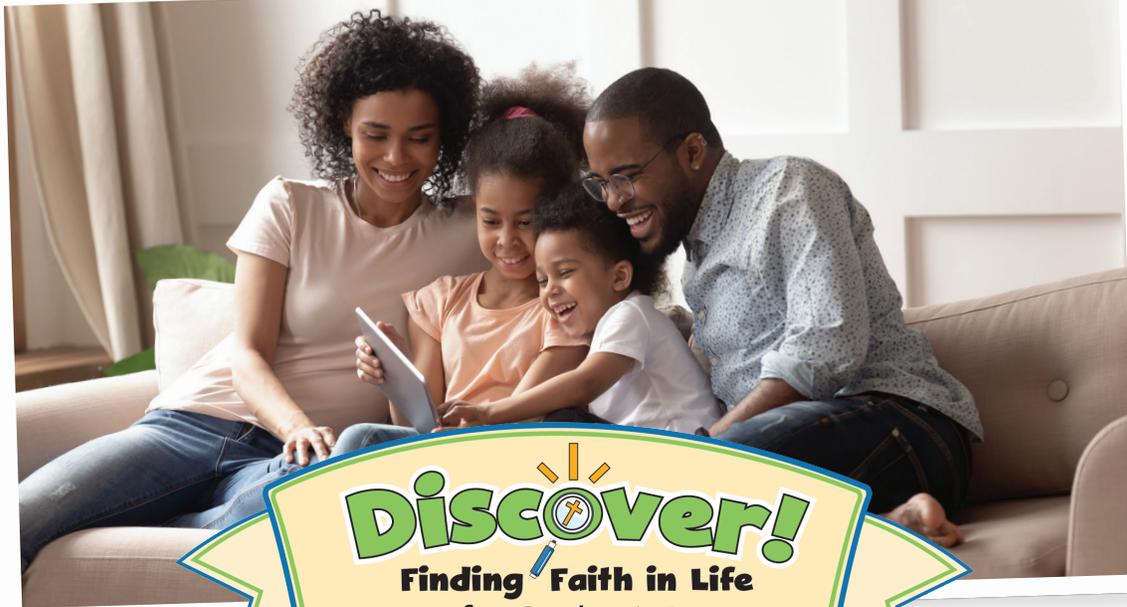




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Discover!
Finding Faith in Life
for Grades 1-5

How to Create Gathered Family Sessions using *Discover!*

You've been exploring or even reviewing *Discover!* and have seen how this program is making a difference as it is applied in the classroom setting or at home. But perhaps you are looking for more. **Maybe you'd like to gather families together once a month and encourage them to share and learn about faith together in a family-based faith formation model, but you're not quite sure how to do that.**

While there are many ways to build successful gathered family sessions using *Discover!*, one way to do this centers around the liturgical seasons. This quick guide will give you all the basic tools you need to bring families together in a way that is simple yet deeply meaningful, exploring a basic gathered family session format, suggestions for monthly focus, and some follow-up options for families.



Gathered Family Session format

Total Time: Time designations below represent one option as the different sections can be expanded or shortened to fit your needs.

Materials Needed:

- *The Catholic Children's Bible*, one for each family
- *Discover!* catechist guides for grades 1-5
- Items listed in the lessons that are chosen for focus

Get Ready! (15 minutes)

Welcome, Opening Prayer, and Engage Activity

- In most cases, the Opening Prayer and Engage Activities can be used from the catechist guide for the corresponding liturgical season with minimal changes for family adaptation.
- Make sure to mention the liturgical season of focus for the gathering.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

Featured Scripture

- Select one featured Scripture Story for the season or feast day from one of the grade levels for all to use. [Reference the Scope and Sequence](#) to assist with your selection.
- Invite the families to read the featured Scripture story and the corresponding "Understand It!" and "Live It" together. Encourage the children to retell the story to their family in their own words.
- You might wish to ask some questions to the large group to check for understanding or emphasize key points of the Scripture story. The catechist guide will help you with this.
- If there is time, invite 2-3 families to share and highlight what they discussed.

Discover! (30 minutes)

Core Learning Activity (Craft)

- Select and review the Core Learning Activity (Craft) in the catechist guide, using the one from the lesson of the selected Scripture Story
- You may also select one of the Additional Activities from that lesson to be used in place of the craft or in addition to the craft if you wish to extend the session further.

Core Teaching

- Use the Core Teaching section of the catechist guide from the same lesson to offer some points of information and teaching about the liturgical season of focus. Adapt as needed for age-appropriateness, connection, and engagement.
- Invite the families to display and share their crafts, where they might place the craft in their home during the season or feast day, and the meaning it holds to them.

Go! (15 minutes)

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite families to think back over everything they did in the lesson. Invite volunteers (anyone in the family) to share some key things they learned.
- Make sure the key points of the lesson are made, following the catechist guide for information.

Closing Prayer

- Use the Short Closing Prayer or the longer prayer service offered in the catechist guide for the lesson.



Suggested Liturgical Season Monthly Gathering Focus

October

- All Saints' Day lessons can be found in grades 1 -4 .
- An All Souls' Day lesson can be found in grade 5.

November

- Advent lessons can be found in all grades.

December

- Christmas lessons can be found in grades 1, 2, and 5.

January

- Epiphany lessons can be found in grades 3 and 4.

February

- A Presentation of the Lord lesson can be found in grade 3.

March

- Lenten lessons can be found in grades 1, 2, and 4.

April

- A Triduum lesson can be found in grade 5.
- Easter lessons can be found in grades 1-4.

May

- Pentecost lessons can be found in all grades.
- Marian lessons can be found in all grades.

June

- Ordinary Time lessons can be found in all grades.

Follow-Up Options for Families

After the gathered session, there are multiple ways to encourage families to "continue the conversation":

- Invite families to revisit the Scripture story as a family. Encourage them to try to recount the Scripture story together from memory, sharing what they think is the important message. Then they can reread the Scripture and the "Understand It!" content to refresh their memories.
- Give the families ideas for creating a prayer table, prayer space, or the center of their dining table to feature symbols of the liturgical season that are created together.
- Suggest that families take at least 5 minutes a day throughout the liturgical season to recall the importance and significance of the season and how they can live differently because of it. Provide families with simple prayers they can say together.
- Have families do the coordinating online lesson, which is built right into *Discover! Finding Faith in Life*. You'll be able to track family progress and check in with them throughout the month!
- [Find more resources for parents, including how to use the free Home Guides, here](#)



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