



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience

O, My God!

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: O, My God! Luke 1: 46-55; 67-79

Intended Audience

Small discussion group of youth or adults, men's group, women's group, or intergenerational small group. Note to the facilitator: If the groups are large, divide them into smaller groups of four (for better discussion and limited time).

Outcome of Experience

To encourage participants to share powerful "God Moments" when they were deeply aware of God's presence, spiritually lifted up, and their faith and values were shaped.

Introduce Experience

God touches our heart in many ways to sense God's promise to be with us always. Music, artwork, poetry, storytelling, drama, dance, cultural instruments, nature, worship, Scripture and prayer time can all be used by God to touch and lift our hearts with various emotions. What were some of the emotions stirred up during such God Moments?

Scripture: Luke 1: 46-55; 67-79

Image Selection

Choose two or three images that show some emotions Mary or Zechariah might have experienced that motivated their responses in these texts.



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O, My God! Experience continued...

Facilitators Questions to Guide Group Discussion

1. What might some of the “O My God” feelings have been for Mary?
2. How do you think Mary was able to thank God in this situation?
3. What might some of the “O My God” feelings have been for Zechariah?
4. What would be some differences of emotions that Zechariah and Mary might have felt upon God’s action in their lives?

Now choose one or two images that depict emotions that you have felt at an “O My God” experience. Share the story of these emotions.

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

- What causes people to cry out, “O My God” after surprising news?
- What do you remember of how you felt at such an experience?
- What questions do the others in the group have for the person who shared her/his story and image(s)?
- Where was God for you?
- Where you alone?
- Who did you tell of your experience? Why that person?

Application

- How does such a miracle birth affect one’s faith or family?
- Why might it be difficult to share the joy or other feelings you might have had after an experience of God’s presence?

Prayer

As the facilitator, create a holy space, a safe place, for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Invite the participants to share words or phrases from songs or hymns of joy and praise that they remember. Sing one or more of those songs if the group knows the words to a verse. Or write the words or phrases on a large piece of newsprint and when all the participants have shared their “joyful” words, read them aloud together as a prayer to God.





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O, My God! Experience continued...

Scripture Passages

(Luke 1: 46-55; 67-79)

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

(Luke 1: 46-55)

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all of our days. And you, child will be called the prophet of the Most

High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide our feet to the way of peace."

(Luke 1: 67-79)

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>

