



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

November 2018

Issue 118



An easy-to-use plan for a Children's Meeting

Make sure you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a few minutes is good. This outline is based on a 45 minute children's meeting.

Gather

Welcome everyone in your usual way and ensure that everyone knows each other's names. You might like to have a short time of silence with a lighted candle or have an opportunity to share news about the week. You could play game 6 from *Journeys in the Spirit* games supplement ([link in sidebar p.2 main issue](#)). Explain that today we are going to think about diversity. What does this mean? The children may have some ideas. Diversity is about difference and valuing these differences. Quakers welcome diversity. We value and try to increase our understanding of those who are different from us. Talk with the children about who you know who is different from yourselves?

10 minutes

Engage

The stories of Jesus from the Bible have a lot to tell us about how difficult it can be to be different. Jesus was always spending time with people who were thought of as 'different', particularly those whose differences made them unpopular. Can you think of any examples? Read the four paragraphs about Jesus set out on page 2 of the main issue, pausing at the end of each to discuss the questions with the children.

15 minutes

Respond

Play a game of 'the sun shines on...' to illustrate difference. Ask everyone to sit on chairs in a circle with one person in the middle. When the person in the middle says, 'the sun shines on...' for example everyone who likes pasta, then everyone who likes pasta changes places and must find a seat, including the person in the middle. The person without a chair remains in the middle. Encourage everyone to include a variety of differences. See page 3 of the main issue for examples. Continue until everyone has had a go at being in the middle. Comment on how different everyone seems to be.

Using an ink pad or paint and paper, invite everyone to make a finger or thumb print. Look at them under a magnifying glass. Talk about the similarities and differences. Not only does each person have a unique set of fingerprints, but the pattern on every finger is unique.

Make some fingerprint pictures. When you have finished, share your pictures together. Are they all different too?

15 minutes

Reflect

Before the end of children's meeting try to have some time to reflect on what you have shared.

Questions to think about: -

Why is it important to value difference? Why is it important to remember that people who seem different from us are often like us on the inside? What might we do to show we care about other people who seem different from ourselves? Talk about the way in which small, kind, loving actions can make a difference and see if the children can think of some examples.

5 minutes