

Journeys in the Spirit



September 2022

Being ready for Quaker Week : Welcoming Families

Sharing our light

Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone. We can think of it as a light shining inside us. The light shows us things that are important. We are all very different and our light will look different to those around us. How do we share our light with others? What does our light push us to do? Using our different gifts and skills we can build an inclusive community where we feel at home - safe for ourselves and others.

Discuss

It is wonderful to be able to share our gifts and skills. Using our gifts can spread light and happiness where sometimes there isn't any. Ask if anyone knows people who are working to make changes in their community. What are the gifts those people bring? Does it always have to be special skills or big changes? Can small things make a difference too?

Share

Read or watch the story, *What We'll Build* by Oliver Jeffers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HARoCI2p5P4>



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The story follows a father and daughter who set about laying foundations for their life together. Using their own special tools, they get to work; building memories to cherish, a home to keep them safe, and love to keep them warm.

When you've finished reading, pause for a short time and then ask people 'what was your favourite part of the story?' Make sure you give enough time for everyone who wants to answer.

On the first pages we see the gathered tools for building. These are what we might expect to see but then we spot a green crayon and a pig. Ask people if the pair had all the tools they needed for the job. Did anyone spot the pig? Now think together about your Quaker meeting and your community. What tools might you need to build it so it is a safe, loving and welcoming space for everyone? Talk about how our gifts are like tools used to build, and that each of us has something different to bring. For someone it might be that they're good at drawing, for someone else it might be that they are good at making cakes. Wonder with everyone how their particular gift could be used. The 'drawer' could draw plans and the cake maker could make sure people had nice treats.

Welcoming space activity

Invite people of all generations to join in with making simple lanterns to decorate your space. Paper decorations can make a space look cheerful and welcoming. Although paper lanterns don't actually shine, they remind us of light. When we share that light it makes a space a nicer place to be.

Instructions can be found here:

<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-make-a-paper-lantern-in-6-easy-steps/>

You will need a variety of coloured paper, sticky tape, safety scissors (both left and right

handed) and string to hang the finished lanterns from.

Before fixing the lanterns together, invite people to decorate them with pictures and descriptions of their gift or hopes for your community, using coloured pencils and felt tips. Then continue putting the lanterns together. Some people might need some help with this so make sure everyone has someone that can step in if needed.

When all have finished, place the lanterns in the centre of the room and let people know where you will be hanging them so they're welcoming to everyone and a reminder of what we'll use to build a loving community.

Reflect



Include a time of quiet worship together. You could share this picture from the [poster](#), onscreen or from the book; *Let's Explore the Quaker Way* <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/lets-explore-the-quaker-way-2017>

Are we across all the ages a community learning together?
Do we consciously look for experiences which can be shared by the whole community?

Taken from Quaker faith & practice 10.10

Sing Together

Singing is a wonderful way of bringing your Quaker community together. [Sing me on a journey](#) is a song supplement created to use with all ages. In it, you will find suggestions and links to YouTube for appropriate songs to use with a number of topics. As you think about sharing your light you could sing *This little light of mine* (found on page 9).

Sing me
on a journey



A song supplement to
journeys in the spirit

Let your light shine outdoors



You will need empty jam jars, tissue paper, glue and electronic tea-lights.

This is a lovely activity to do with children of all ages and the lanterns will look very pretty in a garden. Glue strips of tissue paper to the outside of the jar and when dry, illuminate with a tea-light. Place in a window or outside.

