



Discussion Guide

for select articles in

Western Friend

Some general approaches to group discussions:

- Choose a text no longer than three pages. Bring enough copies for everyone to share.
- Begin and end with a moment of worship.
- Begin by asking one volunteer to read the whole text aloud. (Having one reader helps people focus on the meaning better than multiple readers.)
- Perhaps simply conduct worship-sharing about the text.
- Perhaps ask people to begin by discussing the text in pairs or triads.
- Perhaps ask different small groups to begin by discussing different sections of the text.
- End by asking everyone to share reflections with the whole group: Which ideas raised earlier were especially surprising or meaningful?

Pro-Woman Practice and Policy

by Diana Koster

Has the personal story of an individual ever made you feel passionate about a cause?

How does Koster use the “SPICE” framework of Quaker values to demonstrate the justice of her cause?

How do you think assaults on women’s rights could affect the standing of Quakers in the world at large?

Emancipation without Freedom

by José Santos Woss and Aristotle Jones

What details in the history told in this article were new to you or struck you in a new way?

Which approaches to ending the U.S. system of mass incarceration seem most promising to you?

How would you describe the authors’ core message about how white allies can best support black people?

The Landscape of Sanctuary

by Marian Bock

Describe some actions you have taken even though you had deep doubts about their effectiveness.

How does the current immigration crisis compare with the crisis in the 1980s?

What might faith communities do to have a bigger impact on the U.S. immigration system?

Run for Public Office!

by Janet Gastil

What benefits does the author say could come to Quakers if some of them would run for public office?

What kinds of skills does it take to run for public office and to serve in public office?

What sort of legislative changes might Friends initiate if more of them served in public office?

Spiritual Reconstruction

by David Breitzman

How does the author describe the buffer that Friends keep between themselves and a world of pain?

Where do you see examples of “the inherent tension between institutional order and spiritual fervor?”

What would it take for Friends in general to live in a spirit of abundance and radical hospitality?

Trapped in the Temporary

by Carin Anderson

What aspects of life in these refugee camps are most difficult for the residents?

How did the author, the other volunteers, and the camp residents try to bring some normalcy into life in the camps?

Do you think the volunteers might “do more harm than good by coming, and then having to say goodbye”?