



the visual faith project

How to Use Visual Faith on Online Platforms

Step 1: Select or create a lesson/experience for your meeting

Free Visual Faith experiences are available in Courses&Toolkits on Vibrant Faith Catalyst.

Join here for free: https://vibrant-faith-catalyst.mn.co/share/o2_JOed1CZMKkg91?utm_source=manual

OR you can use the example questions on pages 2 and 3

OR you can create your own questions based on the needs of your specific group

(We recommend a plan consisting of 1-2 scripture passages, a prayer, and 3-5 discussion questions)

Step 2: Gather and download the images

You can purchase a subscription to the Visual Faith database on our website www.vibrantfaith.org to access over 4000 images that are tagged for ministry use. <https://vibrantfaith.org/product/vfp-image-database/>

OR you can collect your own images online through a Google Image search, just be sure to use images without copyright restrictions (in Google Images, go to "Tools" then "Usage Rights" and select "Labeled for Reuse").

Step 3: Select 5-30 images you would like to use for this activity

For smaller groups or quicker exercises, gather only 5-10 images, for larger groups, use more images.

We recommend selecting a large variety of images (don't just pick images that make sense to you, but pick images that can be widely interpreted through many different perspectives).

Step 4: Set up a time and online platform in which you can meet to discuss the images

Pick a date and time that works well with your group. If you are using a platform like Zoom or Google Hangouts, get the shareable link and make sure you have a computer with a camera, and reliable internet.

Step 5: Invite your group.

Send the following to your selected group:

- The date and time (including time-zone) when you plan to gather online
- The link to join the meeting
- The selected images that you will discuss (you may choose to send this out the day of the event instead or in advance to give them time to look through them).

Note: If you are sharing in an email, you may want to send a zip file so that the images will be a smaller file.

If you are sharing via social media, post the images as you would post pictures. An example Facebook post is shown on the next page. We also recommend leaders create a picture collage that can be shared from their screen during your meeting.



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Step 6: Prepare

Ask 1-2 people to lead the group discussion, start the meeting, and handle or address any questions or technological problems. Share the lesson/discussion questions with these leaders in advance. You may find it helpful to post the prayer, scripture, and a gallery view of the images on your computer. If you use Zoom, you can use the screen share feature to share these with the group during the meeting.

Step 7: Meet with your group

On the date and time you announced, open the online meeting. You may follow this structure of the lesson on the following page or use another experience/lesson to structure your group.

Example Invitation on Facebook

Vibrant Faith
in 2 wks · 🌐

Like Page

Hi small group!
We want to invite you to a Visual Faith activity on April 15, at 2pm EST.
Join us on this date and time at: (insert Zoom Link here).
We will be using the following images in our session together.

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What kinds of questions can you ask to lead discussion?

ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD, SELF and OTHERS

How would you describe this image to another person?
What aspect of this image most grabs your attention?
What story does this image tell?
What story does this section of the Bible tell?
How does the Scripture passage relate to your image?
What emotions surface as you consider this image?
Where might God be in this image?
What would God be doing?
What might God be doing in this passage of Scripture?
Where would you put yourself in this image? (If at all.)
Consider that passage as you continue to view the image.
What is God saying to you from the passage?
How is God inviting your story to be this story or passage?
How does your image help you understand this passage in new ways?
How might God be inviting you to follow?

Questions should help people tell about what they see in the images (their story) and open up the passage of Scripture they are reading. (God's story)



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Optional Visual Faith Activity Structure

PRAYER - Start your group with a prayer (or have a volunteer in your group lead in prayer)

INTRO - If your group already knows one another, check in with everyone (example: Highs and Lows). If your group is new or has new members, invite everyone to introduce and share something about themselves. You may also want to go over basic online meeting etiquette for your group at this time. Ex: group members should mute themselves when not talking, the leader will call a person's name to invite them to share, how to use the chat feature as needed, etc.

SCRIPTURE - Read (or have a volunteer read) the selected scripture passage to use with the visual images. (You can share the text of this passage on your screen so participants can read along.)

INTRODUCE THE IMAGES - Invite everyone to look at the images (they can do this by going looking at the email or post that you sent them earlier OR you can put a collage of the images on your computer and share your screen (an example is shown on the following pages)).

DISCUSSION INCLUDING IMAGES - To evoke discussion, the leader(s) will facilitate a discussion. You may choose to use the questions on the previous page or the examples below:

Example 1:

Leader: I invite everyone to select one picture that best represents an important part of this scripture to you. (Allow everyone time to select an image)

Leader: Once everyone has selected their image, I would like you to share which image you selected and how it connected with you and with this scripture passage.

(Allow each person to share - this can fill the entire group time.)

Example 2:

Leader: Think of one word that stuck out to you in the scripture we read. (Pause to allow them to think of a word.) Now pick an image that represents that word in your life.

Now I invite everyone to tell us which word and image they picked and how it reflects their own life right now.

Example 3:

Leader: Pick an image that describes how you were feeling this week. (Have the group share and explain.)

Leader: Now pick an image that describes the feelings you heard in the scripture. (Group members share.)

Example 4:

Leader: Pick an image that stands out most to you right now. (Allow them time to select an image.)

Leader: Can you share why you picked that image and what you noticed about that image? (Allow everyone to share.)

Leader: How does that image connect to the scripture we just read together? (Allow everyone to share.)

Example 5:

Leader: Pick one character from the scripture we just read. Now pick an image that you think represents that character's experiences in this passage. (Allow time to select an image.) Please, share why you picked that image.

Leader: How is that character's story, and the image similar to (or different) than your own story?

CLOSING

After everyone has shared and discussion is wrapped up, you may want to reread the scripture passage.

We recommend allowing the group to share any additional thoughts or questions. The leader(s) can address what was shared. Then close your group in prayer.



