



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience What? A Change in Diet?

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Theme: What? A Change in Diet? (Luke 5:33-39)

Intended Audience

Small discussion group of young adults (over 21), adults, and/or senior adults

Outcome of Experience

Participants will discuss and learn of the freedom we have in Christ Jesus in our choices of spiritual diets. They will learn how the presence of God changes the spiritual diet and enlivens the party. It might be fun to do this Visual Faith Experience at a winery or a wine-tasting party.

Introduce Experience

Often within congregations of various denominations there is a struggle with change. Emotions over change can easily cause a loss of spiritual focus and become an argument about what is right or what is wrong. Fasting and prayer was a well-established spiritual diet in the Old Testament and into the time of Jesus for a means to improve the relations with the God. But Jesus changes the system and instead of fasting, he is partying with his disciples and friends. What's up with that?

Image Selection

Choose at least one image that exhibits an established custom in your church or family or feeling concerning a custom. Then choose at least one other image the presents a change in custom or displays feeling about a change.

Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. What are the feelings underlying your choice of images?
2. How do the images you selected connect to the issue of change?
3. Even though the images are different, how might the feelings of other people be the same?
4. As you view the images, what emotions arise in you about other experiences of change?
5. Of others in the small group, what are questions you would like to ask the person who chose the images?
6. What seems to motivate a change in established customs or traditions?

Scripture - Luke 5:33-39 (Included on next page)



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What? A Change in Diet? continued...

Scripture - Luke 5:33-39

33 Then they said to him, “John’s disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink.” 34 Jesus said to them, “You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? 35 The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.” 36 He also told them a parable: “No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. 38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, ‘The old is good.’”

Choose one or two images that connect to this story in Scripture

Questions To Connect Chosen Image to Scripture

1. What might be a connection with the first image(s) you have chosen with this story in Scripture?
2. What are the feelings that you have concerning your second selection of an image(s)?
3. What might be the point of Jesus changing the custom and telling this story?
4. What is the connection of the images that Jesus used in this story and his action of partying with his disciples and friends?
5. What emotions arise in you concerning Jesus’ response to church leaders in his day?

Application

- When have you experienced the presence of God make a difference in your emotions?
- Tell about a time when the presence of Jesus raised your emotions so strongly that you just had to respond!
- What does the phrase “a foretaste of the feast to come” mean to you? Are there connections with your faith practices?

Prayer

As the facilitator, it might add to this visual faith experience to do the prayer at a table set with good food to eat and a glass of wine or other beverage. Use the dinner toast as a prayer time. Invite each person seated around the table to raise her/his glass and share a word of thanksgiving or praise to God, such as: **“Please join me in thanking God for being present in my life through...”** When all have shared in the prayer, celebrate a good meal together.

Image Packs

We recommend the Assorted Set A (set of 100 printed images) for use with this experience or other images that you may already have. You can find the Assorted Set A at: <https://vibrantfaith.org/shop/visualfaithcards>