



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

March 2014

Issue 85



A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship about Quakers, work and a little bit of chocolate

Resources for this session: cut out copies of the heart shapes in this outline, pencils, pens, colouring pens, crayons, pieces of card or clipboards to rest on, one or two trays covered with cloth, with small pieces of a variety of chocolate (include some stronger, darker chocolate), a large cloth or sheet. Lay down the cloth and put out the selection of drawing and writing equipment. Keep the trays of chocolate next to you.

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

Go on to say something like:

“When Quakers first began, nearly 400 years ago – a very long time – there were lots of jobs they were not allowed to do.

They couldn't go to university or teach there; they couldn't work in a church (that lots of people did at that time) as priests or vicars or in other ways – any job where they had to say something like 'I promise to tell the truth' (it was called an oath) they couldn't do. Why? Well, as Quakers we think that we have to tell the truth all the time – even when it is difficult – not just at special times.

Quakers have done and do lots of things. Quakers have been printers, farmers, shoemakers, painters, gardeners, explorers, whalers, teachers, doctors, social workers – there was even a pirate (maybe he changed!) – and some Quakers had factories that made chocolate to drink and to eat because it was healthy for people to eat and drink.

Sometimes, if they were lucky, Quakers could do things, have jobs that they loved to do or were really helpful to other people.”

Pause

Remind everybody that our Quaker ministry can be just in the quiet, in the spoken word or in a drawing – say that people can speak into the meeting if they want to.

Now ask everybody to think about things that they love to do – whatever age they are – and it might be something like a job to help at home, a job you do as a grown up or simply something that you love doing – it can be anything. Before people start to settle further into meeting for worship say that anybody who wants to can draw, colour or write on one of the cut out heart shapes on the cloth about something that they have thought about. Say that little children might need a little quiet help.

Just sit and help hold the stillness of meeting for worship.

When you judge that people have ministered, drawn or spoken, as much as they wish quietly ask two children to go round with the trays of chocolate for people to take a piece if they wish. As they go round say something like – “as we share this food we can remember the things that we and other Friends love to do and how, in the past, some Quakers, like the family called Cadbury, did work that they liked and were good at and gave us yummy chocolate to share.”

Close the meeting with a handshake.

