



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

November 2014 Issue 93



An easy to use plan about equipping children for ministry

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. Remember to have a copy of *Journeys in the Spirit* issue 93 available.

Gather:

Instead of a time of stillness play a name game after any news that children want to share – this is because there is an extended worship activity in the *Engage* section. Here are three examples:

- My name is ___ and my favourite woodland animal is a _____
- My name is *Tom* and I like *tortoises*. (Each person chooses an animal that starts with the same letter as the person's name).
- My name is Christina and I like to

Choose one of these. Each person takes it in turn.

5 minutes

Engage:

After the name game ask the children to have a little shuffle about and then sit comfortably.

Say that everyone is going to stay sitting for a few minutes to do a quiet, thinking activity together. Go on to read the text and follow the instructions for the guided centering activity in the Engage section (page 2) of this issue, no. 93, of *Journeys in the Spirit*. Adjust the language for different ages as needed.

(up to) **10 minutes**

Respond:

Before doing the colouring and modelling activity ask the children some questions like:

What did you feel like in the sitting exercise you just did? What did you like about it? Was there anything that you thought was important about it? Was there anything that you didn't like? Just listen to the responses making no judgement on what is said or not said.

Colouring and modelling. *Resources for this activity: A4 drawing paper - the best you can find; oil pastels; colouring pencils; wax crayons of different thicknesses; modelling clay, plasticene or playdough; boards or card to rest or work on. Have a CD or other music player playing soft music during this activity – an example is in the sidebar.*

Set out the creative resources on different tables. Tell the children that they can use one or both of the types of resources that have been set out but they have to complete one first. The task is to use the colouring equipment to make a picture or a shape that somehow shows or describes what it was like when they were doing the 'unwrapping the box' activity in the quiet and stillness. The colouring can be a pattern or a picture or words in colour.

The modelling material is to be used to make a shape of or about what they imagined or saw or felt in the 'unwrapping the box' activity. Initially children may want to talk about their idea a little – that is fine. That said, this activity is to be done quietly. Discourage anyone from saying what they have made. They can talk about them later in the group or to a parent or a Friend in Meeting, if they wish.

What has been made is quietly brought into the circle of the group when everyone has finished. Everyone then quietly looks at what has been made. If children want they can then take what they made into meeting for worship.

20 minutes

Reflect:

Bring the children back together into a circle. Ask some or all of the questions under Reflect on page 4 of issue 93 – then read and consider *Advice and query 1:19*.

10 minutes