

## **Module 1: Hide-n- Seek Discovery Centers - God + You + Me = Faith Community**

“God + You + Me = Faith Community” is designed to be one of the five “Hide-n-Seek” Discovery Centers. It invites children, youth and adults to scan through the relational dynamics of the communities and organizations in which they belong as they discover the unique and amazing significance of a faith community. Participants will be invited to make a commemorative plaque.

Community I.D. and Discovery Cards may be utilized to engage participants in a version of Hide-n-Seek as they visit the Hide-n-Seek Discovery Centers. The cards include a word search exercise that may be completed as participants collect key words to find at each discovery center. The Check-in Center, a Come On In! Gathering Activity, provides a time to introduce and distribute these cards.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, including any necessary preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A [Program Planning Grid](#) (PDF File) is available to assist you in coordinating the many details and/or tasks involved.

**Approximate time:** 5-15 minutes

### **Equipment and Supplies:**

- Copies of the [God + You + Me pattern sheet](#) (PDF file)
- A copy of the [All Ye, All Ye, Come Home Free banner design](#) (PDF file)
- A copy of the [God + You + Me reference sheet](#) and the [Wherever Two or Three are Gathered sheet](#) (PDF file)
- Containers of brown shoe polish
- 6 1/4" x 6 1/2" pieces of plywood, card stock or card board
- 6 1/4" x 6 1/4" pieces of clear adhesive covering, e.g. Con-Tact paper
- One or more fine tip permanent markers
- Paper towels or pieces of cloth
- A pair of plastic gloves for each family/participant
- One or more scissors
- Large paper clips
- Strong glue or adhesive
- Newspaper, a vinyl tablecloth, or individual place mats
- A Bible
- A [Community I.D. and Discovery Card](#)
- [Key Words for Word Search & Answer Key](#)

### **Leader's Notes:**

This project involves adhering a pattern to a plaque and staining it to create a stunning contrast of colors and meaningful designs.

Before you begin, you will need to decide whether you will make card stock, cardboard or plywood plaques. Then, scan through the process and adapt your plans to honor the time you have scheduled for your overall event. You may wish to recruit a few people to complete some of the initial steps involved.

The plaques will need to be sized to fit the 6 1/4" pattern or design. (You may wish to partner with a carpenter who has a band or scroll saw if you are planning to use wood.) The design may be reproduced for participant use or traced onto the clear adhesive paper prior to your event. Volunteers may proceed to cut, position and attach the various pieces of clear adhesive paper onto the plywood, card stock or cardboard. These tasks are all prerequisite to staining the plaque, which participants of all ages can easily and quickly accomplish. Be sure to encourage the children, youth and adults to work together to accomplish the various steps involved in this activity.

Display the All Ye, All Ye Come Home Free banner design and the God + You + Me = Faith Community sheet for easy reference.

### **Basic Instructions:**

- 1) Position and adhere a paper clip to the back of a plaque for future hanging or display.
- 2) Tape a copy of the God + You + Me = Faith Community pattern sheet to a windowpane. Position a 6 ¼ " x 6 ¼ " piece of clear adhesive covering over the pattern sheet and use a fine tip permanent marker to trace the design onto the adhesive covering.
- 3) Cut apart the six pattern pieces and re-position them on 6 ¼ " x 6 ¼ " plaque. Use the dotted-line on the pattern sheet to center and mark their placement.
- 4) Remove the back of the adhesive covering and carefully attach each piece to the surface of the plaque.
- 5) Because this activity has the potential to become messy, you may want to layout placemats or tablecloths and provide plastic gloves for each participant. You may also want to design aprons for younger children, cutting slits in large plastic garbage bags to accommodate heads and arms.
- 6) Stain the plaques with a single coat of brown shoe polish. Use a paper towel or cloth to spread and even it out.
- 7) Allow the stain to dry for a few minutes before removing the clear adhesive covering.

### **A simple alternative for younger children:**

Replace the God + You + Me = Faith Community pattern with a basic cross design. Simply cut and position two pieces of transparent tape to form a cross. Then, follow the instructions outlined above.

### **Activity:**

Introduce this activity by defining the word "community." (Webster's Dictionary defines it as a group that shares something in common.)

Ask participants to identify some of the communities, groups or organizations in which they feel a sense of identity, association or belonging, e.g. Boy or Girl Scouts; bands or orchestras or dance troupes; athletic groups; zip codes, towns, cities, suburbs, states, countries; friends and families. (You may wish to refer to the information they recorded on the Community I.D. and Discovery Cards.) Encourage them to identify the key people involved and the roles they most commonly play.

Include your church or congregation as a community—a community of faith. Recognize it as a smaller, but vital part of a larger, worldwide community known as the Family of God. Point out that the Family of God often gathers in a church building but members of God's Family are also gathering in lots of other places, including their own households. Encourage them to suggest other contexts for faith community. Note that many groups, clubs and organizations may also be recognized as a faith community; e.g., Christian singing groups, athletic organizations, community service groups.

Consider some of the unique characteristics of a faith community. Display the Wherever Two or Three are Gathered sheet and the All Ye, All Ye Come Home Free banner design. Encourage participants to say the verse with you. Display the phrase "God + You + Me = Faith Community" on the reference sheet as you identify the primary players in a faith community. Ask participants to identify some of the roles they most commonly play. Consider some of the unique activities they do together, e.g., worship, learn, talk, serve and pray.

Draw a vertical line to illustrate the relationship between God and God's people. It is an amazing gift that people of all ages can be in close, loving relationship with the creator and savior of the entire universe. Ever since the beginning of creation, God has been personally involved with God's people. Even so, God intends for us to reach out in love and care for others as we share God's love with each other and become God's hands and feet and voice to speak. Draw a horizontal line through the vertical line you drew to outline a cross. Point out that people who are in faith communities are involved in "cross-shaped" relationships as they relate to God and people around them.

Suggest that many communities in which people reside shape their identity and sense of significance. Refer to some of the other groups and organizations they've mentioned, e.g. athletic teams, dance groups. Display the "I am because you are..." phrase on the God + You + Me = Faith Community reference sheet. Encourage them to comment on their impressions of this statement.

Invite participants to engage in the craft activity as you have planned and prepared for it. Encourage them to display their plaque in places that will remind them to celebrate God's unique gift of faith community.

Identify the Key Words for the participants to find on their Hide-n-Seek Word Search. The key words for this center are... Jesus  
Faith

Please refer to the Key Word sheet & Answer Key as you respond to participants who request assistance in completing the word search on their Community I.D. and Discovery Cards.