



## *Religious Education Materials to Accompany FWCC-QuakerSpeak Videos*

Lesson planning can be a kind of spiritual discipline. We hope the experience of preparing is engaging, enjoyable, and fruitful for you as a Friend. A rich array of material is provided here for different ages along with tips for designing a lesson. Additional resources are available in the **Community of Practice Resource Guide**. *Use what works for you and leave the rest.*

### **Contents: *Are You A Quaker?***

<http://fdsj.nl/are-you-quaker>

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One of the joys of FWCC work is that you meet so many good and interesting people, Friends who are committed to connecting Friends and crossing cultures. However, when we step out of our comfortable circles of the people we know, we encounter Friends who have different ways of expressing themselves, theologically and culturally, and it can be hard to understand Friends from different geographic, class, ethnic, or age groups. We know from experience that our good intentions to love one another are not enough, that we all have room to improve our skills in speaking so that others can understand us, listening beyond the words, and forgiving when others hurt us, even unintentionally. In all cases, love and mercy and patience and forgiveness will be needed.

## Advices for Exploring these Materials:

- We need to instill a basic sense of care and concern for the whole human family. Our children need to know their way around the world.
- We are patient. We tolerate some unknowingness as we explore beyond our own experiences, home or community.
- Be open to the possibility that because of the journey, we may return to better understand ourselves and our community.
- We “listen with our whole selves” as the Faith & Play™ story says—with our bodies, our minds, our imaginations and our souls. We try listening beneath the words. We open ourselves to all of the non-verbal channels of communication.
- We get as far as we can with listening for meaning and rest in that.
- Invite the Light/God into those lingering questions.
- If you find you’re upset by something you hear or experience, try to practice some Quaker self-care. Use “The Prayer of Three Breaths,” on page 9 of the **Community of Practice Resource Guide**.

## Queries for: *Are You A Quaker?*

- I wonder where God was at work in your life today? Where does Love need to bring healing and wholeness to your condition?
- When have you had an experience of worship (with Friends or elsewhere) that met your condition, or where you felt Spirit move?
- Where have you felt a deep spiritual connection to others?
- Where in your life is listening as vital as speaking?
  
- What makes you feel most welcome and included in a new group?
- In what ways does your meeting or church let people in the surrounding community know of your existence?
- How can you help newcomers "find themselves in the story" of your meeting?
- Do you sense both hopes and hesitations when you think about newcomers entering your meeting?
- What are the connections between seeking, invitation, welcome, and asking questions?
- If you are new to Quakers, what drew you to Friends? If you’ve never known anything else, what in your experience or community could you not live without?
  
- What would you share with someone before their first visit to a Quaker meeting? What seems vital to share with them before they leave that first experience of worship?
- Quakers have a diversity of worship practices — un-programmed, semi-programmed, pastored, multigenerational. One Friend in the video says, “*You can probably fit into a Quaker church somewhere.*” How do all of these kinds of liturgy offer the experience of a direct relationship with God?
- How does a sense of longing for peace and justice connect with your experience of Friends?

# Sample Session for Adults:

## *Are You A Quaker?*

### Preparation in the Days Before: Inward and Outward

1. Invite Friends to be part of the program; gather supplies and copy photo release forms; ask others to support hospitality, photos and documentation of the event.
2. Consider suggested queries on page 2 and prepare “take home queries.”
3. Spend some time with Bible passages, for example:

*“God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’” (Acts 17:27-28)*

*“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1)*

4. Watch the QuakerSpeak video, “Are You A Quaker?” and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions at the end. (see link below)
5. Read the guidelines for worship sharing or small-group facilitation on pages 9 and 14 of the **Resource Guide**.
6. Test the tech set up where you will gather. (see page 7 of this document for Tech Tips)

**Opening:** “Good morning, Friends. Thank you for gathering together. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and today we are going to explore our experiences of welcome among Friends.”

### Building the Circle:

1. Introductions around the circle.
2. Warm-up Activity: Ask the group to do a “turn and talk” with the person next to them, and each take one minute to respond to this question: *What do you remember, and can describe, about the first meeting for worship you attended?* (While one person speaks, the other can only listen, and then switch speaking/listening roles.)

### Core Activity:

1. Show QuakerSpeak video, “Are You A Quaker?” <http://fdsj.nl/are-you-quaker> (Note: If you are meeting in a multigenerational group, a suggested age for QuakerSpeak video viewing is 12 and up.)
2. Hand out 2 index cards per person, and ask participants to write down on one card a question about Quaker faith or practice that they have had or believe others new to Friends would want to ask. On the second card, ask Friends to write a word or phrase and describes what is most vital/important/sustaining for them about their Quaker faith.
3. On a large sheet of paper, tape or glue cards in pattern to resemble a quilt. Ask participants to share their cards and then add them to the “quilt.”
4. Alternately, or in addition, invite Friends to reflect on the questions at the end of the video. Use worship sharing practice or facilitate a discussion around the queries.

### Closing:

1. Thank Friends for their presence and participation.
2. Give out slips of paper with “take home queries” on one side and FWCC SoA website address on the other side: [www.fwccamericas.org](http://www.fwccamericas.org). (Suggested queries on page 2.)
3. Close the time by sharing a moment of silence in gratitude for the time together, or ask an elder in the group to offer a prayer of thanks and going forth.

### Leader Reflection and Debrief:

Complete Evaluation for FWCC online or in the **Resource Guide**.

# Sample Lesson for Children:

## *Are You A Quaker?*

### **Preparation in the Days Before: Inward and Outward**

1. Communicate with the community, including families, about the program; copy photo release forms; ask others to support hospitality, photos and documentation of the event.
2. Consider suggested queries on page 2 of this resource. Which ones might you lift up to children in your circle at meeting?
3. Read “Guiding Principles of Lesson Planning for Children’s Religious Education” on page 11 and guidance for wondering with children on pages 12-13 of the Resource Guide.
4. Gather materials: blank picture frame mats (or heavy paper cut into frame shape with center cut out); markers and crayons

### **Opening and Building the Circle:**

1. Welcome and introductions — Good morning, Friends. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am so glad to be with you today. We’re going to explore where we find God and where we find Friends.
2. Go around the circle. Ask Friends to say their names and share a place that makes them feel peaceful or included.

### **Core Activity:**

1. Open by singing a song together. Suggestions: “This Little Light of Mine” and others on page 6.
2. In the group, brainstorm together: (adult or older child can keep lists or you can do this on big, colored paper)
  - *What words or images make you think of friendship/friends?*
  - *Where are the places you feel most welcomed and included?*
  - *Where do you feel peaceful and at home?*
  - *What helps you to listen carefully?*
  - *What words or images make you think of God (the Divine, the Light)?*
3. Hand out a picture frame mat to each child. On one side, they are going to draw or write images or words that make them think of God. On the other side, words or images that describe friends and places where they feel welcome and included. They may use what the group put on their lists or new words/images.
4. Go on a walk around or in the meeting or church, and use the frames to look closely at, and “frame,” places/people/things to show where you find God and where you find f/Friends. (Please help children be aware of personal space and consider how to approach another person with respect and care when you “frame” them.)

### **Closing:**

Thank the circle of children for their work together. Urge them to take their frames, and keep looking!  
Close the time by sharing a moment of silence in gratitude for the time together, or offer a prayer of thanks and going forth.

### **Leader Reflection and Debrief:**

Complete Evaluation for FWCC online or in the **Resource Guide**.

# Bibliography and Resources for *Are You A Quaker?*



## Website Resources and Outreach Tools:

*Quaker Information Center* [www.quakerinfo.org/index](http://www.quakerinfo.org/index)

Coordinated by Earlham School of Religion; gateway to learning about Quakerism

*Find a Meeting or Church* — <http://fwccdirectory.org/> and [quakerfinder.org](http://quakerfinder.org)

*Quakers in the World* [www.quakersintheworld.org](http://www.quakersintheworld.org)

Designed and managed by British Friends, the site “aims to summarize Quaker witness past and present, and nurture future witness, all over the world.”

“*Quaker Lexicons*” have been developed by meetings, churches and yearly meetings and are helpful to those new to Quakerism to “decode” terms and their uses.

- West Hills Friends Church — <http://www.westhillsfriends.org/lexicon.html>
- New York Yearly Meeting — <http://www.nyym.org/?q=glossary>
- Friends in Christ Worship Group, Conservative Quakers — <http://www.plainquaker.org/vocab.html>

Newcomer Cards, and Quaker Activity Pages for Children (from FGC, for unprogrammed meetings)  
<http://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/newcomers-cards>

## Videos:

**If your group is multigenerational, a suggested age for QuakerSpeak viewing is 12 and up.**

**See “Tech Tips” on page 7**

*What’s the Difference Between “Programmed” and “Unprogrammed” Quaker Worship?* <http://quakerspeak.com/difference-between-programmed-unprogrammed-quaker-worship/>

*Becoming Convinced* <http://quakerspeak.com/becoming-convinced/>

*The Top Ten Reasons I Am a Quaker* <http://quakerspeak.com/top-10-reasons-quaker/>

*How Do Quaker Meetings Do Outreach and Welcome Newcomers?* <http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-meetings-outreach-welcome-newcomers/>

*My First Time At Quaker Meeting* <http://quakerspeak.com/first-time-quaker-meeting/>

*How Many Quakers Are There in the World? (And Where Are They?)* <http://quakerspeak.com/how-many-quakers-are-there-in-world/>

*Quaker Spiritual Disciplines* <http://quakerspeak.com/quaker-spiritual-disciplines/>

*Staying Engaged as a Young Adult Quaker* <http://quakerspeak.com/staying-engaged-as-a-young-adult-quaker/>

*The Courage to be a Quaker* <http://quakerspeak.com/the-courage-to-be-a-quaker/>

This is not a QuakerSpeak video, but may be of interest to Friends who want to consider how we do outreach and welcome visitors and seekers:

“*What If Starbucks Marketed like Churches?*” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7\\_dZTrjw9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7_dZTrjw9I)

## Hymns and Songs:

All Things Bright and Beautiful	For The Beauty of the Earth
What A Friend We Have In Jesus	Breathe On Me, Breath of God
Teach Me to Stop and Listen	Spring Forth A Well/I've Got A River
Open My Eyes, That I May See (Abre Mis Ojos A La Luz)	
This Little Light of Mine	

## Books for Young Friends

*I Am Quaker* by Felice Blanc (Religions of the World series)  
*Being a Friend: A Conversation starter* by Rob J Wilson, illustrated by Jennifer Gubler  
*The Worship Kit: A young person's guide to Quaker Worship* by John Lampen  
*We're Going to Meeting for Worship* by Abby A. Hadley  
*Approved! A Story About Quaker Meeting for Business* by Nancy L. Haines, illustrated by Anne E.G. Nydam  
*This Little Light of Mine* illustrated by E.B. Lewis  
*Spirit Rising: Young Quaker Voices* edited by Angelina Conti et al  
*Friend: The Story of George Fox and the Quakers* by Jane Yolen (1970, reprinted and ebook 2005)

## Suggested Stories About Quakerism for Faith & Play™ Practitioners:

<i>Listening for God</i>	<i>Prayer and Friends Meeting for Worship</i>
<i>Queries</i>	<i>Friends Meeting for Business</i>
<i>Gifts</i>	<i>Love's Way</i>
<i>Living the Ways of the Spirit</i>	<i>Let Your Life Speak</i>

Friends interested in using Faith & Play™ (or Godly Play®) stories as religious education resources should be aware that there is a particular method of storytelling and supporting children's spiritual lives that these stories employ. More information about Faith & Play and Godly Play for Friends, including training opportunities, can be found on the website: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/faith-and-play>.

## Quaker Religious Education Curriculum for Children and Youth:

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has free, downloadable curricula on the topic of Introduction to Quakerism, which can be found at <http://www.pym.org/religious-education/curricula/>. These include:

- *Teaching Quaker Faith and Practice to Children* (Focuses on “what is a Quaker?”; K — high school)
- *From the Center Out* (Centering & Listening For The Call; Hearing The Call & Deciding What To Do; Responding To The Call & Leading: K – 8th Grade)
- *Growing in the Light* (Topics include Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Membership, Meeting Structure, Friends' testimonies; PreK — high school)

*Opening Doors to Quaker Religious Education* by Mary Snyder (Friends General Conference 1999)  
*Opening Doors to Quaker Worship* by (FGC Religious Education Committee 1994)

*Sparkling Still: A Quaker Curriculum for First Day School or Home Use for Children Ages 3-8* (FGC QuakerPress 2013)

*Color Me Quaker!* — *A coloring book for kids of all ages* from Friends United Press  
[http://ycfb2.5acto.servertrust.com/product\\_p/colormequaker.htm](http://ycfb2.5acto.servertrust.com/product_p/colormequaker.htm)

## Reading for Adults:

*Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way* by Steve Chase (QuakerPress of FGC, 2012)

*Simply Quakers: A Comic Book for Beginners* by Eric Dries (The Literature Committee of the Netherlands Religious Society of Friends, 2016)

*Why Friends Are Friends?* by Jack Willcuts (Barclay Press, 1984)

*A Living Faith: An Historical Study of Quaker Beliefs* by Wilmer Cooper (Friends United Press, 1990)

*Friend: The Story of George Fox and the Quakers* by Jane Yolen (1970, reprinted and ebook 2005)

*Quakers and Social Media* — Friends Journal, November 2016 [www.friendsjournal.org](http://www.friendsjournal.org)

## Wider Quaker Fellowship Pamphlets:

ALONE ON MY ISLAND <http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Philippides1984.pdf>

Nikos Philippides, a Friend who was born in Greece and lived for many years in the USA later moved back to the town where he was born and describes here living among Greek Orthodox Christians.

CARRYING THE QUAKER MESSAGE TODAY <http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Ferguson1988.pdf>

Talk by the General Secretary Val Ferguson of the World Office of FWCC to the 50th Anniversary Gathering in Toronto, Canada, in 1987. She suggests ways that Quakers have special insights to offer to the Christians of the world.

CONNECTED TO THE VINE <http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Saunders2008.pdf>

Deborah Saunders' talk given at World Gathering of Young Friends in Britain in 2005. An African-American Friend describes her spiritual journey through several different types of Christianity to end up as a Friend in Philadelphia YM.

FROM ENCOUNTER TO MINISTRY: THE LIFE AND FAITH OF LATIN AMERICAN FRIENDS

<http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Thomas2013.pdf> A collection of narrative stories of faith from Quakers in Latin America, from the book of the same name and edited by Nancy Thomas.

KICKED BY GOD <http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Ham1969.pdf>

Korean Friend Sok Hon Ham describes his life and his conversion to Christianity and then Quakerism.

SPREADING THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WITHOUT WORDS/EXTENDIENDO EL REINO DE DIOS, SIN PALABRAS

<http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Llanque1993.pdf>

Hipólito Llanque's talk given at the World Conference of Friends in Honduras in 1991; the story of a man who came to Christ and had his life transformed in many ways.

TRANSFORMING HEARTS, MINDS, AND SOULS: TWO QUAKER PERSPECTIVES

<http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Edminster2012.pdf>

John Edminster and Terri Johns from Friends United Meeting write of their personal experiences on transformation, renewal, love and unity – themes close to the hearts of all members of the Religious Society of Friends.

WHY I DEEPLY LOVE FWCC <http://www.fwccamericas.org/pub/Peyton2010.pdf>

Julie Peyton tells about a time in her life when she had lost her faith in a God who would guide her life.

**Friendly Note:** You may wish to use this lesson on World Quaker Day – the first Sunday in October. For more information, visit [www.worldquakerday.org](http://www.worldquakerday.org)

### Tech Tips for Showing the QuakerSpeak Videos

1. Test out your tech set-up in advance.
2. Download the video and save the file rather than relying on internet connections.

Bring an extension cord or plug adapter as needed.

With a small group it may be fine to use a laptop. For a larger group, try to locate a projector. Test it out in the room with the lighting you will have at the time you are going to show it.

Confirm that the speakers you have will be loud enough for the room and the size of the group – this is even more important than being able to see clearly.

