

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I can't come to every session—can I still sign up?

Discovering Christ is designed to put you into a trusted relationship with the people at your assigned table group, so in order for that trust to develop, all the members of the group should do their best to be present each week. However, we recognize that life is very busy; it is hard to commit to a weekly program, and emergencies come up. If you can't attend 1–2 weeks, or must miss the retreat, that is okay. You can still sign up for the program. We trust that you will do all you can to be there each time. There is a book that can be purchased during the program for \$10 which can help cover material missed.

Who will be leading this program?

Members of St. Catherine of Siena Parish are serving as team members for Discovering Christ. They will be cooking the dinner, welcoming and checking people in, and serving as worship leaders and small group facilitators. The content of the program comes via video from ChristLife, a Catholic nonprofit in the Archdiocese of Baltimore (www.christlife.org).

Who will be attending Discovering Christ?

The simple answer is anyone who signs up. We are opening wide the doors to anyone who is interested. We hope that members of St. Catherine's Parish will participate, but we also hope that people throughout the Ithaca area will feel welcomed to come and participate in the program—regardless of their current relationship to the Catholic Church or any Church. This is intended for anyone and everyone who is willing to open their minds and hearts to what the program can offer them. We would like all participants to be at least 16 years of age, or a junior in high school.

What if I don't know anyone who is attending?

When you register for Discovering Christ, you will be put into a small group with whom you will eat dinner each week and share in conversation about the video presentation. This group will become your "home" for the program, and the people within your group will get to know you and you will get to know them. You will have a small group facilitator assigned to your table to ensure that you all get the opportunity to share your thoughts, express your feelings, and otherwise have a good conversation.

What's for dinner?

We don't know, but we promise that it will be a nutritious and delicious meal. If you have dietary concerns or preferences, we will do our very best to make sure you can also enjoy dinner. When you register, you will be asked on the form about your dietary concerns, so help us make sure you have what you need by filling that part out completely.

Is babysitting available?

Unfortunately, we don't currently have the capacity to provide babysitting. We hope to provide this program again, and perhaps we will be able to provide babysitting then. If you have a child who doesn't need baby-sitting but you prefer that they don't stay home alone, there is a room in the Parish Center where they can do their homework, watch a movie, or the like. They will be welcome to eat what we are serving for dinner.

Is there another option for participating in Discovering Christ?

Yes. Immaculate Conception Church will be hosting the program on Saturdays, beginning at 11:45 a.m. with lunch and concluding at 2:15 p.m. It will begin on Saturday, January 20, and conclude on March 10, with the retreat being held on Saturday, February 24. To register or for more information about Immaculate Conception's Discovering Christ program, please go to: <http://www.immconch.org/faith-formation/adult/>.