



# the visual **faith** project

## A Visual Faith Experience Who Is This Jesus?

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**Theme: Who Is This Jesus?** (Luke 23:32-38)

### 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. So if the number group for whom you are facilitating is larger than 5, break them up into small groups to provide more time for discussion.

### Outcome of Experience

Participants will discuss and learn how instrumental the question, “Who is Jesus?” was in his suffering and death, to his faithful followers after his resurrection, and how essential it is, especially now, in the lives of the participants.

### Introduce Experience

How people answered the question, “Who is Jesus?” was deeply embedded in the politics of the religious system during Jesus’ time on earth and his suffering and death. The faithful answer to that question according to Scripture transforms a person from bondage to freedom, from sin to forgiveness, from darkness into light, and from fear to joy and hope.

### Scripture (Luke 23:32-38)

“Who Is This Jesus?” This question was asked throughout his life, when was put on the cross, when he died, and certainly continues to be asked after his resurrection. Give each participant a copy of the Scripture text. Invite one participant to read this text aloud as the others follow.

*32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37 and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38 There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”*

### Image Selection 1

Look at the responses of people in this text carefully. Choose one or two images that exhibit a variety of answers to the question of “Who is Jesus?” by those who witnessed his trial, suffering, and his execution.



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## Who Is This Jesus? continued...

### Questions To Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. Using your image(s) share how it connects to an answer of how someone who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus might have felt?
2. What might have been some of the emotions felt by the person who gave that answer?
3. As you reflect on this event in Scripture, what do you feel is the most powerful phrase or word in the text? Why?
4. How might some of Jesus' disciples answer the question of his identity? What emotions might they have felt?
5. What prevents people from seeing the truth of the identity of Jesus?

### Image Selection 2

Think of the present time of your life. Choose one or two images that describe your answer to "Who is this Jesus?"

### Facilitator Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. Using the images you have chosen share your answer to that question of Jesus' identity.
2. As you use the image(s) to answer this question, what are the feelings or emotions that arise in you?
3. Why is that answer so important to you at this time in your life?
4. What questions do you have concerning the identity of Jesus?
5. What might make answering that question very difficult for you or someone else?

### Application

- o Answering that important question of faith is about you, not about a judgment of someone else.
- o What makes it still difficult for people to seek and see the truth about God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ?
- o What do you think should have been written on the sign that was put on the cross of Jesus?
- o What is something you learned about yourself from this Scripture text?
- o 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. Draw a large outline of the cross on a piece of newsprint or poster board. Attach the newsprint to a wall. Give each participant a blank 8 ½ x 11 inch piece of paper and a marker. Instruct them to write on the paper what they would put on the sign on the cross above Jesus. When all have finished invite them come up to the cross and with tape attach their sign to the cross. After attaching their signs to the cross ask them to be seat in a semi-circle facing the cross. Close with singing a contemporary song that they know that describes who Jesus is. Or sing the Taize' prayer by Jacques Berthier:

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

Keep singing this song until it becomes a prayer in your heart.

### 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>