



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience **Asking Too Much of Me!**

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: Asking Too Much of Me! (Luke 6:27-36)

Intended Audience

Small discussion group of youth, young adults, adults, senior adults, or at best, an intergenerational small group

Outcome of Experience

Participants will discuss and learn the importance of love and forgiveness in living at peace with others from different economic backgrounds. They will explore ways to respond to others with love rather than judgment.

Introduce Experience

In the USA we have been experiencing countless bad news of tragic deaths caused by foolish acts, people under the influence of drugs or alcohol, hate crimes, mental illness, spouse abuse, child abuse, road rage, neighbor arguments, etc. When we experience the loss of a loved one because of such violence, our emotions explode and often the immense grief turns to anger, which drives one to think of revenge legally or illegally. Yet there are a few stories of members of the victim's family who can forgive. There is now a Reconciliation Movement between the victim's family member and the person imprisoned for the crime. But for many of us our feelings cry out to God, "You Are Asking Too Much Of Me!"

Image Selection

Choose one or two images that exhibit what would "Asking Too Much of Me!" looks like and what your feelings might be.

Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

Note to the Facilitator: Give opportunities for others in the group to ask their questions to the one who shared story, response, or feelings.

1. What are the feelings underlying your choice of images?
2. Is there a story behind your images that connect or an experience you have had or a friend of yours has had? Share that story.
3. What would have to happen for those feeling to change in you?
4. Of others in the small group, what are questions you would like to ask the person who chose the images?
5. What else might drive the intensity of the emotional response and even cloud facts?



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Asking Too Much of Me! continued...

Scripture - Luke 6: 27-36 (Included on Page 3)

Image Selection

Choose one or two images that display mercy or justice or connect to this story in Scripture in another way.

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. Share your image and why you chose this image?
2. What is similar or different in the image(s) you have just chosen compared with your first selection of image(s)?
3. What does mercy look like or feel like to you?
4. In what type actions did Jesus take in his life that exemplified what he commands in this story of his followers?
5. What would it take in you to respond in such a situation as Jesus states?

Application

- Have you ever experienced a surprising act of mercy?
- What might be a connection with mercy, justice, and righteousness?
- To whom would you go to discuss the conflict of emotions you might be experiencing between justice for a wrong, anger at the person who committed with harmful action, and Jesus' call for mercy, forgiveness, and reconciliation? Why would you choose this person?

Prayer

As the facilitator, create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. If the group is under eight people in number, invite the participants to bring their images and place them around a table so that they are visible. Place a cross and a lighted candle in the middle of the table. Instruct the participants to think of a specific person who might need mercy and forgiveness or a situation that needs justice and mercy (like prison reform or the perpetrator meeting with a victim's family, or a country at war, etc.). Invite each participant to pray a short prayer aloud.



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Asking Too Much of Me! continued...

Scripture (Luke 6: 27-36)

27 *“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.*

30 *Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.*

31 *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

32 *“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.*

33 *If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.*

34 *If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you?*

Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. [a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.*

36 *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

Image Packs

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



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