



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.
- Ask one volunteer to read the whole text aloud. *(This avoids the presumption that nobody present has difficulty reading. It also helps everyone focus on meaning rather than performance.)*
- Perhaps simply conduct worship-sharing about the text.
- Perhaps ask different small groups to begin by focusing on different sections or different aspects of the text.
- Near the end of the session, ask everyone in the whole group to consider: Which ideas raised earlier were especially surprising or meaningful?

Individual and Collective Anti-Racism

by Amy Rowland

List some incidents described in this article that changed the author.

How does the author compare the impacts of individual and systemic anti-racism work?

How well does your Quaker meeting engage with the work of anti-racism?

Growing into the Light

by Daniel Clarke Flynn

According to the author, what qualities are unique to humans?

In what situations do you feel “youthful amazement” most strongly? What dims that feeling for you?

What helps you to expand “the space” in you between stimulus and response?

Gandhi’s Smile

by David Albert

How did Gandhi make use of his anger?

How can a practice of story-telling about “the wall” and the dispossessed bring about positive change?

Do you think you would feel more satisfied if you did more planning – or less – than you tend to do now?

Soul-Work in Community

by Stanford Searl

What is the meaning of “soul,” according to the author?

How did a shift in focus towards the soul affect the author’s experience of this reading group?

What sorts of topics and authors would most attract people in your meeting to a reading group?

Widening the Welcome

by Caroline Wildflower

What were the central messages that the author carried during her traveling ministry?

Which acts of welcome described by the author are done by individuals and which by the whole meeting?

What do you think your meeting is likely to try in the next few years to become more welcoming?

It’s OK to Talk about Quakerism

by Donald W. McCormick

How does the author advise us to talk about Quakerism so that it is not proselytizing?

How does the author support his assertion that talking about their faith is beneficial to most people?

Which of your friends and acquaintances know you are a Quaker? Which don’t? Who might you tell?