

# Journeys in the Spirit

June 2023

Belonging



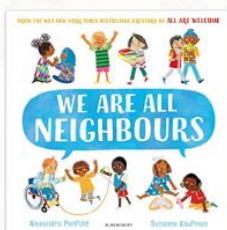
How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness.

Advices and Queries 18

## Welcome

Sawubona is a Zulu greeting from South Africa that means "I see you; you are important to me and I value you". Being aware of others' needs is important and helps us appreciate our communities. Talk with the children about a time they have been welcomed into a new community. Think of greetings that we use and maybe greetings from other countries they might know.

## Story



We are all Neighbours by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman is a story that celebrates diversity and kindness and the power of community.

This book is available from the [Quaker Bookshop](#) or watch online [here](#).

## Play

Bring the children together in a circle and ask them to perform actions that will reveal their similarities and differences. For example, ask those who like chocolate to hop on one leg, and then ask those who enjoy drawing to jump up and down, and then anyone who speaks another language to twirl around. After a few rounds, ask the children to discuss how they saw how they are similar and different from each other. Emphasize the importance of shared interests and unique differences, as they make each individual special.

## Afternoon Tea



Getting to know each other is part of building community. We are all different and unique; spending time together enables us to get to know and appreciate each other. A tea party organised by the children is an opportunity to build community. They could also host the after meeting coffee with some homemade cakes.



## Sing

Learn a simple song about getting to know each other. [This version](#) of *The More We Get Together* has sign language that you could also learn. This could be taught to others and shared at the tea party.

## Where am I?

Create a set of circles for each person that increase in size. Begin with the smallest circle and ask the children to draw themselves in their home. Move on to the



next circle and have them draw their town, and so on until they draw the planet on the largest circle. Punch a hole at the top of each drawing and connect them with a ring. This easy craft will assist children in comprehending how they fit into larger communities.

## Wondering Questions

Using the "Where am I" circles, ask the following questions:

- Where do you feel the most welcomed and included?
- What is it about those places that makes you feel this way?
- I wonder where you feel peaceful and at home?

There are many shared Quaker values that enable us to worship and live in a peaceful and positive way.

[Let's explore the Quaker way](#) looks at those values.

## Animals



The world is full of animals that live in groups. A group of elephants is called a parade, a group of goldfish is a troubling, flying geese are known as a team, a skein, or a wedge. But when they are flying close together in formation, they are a plump. There are some amazing collective nouns for animals – have fun finding them out!

As well as having interesting names, animal groups have different ways of behaving in groups that help them survive. Wildebeests live in enormous herds which makes it harder for predators to hunt them; all members of a meerkat family help care of the babies and migrating geese fly in a v-formation to conserve energy. Watch some incredible team work from a group of clownfish [here](#).

Humans **and** animals belong to this planet – how can we care for each other and live together in the world?

*We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.* A&Q 42

