



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?

A Thousand Times, Come

by Ruth Cutcher

In what terms does the author describe the sense of one-ness she experiences during worship?

How do the author's experiences of Sufi worship compare with her experiences of Quaker worship?

How do the deep interfaith identities of some Friends affect the corporate Quaker identities of our meetings?

Self-Compassion and Quakers

by Joe Morris

What reasons does the author give to show that our meetings should support self-compassion more?

How can Neff's three aspects of self-compassion help Friends live their faith more fully?

What could our Quaker meetings do to promote Friends' self-compassion?

In Memory of Mary Dyer

by Stanford J. Searl

How does the author use images of flight in these poems?

What is Mary Dyer's attitude toward state authority in these poems?

How do Friends "preach the Kingdom of God is at hand" today?

Soledad Worship Group

by Sally Kingsland

What are some practical matters that make the experience of worship in prison unique?

How do the author's experiences of Soledad Worship Group differ from those in other meetings in PYM?

What lessons about "welcoming" might our monthly meetings take from Soledad Worship group?

Faith and Discernment in Crisis

by Amy Cooke

What two major institutional crises were described?

According to the author, how can the "Ocean of Darkness" lead Friends into the Light?

What "old patterns" are holding your monthly meeting back from finding its true calling today?

#MeToo and Quaker Men

by Steve Finger and Allen Winchester

What reasons do the authors give to show that men today need more serious discussions with each other?

What specific steps did the authors take to increase the chances that men would benefit from their workshop?

If such a workshop were conducted in your meeting, what might the effects be?