



Journeys in the Spirit

inward outward upward downward

Children's work edition January 2019 Issue 119



Room for All: Hospitality and Welcome

Getting ready

This edition is part of the series "Room for All" and this issue is looking at hospitality and welcome.

Advices and Queries 26

Do you recognise the needs and gifts of each member of your family and household, not forgetting your own? Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live or visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence.



Journeys in the Spirit offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with children and young people.

This children's work edition comes out monthly. It offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with 5–12 year olds in a Quaker setting.

It provides opportunities for exploring, creating and learning in an atmosphere of worship in partnership on our shared journey in the spirit.

Gather

Welcome everyone in your usual way and ensure that everyone knows each other's names.

You might like to sit in a circle and say, "My name is Mel and I welcome my friend Sam" introducing the person to your side and then continue around the circle until all are welcome.

You may also like to have a short time of silence with a lighted candle or have an opportunity to share news about the week.

If you need to be more active, play a game of 'The sun shines' or another game to suit your group from the *Journeys in the spirit games supplement*. Available to download here:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting/resources-children/journeys-child> or by contacting cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

Explain that today you are going to be looking at Hospitality and how we welcome people into our homes and Meetings and other groups.

Underpinning references

Quaker faith & practice 18.19

"...She delighted in helping her guests to relax, showing them lovely books or pictures, serving meals daintily. It seemed a joy to her to live for others...."

Bible - Matthew 23:35

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink".

Engage

Engage the children in a discussion around some of these questions

Ask what do we need when we go somewhere new?

What do we need to know about when we go somewhere new?

You could show pages from Nick Sharratt's 'You Choose' (see sidebar) and ask the children to pick 3 things they might need when somewhere new - it might be the a tap, a chair - or it might be something very different!

How do we know where these things are in a place we do not know? Share ideas like asking people, exploring, reading signs, having experience of somewhere similar.

Think how it might feel if you are somewhere very new or where you know no-one. Perhaps you don't speak the same language, what might you do then?

Do any of the children know how to say 'Hello' in another language? If so, talk with them about how they learnt it. You could also have the word for 'welcome' in other languages written up and you could practice saying these all together. Is there someone in your meeting that speaks another language – could they come in and teach the group some welcome words? Think of times when they could use these new words – could they be used to help someone feel more welcome in a new situation?



Engage the children through a book

Read one of the stories suggested in the sidebar - or another one that you know about welcome and hospitality. Make sure that all have an opportunity to look at the pictures and to make suggestions of other things that could have been shared in that stories setting.

Talk with the children about :

What was in the story that made feel people feel welcomed?

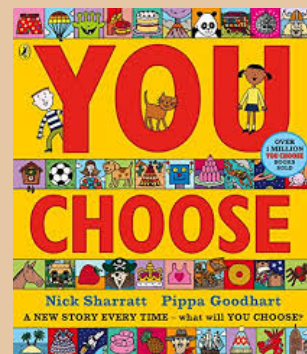
What was shared in the stories?

Is there anything in the story that is in your life?

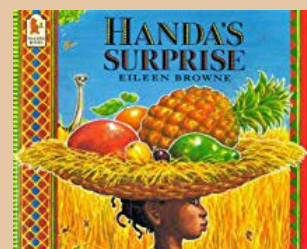
Is there anything in the story that could be changed or left out and it still be the same story?

The responses might be that they all needed somewhere to stay or that they needed some company. It might be the children add some more things to the story, they might want to talk about someone who helped them when they were afraid, listen carefully to their ministry

References & other resources



ISBN13:978-0141397319



ISBN13:978-0744536348

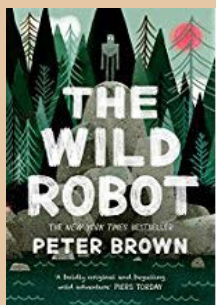


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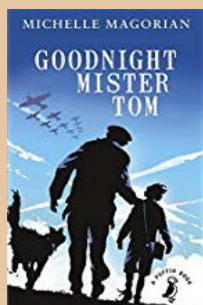
These titles are available from the Quaker Bookshop
Tel: 020 7663 1030
<http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk>

References & other resources

For older children:



ISBN13:978-1848127272



ISBN13-978-0141354804

From an opposite view:



ISBN13:978-1848127272

These titles are available from the Quaker Bookshop
020 7663 1030 / 1031

<http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk>

Respond

Making Signs

If the children suggest that signs could be made to inform people of where things are, they could use writing and drawing materials to make some new signs for the Meeting: toilets; juice cups; books. Perhaps these could be put up - temporarily or to draw attention to others in the Meeting that signs are needed.



Think how signs could be made for those who don't read English - use pictures or perhaps children's meeting could have some signs in other written languages or learn about braille.

Making food

Does your meeting share food, lunch, Area Meeting tea- "an eating meeting" or is there a celebratory event with food? The children could make a dish - fruit or vegetable uncooked salad could be managed easily or if there is access to a kitchen other simple dishes could be prepared.



Decorating a room

Perhaps the children have suggested flowers or decorations - could natural objects be collected and displayed to enhance the room.



Cleaning and tidying

Children might suggest that a clean and tidy space is welcoming and perhaps they might help with organising or cleaning their space or cupboard or box of equipment.

Younger children

Younger children might like to act out any of the other ideas using tea sets: learning to welcome and offer hospitality by making "tea" and offering it to others in the Children's Meeting and their toys.



Reflect

Before the end of children's meeting try to have some time to reflect on the thinking about hospitality and welcome.

Questions to think about:

- After thinking about hospitality how might you welcome new people differently?
- What would you do to welcome new people to your Children's Meeting or your home?
- Ask the children what, if any of this they might share with others either in Meeting or at home.
- How does our offer of hospitality reflect our understanding of God?



Materials available online are:

An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting

A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship

These can be accessed through

www.quaker.org.uk/journeyschildren by scrolling down to 'resources for current issue'.

For a 'How to use Journeys in the Spirit guide', the catalogue of previous issues and a link to the resources for recent issues, go to www.quaker.org.uk/journeyschildren and scroll down to find what you want.

Review

Those who worked with the children in this meeting might reflect on:

- Did the children find the stories or discussion starters engaging and interesting?
- What might you do differently next time?
- Which other stories of welcome or hospitality might you share with the children?
- How did you work with others in the planning and implementing of this session? What might be helpful to share

This issue was written by Jude Acton and edited by Mel Cook and Howard Nurden.

Journeys in the Spirit is published in two formats on alternative months. One month the issue is on a theme, with an easy to use structure set out in a four page booklet with additional online resources. The alternative month is a topical activity – something about the news or of a seasonal interest.

Available from 1 February 2019: Topical Activity Opportunities

Available from 1 March 2019: Well Being

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