



## ¡Come and See! (John 1:46) 8 Day Devotional for 2019

Join Friends around the world in this Spiritual Preparation for 2019. We are inviting not only those who will be representatives of their yearly meeting or organization, but also those who identify with the mission of Friends World Committee for Consultation:

**Answering God's call to universal love, Friends World Committee for Consultation brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.**

The theme for this 2019 FWCC Section of the Americas meeting is ¡Come and See! (John 1:46). This extends to explorations of “who is my neighbor?” and “how can we all be Friends?” which draws in related Biblical texts including John 1:46, Luke 10:36-37, 1 Timothy 3:16, and John 4:33.

The FWCC SOA Executive Committee discerned this about the theme:

“We hold as a main purpose of the Section Meeting to facilitate an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Inward Christ, the Light Within. We seek a personal encounter and transformative experience in worship and in workshops, with Scripture, through the ministry of the Traveling Ministry Corps, in the midst of changing times and conflict.

Who is my neighbor? Jesus’s answer to this challenging question speaks to us of inclusion, compassionate understanding, the experience of safety and trust. We hope to experience an environment in which we come to understand our neighbors, from the perspective of brothers and sisters, from the North and the South, in our different spiritual expressions.

How can we be Friends? The Section Meeting should be a place of hope and celebration of our different ways, yet in which we experience ourselves as equals. We wish to focus on those Friends who impact our lives through their testimony and lives of service among Friends as beacons of the "Light that attracts".”

There are eight of these Spiritual Preparations, with the first and last directly related to the theme-verse John 1:46. They could be held in the Light as one per day in the week before the Section Meeting, one per week leading up to the Section Meeting, or one per month as part of your meeting’s Meeting for Worship with a concern for Business. When, how, and who uses these Spiritual Preparations is not prescribed, but left to your leading.

The 2019 Section Meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas will be held March 21-24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Camp and Conference Center, just outside Kansas City, Missouri, in the central plains region of the United States. All Friends are welcome to attend.



# ¡Come and See! (John 1:46)

## 8 Day Devotional for 2019

### Day One: John 1:46

John 1:46 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>46</sup>“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip.

John 1:46 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>46</sup>And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

John 1:46 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

### ADVICES & QUERIES

How do you look for “that of God” in others? What are you hoping to see? Do you sometimes see “that of God” in others in ways you weren’t expecting?

Let your lives benefit from the power of friendship and the solace of solitude. Rejoice in the beauty of those friendships which grow in depth, understanding, and mutual respect. – New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Advices #38

Do you welcome the diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith in our yearly meeting and in the world community of Friends? Seek to increase your understanding and to gain from this rich heritage and wide range of spiritual insights. Uphold your own and other yearly meetings in your prayers ---Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries, #16

Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility? -- North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Faith and Practice, Queries #3

Do you love one another as becomes the followers of Christ? Are you careful of the reputation of others? When differences arise do you make earnest efforts to end them speedily? “Love one another; as I have loved you, ... also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34-35) – EFC—Mid-America Yearly Meeting, Faith and Practice, Query #2

### PRAYER FOCUS

A prayer of appreciation for Friends having different worship styles than mine including those of pastoral, or evangelical, or programmed, or semi-programmed, or unprogrammed, or silent worship, or traditional hymns, or praise songs.

Holding in the Light: FWCC Traveling ministry teams, the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL), all the different yearly meetings within FWCC-SOA



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## Day Two: I Timothy 3:16

### I Timothy 3:16 New International Version

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:  
He appeared in the flesh,  
was vindicated by the Spirit,  
was seen by angels,  
was preached among the nations,  
was believed on in the world,  
was taken up in glory.

### 1 Timothy 3:16 King James Version (KJV)

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

### 1 Timothy 3:16 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh,  
vindicated in spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among Gentiles,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.

## ADVICES & QUERIES

What does true godliness mean to you? Are you open to the Spirit's leading?

Is there a part of this verse that you find challenging in your spiritual growth? What part of this verse speaks to you the 'loudest'?

Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? – from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries #3

Do you live in thankful awareness of God's constant presence in your life? – from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1985), Queries #1

Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? – from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1985), Queries #2

## PRAYER FOCUS

Prayer for help in the personal discovery and reassurance of true godliness and the discovery of gifts of others may address a different way to reveal the mystery of godliness.

Hold in light the gifts of the FWCC presenters, Executive Committee, Convocations Group, Pastoral Care team, and Convocations Group.



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## 8 Day Devotional for 2019

### Day Three: Luke 10: 36-37

*For the setting and context of this verse readers may read the entire passage Luke 10:25-37*

#### Luke 10:36-37 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>36</sup>“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

#### Luke 10:36-37 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>36</sup>Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

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<sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup>He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

### ADVICES & QUERIES

What are the ways you can have mercy upon others? Is there anyone whom you feel does not deserve mercy? How do you pray for them?

Are you merciful and kind even to those who do not help others? How can you show or teach those who do not help others to be merciful?

Do you consistently practice Jesus’s spirit and teaching of love and goodwill to all people? Do you support every Christian movement to do away with war and preparation for war? Do you endeavor to make clear to all whom you can influence and especially our own youth, that war is utterly un-Christian and cannot be reconciled with the spirit of Christ? “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.” Hebrews 12:14 – from EFC—Mid-America YM Faith and Practice, Queries #6

Does your attitude toward people of other races indicate your belief in their right to equal opportunity? Do you believe in the spiritual capacity of men of all races and do you recognize their equality in the sight of God? Are you aware of your responsibility as a Christian to help in the elimination of racial discrimination and prejudice? – from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) Faith and Practice (2012), Queries #10

### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray asking for help in developing ways to better respect and assist, to have mercy upon, each other.

Hold in the Light Friends from every group attending the section meeting of FWCC, as well as FWCC staff and volunteers.



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## Day Four: John 4:33

*For the setting and context of this verse readers may read the entire passage John 4:27-42*

John 4:33 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>33</sup>Then his disciples said to each other, “Could someone have brought him food?”

John 4:33 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>33</sup>Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

John 4:33 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

## ADVICES & QUERIES

What kind of food is needed in our communities today? What is the Quaker role in society today?

Are you working for the good of your whole community? How can you grow your neighborhood?

Children and young people need love and stability. Are we doing all we can to uphold and sustain parents and others who carry the responsibility for providing this care? – from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Advices and Queries #24

Do you make diligent effort to acquaint yourselves and those under your care with the spiritual and material needs of the world? Do you support by prayer and systematic giving those who are laboring to extend Christ’s kingdom, and do you make evident your loving sympathy with them and their service? “Whoso hath the world’s goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue, but in deed and truth.” (John 3:17-18 ASV) – from EFC—Mid-America YM Faith and Practice, Queries #8

## PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for help in fulfilling the physical needs of believers; for the poor in the world, needing food, clothing, education, a safe place; for Mission or Outreach activities that are living examples of how to love our fellow man. Pray also for help in fulfilling the spiritual needs of our world, discovering the spiritual food given by God. Sharing these gifts.

Holding in the Light the FWCC Traveling ministers program, pastors and evangelists, the Pastoral Care Committee, and the speakers and presenters at sectional meeting of FWCC-SOA.



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## Day Five: I Timothy 3:16

### I Timothy 3:16 New International Version

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## QUERIES

How do you explain to others the mysteries of religion as you understand it? How do you explain where Quakerism fits into these mysteries of religion?

Do you come in a spirit of openness with heart and mind prepared for communion with God? – from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1985), Queries #2

Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance? – From North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Faith and Practice (1983) Queries #5

## PRAYER FOCUS

Prayer that each one of us may have the ability to hear, learn, share among each other about the mysteries of religion, of true godliness.

Holding in the Light the attenders of this regional FWCC-SOA meeting and the FWCC Traveling ministers team.



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### Day Six: Luke 10: 36-37

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#### Luke 10:36-37 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>36</sup>Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

<sup>37</sup>And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

#### Luke 10:36-37 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>36</sup>Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

### ADVICES & QUERIES

Being a neighbor implies proximity (physical or in thought). Are you neighborly, pleasant, kind and tolerant to those who believe, or practice their belief, differently than you do?

Are you willing to be neighborly to a stranger? Is how you help, how you show mercy, kindness, and forgiveness to a stranger different than you actions towards a stranger?

Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community? Let your life speak. When decisions have to be made, are you ready to join with others in seeking clearness, asking for God’s guidance and offering counsel to one another? –from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries #27

Do you love one another as becomes the Fellowship followers of Christ? Are you careful of the reputation of others? When differences arise, do you make earnest effort to end them speedily? – from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) Faith and Practice (2012), Queries #3

### PRAYER FOCUS

Pray to find and accept more ways to be merciful to others.

Pray to be considerate of the view and behaviors of all concerning: racial justice, sustainability, gender equality, and respect for others different from ourselves.

Hold in the Light: the FWCC Executive Committee, Traveling Ministry teams, and the Pastoral Care Committee.



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### Day Seven: John 4:33

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<sup>33</sup>Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

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<sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”

### ADVICES & QUERIES

Do you sometimes misunderstand what a question is asking? Are you willing to consider the different possible interpretations which might better answer the question being asked? For example, “could someone have” vs “surely no one has”?

Do you make your home a place of friendliness, refreshment, and peace, where God becomes more real to those who live there and to all who visit there? – from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1985) Queries #7

Let us live in love as members of a Christian community. Let us be ready to give and receive help, to rejoice together in the blessings of life and to sympathize with each other in its trials. – from New England Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (1985) Advices #27

### PRAYER FOCUS

Send prayers for those with talents to share, such as art, music, oratory, healing, compassion; and for those with the willingness to come to this regional FWCC-SOA meeting with an open mind, open heart, and listening ears.

Holding in the Light FWCC-SOA attenders and presenters as well as the members of all FWCC-SOA committees.





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### Day Eight: John 1:46

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#### John 1:46 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

### ADVICES & QUERIES

Do you always believe the good in others when you see it? Do you refrain from critical comments about those whose talents are different from yours?

Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God. -- from Britain Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries, #22

Do you consistently practice the Christian principles of love and goodwill toward all men? – from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) Faith and Practice, Queries # 9

### PRAYER FOCUS

Being in prayer for Friends with gifts of spoken and written ministry, and all attenders and supporters of FWCC-COAL.

Holding in the Light all attenders and supporters of FWCC-SOA, preachers, pastors, writers, editors, FWCC Traveling ministry teams, and COAL.