

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?

The Parable of the Bowls

by Debbie Townsend

How do you think each woman's bowl looked to her when she first broke it?

How does each woman's emotional state affect her actions?

When do you "gather yourself with a deep breath"?

Staying Connected with Our Children

by Barbara Babin

What reasons does the author give for all Friends to know the children in their meetings?

Which ideas in the author's list would be most likely to work well in your meeting?

What are the best things your meeting does to welcome newcomers, especially families?

Twenty Nickels Make a Dollar

by Keith Scott Dickerson

How did the author become a teacher?

Explain why any of the points of advice in this article would improve a person's teaching.

If you had an ideal mentor, what qualities would they have?

An FCNL Education in Civic Engagement

by Larissa Gil Sanhueza

What have been the different stages in FCNL's work with young adults?

How are policy goals and participants' development served by different aspects of FCNL's programs?

Which of the practices described in this article might be helpful in your own meeting?

International Friends School

by Sue Brooks

What makes this school authentically "a Friends school"?

How are the school's commitments to biliteracy and a balanced-year schedule consistent with Quakerism?

Would a school like this do well in most communities?

The Miracle Teacher

by Julie Peyton

Describe the before-and-after shift in the author's attitude toward running.

How has the author's new relationship with her body changed other aspects of her life?

What miracles do you think Jesus performed?