

Module 1: Come On In! Gathering Activities - Count Me In! Community Quilt

The Count Me In! Community Quilt is designed to be one of three entry points for engaging participants as they gather. It provides an opportunity for participants to celebrate their identity and sense of belonging to God's family, your congregation or church family and their own immediate families as they make quilt squares for a community quilt. This offering may also be used as a separate devotional activity to address this topic on other occasions throughout the year.

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: 5-7 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

Note: The equipment, supplies and directions for this activity will be focused on making a paper quilt for display. If you'd like to make a cloth version of this quilt, you may refer to ["Making A Cloth Quilt"](#) for additional instructions and supplies.

- A copy of the [Center Square design](#) (PDF file)
- Copies of the various [Heart designs](#) 2-6 (PDF file)
- A copy of the ["Expressions of Faith designs A-G"](#) (PDF file)
- A bulletin board or display area
- Optional: Paper background sheet
- White and colored paper
- Tape
- Markers

Leader's Notes:

Before you begin, you will need to decide whether you will make a paper or a cloth quilt. Check out [Making a Cloth Quilt](#) (PDF) for additional instructions and supplies. Scan through the following directions and adapt your plans to honor the time you have scheduled for your overall event.

Directions:

1. Decide on a space to create and display your quilt. Choosing a bulletin board, a paper banner sheet or a open wall will inform other decisions you will need to make, e.g. the size of the individual pieces of the quilt.
2. Will you need a background or colored base? If so, choose one. You might also consider interspersing colored squares throughout your quilt design to add color or balance.
3. Recruit someone to facilitate the process of arranging and hanging the pieces for display. Lay out the center square and the Expressions of Faith squares designed to be a part of the display. If you are planning to create this quilt for a longer-term display, you might also consider laminating the individual pieces or purchasing plastic sheet protectors.
4. Make sure you have several copies of each heart square design. They are intended to represent some of the many different family configurations that exist within a congregation. A family may make one square together or they may each make an identical one to display.
5. Make a sample of a heart square. Color each piece of the heart a different color to represent the individuality of each family member. You may also wish to place a family name on the square to celebrate an individual family's identity within the larger congregation or church family.

Activity:

Introduce this activity as an opportunity to celebrate three things at the same time; God's Family, your congregation or local church family and individual families.

Refer to the center square as a symbol for God's Family, with Christ or the Cross our central. Display the "Expressions of Faith" squares to characterize the activities of your local church family or congregation. The heart designs are designed to celebrate the individual families that live and grow within it. Explain that all three designs will be included in a large community quilt that will be displayed in your church.

Invite individuals/families to choose a heart design to represent the configuration of their immediate family. Encourage family members to choose one piece of the heart to color and identify as their very own. Again, a family may make one square together or they may make several individual, identical ones to display.

Coordinate the arrangement of the various pieces of the quilt as families/individuals make their contribution to this process.