

LESSON VI: *IN HIS IMAGE...-* THE TESTIMONY OF EQUALITY

Opening

We believe there is that of God in every person, and thus we believe in human equality before God. Friends pioneered in recognizing the gifts and rights of women. Women were ministers and leaders in early meetings. Friends came more slowly to recognize the evil of slavery and of discrimination in general, and have often been guilty of sharing the prejudices of the broader society.

Faith and Practice, p. 75

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, 1997 revision.

Songs: Choose from the following: "Dearly Beloved Friends", "Follow the Drinkin' Gourd", "Oh, Freedom", "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands", all found in *Songs of the Spirit*.

Questions

1. What do you call your teachers? Ask children who do and who do not go to Friends schools.
2. Why do Friends schools often avoid using Mr. or Mrs. or Miss? What is a title?
3. Have any of you heard Quakers using "thee" for "you"? Do you know why early Friends did this?
4. What does the sign = mean?
5. Are there people today who are not always treated as equal to other people?

Lesson VI

For the Teachers: This lesson focuses on acceptance of one another. We look at things which make us different and things which make us the same. The difficult task for children and adults is to accept and enjoy both similarities and differences.

Supplies Needed

Materials for Zacchaeus project, listed in the lesson
Newsprint
Paper cut in ovals
Construction paper
Glue
Markers
Yarn
Hand mirror (for children to look into)

Opening Song

Sing "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands", *Songs of the Spirit*, #41. Use the hand motions learned last week.

Story and Activity

Tell the story of Zacchaeus, Luke 19: 1-10. In this story Jesus shows his crowd of followers that he loves a man like Zacchaeus who is not well liked in his town. Ask some of these questions:

Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus?
Why didn't the other people like Zacchaeus?
Why did Jesus choose to go to Zacchaeus' house?

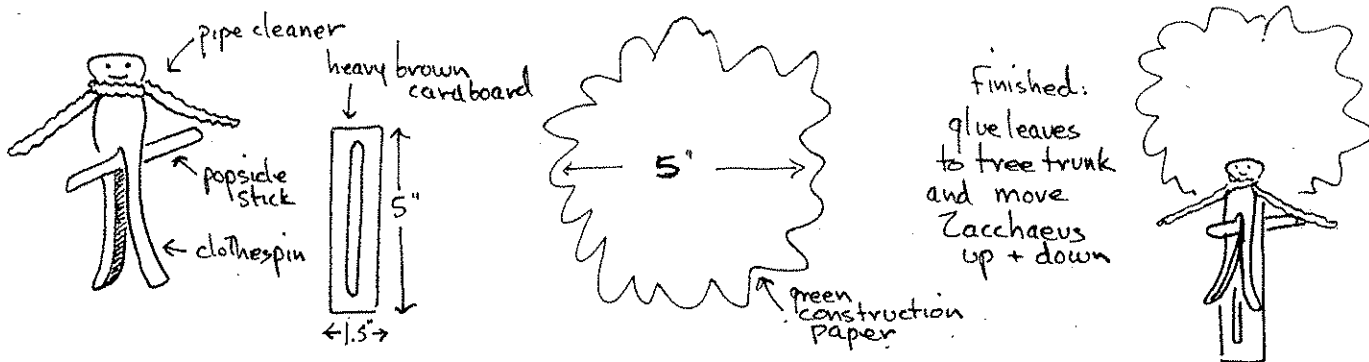
How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus came home with him?
 Have you ever made someone feel special?
 Has any one reached out to you when you felt left out?

Quakers feel it is very important to welcome all kinds of people to our Meeting.

Zacchaeus In the Tree Project:

- Materials: Heavy brown cardboard for tree trunk
- Popsicle stick
- Clothes pin (the non-clip kind)
- Pipe cleaner (for arms)
- Glue
- Green construction paper for leaves

Cut out patterns of trunk and leaves ahead of time for each child. Make Zaccheaus out of clothes pin, pipe cleaner and Popsicle stick. Glue leaves to tree trunk and move Zacchaeus up and down in tree.



After the project is finished, teach the following rhyme. The children can slide Zacchaeus up and down in the tree to fit the words.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
 A wee little man was he.
 He climbed up in the sycamore tree
 The Savior for to see.

And when the Savior came his way
 He looked up in the tree and said:
 "Zacchaeus--You come down!"
 I'm coming to your house for tea."

Differences and Similarities

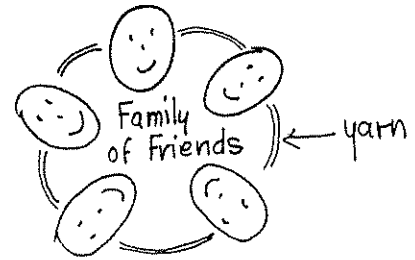
Gather in a circle. Tape two pieces of newsprint to the wall. Label one "How are we different?"; the other "How are we the same?" Ask the children to give you items for both lists (write them down or draw them). Differences may include: hair color, eye color, age, sex. Similarities: all have families, all are children, all come to Meeting. Reread the lists. Tell the children that differences make each of us special, but similarities draw us together.

Project

Precut good sized ovals out of paper for faces. The children will make self-portraits. Supply various colors of yarn for hair, construction paper for eyes, nose and mouth, markers for

details. The children cut out and glue the features on the ovals. Have a mirror so the children can check on eye and hair color. For the littlest, pre-cut some facial features.

Tape or tack the pictures on a wall or bulletin board in a circle. Connect the faces with yarn. Write "Family of Friends" in the center of the circle. Sing "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" again.



Closing

Sing the first verse and chorus of "The George Fox Song". Remind the children that the light of God shines in everyone - "in me and in you" regardless of what we look like or where we live or who we know. Settle into silence. Ask the children to think about things which draw them together. End with "As We Leave This Friendly Place" and a handshake.

[Note: If you have time, *Rachel and Obadiah* by Brinton Turkle is a good Quaker story about equality of the sexes.]