

Who Am I?

Help children learn more about the Communion of Saints (just in time for an All Saints Day celebration) using the *Who Am I?* activity and Core Teaching elements from *Discover! Finding Faith in Life* (grade 3, chapter 12).



Active learning is a core element in every chapter of *Discover! Finding Faith in Life*. Try this activity out—we're sure your kids will love it!





Discover! (25 minutes)

Core Learning Activity

Who Am I?

- Prepare in advance by gathering enough index cards to have one for each child. Write the name of one familiar saint or person from the Bible on each card. Be sure to use names of people with whom the children are familiar, perhaps people mentioned in previous lessons.
- Tape one card on the back of each child.
- Ask the children to guess whose name they have on their back by asking one another yes or no questions for clues. Tell the children that once they guess whose name is on their back, they can remove the card and continue to help other group members by giving them clues.

Process the Activity

- Explain that these saints and people from the Bible are part of our Church family.
- Remind the group that when we are baptized, we become part of the larger family of Christ, and we stay in that family always.
- Tell the children that our Church is a community of love. Explain that we must not only talk about Jesus' message of love, but we must also act on his message by doing things for others.

Core Teaching

- Ask the children to recall anyone in their family who has died. Mention deceased members of your own family as an example. Remind the children that loved ones who have died are still part of our families, and they continue to be part of our Church family.
- Explain to the children that our Church family includes more people than just those we see at Mass. Tell them that our Church family includes people who still live on Earth with us and those who have died in Christ.
- Tell the group that our Church includes everyone on Earth, everyone in Heaven, and everyone in **Purgatory**. Explain that Purgatory is a state of purification or cleansing that some people may need to enter following death before entry into Heaven.
- Point out that we are constantly in **communion** with, or together and in union with, all the faithful both living and dead. Tell the group that our Church family, the Body of Christ, is the **Communion of Saints**: all of Jesus' followers on Earth, in Heaven, and in Purgatory.
- Tell the group that those in our Church family who have died continue to pray with us, and we can ask them to pray for us too.

- Hand out the Sunday worship aids, if you brought copies, and explain that at certain times during the Mass—such as before the “Holy, Holy, Holy” and after the consecration—the priest reminds us that we pray with the saints and all those who have died in the faith.
- Ask the children the following question: If we are a community of love and our community includes all the faithful living and dead, how do we show love for everyone? Explain that we can pray for and show respect for people who have died. We can also pray with the saints and with all who have died and now live with God in Heaven.
- Remind the children that All Saints’ Day, November 1, is the day in the Church year when we honor all the saints, known and unknown, and we ask them to pray for us. Tell them that All Souls’ Day, November 2, is when we pray for everyone who has died.
- Explain that we honor individual saints on feast days throughout the Church year.
- Tell the children that praying with the whole Church is one way we can share Jesus’ message of love.
- Ask the children to brainstorm other ways we can show we are a community of love to everyone, living and dead. (*Examples include helping someone whose family member has recently died, asking the saints to pray for us, and celebrating with the Church on holy days and feast days.*) Note that we especially show our unity in love by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Communion.
- Ask the children some questions to check for comprehension, such as the following:
 - Who does our Church family include? (*everyone baptized, living and dead*)
 - What is the Communion of Saints? (*The communion of saints refers to the Church: all who have been baptized in Christ who now live on Earth, in Heaven, and in Purgatory.*)
 - How do we show that we are in communion with one another? (*by praying together at Mass, observing the holy days during the year, and receiving Communion*)