

For the Teacher:

This lesson provides a time for the children to share their experiences over the last eight weeks. Several specific activities are suggested, but we hope that First-Day Schools will tailor-make this celebration. The general goal of celebrating together is far more important than the particulars of the celebration. If more than one class is using Growing In the Light, do this celebration together. If only one class is using Growing In the Light, have them invite other classes, their parents and/or the Meeting.

Needed:

A good-sized open space
 Display Area
 Art Supplies as listed in the lesson
 Snacks

Ahead of Time:

1. Display work from previous lessons.
2. Prepare simple snacks.

Lesson Plan

1. Share a song and then teach the song to the whole group.
2. Talk briefly about what you have done over the past few weeks. Several children can share this responsibility.
3. Play an active, cooperative game. Several are described in the lessons, any of which is appropriate.
4. Sit in a circle. Ask each child to respond to the question, "What is one thing you've learned about Quakers during these classes?"
5. Choose one of these activities:
 - A. Community Picture (thanks to Margaret Cantieni):
 You'll need: Construction paper, or other colored paper, in as many different colors as possible. Large sheets of white or manilla paper. Paste.
 Invite each child to choose a sheet of paper whose color he feels matches him, belongs to him, represents him. Then ask the children to share their personal color with the others, by tearing each sheet into enough pieces so that each child present gets a piece from every other child's personal paper. Then let each child make a picture or design with all the pieces of paper in his collection.
 Call to the attention of the children that each picture helps the other children's colors become something new. The gifts from others make his picture richer, but he still has possession of what happens to his picture. All the colors together make the fullness of the light. Each picture is made up of the same colors but each one is unique.
 - B. Group Banner (3' x 2' is a good size)
 Needed: Large piece of felt attached to a dowel. Fabric scraps, scissors, Sobo glue.
 Instructions: Ask the children to create a banner on the theme, "A Quaker Is ...". Ask each child to create from fabric something which

fits the theme. Ask each child to describe his/her contribution and to glue it on the banner. You may want to precut the words "A Quaker Is..." to glue on as well.

6. Gather together for worship. Encourage the children to speak during worship if they want to. Read one of the following:

1. Psalm 23

2. As many candles lighted and put in one place do greatly augment the light, and make it shine forth, so when many are gathered together into the same life there is more glory of God, and his power appears to the refreshment of each individual, for each partakes not only of the light and life raised in himself, but in all the rest.

Robert Barclay

3. In calm and cool and silence, once again
 I find my old accustomed place among
 My brethren, where, perchance, no human tongue
 Shall utter words; where never hymn is sung,
 Nor deep-toned organ blown, nor censer swung;
 Nor dim light falling through the pictured pane!
 There, syllabled by silence, let me hear
 The still, small voice which reached the prophet's ear;
 Read in my heart a still diviner law
 Than Israel's leader on his tables saw!

John Greenleaf Whittier

4. The St. Francis Prayer:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
 Where there is hatred ... let me sow love.
 Where there is injury ... pardon.
 Where there is doubt ... faith.
 Where there is darkness ... light.
 Where there is sadness ... joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled ... as to console,
 To be understood ... as to understand,
 To be loved ... as to love.

For

It is in giving ... that we receive,
 It is in pardoning ... that we are pardoned,
 It is in dying ... that we are born to eternal life.

Settle into Silence. Close with a handshake.

9. Sing "As We Leave This Friendly Place".
10. Share simple snacks and juice.

Note: This lesson could be done intergenerationally. In any case be sure to share the displays of the children's work with the adults, possibly after Meeting.

Three good ways to let adults get acquainted with the children, if your Meeting does not provide much intergenerational time are:

1. A Photograph Board - Take Polaroid pictures of each child and mount them with names on a large bulletin board in a prominent place. Point out the board to adult members.

2. A Silhouette Board - Using the following technique, make cut-outs of each child and display as described in #1:
Fasten a large piece of white paper to the wall. Have the child stand or sit in front of a light such as from a slide projector or a floor lamp. Adjust the distance between the light, the child and the paper on the wall until the profile image is the size you want it on the paper. Another child or teacher traces the shadow. Have each child cut out the tracing, with help if necessary. Paste this on a darker piece of paper.
3. A Self-Portrait Board - Have each child draw him/herself and display the pictures as described in #1 above.