



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Issue 102



**An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting about taking action.**

*Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a couple of minutes are good.*

This outline is based on a 45 minutes children's meeting for worship

**Materials:** additional sheet of pictures, story of David and Alyb (additional resource), writing paper, pens, and children's journals

## Gather:

Settle with a few minutes quiet. Ask everyone to go round and say their names, especially if people do not know each other. Continue with the Gathering exercise on page one of *Journeys in the Spirit*.

10 minutes

## Engage:

Explain that today we are going to hear about a small boy who was very concerned about his school friend. He wanted to help so let's hear the story and find out what he did.

Read the story of David and Alyb (*Additional resource 102.2*)

Ask children if they have ever written a letter to voice a concern – to tell someone they think something is wrong, unfair.

15 minutes

## Respond:

Ask children to think of something they would like to change or make happen. Perhaps they can agree on one concern and all write letters in their own words. It may be they come up with different issues. If this is the case, value and respect individual concerns, have some discussion about the various concerns and if there is no consensus there will need to be letters written on the different issues. They may want to write about the plight of refugees – perhaps there are refugees in their school or community. The concern could be something different such as something at school they would like to change. They may want a local play area in the park that is safe, or they may have concerns about too many cars on the road and want more cycle lanes. These are some suggestions that might help to encourage ideas.

Some children might need help with words for their letter. Very young children might even want to draw a picture that adults can explain. If there are several concerns children can take their letters home with them and ask parents to help them address the letters to their MPs. This will encourage adults to be involved as well.

15 minutes

## Reflect:

Again they might want to use their journals to write or draw something of their own thoughts.

Children may want to share what they have done with adults. In fact this should be encouraged as this topic is for adults as well. Think how this might be done. Perhaps after meeting, warn the clerk you would like a little time after meeting for worship to share the letters with everyone.

You might also want to think about how you share any responses that are received. Sending the letters is only the first part of taking action!

5 minutes