

Friendly Gatherings — Expanding the idea of “Friendly Eights,” a meeting created a series of monthly gatherings for adults and all ages together. Each time “At Meeting” also included a shared meal, and childcare to support the children having space to be in community together while adults participated in the “Going Deeper” time.

What other topics related to faith and practice might work in this format?

Community & Connection:

Online (adults)

Watch QuakerSpeak videos together, and discuss. Some choices:

"What's the Difference Between a Welcoming and an Inclusive Space?"

"Reconnecting with Community Through Quaker Meeting"

"Quakers, Racism, and the Blessed Community"

At Meeting (all ages together)

- Play a “getting to know you” game, asking everyone to share favorite animals, colors, etc. (Wander and Wonder is an example)

- Worship sharing around the queries:

Where do you find joy in our meeting?

What can be challenging about our meeting?

Going Deeper (adults)

- Bring a favorite poem or quotation to share.

- Explore the Psalms before you gather, and each bring one that speaks to you, to share with the group. (Learn more about the Psalms in this short film!)

Faith & Worship:

Online (adults)

Watch a QuakerSpeak video together, and discuss. Some choices:

"How Does Culture Influence Quaker Worship?"

"What Do Quakers Do in Silent Worship?"

"When to Speak in Quaker Worship"

At Meeting (all ages together)

- Experience together the Faith & Play story, “Margaret Fell of Swarthmoor Hall” (here's the YouTube video). After, shared what you liked best and where you saw yourself in the story.

- Sing! Explore some Quaker favorites here in this online songbook.

Going Deeper (adults)

Before you meet, spend some time creating a “spiritual autobiography” for yourself in any format. It doesn't need to be long or formal. *What has the journey of your faith been, so far?* Bring to share, as you feel led, with the group.

Discernment & Decisions:

Online (adults)

Watch a QuakerSpeak video together, and discuss. Some choices:

"The Quaker Practice of Discernment"

"How Quakers Make Decisions (It's Not Just Consensus!)"

"Glossary of Common Quaker Terms"

At Meeting (all ages together)

- Meeting retreat planning! We need *everyone of all ages to share their ideas* for what this weekend together could look like. Take notes in response to queries:

1. *What feels most important about having a retreat together with our meeting?*

2. *What do you need to feel comfortable in a place you're visiting?*

3. *What's an activity you would like us to do at a retreat? (games? sing? cook together? canoe? fire circle? etc. What else?)*

Going Deeper (adults)

Explore this article, "10 Key Bible Verses on Wisdom and Discernment"

Discuss where do you find connection to your Quaker faith and experiences?