



# the visual **faith** project

## A Visual Faith Experience Mocked and Insulted

By Dr. Dick Hardel

**Theme: Mocked and Insulted** (Luke 22:63-65)

### Intended Audience

Visual Faith Experiences work best in small groups of 4-5 for more discussion from all the participants. If your group is larger than that, divide them into more small groups. Diversity of age and ethnicity is a wonderful blessing to this exercise.

### Outcome of Experience

The participants will share experiences they have had in being bullied or a victim of an abuse of power. From their sharing experiences and from this text of Scripture they will discuss and learn what emotions might be behind an abuse of power and how it is susceptible to evil and dangerous action.

### Introduce Experience

In the past few years we have become much more aware of bullying and other types of abuse of power. This concern has made us more conscious of varieties of abuse of power, among students, in government, in churches and denominations, in homes, within families, in neighborhoods, in law enforcement, even in our justice system. In this experience we will focus on what is behind the abuse of power that we have experienced and especially what Jesus experienced on his way to the cross.

### Image Selection

Think of a time when you have witnessed or experienced an abuse of power. Choose two images that display that event you witnessed or experienced.

### Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. Using the images you have chosen, share your experience with the group.
2. As you tell of this experience, what emotions arise in you?
3. What emotions do you sense was driving the abuser or perpetrator at the time?
4. Did you choose to take any action? Why or why not?
5. What action must happen to provide healing for an abusive relationship and to prevent the danger to victims?



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## Mocked and Insulted continued...

### Scripture - Luke 22:63-65

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; 64 they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" 65 They kept heaping many other insults on him.

### Image Selection

Give each participant a copy of this Scripture text. Ask one person in the group to read this section of Scripture and invite the others to follow along? As you ponder on this short text describing some of the abuse Jesus endured on this way to the religious Council choose one or two image(s) that connect with you and this text.

### Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. How does your image(s) connect with you and this text?
2. What emotions might have motivated the religious officials to arrest Jesus in the first place?  
How did that lead to injustice?
3. What, possibly, motivated the guards holding Jesus to mock, insult, and beat him?
4. What might have Jesus been feeling during this time between the Council trials?
5. Luke does not record any response from Jesus to the insults, mocking, and beating?  
How might no response be the strongest response?
6. Where is God in this part of Jesus' journey to the cross?

### Application

- What questions do you have of God in this story?
- With whom might you discuss your questions and concerns?
- What choices do you need to make to establish meeting with this person?
- What might prevent the discussion from happening?
- What support do you need from this group, or from family, or from your faith community?

*Remember, it is never what a family or group talk about that causes any problems, but rather what they do not talk about because what they do not talk about often leads to dangerous action.*

(Quote from Dr. Dick Hardel for the past 40 years in working with family systems)



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## Mocked and Insulted continued...

### Closure Prayer

As the facilitator create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Place a crucifix in the midst of a table. Place one lighted candle by the crucifix. Invite the group to sit in a semi-circle facing the crucifix. Darken the room. Provide reading light for four individuals of the group to read Isaiah 53 in four parts:

#### PART 1

*1 Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

*2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.*

#### PART 2

*4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

#### PART 3

*7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. 9 They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

#### PART 4

*10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. 11 Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

**Facilitator: Go in silence and in peace. Christ has set us free!**

### Image Packs

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