

Being Friends Together

Reading *Quaker faith & practice* > Autumn/Winter 2015/16 > Chapter 23: Social Responsibility > Q122 Self-study activities

Session 2 Social Responsibility

Chapter 23, *Quaker faith & practice*

Self-study activities

60 minutes (or longer if you wish)

Do Activity 1, then choose one or more activities from 2A, B, C, D and E.

Resources:

- A copy of *Quaker faith & practice* (5th Edition) for reference - also available online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/chapter/23/>
- Pen and paper, or your own notebook or journal
- Art materials and paper Activity 2C
- Activity Sheet 1 Activity 2C
- Activity Sheet 2 Activity 2D
- Activity Sheet 3 Activity 2D
- Activity Sheet 4 - choose one area of witness Activity 2E

Focus for this session: Chapter 23 of *Quaker faith & practice*, which explores Quaker approaches to social responsibility. This includes reflecting on our understanding of Quaker testimony and how we put our faith into action, with reference to particular aspects of social justice, individual and community life, and Friends' relationship to state authority.

Activity 1: It spoke to my condition

30 minutes

Reading + reflection + journalling/sharing

Consider and note down one or more extracts from Chapter 23 that spoke to your condition or resonated with you in some way when you read this chapter. 5

Spend some time reflecting on why the extract(s) spoke to you. 10

You could take this reflection further/deeper by: 15

- journalling
- sharing with a friend
- sharing your reflections online - either in your own space or see <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/news> for links to discussions

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Being Friends Together is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (Registered Charity Number: 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Registered charity number: 1127633).



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Activity 2A: A Quaker approach to faith and action 30 minutes

Reading + reflection + sharing

Read *Qf&p* 23.01 to 23.10. 5

Consider which *four* extracts you would choose if there was only room for four extracts (instead of ten) to summarise/ reflect the Quaker approach to faith and action. You may like to note down your conclusions. 15

If possible, share something of your response to this activity with others. You could do this by: 10

- sharing with a friend
- writing a letter
- sharing your reflections online - either in your own space or see <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/news> for links to discussions

Activity 2B: A definition of testimony 20 minutes

Reading + writing

Read *Qf&p* 23.11, 23.12 and 23.13. 5

Consider the extracts and have a go at producing your own definition or description of testimony, of no more than two or three sentences. 15

You might like to share your definition with a friend or loved one when you next speak to them.

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Activity 2C: A true social order

30 minutes

Reading + writing or creative activity

Read *Qf&p* 23.16 (reproduced on Activity Sheet 1).

5

Then do one of the following:

25

- write your own foundations of a true social order
- update or write a translation of the eight foundations of a true social order from *Qf&p* 23.16
- do a creative piece of work, using any art materials that you have available, to make a panel for a frieze/cartoon strip/tapestry/stained glass window depicting or symbolising one of the foundations of a true social order

You might like to share what you have written or created with others in your meeting, perhaps beginning or adding to a display about Quaker social witness at your meeting house.

Activity 2D: Key insights

20 minutes

Reading + reflection + personal display of insights

Choose one of the extracts from Chapter 23 quoted in Activity Sheet 2. Spend some time reading and reflecting prayerfully on your extract. As you do so, note down on the key shape in Activity Sheet 3 any important image, phrase, insight or challenge that you feel this extract holds for Friends.

10

Then stick the key shape to a surface in your house where you will see it, such as the fridge or a noticeboard. How might this insight speak to you over the next few days or weeks?

10

You could repeat this process with another extract from Activity Sheet 2.

You might like to share your key insight(s) with someone from your meeting when you next chat over drinks after meeting for worship.



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Activity 2E: Engaging with aspects of Quaker social witness 30 minutes

Reading + reflection + discussion

Choose one of the aspects of Quaker social witness listed in Activity Sheet 4, as you feel led. Spend some time quietly reading the relevant extracts relating to your chosen aspect of social responsibility. 10

Then consider how you see this aspect of Quaker witness relating to inward religious experience and conviction (and not simply political or social theories). You might like to make some notes of your thoughts. 10

If possible, discuss your thoughts about this question with others. You could do this by: 10

- sharing with a friend
- writing a letter
- sharing your reflections online - either in your own space or see <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/news> for links to discussions



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