



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship

Preparation: Large sheet of paper with a tiger and a lion on (see illustration at the end of this plan). Pens, crayons, scissors, glue sticks and other creative materials for the activity. The story of 'The tiger who would be king' by James Thurber ISBN: 9781592701827 available from the Quaker Bookshop 020 7663 1030 / 1031 <http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk>

Begin by welcoming everyone to all age worship. Start with a few moments of quiet.

Read the following passage from Qf&p

A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil, that good may come of it... It is as great presumption to send our passions upon God's errands, as it is to palliate them with God's name... We are too ready to retaliate, rather than forgive, or gain by love and information. And yet we could hurt no man that we believe loves us. Let us then try what Love will do: for if men did once see we love them, we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains: and he that forgives first, wins the laurel.

William Penn, 1693

Pause

Talk here about what the children have been doing. This could be how they have been thinking about the importance of our Quaker testimony to Peace and how this informs and affects our everyday lives and how we treat each other. Talk about the function of the military in Britain and elsewhere in the world and how principally they are there to be ready for armed combat and how that makes us think about the purpose of war. What soldiers do when they go to war. How they are expected to use powerful destructive weapons and what effect this has on the people they are fighting and the ordinary men, women and children who die or are injured as a result of war. Mention how the armed forces recruit (get young people to join) by going into schools and pretending what a fantastic job it is being in the army, navy or air force but failing to tell the young people of the horrors of war

Let us hear a story about war and fighting. It shows it really doesn't help anyone.

Read the story of 'The tiger who would be King' by James Thurber



What a sad and terrible situation. I wonder if this could have been avoided? I wonder if you can think of a way to have stopped the fighting? What could you say to the lion and tiger to make them change their minds?

Invite people to write or draw their thoughts or ideas either directly on the large sheet or on some pieces of paper that can be stuck on the sheet after meeting.

You might want to share your thoughts and this is ministry. You may prefer not to do the activity but to quietly uphold those who are.

Encourage people to bring their contributions and lay them on the sheet (see preparation above) so that everyone can see them.

Finish meeting in your usual way.

Copy the images below onto a large sheet of paper and invite people to write or draw their ideas about how they think the situation could have been made better.

