



Journeys in the Spirit



Children's work

January 2011

Issue 47

A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship

Begin by welcoming everyone to this all age meeting for worship. Start with a few moments of quiet.

Read the following passage from Quaker Faith & Practice 16.01 – George Fox

“For the right joining in marriage is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests’ or magistrates’; for it is God’s ordinance and not man’s; and therefore Friends cannot consent that they should join them together: for we marry none; it is the Lord’s work, and we are but witnesses.”

Say something like: *‘I wonder what this means? George Fox is talking about when two people decide to get married. I think what he means is that if two people love and care for each other then the decision to get married just feels right. No one else can make the decision for them – it comes from deep within and the two people just know it is right thing to do.*

This of course is a big decision but we all have times when we feel this sense of knowing what is right. Perhaps they are quite small things. Someone needs a hug and you just hug that person – your heart tells you it is right.’

Encourage the children and adults to make suggestions of when they have done or said something that comes from the heart and feels right. Suggest they speak one at a time and when everyone who would like to has had a chance to speak allow the silence to continue for a few moments.

Move on to explain very simply and briefly what happens at a Quaker wedding. You might want to ask who has been to a wedding either in a church, registry office or a Quaker wedding.

Explain that Quakers do not have priests or vicars to “marry them”; they make their own vows and promises to each other in the presence of family and friends, all of whom will sign the Quaker marriage certificate. This is indeed an occasion for joyful celebration and all the people who are important to the couple are invited to the wedding, along with the rest of the Quaker meeting.

Explain that people like to give wedding gifts to the couple getting married and one of the things people used to do was gather together to make the couple a quilt for their bed to keep them warm in winter. It was a community activity and everyone could participate and add a few stitches or patches to the quilt. This is what we are going to do now.

Provide people with squares of fabric – a light colour is best – and fabric crayons, scraps of material, needles and thread. Ask people to make a square with some words or pictures or patterns about weddings on as a gift for a couple getting married or as part of a display in the Meeting House about Advice and Query 23. Allow 15 – 20 minutes for people to do this – longer if necessary – and encourage everyone to do it as quietly as possible. This is meeting for worship.

When people are ready place the squares on a larger piece of cloth (they can be stuck or sewn on later) and finish with some quiet as people look at the patchwork.



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An all age Meeting for Worship quilt

