



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

November 2016

Issue 106



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 are good. The outline is based on a 45 minute children's meeting.

Gather

Welcome the children as they arrive and gather together in a circle. You might have a short time of silence with a lighted candle or have an opportunity to share news about the week.

Pause

Read the first paragraph of *Quaker faith & practice* 21.36 to the children, possibly adjusting the language, asking them to think and talk about some of the following things:

What do they think is a power? What powers do we have? What powers would we like to have? Can anyone change the world? What do we mean by 'change the world'? Think about 'what is the world' to you? Can ordinary people change the world? Can children change the world?

10 minutes

Engage

Talk about how the super heroes in the pictures you have gathered and how they came to have their special 'powers' and whether they like having them or not. How do they help people?

Read the story of The Good Samaritan or Rosa Parks (*Additional Resource 106.A*). Stop at intervals in the story to wonder what the people in the story were thinking at this point, and what would those close to them be thinking? At the end of the story ask the children to wonder:

What made the Samaritan stop and help the injured man when others had passed him by? Or led to Rosa not giving up her seat? What we would do if we were in these situations? Have you ever been in a situation like this?

15 minutes

Respond

Think about the stories of The Good Samaritan and Rosa Parks: what superpowers did they display? Both the Samaritan and Rosa showed great courage, faith and determination.

Make a poster advertising these qualities: What are they? How might they be used in everyday life?

15 minutes

Reflect

At the end of the session gather the group back in a circle. Have some time for the children to ask any questions. There may be issues that have arisen as a result of the subject and children may need clarification if there are things they have not understood.

Encourage the children to share the things they've thought about and discovered in children's meeting with others in the meeting if they would like to do so.

5 minutes