



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

May 2013 Issue 75



**An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about the difficult question of science and animals**

Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a couple of minutes are good.

The outline is based on a 45 minutes children's meeting.

**Resources and preparation:** *You will need A4 or A3 white card or paper, drawing pencils, coloured pencils and felt tips pens, black felt pens. Set out chairs in a circle.*

## Gather:

Once everyone is settled and comfortable say that today you are going to be talking and doing things about a difficult and big question about animals being used in science. Use the Gather guidance on page 1 of issue 75 of *Journeys in the Spirit Children's work* edition and have ready a set of the pictures on *Additional Resource 75.A* of the same edition.

**10 minutes**

## Engage:

After giving the brief cautionary introduction go on to read the story in Engage on page 2 of issue 75 of *Journeys in the Spirit* children's edition. Read it slowly. When you have finished telling this story leave a pause for a few moments - then ask if anybody has any questions. Remember that you may have to say that you don't know the answers. Move onto the questions and activities in Respond.

**5 minutes**

## Respond:

Talking some more. On page 3 of issue 75 of *Journeys in the Spirit Children's work* edition are some questions that can be used to promote discussion of the issues raised by this story. These could be used in conjunction with the simple activity on *Additional Resource 75.C* to help children work out their thoughts, feelings and positions on this and related questions. Take this slowly, allow plenty of time, and try to draw out answers by listening carefully and asking slightly searching extra questions.

When you think the conversation is complete ask children to make a poster to illustrate their view and opinion. When they are complete they can be shown and talked about in the group if children want to. It is possible that a child might just want to be quiet, read the story again, and write in a journal if they have one or do some private artwork. Have a place set up to make this possible – include some cushions as well as additional arts materials from the list above.

**20 minutes**

Play a silly game for a few minutes. There are lots of ideas on this website:

[www.activityvillage.co.uk/party\\_games\\_and\\_activities.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/party_games_and_activities.htm) and group games at:

[www.activityvillage.co.uk/group\\_games\\_and\\_activities.htm](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/group_games_and_activities.htm)

**5 minutes**

## Reflect

Ask if anyone has any questions they need to ask or something they need to say. End the session with a period of stillness around a lit candle to let thoughts and ideas settle down and to get ready to go into meeting or for sharing food and drink.

**5 minutes**