

CHILDREN'S QUERIES

First Month: Meeting for Worship

Come to Meeting with an open heart. Worship is something we need to practice.

How do I get ready to be quiet and find my spiritual center at meeting?

How do I feel the Divine Spirit within me, and among all of us?

If I feel inspired to speak in meeting, how do I check if I am speaking from my heart?

Second Month: Spiritual Life

We grow in our spirits as well as our bodies.

What do the words God, Holy Spirit, Inner Light, and Divine Presence mean to me?

When and how do I experience the Spirit?

How do I share my feelings about God with others?

When do I feel grateful for the life I've been given?

Third Month: Meeting for Business

We try to conduct our decision-making as a form of worship. We believe that when we conduct business in love and unity, the Divine Presence is working through us in the world.

How do I listen carefully to my friends or classmates when I participate in group activities?

How do I make sure that my words helpful?

How can I tell when what I want is getting in the way of the group being able to make a decision?

Fourth Month: Stewardship and Vocation

Stewardship means that we are responsible for using our time, talents and possessions wisely. Vocation is something you just know you're meant to do.

How do I use my talents and abilities and share them with others?

How do I stop myself from making promises I can't keep?

How do I let my best self make decisions?

How do I comfort people who need it?

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Fifth Month: Harmony with Creation

We are related to everything on earth: water, air, plants, and animals. We can learn to love and appreciate it.

How do I recognize the wonder of the natural world?

How do I care for our home, planet Earth?

In what ways do my possessions get in the way of my relationship to others and the Earth?

How can I live in a way that helps the Earth instead of harms it?

Sixth Month: Social and Civic Responsibility

Social and civic responsibility means we should not be content to live in an unjust world.

What is my community?

Who in my community do I overlook?

Why are there people in my community who don't have enough to eat or an adequate place to live?

How can I get involved in helping people in need?

Seventh Month: Reaching Out

Reaching out means having honest and open communication with people.

What does it mean to be a Quaker?

What do I say when people ask about my religious beliefs?

How do I find out about what other people believe?

How do I welcome new people?

How do my actions express my beliefs?

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Eighth month: Simplicity

Simplicity begins with centering our lives in the Spirit. With simplicity, what's important becomes clear, and we can let other things go.

How does the Spirit guide me as I make choices?

In what ways am I wasteful?

How do I feel when I see other people who have something I want and don't have?

What happens when I turn off electronic devices and just sit quietly?

Ninth month: Integrity

Integrity means doing and saying the right thing.

How do I make sure that I speak truthfully? How do I make sure that I say "yes" when I mean "yes" and "no" when I need to say "no"?

When I don't know what to do, how can I seek the Spirit for help?

How do I find courage to speak up if my heart tells me something is wrong?
What do I do to keep my body and mind healthy?

Tenth month: Personal Relationships

Friends try to see that of God in everyone. We are all one in God.

In what ways am I kind to people in my home?

Why don't I get along with some people?

If someone hurts me or makes me uncomfortable, to whom do I talk?

How do I keep open relationships with my parents and friends so that I can share my deepest thoughts with them and listen when they talk?

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Eleventh Month: Peace

Quakers try to be peaceful within themselves and to help spread peace around them. Quakers believe that violent words or deeds cannot solve conflicts. We believe that violence hurts that of God within ourselves and others.

How do I let the Spirit help me be a peacemaker? What do I do when I see people being mean and unfair?

What do I do when my actions hurt others?

How do I develop the courage and compassion to create peace?

What kinds of things encourage peace? What kinds of things make it difficult to cooperate?

Twelfth Month: The Meeting Community

We're connected to each other in Meeting—sort of like a family.

How do we take care of each other and cooperate?

What do I do when others have hurt me, but they are truly sorry? What do I do when I have hurt others?

How do I make sure that am I kind when I speak about others?

Well When do I need to get adult help to resolve conflicts?

How do I keep my heart and mind open when I listen to others?