

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 Worship and Intentional Design

by Eleanor Dart

How did the students first perceive Stannard?

In what ways does Stannard's class resemble Quaker unity-seeking?

Where do you apply the author's principles of design to your own life?

Win-Win-Win-Wins

by David Tucker

What was the turning point for the author in gaining better alignment in his life?

How did accepting new responsibility improve the author's quality of life?

How do the sizes of these four dimensions of life compare for you?

This Is the Work

by Valerie Ireland

List some of the school district's expectations that the author sees as unreasonable.

Why does the author say that education in her community is racist?

In what situations would you be willing to take greater risks with your health?

Get Out of the Way

by Lori Patterson

What points of contention did the author describe concerning the group "Friends for Racial Justice"?

In what situations have other people acted like you don't know what you're talking about?

In your meeting, what would the range of reactions be to the author's impatience?

Confidence

by Ray Rischpater and Barbara Babin

What sorts of difficulties should be discussed with a heightened sense of confidentiality?

How would you decide to report a situation of abuse?

What steps do the authors recommend Friends take when handling strife in the meeting?

Evolution of The Peace Testimony

by Sharon Doyle

List the hardships Friends faced over the years due to the Peace Testimony.

How do the 1660 and 2010 statements of The Peace Testimony differ?

Do you agree that a fundamental tension between peace and justice creates a dilemma for Friends?