

Journeys in the Spirit

May 2024

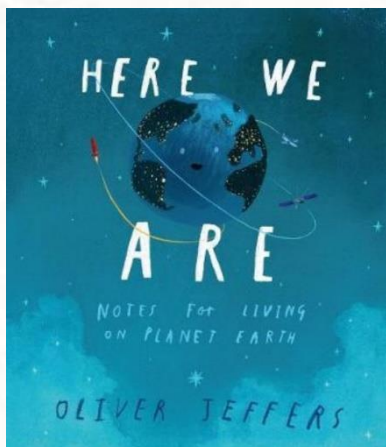
Walk Cheerfully



Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

Read

Here we Are by Oliver Jeffers



This book was inspired by the arrival of the author's son. When he brought him home, he gave him a tour of their flat where they were to live as a family. The story takes us on a tour around the world and introduces us to its diverse people, animals, and places. After reading, wonder with the children what their instructions to someone new might be. What would be their notes for living on Planet Earth?

How would you travel?

If they were showing someone round for the first time, what would be their mode of transport? Have fun imagining ways of getting about; a flying submarine, a snake train or even time travelling boots?

Write a note, draw a map.

This earth is enormous and might feel a bit big and so maybe you could think with the children about the area they live; who lives there? What's their favourite bit? Give each child paper and drawing tools, collage, or paint, to create a map of their neighbourhood, including all the important places they know like parks, libraries, farms, and gardens. Think with the children how they could take care of this bit of the earth, the animals, and the people around them. They could mark on the map where they have managed to help someone else.



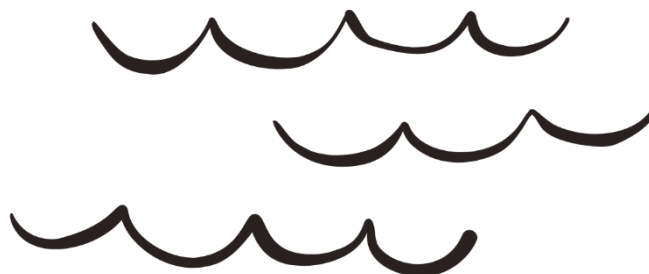
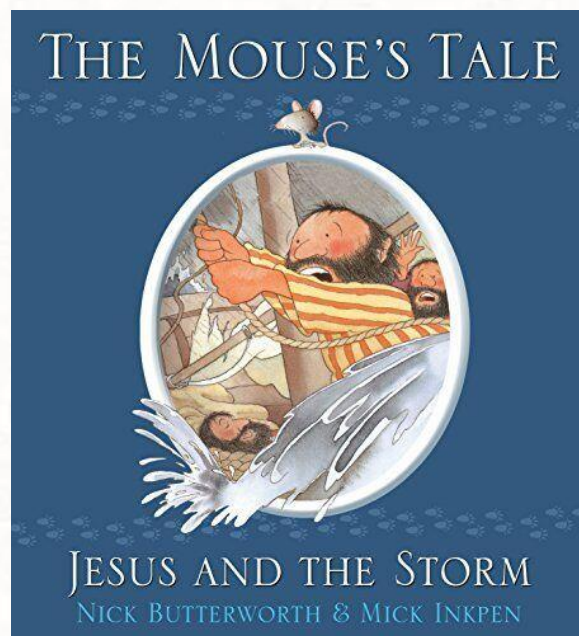
On the map wonder: Who is important to me? To whom am I important? Family, friends, people in Meeting, neighbours, teachers? Anybody else? Wonder with the children if they want to include the Quaker Meeting place on the map, as being there with others can bring joy and help us connect with God. This is part of our spiritual journey and nourishes us, like stopping for a picnic on a long journey. There are four directions we can think about in our spiritual journey: inward to ourselves, outward to others, upward (or even further inward) to the deeper mystery, and downward to the world we live in. Where and how would these ideas appear on the map?

A simple plan for an all - age Meeting for Worship

Resources required:

[The story of The Mouse's Tale by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen:](#)

A large piece of blue paper with a simple boat cut out and stuck on the sea. Pens, pencils, glue sticks and any scraps of tissue paper or coloured paper and some simple boat templates.



Read the story of The Mouse's Tale Invite people to think about what they would want to give other people to help them on their journey through life. What would they need on this boat that might have some choppy times as it sails across the seas? Or what might they need when they arrive in a strange place – like refugees? People might have some words of comfort or want to draw a picture of what they can take with them (or give them when they arrive after their journey). Provide some simple boat templates to use as in the picture. Encourage people to do the activity quietly and thoughtfully.

Others who do not want to do the activity can uphold the others in the silence. Some may want to share what they have put in their boat. This is ministry.

