

C. Where Do We Find God? (20 minutes)

1. Distribute an index card and a pen or pencil to each participant. Remind participants of the first activity and of the numerous places in which they hid. Then ask where else people might find God. Allow for answers such as, “*at the beach*,” “*hanging out with my friends*,” and “*when I visit my grandma*.” Be sure to get a variety of answers before proceeding to the next step.
2. Ask participants to write the name of just one place where they find God on the index card. Explain that there may be many places, perhaps at the beach and in the mountains, but to write only one.
3. Now invite participants to find others who have found God in the same place listed on their index card and to form groups according to their answers. Note that there probably will be several participants that do not have a match. Let them know that in that case, they should form a group with others who do not have a match.
4. Ask the groups to be seated and then share the following: “*Now that you have reflected on the places where we can find God, let us look at another opportunity for finding God; that is finding God in others. Think about the people in your life who have given you a glimpse of God.*” Refer participants to the question you have posted on newsprint (or projected on a PowerPoint slide): “How do you see God in others?” Allow about ten minutes for discussion among group members.
5. Invite a few people to share their responses to the question. Then make these points, which are drawn from Scripture, *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), and *Gaudium et Spes* (GS):
 - *God created us in God’s image (Gn 1:27).* Jesus was the Word that became flesh—God as human (Jn 1:1-14).
 - We are the body of Christ now that he has died and risen, and we need to work together to show God to others (Rom 12:1-8).
 - Being with God, and living as followers of Christ, is the way to a full life (CCC 27-49).
 - Without the creator, the creature vanishes (GS 36).

Conclude this activity by emphasizing this final point: we also have to show God to others. Explain that in the closing prayer participants will be asked to commit to one way through which they can show God to others. Distribute copies of the closing prayer to participants before moving to the prayer space.

D. Closing Prayer: Where Do We Go with God? (15 minutes)

Gather

Invite participants to listen to the gathering song you have selected (invite them to sing along if they know it). When the song concludes, invite participants to begin the prayer by making the sign of the cross. Begin with this opening prayer, “*God who finds us wherever we hide, we come to you with new experiences of you and the people you have found throughout the ages. You have found us too, and we come to you as people of faith and love. Amen.*”

Listen

Invite the readers to come forward and proclaim the *I Am Choral Reading* (Resource 2).

Respond

- Say, “*Recall that earlier in the session we talked about how God is revealed in other people? Well, now let us consider how we can show God to others. I invite you to take a moment to identify one way that you can show God to others. For example, it might be ‘I am going to invite the new student at school to church next week.’ Choose a phrase that begins with the words, I am. Then if you would like, you may come forward and write what you can (and will) do to help another person experience God.*”
- Ask for any clarifications and play instrumental music in the background while participants take time to write their commitment on the poster if they choose.
- Distribute small “I Am” cards (Appendix A) to participants. Inform the group that the back of this card is a place to write their commitments. Allow a few moments for participants to write their statements.



Send Forth

Invite participants to hold up their cards, and pray together *Our God, the Great I Am*. Close with this blessing and prayer: “*God, the great I Am, you give each of us the opportunity to be a mirror of your love; help us to follow through on what we have written on these cards so that many will know of your love. Let us continue to show you, the Great I Am, to others by offering each other a sign of peace.*”