



# Imago Vita: Pictures of Life

## Photographs for Personal and Group Reflection

*Imago Vita* is a set of Australian photographs selected for personal and group reflection. The set is diverse and may be used for a range of purposes - community-building, story telling, identifying needs, dealing with change, discussing choices, exploring hopes, revealing strengths.

The photo file may be downloaded from this link. It is a 35mb PDF. The file will print at A4 size.  
[craigmitchell.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Imago\\_Vita\\_2UP.pdf](http://craigmitchell.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Imago_Vita_2UP.pdf)

Images can be used to help people talk about

- the past, the present and the future
- values, attitudes and virtues
- hopes, dreams and visions
- change, loss and grief
- relationships and groups
- choices and decisions
- spiritual growth

### General Tips

- Print the photos in colour. Please. You can do this at Officeworks if you don't have a colour printer. Laminate them, cut them out and they will last a long time.
- Choose photos for the particular purpose of your activity and the size of the group. You will rarely need to use all of the photos at the same time.
- People need to be able to see the photos, so the activities will work best if people are seated around a table, say in groups of four. You can attach photos to a wall with blu tak. People can walk around the room and stop at a photo that grabs their attention. Ask them to talk to people standing nearby about the photo.
- Not every group needs the same photos at their tables. However the choice of photos needs to match the activity.
- Feel free to add other photos from magazines if they suit your purpose. I have often bought second hand or cheap books with photos and cut them up for this purpose.
- Group discussion usually moves from lighter conversation to more in-depth sharing. This is also true with photo cards. Don't begin with a question that is too personal or difficult. Positive memories are a good place to begin. Then move to deeper questions. Talking about needs or hopes requires building trust.



## Memories

Choose a photo that reminds you of a favourite place. What makes this place special to you?

Choose a photo of a place that helps you experience God's presence (or nurtures your spirit). Talk about how you experience this.

Choose a photo that reminds you of a significant moment in your faith journey. Tell others about this experience and what made it important for you.

Choose a photo that reminds you of a time when you made a big decision. Talk about what happened and how you felt at the time. How did this decision change your life?

## Values

Choose a photo that expresses something important to you about worship. Share about what this image represents for you.

Choose a photo that says something important to you about a given topic - friendship, family, community, loss, play, peace, freedom, trust, creativity, celebration, forgiveness, indulgence, passion, adventure, risk, vision, grief. Talk about what the image represents. What does this topic mean for you at this time? Tell a story about this from your own life, if you wish.

Name a particular value. eg. hospitality, inclusion, simplicity, justice, compassion, servanthood, authenticity, openness, gratitude, reconciliation, co-operation. Choose a photo that connects this with your own experience. Talk about how this value is important in your life and faith.

## Gifts & Strengths

Choose a photo to talk a particular fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, or self-control.

What does the image say to you about this fruit?

How do you experience this fruit in your life?

Talk about a person whose life shows this fruit of the Spirit to you?

Choose a photo that represents something that you love to do. Tell others what you enjoy about this.



## Life's journey

Choose a photo that reflects how you feel about the next step, or future direction for one of the following:

- for yourself
- for a relationship
- for a particular decision
- for a particular project or venture
- for a particular group or your church

## Talk about how you see this next step.

Choose a photo that reflects how you feel about a particular group or activity at this time.

Talk about your feelings and thoughts about the group.

Choose a photo that expresses a particular problem or situation for which you are concerned. Talk about your concerns for this situation. Pray together about this.

Choose a photo that expresses where you are at in your spiritual journey at this time. Talk about where you are at. What is needed next for your journey?

What would help you to grow spiritually (or in your relationship with God) at this time? Choose a photo that expresses this. Talk about this in pairs. Pray for one another.

Choose a photo in response to a particular question. Talk about your choice.

eg. What is one of your hopes for your church?

*Photos by Craig Mitchell, Peter Batten and Hoon You.*

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