



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

August 2014 Issue 90



An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about what the word transformation means.

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:

Gather in a circle and place a lit candle in the centre of the circle. Remind the children that when we gather for worship we think about the Light within ourselves, how it shines deep within us; we think too about the Light in those around us. Invite everyone to look at the lighted candle and to think about what they have been doing over the past week. Go on to ask the questions that are in the Gather section of issue 90 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. **5 minutes**

Engage:

Resources: Have the word 'transformed' written on a big piece of paper or card and some postcard sized versions for the children; pictures of, or actual, leaves and branches and blossom or flowers. A copy of the stone lion picture on Additional Resource 90.A; your candle used in Gather.

Say something like "We are going to think and talk about a big and complicated word - transformed" (*Lay down or pin up the word. Ask children what they think it means – you will probably get references to the Transformers film or toys*). It is a word that Quakers often use and we are going to think about it. The word 'transformed' means to be changed. It can mean changing your shape on the outside, but when Quakers use it, they usually mean being changed on the inside."

Go on to use the rest of the text, presentation and activity in the Engage section on page 2 of issue 90 of *Journeys in the Spirit*. **10 minutes**

Respond:

Lemon writing.

Resources: Lemon juice; water; a jug; wooden chopsticks; plain white paper.

Talk about the way that light can change or transform the things it touches and can show us things that are hidden – in things, in ourselves. Make a mixture of lemon juice and water and, with sticks/chopsticks ask the children to write a message of hope or peace or thanks or to draw a picture of someone they love or who inspires them. They won't be able to see the picture or writing until it is held up to the light. This could be done with a strong lamp or they could be baked in an oven. The pictures are transformed and we can now see what was hidden. **10 minutes**

Making a lantern. Resources: Copies of the template on Additional Resource 90.B; scissors; glue sticks; coloured felt pens; tea lights – ordinary or electric and matches if needed.

Use the template provided, so that children can make a lantern. Ask them to decorate each side with pictures that might include: a picture of themselves, a picture of someone they love; a picture of someone or something that inspires them (explain what that means); a picture of their meeting. Place the nightlight inside them and attach the string. These can be taken into meeting to show to others who are there and to talk about being filled with light and bringing light into the world.

There might be an opportunity to ask adults/others how does being a Quaker/part of a Quaker meeting inspire and transform them?

Using one or more of the stories in *Journeys in the Spirit* suggested in the sidebars on pages 2 and 3, older children might want to think about Quakers whose Quaker faith has transformed and inspired them. They might want to ask adults in meeting which Quakers have inspired them? **15 minutes**

Reflect:

Gather in a circle and ask the children to think about what has been shared. Re-light your candle. Say something like - we have been thinking about how being a Quaker can transform, change us and can lead us to transform the world around us. Go on to use the questions under Reflect on page 4 of *Issue 90 of Journeys in the Spirit*. **5 minutes**