



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship

Preparation – you will need access to an outdoor area or a selection of natural material gathered from outside e.g. leaves, twigs, berries, stones. Even if an outdoor area is easily accessible, you might like to prepare a tray of natural objects for Friends with limited mobility or for everyone in case of bad weather. You will also need one or two passages chosen from chapter 25 of *Quaker faith & practice*. Ask some children or adults to prepare to share these passages during Meeting for Worship.



During the meeting

Begin with a time of silence, then welcome everyone to worship. Explain that children's meeting has been looking at chapter 25 of *Quaker faith & practice*, which helps us to think about the Unity of Creation, how all living things and the Earth are connected and the importance of living in a peaceful, just way.

Invite everyone to quietly spend some time outdoors thinking about the world that surrounds them and to choose one small natural object. It could be a leaf, twig, berry or stone or something else that they can hold in the palm of their hand. Remind everyone to take care to avoid damaging plants or harming any creatures that they come across. Ask everyone to return to the meeting room after 10 or 15 minutes and bring their chosen natural object back to the Meeting Room with them.

When the passage(s) chosen from chapter 25 of *Quaker faith & practice* has been read, ask everyone to quietly consider the object they are holding.

- Look at your object carefully. What do you notice about it? What made you choose it?
- Does your natural object have a particular smell, sound or (if safe and appropriate) taste?
- What part does your natural object play in the life of the Earth?

Wait for any ministry that arises.