've had enough conversations early on where I'll pick him up and he'll say, "Dad, here's what happened. A kid brought his Instagram on his cell phone at pick up line and he was following 300 porn stars."

I'm like, "Wait a second!"

I got the kid's Instagram, called the mom, called the dad. I called a meeting at the school. I'm like, "Hey, you guys are dealing with the wrong person here." Just a sense of like I'm going to take this seriously where every other...

Sadly, I was talking to a lot of moms, which I was like, where are the men? And I hear the moms say the excuse, "Well, it is kind of awkward for him to have this conversation."

Once again, if you don't talk about this stuff with your spouse, like we talked about in the last episode, you won't talk about it with your kids. Then we have another generation that has parents that have kind of been out of the loop on this. We can't miss those opportunities.

Shaunti: One of the things, Craig, that you have often said that I think is so wise, because this is what you do in your ministry all day, is that you can't wait for your kids to mention it. You have to seize the windows. Mention what you mean by that because that really helped me, honestly, when we first started working on this book.

Craig: Yeah, because I think you think -- we've got friends, my son's friend and he's 14. The mom said to me, "He's not interested yet; right?" I was like, "14? We live in Los Angeles!"

[Laughter]

We're not like... There's very few cases where I could say like, "Oh, yeah, they're not..." I hear the most bizarre things from people. I feel like we have a lot of fear. You turn on TV and there's a lot of fear of everything, especially in Christians. I'm not fearful that I give my kids good information. If that's too early -- I told both my kids, "Other parents might not have addressed this with their kids so you don't have to go to school and say, 'I know what sex is! I know what this is! I know what this is!' But you have good information."

Otherwise, they're one Google search away from all sorts of bad information. I think that was the fear with our daughter. I don't think she is interested at all. Hey, there's boys in her class that are and when those things get talked about and she overhears -- if at all possible, if you can be that first person that talks to your kid about these things rather than them finding this stuff on the Internet, I think that's key.

When you have a situation like what happened with Shaunti and her son, being aware of that, not overreacting, but just being aware that hey, yeah, that's something that I now need to be mindful of -- yeah, for the rest of his life.

James: You've dealt with your son appropriately or you would have hurt him. You've been talking to your children appropriately.

Now in the back of the book you have some of the questions that people ask. I'm going to kind of go over several of them if you want to tackle one of them, you can.

"I suspect my husband is looking at porn but I'm not sure. What do I do?"

Let me go to the next question: "My husband has been regularly looking at porn and I caught him. What do I do?"

I have an idea so keep listening because some of you know exactly that you've actually asked the question. You might say, "How did they get my question in the book?"

"My son is the one who has the porn problem, not my husband. What do I do?"

"My son has searched the words 'big boobs' on the Internet. What do I do?" Now that will take him on a journey; won't it? Not talking about balloons either.

"My seven-year-old accidentally saw pornographic images online. What do I do? Is there any way I can minimize the damage of those images?"

Let's just take some of these questions that the wife was asking, the parents are asking, tackle them. How do you answer the wife or how do you answer them as they not only refer to the husband but a child?

Craig: I think a lot of those questions, first of all, if you women -- women have this crazy thing called "women's intuition." I don't understand it.

[Laughter]

They're right a lot more times than men are right. So if you suspect those things...

James: God says it's spiritual discernment. They want you to know that too. That's what that is.

Craig: No, and I think for men, I'm not trying to scare you but I'll scare you. You think you've covered your tracks. She already knows. So she's writing in going, "I suspect."

So I would say to the women, stop playing detective and be able, whether it is your son, whether it is your husband, all those questions, don't let those linger and don't let that go so long where you go, "Well, maybe." Because I think we try and talk ourselves out of it. Maybe it was just some -- the housekeeper came over and got on our computer. You always want to put it on somebody else because then it's like, I don't have to deal with it. But I think in all those situations you've got to deal with it.

One suggestion, whether it is your son or whether it is your husband, how do you sit maybe side-by-side with them instead of face-to-face where you're playing investigator. "Well, okay, at 4:00 I saw this." When you're coming after them with all the facts, still men, sometimes we're not the smartest.

It's like, "No, it wasn't me." It's like she's got all the information. There's no way you can get out of this one. But still the reaction is going to be, "Oh, no, it wasn't me." And whether you're a boy... you just get caught. I've tried to explain that to my kids so many times. "You're in less trouble if you just tell the truth." But when you're feeling attacked, I think you're just going to run.

James: Wouldn't it be better for the woman or the parent to say, "Honey, are you in a battle? I want to know."

Craig: Yes, and if you could do that without saying -- but once again you internalize this and you go, "Did I cause this?" This might be something that he brought into the relationship that he dealt with years before you were married.

Shaunti: And it is never the woman's fault. No, I'm serious.

Craig: No, not in this issue.

Shaunti: It's his choice.

James: Yeah, he's made the choice.

Shaunti: Although, one of the things that I can say for me saying to the women and I'm going to be really, really honest that it is always his responsibility. It is never your fault, as a woman, because it is hurtful when you find out that your husband has been looking.

I was just doing a convention over the weekend and I had two or three women come up to me in tears saying they just found out their husband had been addicted to pornography for years. They don't even know how to talk. They're just so overwhelmingly upset.

James: But being overwhelmingly concerned would be the right way to be overwhelmed too.

Shaunti: And it is understandable. But here's what I always said. First of all you're in a place, because these husbands were actually addicted; they weren't just normal visual men living in a abnormal culture. These men were in serious difficulty. I said, "Look, it is totally

understandable that you're having this reaction. You need to get counseling for yourself, as well as whatever you convey to him that you expect him to get help." And that includes, as you guys were saying, not just like official counseling, which some men kind of shy away from, but he needs some male accountability. He needs somebody; he needs pastoral care to walk him through a process.

James: And he's going to need to feel safe in that place too. He can't feel like I'm going to get in there and get stoned by the person who forgave to the uttermost but also said "Go and don't do it anymore." He's got to be feeling safe. And a lot of church leaders and a lot of church members don't feel safe.

Shaunti: And the wife has a big huge part to play in that. You can be incredibly hurt and still say, "I love you." You can be incredibly hurt and say, "I don't know how you did this to me but I know you love me and I know you didn't mean to hurt me like this. Listen. This is incredibly hurtful. What can we do?" And to be able to say, "I need to be able to understand, you need to be able to share, and I will not condemn you even when I'm hurt." So that he can open up because so many men are carrying years and years and years of hurt and shame, if they have been making the wrong choices, and they need to be able to open it up.

And a wife, she can't be the accountability partner, she can't be the police but she has to be a safe listening ear side-by-side so that he knows, he, or a son, can bring it out into the open and they won't get the hammer down; they'll get the hand of help.

Betty: We're running out of time but I think this is real important. We have a lot of women that watch our program and maybe they've just been overwhelmed by what we've shared and they've never seen any signs or anything. They shouldn't go home and start questioning their husband and say, "Well, have you ever done?" What do they do with the information?

Shaunti: It is so critical, first of all to realize, it can sound like, oh, my gosh! Every man is addicted to porn. No, no, no! Remember, most men, especially in the church are trying to be honorable. They're trying to live in a difficult culture in a way that honors God and loves their wives. It's just that they're not always perfect at that and some become trapped.

The most important thing that you can do for your husband, first of all, pray before you talk to him. If you find yourself freaking out, don't talk to him until you've prayed that through. And then be that listening voice, that best friend, to be able to say, "I'm learning something. I didn't know this. What's it like for you out there?"

And then no matter what he says, stay calm. Don't freak out so that he knows he can continue to share.

James: There's so much information that you couldn't begin to cover. Dr. Phil wouldn't have time. Oprah's one hour couldn't cover it and we certainly can't in this timeframe but they do try to cover it effectively in the book. We say thanks.

Would you express thanks?

Craig and Shaunti, thank you.

This is a gift from concerned individuals who love their family, they love the family of God, they love all people. I think it will be a tremendous help. You can get it online or go to the bookstores. We'd be happy to send it to you.

We're going to ask you to do something. You see a need like this, a problem, a challenge, "Oh, we want it corrected." So great if it could be corrected perfectly and it can be, by the power of God.

There is also a perfect cure for someone when they're hungry and that is to have nourishment and food, and love provides that. That's what we've been doing through our mission feeding programs for years saving millions of lives, one life at a time.

I want you to listen to Peter Pretorius, and I want you to listen to a question he is asking. And just know this, you are the one who can literally heal the hurt and the hearts and you can do it perfectly and very simply. Just watch very prayerfully.

On the mission field

Peter: Last August when we were in this village we asked a question and that question was, "How many of you have lost children to malnutrition? Have any of you mothers here ever lost their child because of malnutrition, of a lack of food? And if you've lost more than one then show us how many you've lost by showing us how many fingers."

So many hands went up. I mean it absolutely pierced me to the very bottom of my heart that so many people could have lost their children. One woman had lost seven children.

I struggled even for words to be able to explain what feelings are in my heart and I've never lost one of my kids, I've never lost one of my grandkids. I just think if one of my precious little grandkids, if I lost them, and I couldn't actually do anything about it because I didn't have any food.

But you know what? That's changed because we said we're going to come back here with your help and we're going to feed these kids. Look at the children now! They're no longer severely malnourished, no kid has been lost. And you know what? It's you who has made the difference. Yes! You who watched and said, "You know what? This is not right. I can make a difference with those kids. I can feed a child. I can help." And you made the difference.

End of clip

In the studio

James: That's our family and I wish they could hear me shout, I love you! -- You beautiful children. Those beautiful expressions in their faces; just think about all the personality, all the potential in their lives.

And to think that Peter went back where so many mothers indicated by holding up fingers how many of their children they had seen die, and nearly all of them because of starvation or either contaminated water. And now then to see them there happy, feeding, and getting those kids stable and seeing the smiles on their faces.

Just think about this. This has happened, according to the government's reporting to our mission workers and to Peter Pretorius, more than 10 million lives saved. The interesting thing is that we have led more people to Christ in those same areas that we touched with feeding programs and drilling water wells to win many more than 10 million people to Christ, who have come to Jesus. It's been a wonderful expression of love, and the power of love manifested in a very visible fashion but it is coming out of a heart of supernatural love that comes from God.

Here's what we want you to do. We want you to give life to those children. We have located 400,000 and we have organized them in different regions to feed them where we can do it. We need trucks to carry the food. We're going to have to replace some trucks. We have a real challenging need right now. We have to replace ten-ton trucks and we need eight of them in order to carry the food to all those different outreaches. We're asking you to help us pay for those trucks; that's over \$300,000. I don't know if there is anyone watching who can do that but it would be fine, we'd go ahead and announce it, if somebody did it. You never know what might happen. But could you give a few thousand dollars toward the trucks?

Think about this. For the hundreds of thousands of children that we're caring for, \$30, \$50, or \$100 will enable us to feed three, five, or ten children for several months. We're asking you to help us be able to feed those children. Would you right now go to LifeToday.org, take your bankcard with you, and use it just like a check? Or if you want to dial the number there on the

screen, and take your bankcard, like a check, and make the gift God puts on your heart. We need some big help for those trucks.

Father, I pray some people will really step up, and Lord, make the large gifts that we need to cover that more than \$300,000. And Lord, to provide new bowls for the children -- they need them! In Jesus' name.

You make the gift God puts on your heart. Remember, if you gave \$100 for the next several months you'll help us feed 10 children. Whatever level you can help, \$30 or \$50, whatever, it's going to do so much. We have some beautiful gifts to send you to help you in your spiritual growth, to feed you and nourish you spiritually, which we want to do. We want to help you. We want to thank you so much from the bottom of our heart for helping those precious children and their families.

Thank you for showing them the love of God. Thanks for making that call or going online. God bless you for doing it.

Begin video clip

Announcer: Disease, malnutrition, starvation -- all terrible human atrocities being faced every day by people living in remote and impoverished areas of Africa -- and those at greatest risk are the children.

Life's mission feeding program is there able to feed and care for over 400,000 children in crisis areas of Angola, Mozambique, and Sudan. With previous food reserves gone and malnutrition levels in Angola rising due to increased food scarcity, we desperately need to replenish our supplies for our feeding programs immediately. Your life-saving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 will help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for the next three months.

Also, please consider an additional gift toward our \$316,000 goal to provide eight all-wheel drive trucks and 76,000 new bowls for the children.

As our thank you we'll send you this soft-covered journal Bible featuring the gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs for your devotional time in the word. With your gift of \$100 or more to help feed ten children please request the complete Holy Bible Journal edition perfect for keeping notes and insights as you read and study.

And finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed 100 children, you may request this beautifully framed canvas print of "The Forest Chapel" by Thomas Kinkade.

Please call, write, or make your gift online today!

End of clip

In the studio

James: I hope many of you will ask for the beautiful painting by Thomas Kinkade, "Forest Chapel," and make that gift of \$1,000 or more or whatever you can do.

If you'd like to have Shaunti and Craig's book, *Through a Man's Eyes*: Helping women understand the visual nature of men, so that we can be a healing factor together, and find healing and freedom together, not condemnation, not judgmental-ism, but a real freedom from oftentimes a horrific trap that people are in and really be able to help our children and grandchildren. -- Great information and insight to help you.

Would you say thanks to Shaunti and thanks to Craig?

Thanks for being on *LIFE Today*.

We thank all of you for watching *LIFE Today* -- for sharing *LIFE Today*!

Remember to visit *The Stream* -- stream.org for the news that matters and wisdom that comes from God.