

## **Module 1: Hide-n- Seek Discovery Centers - Entry Points for Community**

Entry Points for Community is designed to be one of the five “Hide-n-Seek” Discovery Centers. It invites children, youth and adults to explore some of the ways God nurtures people in faith and community. Participants will make a gift box to visualize some of the many gifts God has given them.

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, along with any needed 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:** 10 minutes

### **Equipment and Supplies:**

- [Copies of the Cross-shaped Gift pattern](#) (PDF file)
- Large or small gift bows
- Scissors
- Tape
- Markers
- Copies of the [“Thanks A lot God!” Thank You Card](#) (PDF file)
- Copies of the [Message of Thanks reproducible sheet](#) (PDF file)
- A copy of the [Entry Points for Community reference sheet](#) (PDF file)
- Optional: Overhead projector, markers and transparencies
- A [Community I.D. and Discovery Card](#) (PDF file)
- [Key Words for Word Search & Answer Key](#) (PDF file)

### **Leader’s Notes**

Scan through the activities for center 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.

Make a sample thank you card and gift for easy reference as participants make their craft. The Message of Thanks will need to be glued to the inside of the card. The gifts will be sturdier if you use heavier paper to reproducing the pattern.

You may want to provide an enlarged copy of the cross-shaped gift to display as you identify some of the gifts God has given. To do so, you might photocopy the design onto a transparency and use an overhead projector to enlarge it onto a piece of poster board or newsprint. Then carefully tape the gift together so that you can easily take it apart to identify some of the many gifts God has given, including the cross.

### **Activity:**

Ask participants to identify some of the groups and organizations in which they have a sense of belonging or association and some of the requirements they have for admission. Display the Entry Points for Community reference sheet as you facilitate this discussion.

Point out that there is usually something that people have to do or a price they have to pay to become involved in most groups, including gatherings for sports or entertainment.

Invite participants to think for a moment about how much they pay God to have the opportunity to live on the planet Earth; belong to God's family or view the amazing sights of God's creation. Suggest that God doesn't require us to pay for anything God provides – They all come to us as gifts.

Display the enlarged gift and encourage participants to identify some of the gifts God has given them. Tell them you have a surprise gift in your box. Then, open it and flatten it for display so they can see the cross-shaped pattern.

Point out the gifts that are identified on the cross. Suggest that they are all God-given. Some of them are most likely received or experienced in a church or congregation, baptism or communion, but they can be offered to people at other times and places. The Happy and sad faces symbolize God's unconditional love for us, whether we're happy or sad, sinning or forgiving. God loves us and accepts us, just as we are.

Invite participants to make their own gifts. Provide markers to decorate the blank side of their gift patterns before they assemble them. Fold the designed side into the gift. Secure the shape by taping each side. Have them place bows on top of their gifts when they have assembled them. Encourage children, youth and adults to work together on this project.

Invite them to share their gifts with others as they show-n-tell about the many gifts God has given them.

Distribute the "Thanks A Lot God!" Thank You Cards as you remind them that when gifts are given there is usually a note of appreciation or thanksgiving that is sent or expressed. Invite participants to complete the note inside and place it in their Bibles as an offering of thanks for all that God has done for them. The cards may just be given out as participants leave this center.

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

Thanksgiving

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.