



# Worship points

## Non-Quaker quotes – a silent conversation

**Cut out each of these quotes and stick each one on a separate flip chart or A3 sheet.**

Be still and know that I am God.

*Psalms 46.10*

We listened and heard the silence. We listened and felt the silence. We listened and tasted the silence. We closed our eyes and saw the great silence dwelling within.

Moses Shongo,

*A Seneca Elder, 1800s*

This above all;

To thine own self be true,

And it must follow as the night the day,

Thou canst not then be false to any man.

*William Shakespeare, Hamlet*

There's a Light that was shining when the world began,  
And a Light that is shining in the heart of man:

There's a Light that is shining in the Turk and the Jew,

And a Light that is shining, friend, in me and in you.

*Sydney Carter*

Peace is not a distant goal that we seek, but the means  
by which we arrive at that goal.

*Martin Luther King Jr*

Simplicity is not just simple clothes and a simple lifestyle.

It's an organization of the mind that enables you to  
sort out the unimportant details that often clutter your  
thoughts.

*Sidwell student*

Let me light my lamp, says the star, and never  
debate if it will help remove the darkness.

*Rabindranath Tagore*

This we know: the earth does not belong to man, man  
belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the  
blood that unites us. We did not weave the web of life,  
we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web  
we do to ourselves.

*Chief Seattle of the Suquamish, 1855*

Follow the instructions below.

## Building a 'Silent Conversation'

This discussion strategy uses writing and silence as tools to help young people explore a topic in depth. Having a written conversation with peers slows down young peoples' thinking process and gives them an opportunity to focus on the views of others. This strategy also creates a visual record of young peoples' thoughts and questions that can be referred to at a later stage. Using the 'Big Paper' strategy can help to engage those who are less likely to participate in a verbal discussion. After using this strategy several times, young peoples' comfort, confidence and skill with this method increases.

### Procedure

#### Step 1: preparation

In the middle of a flip chart sheet stick or write each quotation to be considered. This will be used to spark the students' discussion. Groups of students can work with different quotations in pairs or threes. Make sure that all students have a pen or marker. You could use different coloured markers to make it easier to see the back-and-forth flow of a conversation.

#### Step 2: the importance of silence

Inform the group that this activity will be completed in silence. All communication is done in writing. Young people should be told that they will have time to speak in pairs and in the large groups later. Go over all of the instructions at the beginning so that they do not ask questions during the activity.

#### Step 3: comment on your 'Big Paper'

The groups read the excerpt/quotation in silence. They then comment on the text and ask questions of each other in writing on the Big Paper. If someone in the group writes a question, another member of the group should address the question by writing on the Big Paper. Young people can draw lines connecting a comment to a particular question. Make sure they know that more than one of them can write on the Big Paper at the same time. You can determine the length of this step, but it should last for at least 10 minutes.

#### Step 4: comment on other Big Papers

Still working in silence, the young people leave their partner and walk around reading the other Big Papers. They bring their marker or pen with them and can write comments or further questions for thought on other Big Papers. You should have 10 – 15 minutes for this.

#### Step 5: return to your own Big Paper

Silence is broken. The pairs or threes re-join back at their own Big Paper. They should look at any comments written by others. Now they can have a free, verbal conversation about the text, their own comments, what they read on other papers, and comments their fellow young people wrote back to them.

#### Step 6: whole discussion

Finally, debrief the process with the large group. The conversation can begin with a simple prompt, such as "What did you learn from doing this activity?" This is the time to delve deeper into the content and use ideas on the Big Papers to bring out the young peoples' thoughts.