



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience Road Trip, Meal, & Discovery

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: Road Trip, Meal, & Discovery (Luke 24:13-35)

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 times when taking a road trip with family or friends on a vacation, a visit of a relative, a mission trip of some type, or a long trip to another state or country truly strengthen their relationship with each other. They will also learn the importance of meals in celebrating milestones in a relationship. They will share time when God surprised them and learn from each other of expectations they have for God to act in their lives.

Introduce Experience

Road trips with family or friends can build and strengthen relationships. Good road trips usually have at least one great meal. Often milestones in relationships are celebrated with a great meal. It might be a special setting that connects to memories or the meal itself, but most of the time it is the relationship(s) that make the meal and the road trip great. Stories of that relationship are told and retold year after year and fill one with many emotions. Sharing a meal was a way that Jesus celebrated with his friends and made new friends. Road trips and great meals often lead to discoveries about oneself, one another, and God.

Image Selection

Choose an image that depicts a time when a relationship with another person grew stronger during a special trip, vacation, or celebration event.

Image Packs

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



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Road Trip, Meal, & Discovery continued...

Facilitators Questions To Guide Group Discussion

1. Using the image you have chosen, tell us about the event and the relationship.
2. How does retelling that story make you feel?
3. What are ways that you continue to celebrate this relationship and stay connected to this person?
4. What is a meal or meals that you regularly celebrate each year?
5. What does the meal help you remember?
6. What was a surprise you experienced in that relationship?

Scripture (Luke 24:13-35)

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



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Road Trip, Meal, & Discovery continued...

Image Selection

Give each participant a copy of this Scripture text and a pencil or pen. Ask one person in the group to read this section of Scripture and invite the others to follow along? After hearing the text, instruct the participants to carefully read the text again to themselves and circle two most interesting phrases in the text. Choose an image that connects to each of the two phrases that were circled.

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scriptures

1. How do the images you selected connect to the phrases you have circled in this Scripture story?
2. What emotions arise in you as you connect to this story?
3. Has God ever surprised you?
4. What did that look or feel like? How did you respond?
5. What is the importance and uniqueness of the meal in this story?
6. What questions do you have of Jesus?

Application

- What events or people in your life connected you with Jesus?
- How do you remember those events?
- How does the meal of the Lord's Supper retell God's story to you?
- What are some high expectations that you have for God in your life that haven't happened the way you expected?
- When expectations are shattered or do not happen, where is God for you?
- What are customs and traditions that renew your walk with Jesus?

Prayer

As the facilitator create a holy space for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. If possible, it would be wonderful to celebrate the Lord's Supper as a closure to this visual faith experience. Or sing or speak the words to a contemporary song of traditional hymn of walking with Jesus. The following is a more recent translation of Sigmund von Birken's (1626-1681) hymn "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus":

*Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav-'lers here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding,
Faithful Lord with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.*