

## From Where I Sit

By Susan Vogt

It's tempting for couples to think that each partner holds a true and accurate vision of reality. When praying, whether together or separately, this activity will challenge your claim to seeing things the "right" way.

### For

Adult / Couple

### Season

Fall



### Needed

At least two people who are willing to be prayerful together. Normally this would be husband and wife although you could choose to do this with your children also. If you are a single parent, by all means include your children or borrow a friend or two to join you.

### Prepare in Advance

Choose about 7-12 different sized items to arrange on a central table (as artfully as your talent permits). These can be religious symbols (like a cross, Bible, candle, statue, etc.) or they can simply be interesting things that catch your imagination (like flowers, a book, a child's toy, a piece of food, etc.). Try to have items big enough that no one has a clear view of everything.

### Activity Plan

1. Call the person or people who have agreed to pray with you together and sit on different sides of the table you have arranged with the props.

2. Say a short opening prayer that might go something like this:

*God of creativity and complexity, we seek to know You and understand You.*

3. Sit quietly and look at the objects arranged on the table for a minute or two. Each person then tries to describe as fully and as detailed as possible what he or she sees from their "point of view." There will be differences (at least subtle ones) in how each person views the same reality.
4. Share any insights you may get about how the same objects can look different (or sometimes not be seen at all) depending upon the angle that each person has of the table.
5. When you finish your sharing, ask your spouse (or another person present) to close with a prayer that might go something like this:

*God of many sides and ways, sometimes our eyes are too small. We see only what's in front of us and not the bigger picture that You have for our world. Open our eyes to understand that others may see the world differently than I do. Give us bigger eyes and a bigger vision lest we judge others based on only a narrow point of view.*

### Variation:

If you are doing this with your spouse, have time, and are brave, you could pick an issue that you have different opinions about, possibly such as child discipline, household cleanliness standards, style of prayer, etc. This activity can help you see a little more clearly your spouse's position – or at least keep you from being too self-righteous about claiming your own way as the only way.