

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?

Quaker Composer

by Bill Ashworth

How does music affect you physically?

What are Ashworth's explanations for the oppositional stance that early Quakers took toward to music?

In what ways does Ashworth find Quaker worship similar to the act of composing music?

In what ways do you find Quaker worship similar to creative activities you engage in?

Essential Listening

by Kevin Slick

What is the place of silence in music?

Describe how Slick learned the difference between recreating and interpreting a musical score.

What are some different aspects of listening that seem especially meaningful to Slick? To you?

What lessons from his career in music does Slick apply to his experience of Quaker worship?

How useful is Slick's observation that Quakers who are drawn to silent worship tend to be more open-minded than people drawn to more scripture-based worship services?

Daily Practice

by Sarah Rose House-Lightner

What was House-Lightner seeing on social media and in the news that pushed her to want to find a daily spiritual practice?

What have been the different phases in House-Lightner's life during which she was more – or less – actively involved in making music?

How did House-Lightner's political views motivate her to become more active as a musician?

House-Lightner is just now defining herself as a musician; how might this change her life in the coming years?

Song Powers a Movement

by David Hartsough

How did Hartsough experience the power of music during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s?

What are the goals and plans of the Poor People's Campaign of 2018?

How is today's Poor People's Campaign different from the campaign of the 1960s?

How can you imagine you or your Quaker meeting getting involved in the Poor People's Campaign?