



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience Weakness in All

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: Weakness in All (Luke 22:31-34)

Intended Audience

For faith formation small groups of 4-5 work best so that each participant has enough time to share as well as listen. Diversity of ethnic backgrounds and ages of participants is always a blessing.

Outcome of Experience

Participants will discuss and learn how our pride in our own abilities can become a weakness in our faith. Participants will also learn how God can strengthen our faith even in our weaknesses.

Introduce Experience

For many of us our faith/life journey is like riding a roller coaster. We are filled with mountaintop moments with God and also lonely lows. Just when we think we are really strong we suddenly discover we are very weak. God remains faithful and loving and guides us throughout our roller coaster journey.

Scripture (Luke 22:31-34)

This Scripture text is a short dialog between Simon Peter and Jesus.

Give each participant a copy of this text or give each a Bible to look up this text.

Invite two people of the group to read this text dramatically to reflect the intensity and importance of this story.

*Reader 1: 31 "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat,
32 but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back,
strengthen your brothers."*

Reader 2: 33 And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"

*Reader 1: 34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that
you know me."*



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Weakness in All continued...

Image Selection 1

Choose one or two images that connect with Simon Peter, Jesus, or the other disciples who might have overheard this conversation.

Questions To Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. **To each individual regarding their selected image:** With whom do your images connect?
Using the images you have chosen describe the connections you feel or sense in this dialog.
2. **To others in the small group:** What questions would you like to ask of what was just shared?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to have this dialog with Peter?
What were Peter's strengths and what might have been his weaknesses?
4. How do Jesus' words about Satan in the first part of this dialog connect to you?
5. What do you learn about God from this dialog?

Image Selection 2

Choose one or two images that describe your roller coaster journey of faith and life.

Facilitator Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. Using the images you have chosen describe your faith/life journey.
2. What are the feelings underlying your choice of the images you have chosen? Do the images depict a specific time, event, or action in your faith/life journey or is this a broad picture of your faith/life?
3. What in your life has made your journey of faith and life like a roller coaster?
4. Who or what has the Holy Spirit used in your life to lift your faith to a mountaintop moment or to comfort you when you are alone and feeling low?
5. How has or how might Jesus use you and your gifts to strengthen another person in their faith and life?

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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Weakness in All continued...

Application

- Faithfulness does not mean perfection. Does weak faith in Jesus save as much as strong faith?
- What might be some dangers in both strong faith and weak faith?
- What is something you learned about yourself from this Scripture text?
- What are some “good news” emotions you have had during this visual faith experience?

Prayer

As the facilitator, create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Place a cross in the center of a table and, if possible, place lighted candles or glow sticks near the cross.

Instruct the participants to bring the images they have chosen for this visual faith experience with them to this holy space and to be seated either in a circle around the table or in a semi-circle facing the cross. In the quiet of this holy space invite them to think about this visual faith experience and how it connects to their faith/live journey at this moment. Instruct them to think of what they need from God for their faith/life that connects either to a mountaintop moment or a valley low.

This is a word that they will share as one at a time they bring their images and place them on the prayer table. Begin the prayer with the following:

Almighty God, by grace alone we have received your gift of faith and the promise of eternal life. We know our strengths and weaknesses and also know that Satan can sift us like wheat without your presence in Jesus. Hear our requests now from our hearts in both our high moments and low moments in our faith:

Invite each participant to come to the table with the cross, place the images on the table and share his or her word of need and then return to be seated.

When all have finished sharing their word, close with the following:

*You, O God, are always faithful. Sustain us in our faith/life journey with the gifts of your Spirit. You are our God and we are your family. Continue to guide us throughout our lives.
Amen. Make it so!*