



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?

Child Protective Services

by Timothy Clark

Which Quaker practices were especially helpful to the author's work with CPS?

In what ways is "everyday neglect" more harmful than "abuse"?

How would you determine the way to "break rules properly"?

What is Tribe?

by David Zarembka

What social dynamics cause tribes to intermix in Africa?

What is the rationale behind the "conventional wisdom" that "tribe" is "biological"?

What social forces might sustain "tribes" in Africa, despite the loss of tribal languages?

A Girl with Vision and Resolve

by Kary Joseph Shender

List the different stages of life in which Veronica kept her dream public.

Which aspects of Veronica's resolve does she attribute to her native land and which to Quakerism?

What principles for international aid can be drawn from Dr. Veronica's example?

Faith and Practice, Practice, Practice

by Eileen Flanagan

What experiences told the author that she had "strayed" from her leadings?

How did the author's "inner work" help her become more publicly active?

How does one determine when "people pleasing" has gone too far?

A Call to Radical Vulnerability and Love

by Elena Anderson-Williams and Carin Anderson

How did each of these authors put herself outside the "Quaker mainstream"?

Compare the authors' responses to others' hardships.

If a whole monthly meeting took up the ministry of either of these Friends, what might happen next?

Uprooting Racism

by Vanessa Julye

What policies and social conventions have helped Whites accumulate wealth and power in the U.S.?

Why is the distinction between comfort and safety important for Whites to recognize, and why is that hard?

Which aspects of Quaker culture are core to our faith and which are non-essential, Eurocentric practices?