



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work September 2018 Issue 117



An easy-to-use plan for a Children's Meeting

Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a few minutes is good. The outline is based on a 45 minute children's meeting.

Gather

Welcome everyone in your usual way and ensure that everyone knows each other's names. You might like to have a short time of silence with a lighted candle or have an opportunity to share news about the week.

Explain that today you are going to be looking at Quaker stories and how these can help us think about what it means to be a Quaker, what that means as we do everyday things and how it can help us in the hard times.

Ask the children if they have a favourite story and why, and then if they can think of any stories that have taught them anything or helped them to think differently about the world? It can be helpful and empowering to see ourselves as the tellers of our own story; what is the story we want to tell with our lives?

10 minutes

Engage

Share the poster (*see Additional resource 117.A in sidebar of main issue*) with the children and highlight the stories that your group might be most interested in. As you go through the timeline, ask if any of the children know any of the stories. If they do, you could spend time talking about it and if they aren't familiar you could find out about the story by asking other members of your meeting or looking in books in the meeting library or on the internet. When you come back together next time, you could share what you've all found out.

10 minutes

Respond

Give each child their own notebook and give time for them to decorate the cover with their name, drawings, magazine pictures, newspaper cuttings or stickers.

Talk with the children about being reporters and how you are going to try and find helpful and hopeful stories of how being a Quaker has helped people in difficult times. They might start off their reporting with their own story - asking 'how has being a Quaker helped me?' They could also collect stories from you, other children and members of the Meeting.

20 minutes

Reflect

Before the end of children's meeting try to have some time to reflect on the stories you have shared. Questions to think about:-

- Have other people's stories inspired you and encouraged you to think about how you live?
- After hearing the stories is there anything you might do differently?
- Are there stories you have heard that you would like to have been part of?
- What would you have done?
- Imagine that someone is writing your story; what would you want that story to be?
- What would you like the story of your life be? How might you inspire others?
- Ask the children what if any of this they might share with others either in Meeting or at home.

5 minutes