



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 84



An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about Quakers who worked as botanists

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.

Materials: A copy of the story of Sydney Parkinson from page 2 of issue 84 of *Journeys in the Spirit*; copies of the pictures on *Additional Resource sheets 84.A, 84.B, 84.C and 84.D*; wooden drawing boards (if possible), plain drawing pencils, coloured drawing pencils, oil pastels, wax crayons – large and small, good quality drawing paper.

Gather:

Use the initial Gather guidance on page 1 of issue 84 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. Ask children in what ways they capture, make or keep images and pictures in their home, at school or with friends and family. There may be a range of answers from camera, camera phone, downloading pictures digitally on to a computer. Ask the children if they know how their parents, grandparents or older friends and relatives use to capture images or pictures.

Go on to ask the children to think about or imagine a time when images were “captured” by drawing and painting? On *Additional Resources 84.A* there are some images for children to look at and compare. Place these where children can look at them. You may also wish to use your own resources. **10 minutes**

Engage:

Say that you are going to tell the story of someone who was a Quaker, whose job was making pictures, ‘capturing images’. Tell the story of Sydney Parkinson using the text on page 2 of issue 84 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. For this you will also need a copy or copies of *Additional Resource 84.B*. **10 minutes**

Respond:

Ask the children what they think about the journey that Sydney went on. What do they think it was like – exciting, scary, hard work? What was it like for Sydney?

Go on to say something like, ‘Sydney knew he wanted to draw and find out about plants and places – it was his work. Let’s try to get an idea of what he did.’ Lay down copies of some of the plant pictures drawn by Sydney and other artists at the time from *Additional Resource 84.C*. Also lay down copies of the ship pictures from *Additional Resource 84.D* and the Maori chief on *Additional Resource 84.B*. Talk a little bit about what is shown in the ship and Maori pictures. Ask the children to choose one that they like and then make a drawing of it. When drawings are finished people can say, if they would like to, why they chose the picture and what they liked about it.

If there is time go on to ask questions like: if they would like to go exploring and finding out things. Where would they like to go? What would they need to take with them? How different would it be from when Sydney went on the ship? **20 minutes**

Reflect: Gather the children together and ask if there are any questions about the activities today.

Are the children aware of the different ways that images are captured?

Ask the children how being a Quaker might have helped Sydney or made a difference to what he did?

Ask the children if Sydney’s story has made them think things they want to do for work when they are older.

End with a little closing stillness and quiet. **5 minutes**