

Resources

Hallmarks of Quaker Quest

Use Positive Language: Say what Quakers do believe and do “do,” rather than what Quakers don’t believe and don’t do.

Use Very Little History: Seekers are usually interested first in what the Quaker way has to offer them today. History can be talked about later.

Avoid Jargon: Jargon, like monthly meeting and First Day School, can be confusing and can indicate that Quakers are a closed group. If needed—or used—then explain it.

Don’t Criticize Other Religions or Other Branches of Quakerism: There is no need to do this. Simply share what the Quaker way is. This can come across as self-righteous and judgmental

Use Stories to Share Your Journey: It isn’t necessary to speak on behalf of all Quakers everywhere, throughout time. Share from your heart!

Double Circles 1.0

Many meetings follow-up the Full-Day Workshop and/or prepare for public sessions by doing the double-circles exercise at various times. The purposes of this exercise include giving participants practice articulating their faith and having folks give gentle feedback to each other in a way that will be similar to preparing presenters for public Quaker Quest sessions.

Equipment and set up:

- Arrange two concentric circles with pairs of chairs facing each other
- Those with less mobility should be in the circle that does not move.
- Use a watch with a second hand or a stop watch to keep time and use a bell or flash the lights to alert the group of new instructions.

Share with the group: Although many questions ask what “Quakers” believe, folks are encouraged to try to speak from their own experience. These questions are asked in this manner because these are real questions asked by actual seekers. Invite folks to consider using the Hallmarks of Quaker Quest as they respond.

Directions: The directions are on the next page/back so that you can see them all on one page.

Double Circles 1.0

Directions:

Begin by asking Outer Circle “O” the first question. “O” responds to the Inner Circle “I” as though “I” had asked the question. Ring the bell or flash the lights after 60 seconds. Then ask “I” the second question. Ring the bell after 60 seconds. Ask folks in the circle that moves to rotate clockwise to the next seat. Follow the same pattern with the new pairs for every set of questions.

- This exercise is practice for articulating our faith to others. Although many questions ask what Quakers believe, try to speak from your own experience.
- Consider using the Hallmarks of Quaker Quest.
- Good Feedback Questions are:

Set 1: Question for O - What do Quakers believe?

Question for I – **How is Quakerism-or the Quaker way-different from other Christian denominations?**

Set 2: Question for O – How do Quakers view the Bible?

Question for I – **Do Quakers have sacraments?**

SET 3 Directions: After everyone has take their place, let the participants know that after each question in this set there will be 30 seconds to provide gentle feedback to their current partner. The feedback is about the answer that they just heard. This will be the only set of questions where feedback will be given.

Set 3: Question for O – Is there a place for children in a Quaker meeting?

Inner Group: Reflect on what you heard from the speaker. Was the response clear and did it made sense? Is there anything else you would have liked to have heard?

Question for I - **You say you have no dogmas and creeds, can you believe anything you like?**

Outer Group: Reflect on what you heard from the speaker. Was the response clear and did it made sense? Is there anything else you would have liked to have heard?

Set 4: Question for O - What is the difference between meeting for worship and meditation?

Question for I - **Are people really moved to minister in meeting or do they just like the sound of their own voice?**

Set 5: Question for O - Do I have to be a pacifist to be a Quaker?

Question for I – **What do Quakers believe about Jesus?**

Set 6: Question for O - If Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone, what about sin?

Question for I - **My lifestyle is not simple; what would I have to do to be a Quaker?**

Closing- It is very important to take this last step!

- Bring everyone back into a large group circle.

Go around the circle and ask everyone to share one word responding to the question. How are you feeling now?
(Anyone can pass.)

Double Circles Exercise 2.0

For a meeting that has practiced double circles 1.0

Use these questions and/or develop your own questions:

- Do Quakers pray?
- Do Quakers drink?
- What do Quakers think about illegal drugs?
- If Quakers believe there is that of God in everyone, what about sin?
- You seem so serious; how do you have fun?
- How does going to Quaker Meeting help you?
- If you have freedom of belief then what do you put your faith in?
- Do Quakers ever support the use of force?
- How do you try to express simplicity in your life?
- What might I get out of joining Friends?
- If you don't have priests or pastors, who's in charge?
- What does living by the Spirit mean to you?
- Do you mind if people attend both Quaker and other worship?
- What are Quakers doing about the environment?
- How can Quakers believe that everyone is equal?
- Do Quakers believe in the afterlife?

Variations: *Present a negative statement and ask it to be rephrased in a more positive way. For example:*

We don't have priests
We don't have a creed
We don't have rituals
We don't have sacraments
We don't have religious symbols
We don't have music
We don't believe in the literal truth of the Bible
We don't believe in original sin
We don't believe what we are told