



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 86



A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship

Resources

A copy of the story of Mary Elizabeth Phillips from issue 86 of Journeys in the Spirit, Additional Resource 86.A; 3 candles on saucers to catch drips, a lighter/long matches, a small bowl to put used matches (if lighter not used). A safe place to have candles out of reach.

A bare tree e.g. branches in a vase/pot or large plant; coloured leaves cut from paper - see Additional Resource 86.D - with hole punched in and a loop of yarn. (Have three of these leaves on the tree as an example of what to do with the leaves). Baskets containing coloured pencils and crayons including some 'chub' crayons for little or arthritic hands, and sharpened coloured pencils (avoid markers which can stain floor, clothes etc.) Some clip boards or strong cardboard (e.g. boxes cut to A4 size) for 'tables' on laps. Chairs for the big and little people, and maybe a blanket or two with pillows on the floor.

Set out around the Meeting room before Meeting for worship: the bare tree e.g. branches in a vase/pot or large plant; coloured leaves cut from paper with hole punched in and a loop of yarn. (have three of these leaves on the tree as an example of what to do with the leaves). The baskets containing coloured pencils and crayons including some 'chub' crayons for little or arthritic hands, and sharpened coloured pencils (Some clip boards or strong cardboard).

Involving the Elders Coordinate with your Elders so that an Elder is aware of the planned programme and when it will be appropriate to close meeting.

Meeting for Worship

5 min. Be seated and settle yourself before others arrive. When the Meeting is gathered light one candle and say: "this light is to remind us that there is that of God in each of us." (Pause) Light next candle and say: "this light to is for all of us able to gather together today". (Pause) Light the final candle and say: "this light is to remind us of absent friends."

5 min. *Pause and let the silence gather again*

Welcome everybody to meeting for worship for all ages. Explain that "today's Meeting for Worship is one where we all, of different ages, gather to worship together. We will continue with a short story about a Friend and her innovative way of encouraging people to avoid drinking alcohol – beer and wine. Some of you have been looking around at the baskets and coloured leaves scattered around the room. There will be an invitation and explanation of their use after the story." and then remind Friends: "Meeting will close as usual with the shaking of hands."

15 min. *After a pause*

Tell the story of Mary Elizabeth Phillips on *Additional Resource 86.A*. Try and tell it in your own words and be comfortable with the story rather than read it. You might consider giving a visual element to the story by incorporating the photos on *Additional Resource 86.B*; it is helpful to make the story the focus rather than drawing the attention to yourself, the story teller.

5 min. *Pause for silence after the story*

Pause then remind Friends that "Ministry can come from anyone, whatever our age or experience in Meeting. Some of us may feel moved to minister vocally, some may minister using the resources available, and some will uphold the silence." Say that the leaves are for anybody to write or draw something on about what could be done or they could do to make a better world. The leaves are then hung on the tree for reading later.

25 min: unprogrammed Meeting for Worship

5 min. When Meeting is about to close move to extinguish the candles, and say, "Although I now extinguish the candles, the light within us all still glows (extinguish candle for all gathered), our absent friends may remain in our hearts and memories (extinguish candle for absent friends), and there is still that of God in each of us (extinguish the first candle lit). Elders shake hands to end Meeting for Worship.