



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's Work

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Issue 51



A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship

Prepare a table (not in the centre) of art materials. In particular lay out some paperdoll templates (Additional Resource 51.B), scissors, glue and scraps of paper and material.

On the central table, lay out the books that are normally there. Include if you can:

- 10 Little Fingers and 10 Little Toes by Mem Fox and Helen Oxenbury
- The Spirit Level by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett
- Soil and Soul by Alastair McIntosh

(All available from the Quaker Bookshop)

Allow for lots of space around each section of the meeting for contemplation and contribution.

Welcome everyone to the meeting. Explain that there will be time for listening, time for speaking, time for making and time for thinking. Let everyone know that they are welcome *at any time* to:

- use the art materials to respond, this is particularly helpful for younger children and their parents.
- to contribute whenever they feel moved to.
- look at the books on the table in the middle.

Readings: Ask two people in advance to be ready to read these out during an initial period of silence. Give a paraphrased 'child-friendly' version if you wish.

- Advices and Queries 33 (Perhaps just 'Bear witness.... unrest and fear.'
- Quaker Faith and Practice 23.21 '...We value that of God in each personWe will press for change to enable wealth and power to be shared more evenly within our nation.'

Activity: Take a paperdoll template and cut out one for yourself or take one of the ones that are prepared already. You can then decorate the paperdoll in whatever way you wish using the materials available. Take your time. Notice how yours might be different to everyone else's.

Other possible reading or story: Godly Play Story: Zaccheus and the Tax Collector.

(www.quaker.org.uk/using-godly-play)

or just read from the Bible: Luke 19 1-10



Close: Ask everyone to place their paperdoll on the table in the centre. Ask everyone to stand around the table and see the differences between all the dolls. Leave a period of silence for reflection and contribution.

Shake hands