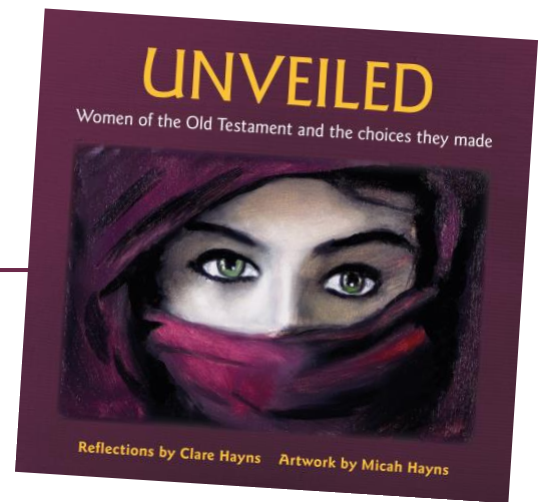


Unveiled

Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made



Discussion and reflection questions

Queen Vashti: #MeToo

Recommended reading:

- Esther 1

Questions

1. King Xerxes held opulent banquets lasting several days. What's the most lavish party you've experienced?
2. Why do you think Xerxes wanted Vashti to come to his banquet?
3. Queen Vashti bravely refused to be paraded in front of King Xerxes' guests. Why might she have done this? What might a modern-day equivalent of this be?
4. Brené Brown writes:

Shame is the most powerful master emotion. It's the fear that we're not good enough.

What role does shame play in this text?

5. There is a section in *Unveiled* titled #ThemToo. What are your thoughts about the #MeToo movement? Has it made a difference to women's experiences of sexual harassment?
6. 'Kingdom' in the Bible can mean very different things. In what ways does King Xerxes' earthly kingdom differ from that of the heavenly 'kingdom of God' as exemplified by Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, who came into the world as one of us and experienced what it is to be humiliated and shamed in front of others; grant that those who carry the heavy burden of shame might be released from its power over them. Give us the confidence to speak boldly, to rebuke vice and proclaim your love. Amen

