

Faith Trek Training Centers - Gift Discovery Center I & II

Two activity centers are designed to nurture a knowledge and understanding of God's provisions for God's people as they journey in faith together. In Discovery Center I, children, youth and adults will be given age-appropriate opportunities to discover some of the many gifts God given them. In Discovery Center II, age-appropriate spiritual gift assessment tools will help participants discern some of the special gifts God has given them to strengthen the mission and ministries of God's church on earth.

The Faith Trek Travel Packs introduced and distributed in the First Steps gathering activity will be used to highlight the key learning for each activity and integrate the overall theme and content for future reference. The Faith Trek theme design is provided for you to make a banner, poster or PowerPoint slide to display in your gathering area. A Faith trek sign design is also available for you to identify the title and location of each activity.

The Leaders Notes for this activity, along with the necessary preparations, equipment and supplies are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating some of the details and tasks involved.

Be sure to consider your potential participants as you choose one or more of the following activities. There are more than enough options to fill your time, so please feel free to adapt them to honor your own schedule and intent. You might consider using some of them as independent activities to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Gift Discovery Center I:

Objective: To provide three activities for exploring the fact that we are all God-given gifts with many God-given talents, interests and abilities to share.

General Equipment and Supplies:

- Faith Trek Travel Pack and Travel Tips (PDF file)
- Faith Trek sign design (PDF file)

Activities:

1a. Spin a Gift

Objective: To help people of all ages, especially young children, identify themselves as gifts from God.

Description: This game invites participants to take turns spinning a gift box to identify each other as gifts from God. The leader begins by spinning the gift box and when it comes to a stop, he or she will recognize the person closest to the "point" of the arrow as a God-given gift. A self-adhesive bow will then be placed on him/her and other participants will be encouraged to identify ways this person is a gift to others (Great helper, playmate, cool, smiley, friendly, kind, loves God, etc.)

Approximate time: 5 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- [Spin a Gift/Mini-me reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Travel Tip # 3 reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Gift Discovery Pattern sheet](#) (PDF file)
- A small box or wooden block
- Bag of self-adhesive bows
- Glue/tape
- Gift wrap

Leader's Notes: Gift wrap the box and place a bow on top of it. Remove the arrow from the Gift Discovery pattern sheet and adhere it to the bottom of the box so that at least half of the arrow is showing. The game may engage participants individually, as they "come-n-go" from the center or as a group activity. Be sure to include the objective for this game as you review the directions with participants. Bring closure to this activity by displaying the Travel Tip #3 reference sheet and referring to Travel Tip # 3 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack. Remind them that God gives us gifts to share with others.

1 b. Mini-Me's

Objective: To give participant's an opportunity to identify themselves along with their talents, interests, abilities and personalities, as God-given gifts to glorify God and serve others.

Description: Participants will utilize the gift design on the pattern sheet to make "mini-me's." They will also be asked to print some of their interests (things they especially like to do) or talents and abilities (things they're really good at) on the space inside their "mini-me's." If time permits, you might encourage participants to describe some ways they have utilized their gifts, e.g. athletics, musical groups, service projects and artistic expression.

Approximate time: 7-10 minutes

Specific Equipment and Supplies:

- [Gift Discovery pattern sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Spin a Gift/Mini-me reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Travel Tip # 3 reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- Various colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Crayons or markers

Leader Notes:

Make a sample of a gift-wrapped mini-me.

- Separate the gift, the hands and feet from the pattern sheet.
- Cut two 8 1/2" x 1" and two 11" x 1" strips of construction paper.
- Fold the gift design along the dotted-line. Decorate it, coloring the eyes, hair and shoes to represent yours.
- Fold the strips, accordion style, into one-half to one inch segments. Attach one end of each 8 1/2" strip to one side of the gift design and the other end to a hand piece to form "arms." Attach one end of each 11" strip to the bottom of the gift design and the other end to a shoe design to form "legs."
- Use the space inside the gift to list or draw pictures of some of the things you're good at or especially like to do.
- Display your "mini-me" for easy reference along with the Spin a Gift/Mini-me reference sheet.
- Be sure to include the activity objective as you invite participants to create their own "mini-me." Point out that everyone has been gift-wrapped with talents and abilities to make most of the lives they have been called by God to live. Bring closure to this activity by displaying the Travel Tip #3 reference sheet and referring to Travel Tip # 3 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack.

2. Ident-a-Gift

Objective: To recognize everything as a gift from God.

Description: Age-appropriate activity sheets will be used to help participants identify and appreciate some of the many gifts God has given them.

Approximate time: 5-7 minutes

Specific Equipment and Supplies:

- [Ident-a-Gift Activity Sheets for Young Children, Youth and Adults](#) (PDF file)
- [Travel Tip # 3 reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- [Ident-a-Gift Tags](#) (PDF file)
- 4 gift-wrapped boxes – any size
- Markers, pencils or pens

Leaders Notes:

Three activity sheets have been designed to engage young children, older children and adults. They may be introduced and accomplished simultaneously.

- Begin by asking your participants to describe when they usually receive gifts (Birthdays, Christmas) and from whom they usually receive them (friends and family). Suggest that God must consider everyday a special occasion since God give us gifts everyday.
- Invite your participants to name some of the gifts God has given them. Encourage the younger children to draw people and other things God has given them (inside the gift design) e.g. friends, family, pets, home, school, church, etc.
- Refer to the gifts you have wrapped and tagged as you identify one way God's provisions may be categorized for easy reference.

- Distribute the activity sheets for older children, youth and adults and facilitate a brief discussion about the categories of gifts outlined on the sheet. Note the kid-friendly version of the adult subtitles. You can easily integrate both references as you encourage them to decorate or "color-in" the squares in front of the gifts as they are recognized.

Bring closure to this activity by displaying the Travel Tip #3 reference sheet and referring to the Travel Tip # 3 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack. Remind them that God gives us special gifts to serve God and others.

Gift Discovery Center II:

Objective: To provide age-appropriate spiritual gift assessment tools to help participants discern some of the special gifts they have been given to strengthen the mission and ministries of God's church on earth.

Description: Participants will be given the opportunity to complete assessment tools on-line or in print. They will discover obvious and emerging gifts for leadership and service and they will consider ways they might be nurtured and/or utilized. (Consider Leadership Lab I & II as immediate "next step" activities.)

Approximate time: 15-30 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- Spiritual Gift Inventories for Children, Youth and Adults (PDF file)
- Faith Trek Travel Pack and Travel Tips (PDF file)
- Travel Tip #4 reference sheet (PDF file)
- Faith Trek sign design (PDF file)
- Pencils, crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Tape

Leader Notes: Scan through each assessment tool on-line. The youth and adult offerings are self-assessment tools. The children's inventory is an interactive tool for teachers, parents and other facilitators to use in a classroom or small group setting. Be sure to scan through some of the additional resources designed to that have been designed to nurture a child's gifts as they emerge. Bring closure to this activity by displaying the Travel Tip #4 reference sheet and referring to Travel Tip # 4 in the Faith Trek Travel Pack. Remind them that God gives us special gifts to serve God and others.