

Being Friends Together

Reading *Quaker faith & practice* > Autumn/Winter 2015/16 > Chapter 23: Social Responsibility > Q121 Group session

Session 2 Social Responsibility Chapter 23, *Quaker faith & practice*

Group session **90/120 minutes**

90-minute session: do Activity 1, then choose one activity from 2A, B, C, D and E.

120 minute session: do Activity 1, then choose two activities from 2A, B, C, D and E.

Before the session it may be helpful to remind yourself of the guidance on working with groups available in the Ways of Working area of *Being Friends Together*. Check that anyone with particular needs in your group is able to access any handouts, or has a version that is accessible for them.

Resources:

- Copies of *Quaker faith & practice* (5th Edition) for reference - also available online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/chapter/23/>
- Paper and pens Activities 2A, 2B and 2C
- Art materials and paper Activity 2C
- Activity Sheet 1 x one each Activity 2C
- Slips with Chapter 23 extracts (see Activity Sheet 2) x one slip each Activity 2D
- Blank key shapes (see Activity Sheet 3) x one each Activity 2D
- A large piece of paper/notice board/wall and sticky tack Activity 2D
- Quaker social witness labels (see Activity Sheet 4) - choose four Activity 2E
- *Quaker faith & practice* - several copies in each corner of the room Activity 2E

Welcome and worship **5 minutes**

Session introduction **5 minutes**

Focus for this session: Chapter 23 of *Quaker faith & practice*, which explores Quaker approaches to social responsibility. This includes reflecting on our understanding of Quaker testimony and how we put our faith into action, with reference to particular aspects of social justice, individual and community life, and Friends' relationship to state authority.

<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>



Being Friends Together is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (Registered Charity Number: 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Registered charity number: 1127633).



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Activity 1: It spoke to my condition

30 minutes

Group sharing go-round using creative listening

In creative listening mode, take it in turns in a go-round of the group to:

- read aloud an extract from Chapter 23 that spoke to your condition or resonated with you in some way when you read this chapter in preparation for the session
- share for no more than two minutes about why it spoke to you

Allow a brief pause between each contribution. A facilitator may need to indicate to participants when they have had two minutes so that everyone gets a chance to speak.

Activity 2A: A Quaker approach to faith and action

30 minutes

Reading/listening + discussion in threes

Read aloud *Qf&p* 23.01 to 23.10. Either the facilitator(s) could read them out, or they could be read by one or more volunteers. 8

In groups of three, discuss which *four* extracts you would choose if there was only room for four extracts (instead of ten) to summarise/reflect the Quaker approach to faith and action. You may like to note down your conclusions. 15

Return to the whole group and each trio briefly relate to the rest of the group which extracts you chose, and why. 12

Activity 2B: A definition of testimony

30 minutes

Reading/listening + pairs writing activity

Read aloud *Qf&p* 23.11, 23.12 and 23.13. Either the facilitator(s) could read them out, or they could be read by one or more volunteers. 5

In pairs, discuss the extracts and work together to produce your own definition or description of testimony, of no more than two or three sentences. 15

Return to the whole group and take it in turns to share each small group's definition or description of testimony. (You can allow additional time for discussion or comments in the final session plenary). 10

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Activity 2C: A true social order

30 minutes

Reading/listening + individual writing or creative activity

Give each participant a copy of Activity Sheet 1

Read aloud *Qf&p* 23.16. Either the facilitator(s) could read it out, or it could be read by one or more volunteers. 5

Individuals then have the opportunity to do one of the following: 25

- write their own foundations of a true social order
- update or write a translation of the eight foundations of a true social order from *Qf&p* 23.16
- do a creative piece of work, using any art materials that you wish to provide, to make a panel for a frieze/cartoon strip/tapestry/ stained glass window depicting or symbolising one of the foundations of a true social order

Participants could briefly share what they have written or created during the final session plenary. You might wish to create a display for your meeting house arising from this session.

Activity 2D: Key insights

30 minutes

Personal reading and reflection + shared display of insights

Give each participant a slip with a selected extract from Chapter 23, a blank key shape and instructions (prepared in advance from Activity Sheets 2 and 3).

Spend some time as individuals reading and reflecting prayerfully on your extract. As you do so, note down on the key shape any important image, phrase, insight or challenge that you feel this extract holds for Friends. 15

Then come back together in the whole group and, while the group holds a period of silence worship, take it in turns to stick your key shape to a large piece of paper/notice board/wall and speak anything you have written (or describe anything you have drawn) into the silence. 15

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Activity 2E: Engaging with aspects of Quaker social witness **30 minutes**

Movement and personal reading + discussion

Set up the room in advance with four corners of the room labelled with different aspects of Quaker social witness, using the labels from Activity Sheet 4 (choose four out of the eight possible aspects from this chapter as you feel led). Place several copies of 'Quaker faith & practice' in each corner.

A facilitator invites participants to go to one of the labelled corners of the room, as they feel led. 5

Spend some time quietly as individuals reading the relevant extracts relating to your chosen aspect of social responsibility. 10

Then discuss with others in your chosen corner, or nearby corners, how you see this aspect of Quaker witness relating to inward religious experience and conviction (and not simply political or social theories). 15

Whole group plenary **10 minutes**

A brief opportunity to reflect in the whole group on your responses to any of the activities. Use worship sharing or creative listening mode, depending on your group dynamic and preference.

Notices about next session/practicalities, etc. **5 minutes**

Concluding worship **5 minutes**

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