

# Books about Quakers

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This is a short list of publications we recommend for newcomers or people interested in finding out about Quakers. You can find all of these titles and many more at [QuakerBooks of FGC](#).

## **For a first introduction:**

- [\*Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way\*](#) by Steve Chase. (Introduces the Quaker way to a newcomer in language that is personal and gentle, while offering powerful inspiration through stories.)
- [\*Being a Quaker: A Guide for Newcomers\*](#), by Geoffrey Durham. (A personal account of what it was like for the author to discover Quakers and get to know them. A very good explanation from a British perspective, which is mostly similar to the U.S.)
- [\*Silence and Witness: The Quaker Tradition\*](#) by Michael Birkel. (This book interweaves a discussion of modern Quaker principles with quotations from early Quaker writers.)
- [\*Listening to the Light: How to Bring Quaker Simplicity and Integrity into our Lives\*](#) by Jim Pym. (This is another personal account by a British Friend. The author came to Quakers from a Buddhist background and offers a broad perspective.)

### **For more on meeting for worship:**

- [\*Encounter with Silence: Reflections from the Quaker Tradition\*](#) by John Punshon. (A small, rich, and readable book on Quaker worship. The writer speaks personally from his own experience as a Christian Friend.)
- [\*Four Doors to Meeting for Worship\*](#) by William Taber. (This pamphlet describes the different levels on which we prepare for and experience silent worship. A good guide to deep and authentic worship.)

### **For an overview of Quaker testimonies:**

- [\*An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies\*](#) by American Friends Service Committee. (A brief introduction to peace, equality, integrity, community, simplicity, and earthcare with queries and pithy quotations.)
- [\*Quaker Ideals\*](#) by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. (A brief collection of short statements expressing values common among Quakers.)

### **For nuts and bolts—more about how Quakers operate:**

- The *Faith and Practice* book of your yearly meeting. (These publications, sometimes called "disciplines," serve as guidebooks for members.)
- [\*Guide to Quaker Practice\*](#) by Howard Brinton. (This booklet provides an overview of how the Friends community works--worship, structure, decision making, testimonies, and more. A bit dated, but still excellent.)

### **For historical perspective:**

- [\*Portrait in Grey: A Short History of the Quakers\*](#) by John Punshon. (A comprehensive overview of the history of the Quaker movement, from its origins in seventeenth century England to the emergence of the different varieties of Friends found in the world today.)
- [\*Friend: The Story of George Fox and the Quakers\*](#) by Jane Yolen (A biography of George Fox. Though written for middle school students, the book provides an excellent, readable account of how Quakers emerged against the backdrop of religious turmoil and the English Civil War.)
- [\*Quakers in America\*](#) by Thomas Hamm. (A concise, insightful history of how Quakers in the United States began, how they have changed over time, and what is happening among Quakers today.)

### **For deeper inspiration: a few widely read Quaker classics**

- [\*A Testament of Devotion\*](#) by Thomas Kelly. (A short book of devotional essays written in the mid-twentieth century.)
- [\*Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman\*](#) edited by Phillips Moulton. (An eighteenth century New Jersey Friend records his efforts to "walk the walk" of his Quaker faith.)
- [\*Journal of George Fox\*](#)—any edition. (Considered by many to be the founder of Quakerism, Fox provides an account of his experiences during the early years of the movement.)

This document was downloaded from the website of Friends General Conference. Explore the many resources and opportunities we offer for Quakers, Quaker meetings, and all interested individuals. Go to [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org).

