



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work    September 2016    Issue 105  
An easy-use-plan for a Children's Meeting on  
Social Responsibility



*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:** *A copy of Quaker faith & practice, photos of Quakers (additional sheet 105.A), listening exercises (additional sheet 105.D), pens, crayons, scissors, glue and other creative materials to hand.*

## Gather

Settle with a few minutes of 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 issue 105.

**10 minutes**

## Engage

Explain to the children that adults are looking at *Quaker faith & practice*. They are reading it, thinking about what is in the book and whether we need to change anything.

We are going to look at a bit of the book called Social Responsibility (chapter 23). This is about being aware of and helping people in need. It maybe by talking to politicians or demonstrating about changing things to make life better for those who need our help. It might be quite small ways of helping people – perhaps by helping a neighbour or listening to a friend.

Read the passage from *Quaker faith & practice* 23.59 Testimony concerning Percy Cleave (1880-1958)

This is a story of a man who was a barber and led a simple life. He had known hard times himself but listened carefully and brought comfort and love to many people as he cut their hair and tended to them lovingly.

**10 minutes**

## Respond

Having read the story of Percy Cleave ask the children if any of them go to the hairdressers to get their hair cut. Hairdressers often listen to people while they are getting their hair done. It can be a bit like a confessional, people want to talk about themselves. People begin to relax as they are pampered and feel able to open up. Percy was very good at listening to people and trying to understand how they were feeling.

Older children might like to try the listening exercises on *Additional sheet 105.D*

All children might like to draw a picture of Percy in his barber's shop. There are no pictures in *Quaker faith & practice* so it would be good to have a picture to go with this story. Perhaps you could make one large picture or children might prefer to do their own. Think about telling the adults in meeting what you have been doing. Some will probably not know who Percy Cleave is, and may well enjoy the children's pictures.

**20 minutes**

## **Reflect**

Give time for the children time to ask any questions about the story and what you have been talking about. Remind them there are lots of stories in this chapter of *Quaker faith & practice* about Quakers who did great things to help others in society, but that small acts of kindness are very important too. Do the children have any stories they think should be in *Quaker faith & practice*?

Talk again about whether they want to tell the adults about what they have been doing.

Allow a few minutes of quiet to finish the session.

**5 minutes**