

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?

Seek to Truly See

by Ruben Soliz

What instances of (perhaps unintentional) racial discrimination does the author describe?

How does knowing another person is wrong differ from knowing you both see things differently?

What are some new habits of thought that might help Friends really see who is in the room?

Expanding . . . Nonviolence

by Mike Yarrow

What does the author mean by the word “nonviolence”?

What instances of complicity with empire does the author describe and what instances of resistance?

Where are the strategizing, planning, and discipline needed today for opposing empire?

Faith, Fear, and Our Future

by Bridget Moix

What different cities and countries does the author cite in her examples?

How could you describe the examples of conflicts here in terms of the “ocean of light” flowing over the “ocean of darkness”?

Which of these five lessons is most helpful to you?

Dwelling in . . . Divine Spirit

by David Johnson

What does the author mean by the terms “Christ” and “offices of Christ”?

Which “fruit of the spirit” does each office of Christ engender?

If you were to watch for these six offices of Christ within you, how do you think that would affect you?

Hope? Abyss, Faith, Kinship

by Jay O'Hara

Describe the various situations in which the author has felt discouraged.

By what means does the author propose that Friends invite power back into our Religious Society?

Do Friends' clearness processes today explicitly hold individuals accountable to the Voice of God?

Courage in Crisis

by Benigno Sanchez-Epppler

What are different ways that the author uses the idea of a quilt to describe God's work?

How does the author demonstrate that crises are essential for Life to flourish?

In what situations might you “speak your pain, but listen through love”?