



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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Issue 107



A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship

**Preparation :** You will need pictures of famous people, places or animals cut into pieces, with each piece small enough not to see the whole picture – enough for the whole meeting to have 1 piece of one of the pictures each.

## During the meeting

Begin with a time of silence and welcome everyone. Explain that the children's meeting has been looking at *Quaker faith & practice Chapter 26 – Reflection*, and one thing that these writers share is the feeling that, in these experiences, there is a glimpse of God; not the whole thing, but a fragment, a flicker of light, a breath of wind on their cheek or a feeling of love surrounding them. For them, it is like seeing a fragment of a picture that helps to imagine what the rest might look like.

Ask a child or adult to share part of chapter 26 or the Bible verses: *1 Kings 19,11 and 12:*

*The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by. Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper'.*



Give those who want to take part, a fragment of one of the pictures you have brought. Without showing them to anyone else, ask them to describe what they see – it might be someone's ear, or the branch of a tree. Ask each to imagine what the whole thing might look like. Then you can ask all who are taking part to find the rest of the pieces of their picture. Who has them? How do they fit together?

Reflect that when we see just one piece of a picture, it can be hard to know what the rest of it is, what building it might be or whose face. But when we share those fragments, when we talk about them to each other, we begin to build up a bigger picture. It can be the same when we talk to each other about God, about those things that are

precious and important to us; we understand each other better and we begin to see the bigger picture.

Use the Examen (*Additional Resource 107.B*) explain that this is a way of reflecting back on our week and where God was in it. Use some of the 'wondering questions' to ask people about their week leading up to meeting. Let people know that they can answer out loud or just consider the questions themselves.

Share this quote from *The little Prince*, Antoine De Saint- Exupery:

IT IS ONLY WITH THE HEART  
THAT ONE CAN SEE RIGHTLY;  
WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS  
INVISIBLE TO THE EYE.

End with a time of silence.

