

## Module 1: Come On In! Gathering Activities - The Check-in Center

The Check-in Center is designed to be one of three entry points for engaging participants as they gather. It will invite participants to identify various communities in which they sense a belonging or identity as they complete Community I.D. and Discovery Cards to utilize throughout the event.

The Community I.D. and Discovery Cards are designed 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. A Key Word sheet & Answer Key is provided for you to assist participants who request assistance in completing the word search on their Community I.D. and Discovery Cards.

The Leader's Notes for these activities, 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. You may want to display a sign to distinguish the Come On In! Gathering Activities from the other Hide-n- Seek Discovery Centers.

**Approximate time:** 1-5 minutes.

### Equipment and Supplies:

- [All Ye, All Ye Come Home Free](#) logo design (PDF file)
- Overhead Projector, transparencies and markers
- Newsprint or poster board
- Copies of the [Community I.D. & Discovery Card](#) (PDF file)
- Copies of the [Community I.D. & Discovery Card Holder pattern](#) (PDF file)
- 20-24" pieces of yarn
- A paper punch
- Tape or glue
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### Leader's Notes:

Scan through the activity outline 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 in making the cardholder.

Use the following directions to make a sample Community I.D. and Discovery Card/Holder. Answer the questions on the I.D. side of the card for future reference.

- 1) Cut the I.D. and Discovery Card pattern sheets into three strips. Fold each strip in half to feature a "fill-in-the-blank" exercise on one side and a word search on the other side.
- 2) Cut the pattern sheet for the cardholder in half. Fold each pattern along the dotted line.
- 3) Provide pens or markers to complete the information requested in the Community I.D. side of the card.
- 4) Punch holes at the top of the holder and run string through the holes to secure the holder.
- 5) Place the I.D. and Discovery Card in the Holder and hang it around your neck.

Photocopy the All Ye, All Ye Come Home Free" logo design onto a transparency. Use an overhead projector to enlarge it on a piece of newsprint or poster board. Display it in a highly visible place by the table space for this activity or near the entryway as participants gather.

You may also wish to display a sign to identify this center as the initial entry point for participants.

**Activity:**

Point out that every gathering has an entry point or check-in and an official greeting or ceremonial event to acknowledge someone's presence and involvement. Remind them that Baptism was our initial entry point for community in our congregations. Mention that we also celebrate our membership in God's family at the same time.

Refer to the Community I.D. as you invite participants to make a cardholder first. Refer to the directions above for making the cardholder. Then, encourage the children, youth and adults to share their observations as they complete the Community I.D. side of their cards.

Refer to the "Discovery" side of the card as you point out the word search that will be used to engage them in their own version of Hide-n-Seek as they visit each of the Hide-n-Seek Discovery Centers. Explain that they will receive key words at each Discovery Center to find on the word search.

Encourage everyone to hang their cardholders around their necks or wrists. Provide pens for them to complete the progressive word search.