

# Journeys in the Spirit

April 2024



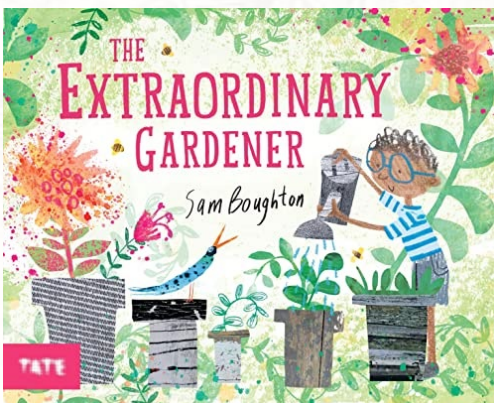
## Earth Day

[World Earth Day](#) is on April 22, providing a special day to focus on caring for our planet.

*"Our earth needs attention,  
respect, love, care and prayer."*

*Qf&p 25.02*

## Read



### [The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton](#)

Joe plants a small seed from which great things grow. Joy spreads, friendships are made, and beauty is brought to many places. In caring for his environment he brings joy and grows community.

## Grow

Joe grew a tree from an apple seed. Have you ever wondered what other plants can be grown from the food scraps? One fun activity to share a variety of fruits and vegetables, eating them, and then harvesting the seeds. You can easily grow plants from the seeds of citrus fruits, strawberries, apples and avocados. Provide compost and pots for each child to take home their own growing project to care for. Make

sure to check in regularly to see their progress. You could also share pictures of their projects each time you meet. For more ideas and helpful instructions visit ['Kids Gardening'](#).

## Trees



Trees are amazing! Create a tree picture and let the children imagine and write on cut-out leaves all the things that trees do. Wonder as well why it is important to protect trees. Is there a spot where you could grow a tree? [The Woodland Trust](#) give free trees to schools and community groups.

## Tree Spotting

If you have chance, go on a tree spotting walk in your neighbourhood. Use the Woodland Trust's [printable tree ID guide](#). The more children learn about nature, the more likely they are to appreciate and protect it. Even in urban areas, there are signs of the natural world springing from the tiniest spaces. Take a moment to stop and look at the ants and snails and enjoy the awe and wonder moments that come from slowing down.

# All age meeting for worship

Preparation: You will need paper, coloured pens, crayons, boards/ books to lean on, rugs and blankets to sit on, a copy of Qf&p 25.04. and a printed copy of *Remember* by Joy Harjo <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/poems/remember/>



**Gather** Invite people to form a circle

## Read

Read Qf&p 25.04

*All species and the Earth itself have interdependent roles within Creation. Humankind is not the species, to whom all others are subservient, but one among many. All parts, all issues, are inextricably intertwined. Indeed the web of creation could be described as of three-ply thread: wherever we touch it we affect justice and peace and the health of all everywhere. So all our testimonies, all our Quaker work, all our Quaker lives are part of one process, of striving towards a flourishing, just and peaceful Creation – the Kingdom of God.*

## Engage

Invite people to spend 10 minutes in pairs or small groups looking around at ways in which humankind has had an effect on creation. This might be positive - sympathetic planting, or negative - litter or damage to trees. Use paper to write or draw thoughts.

## Respond

After 10 minutes, gather people back and invite sharing of thoughts and pictures created. Wonder with everyone if there are ways to help nature thrive locally? How would this affect the community? How could the meeting do this? Could it be something the meeting joins with others in the community doing?

## Reflect

After everyone that wants to share has done, pause for some worship, ending with someone reading *Remember* by Joy Harjo. - an American poet, musician, playwright, and author. The first Indigenous American to hold the honour of United States Poet Laureate

## Share

Leave the people's pictures out for others to look at whilst you share a drink and snack.

Before you begin, check if the area is safe for those attending and that it won't get damaged. Think about potential hazards and ensure the space is accessible for all, making adjustments if necessary.

