



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

July 2014 Issue 89



**An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting
about how children matter and can change the world**

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.

Gather:

Me and the world – the world and me – people around me

Resources: a round rug or piece of cloth; a collection of simple wooden, plastic or cut out card figures; a map of the earth from Additional Resource 89.A.

Have a period of welcome and gathering with everybody together: toddlers, small children, young people and adults. Have the round rug or piece of cloth waiting for everybody to sit around, holding each other's hands and welcoming each and everyone by name. Ask each person to say their name and then that of the person sitting on their right hand side.

Start by laying out an inner circle of figures -1st circle for family, a 2nd circle for friends and neighbours and a 3rd circle for people's town or village. Finish this period by placing the map beside the circles. **5 minutes**

Engage:

Do the 'who is my neighbour?' activity in Engage on page 2 of issue 89 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. Check the list of resources needed on that page. Then sing the '*When I needed a neighbour*' song all together (see *Additional Resource 89.B* and other guidance about the song on Page 2) of issue 89. After singing, have a conversation using the questions that are also on page 2. **15 minutes**

Respond:

Read through the introduction at the start of the Respond section on page 3 of the issue 89 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. Do the '*find out more – become inspired – feel encouraged – think about what you would like to do*' activities also on page 3. **20 minutes**

Reflect:

Say, '*you matter – you change the world*'. Then say something like: 'the fact that you are you and are here has already changed the world. Together we can try to live the dream of beginning to make this world a better place. For people, animals, nature...'

All can gather in a circle once again, keeping a period of silence. If you have a Buddhist meditation gong (singing bowl) you can use it to start and end a quiet time with its sound. You might want to read the following: "*We offer the merits of our silence to all beings and that the world will become a better place.*"

5 minutes