



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience The Key to Living in Peace

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: The Key to Living in Peace (Luke 7:36-50)

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 any community most of us become worried about how others perceive us and even judge us. This might be most prevalent when one moves into a new community. In this story in Scripture Jesus is teaching the importance of forgiveness as a key to living in peace. He notes the connection of forgiveness with love. Can we look beyond our biases and seek peace and pursue as Jesus teaches here?

Scripture - Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. 37 And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. 38 She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." 40 Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." 41 "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44 Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." 48 Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Image Selection

Choose one or two images that visualize a person or situation that is definitely sinful or a situation or person who definitely needs forgiveness and love.



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The Key to Living in Peace continued...

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. What is similar/different about the image(s) you have chosen and a person/situation described in this Scripture?
2. What were some of the emotional and social strengths of this woman?
3. After Jesus responded concerning this woman, what feelings might Simon, the Pharisee, experienced?
4. How would you describe this woman's faith?
5. Was it wrong for Jesus to point out Simon's judgmental attitude? When is discerning sin in others and pointing it out ok?
6. Why did Jesus' teaching and action raise the question of his identity? How might this story connect to Luke's purpose of writing this Gospel?

Image Selection

Choose one or two images that describe a type of super hero that is needed today to turn people back to moral values and care for all people? What type superhero might you be to bring peace to others or to change a community that excluded others?

Facilitators Questions to Guide Group Discussion

1. What are the feelings underlying your choice of images?
2. What are some actions that separate people from a community and judges them as unworthy?
3. Have you experienced action in relationships when some people try to control God or even restrain God from being merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love? What were you feeling? How did you respond to those people?
4. Of others in the small group, what are questions you would like to ask the person who chose the images?

Application

- When you witness an action of a proclaimed Christian person that is judgmental and unforgiving, how might you respond?
- What might arise within you as you are determining how to respond?
- Are there optional responses in such a situation? What might be the positive or negative responses?

Prayer

As the facilitator, create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Invite the participants to choose yet another image depicting either a type of faith hero that is needed to bring peace to troubled people or a troubled person who needs forgiveness, love, and peace. As each person speaks a short prayer, she or he should include the story of the image chosen.

Image Packs

We recommend Kids Pack 2 (set of 100 printed images) for use with this experience or other images that you may already have. You can find Kids Pack 2 at: <https://vibrantfaith.org/shop/visualfaithcards>