



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

January 2016

Issue 101



A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship

Preparation – you will need some kite shapes in different colours (see over page for a template), some string and a selection of colourful ribbons or pieces of fabric or tissue paper for making tails. You might like to prepare a blue sky, perhaps with some white clouds, to put on the meeting room wall or in the centre of the room. The kites can then be placed in the sky when they are completed.

During the meeting

Begin with a time of silence, then welcome everyone to worship. Share that children's meeting has been finding out about the lives of Palestinian and Israeli children and explain what will happen during meeting for worship. Remind people that everyone, of any age, can minister during the meeting. This can be through joining in with the activity or in the form of words.

Read the following extract from 'The Kites are Flying' by Michael Morpurgo: (ISBN: 978-1-4063-2603-1)

'It happened yesterday. I can't stop thinking about it. I saw this soldier. He was down at the checkpoint, and I was coming across the road driving the sheep. He was looking straight down the barrel of his rifle into my eyes. Then I saw his face under the helmet. I couldn't believe it; he didn't look any older than me. I'm thinking, you're someone's son too. I'm thinking, one day you're going to kill me maybe, and you won't even know why you're doing it. Do you know what I did then? I smiled at him. I didn't want to look frightened, so I smiled at him, just to show him. He smiled back, I promise you he did, even gave me a wink. So then I'm thinking that they can't be all bad, these occupiers. There's the girl in the blue headscarf who waves to me over the wall sometimes, and this soldier. That's two. So if they're not all bad, and we're not all bad, why can't the good ones on both sides just get together and sort it all out? Then the soldiers could all go home, and Father could be let out of prison and come home to us, and everything would be right again?'

Within Michael Morpurgo's story, the kites are signs of hope. They carry messages of peace over the wall, which separates the Palestinians from the Israelis. Invite everyone to make and decorate their own kite (see the template on the next page).

Write or draw on one half of the kite what you might do individually to bring peace to the Palestinian and Israeli people. For example, you might think of ways that you could find out more about what is happening, ways that you could raise awareness about the situation or particular organisations that you could support. On the other half of the kite, write or draw ways in which you could resolve conflicts that exist in your own life. What hurts are you carrying around with you? What would it be good to let go of? How might you do this and who might help?



