



the visual **faith** project

A Visual Faith Experience Extra Grandparents

By Dr. Dick Hardel

Theme: Extra Grandparents (Luke 2:22-38)

Intended Audience

Small group(s) of youth or young adults. This can also be used with small groups of adults or Senior Adults.

Outcome of Experience

The participants will learn from each other how important grandparents (and other older mentors) are in shaping their faith and values and supporting them during difficult times.

Introduce Experience

Often while growing up in a family teenagers and young adults experience a closer relationship with one or two grandparents, or a godparent, or another older adult mentor than they do with their parent(s). At times these wise and older people seem to be more unconditional with their love and support. Who have been or are the wise older mentors in your lives?

Image Selection

Choose one or two images that either describe your relationship with a grandparent or older adult mentor or certain characteristics of that person.

Facilitators Questions to Guide Group Discussion

1. How does the image help to describe your grandparent?
2. What are some of the feelings that you experience when you are with this person or think of this person?
3. How has your grandparent been helpful and supportive in your life?
4. Who is an older adult mentor, or grandparent-like person to whom you look for guidance and support?
How does that person connect to your image and feelings?
5. If you could choose an extra grandparent, who would it be and why would you choose that person?
6. What is something that you have learned the most from your grandparent or extra grandparent (outside your family)?
7. Have you ever felt the presence of God in that relationship? What were you feeling in your heart at that time?



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Extra Grandparents Experience continued...

Scripture Passage (Included on page 3)

Questions to Connect Chosen Image with Scripture

1. How the image you have just chosen like or unlike the image you had chosen for your grandparent or extra grandparent?
2. How do these two different extra grandparents give support to Joseph and Mary?
How do they connect to Jesus?
3. What emotions might Joseph or Mary feel in this story?
How do those emotions connect with you or do not connect with you?
4. Where might God be in the story?
5. How are Simeon and Anna like your grandparents?
6. How might God have used Simeon and Anna to shape the faith and values of Joseph and Mary?

Application

- Have you every experienced a grandparent or extra grandparent put their hands on you and pray aloud for you? What were the emotions that you were feeling during that prayer experience?
- Are you aware of how God has used, or perhaps, still is using your grandparents to support your faith and values?
- As you look to the future, how might you make a positive difference in your grandchild or another youth as an extra grandparent?
- Fifteen years from now how would you praise God for the gift of a special child or young person in your life?

Prayer

As the facilitator create a holy space, a safe place, for the individuals and group to engage in prayer. Invite the participants to form prayer teams of no more than four people to pray aloud for their grandparent(s) and/or older faith mentors outside their family.



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Extra Grandparents Experience continued...

Scripture Passage (Luke 2: 22-38)

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Image Packs

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