



# the visual **faith** project

## A Visual Faith Experience

### Extended Families Keep On Expanding

By Dr. Dick Hardel

**Theme: Extended Families Keep On Expanding** (Luke 8:19-21)

#### Intended Audience

Small group of participants from 3 or 4 different generations would work very well. However, one could facilitate this Visual Faith Experience with any small group of youth, young adults, adults, or senior adults. It would be wonderful to have participants from a diverse ethnic background.

#### Outcome of Experience

The participants share a perspective and gift that each generation brings to the Body of Christ. Participants will learn from each other the importance of extended family members and the importance of being an extended family member to others. In faith formation extended families keep on expanding as they mature in the faith.

#### Introduce Experience

As we journey from milestone to milestone in our lives we often meet and develop close relationships with other people with whom we seek encouragement, wisdom, support, care, affirmation and direction to the next milestone. Some of these relationships are within our blood relatives and others are beyond kin relationships and can even continue throughout a lifetime. Who are those gifted people in your life so far – grandparents, godparents, uncles, aunts, cousins, neighbors, classmates, professors, teachers, fellow workers in our occupations, boss, members of a club or church organization, etc.?

#### Image Selection

Choose one or two images that display the unique gifts or show a behavior of a person who is or has been an extended family member or mentor to you.

#### Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. How does the image you have chosen connect to your mentor or important extended family member?
2. What are the attributes and values of this person?
3. As you view the image what are some of the emotions that arise in you?
4. What family role does this person play for you and, perhaps, even for your immediate family?
5. (To the others in the small group) What questions do you have concerning this mentor/extended family relationship?



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## Extended Families Keep On Expanding continued...

### Scripture - Luke 8:19-21

*19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. 20 And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." 21 But he said to them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."*

### Image Selection

Think about the people in this short reference to a family experience in Jesus' life. Choose one or two images that would display one or more of the emotions felt by one or more of the people in this story?

### Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. With whom in the story does your image(s) connect?
2. What might be the cause of the emotions felt?
3. Where the emotions positive or negative, or both?
4. What positive or negative feelings do you have in response to what Jesus said concerning family?

### Application

- How does Jesus' statement connect directly to you?
- How might Jesus' statement be part of God's plan of salvation?
- In what way or ways have you been a mentor or extended family to another person?
- Where is God in your relationship with being extended family?
- What gifts do you bring and what gifts do you need?

### Prayer

As the facilitator create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Invite the participants to pray aloud, thanking God for a gift that they share and also to continue strengthening the relationship of being a mentor or having a mentor/extended family. If a participant does not have the gift of a faith mentor or extended family person, ask God to guide the participant into such a safe, healthy, caring relationship.

### Image Packs

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