

LESSON II: *SPECIAL SILENCE-* MEETING FOR WORSHIP, PART 2

Opening

Friends, meet together and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was.

George Fox

Songs: Same as for Lesson I.

Questions

1. Has anyone been to another kind of worship service besides Friends Meeting: What was that service like?
2. Why do you think Friends worship the way they do?
3. What do you do in Meeting for Worship?
4. What is a minister? Who is the minister in a Friends Meeting?

Lesson II

For the Teacher

In this lesson we concentrate on what happens in Meeting for Worship. A first goal is helping children become comfortable with silence. We also practice listening and concentrating.

Supplies Needed

Commercial or homemade finger paint
Shiny shelf paper or special finger-paint paper
Nature pictures
Crayons or markers
Supplies for hanging birds - see lesson
Dolls make last week

Opening Story

Tell the children you are going to read them a story about going to Meeting. Read *We're Going to Meeting for Worship* by Abby Hadley (available from Friends General conference - see p. 3). When there are questions in the story, pause to allow the children time to answer.

Practicing Listening

Choose from these options:

1. Ask the children to close their eyes. Now make a series of sounds such as clapping, whistling, bell ringing, zipping. Ask the children to identify each sound.
2. Play "Simon Says." This is especially good if you have an active group. Finish with "Simon says sit quietly."
3. Go for a quiet walk. Directions in Lesson I.
4. Have finger paints ready.
Use commercial finger paint or make your own using one of the following recipes:
 - Mix food coloring with liquid starch in individual jars, or
 - Mix one cup of cornstarch (or laundry starch) with enough cold water to make a smooth, thin paste. Add one cup of flaked soap chips and one half cup of salt. Put this mixture in a double boiler and add one quart of water and cook until it's thick. Increase amount of water if necessary. Beat it with an egg beater, put it into empty baby food jars and put some food coloring in each jar. One teaspoon of glycerin makes this more pliable and easier on the

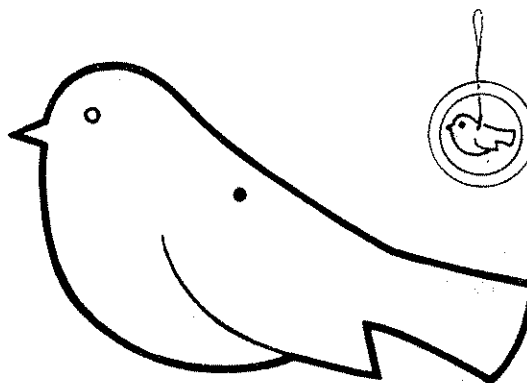
hands. The salt acts as a preservative. Paint will thicken as it cools. Add color while hot and put in containers to cool.

Cover work surface with newspaper. Use wet shiny shelf paper or special finger-paint paper. Play soft music and ask the children to finger paint silently. Don't set the subject matter. Afterward talk with the children about this experience. What did they think about? Can they talk about their paintings? Clay or tempera paint and large brushes are possible substitutes for finger paint.

Song and Activity

Sing "Special Silence", *Songs of the Spirit*, #6. Read the words aloud. Ask the children what they can hear with their "inside ears". Have pictures of the ocean, birds and wind (trees blowing) to show. *National Geographic* and *Audubon* magazines are good picture sources.

Make hanging birds: For each child cut out one bird. Use the pattern or make your own. The children color and/or decorate the birds (use glitter, feathers, gummed paper or stars). Make rings out of small aluminum pie pans or cardboard. These can also be decorated. Hang the bird in the ring as shown in the drawing. Use a paper punch to make holes for the string. Fishing line is best for the string.



Story or Game and Closing

Either read *Play With Me* + by Marie Hall Ets, Viking, 1955, or play the following finger game: (Both emphasize quiet attention)

Ready to Listen (Suit actions to words)

Let your hands go clap, clap, clap
Let your fingers snap, snap, snap
Let your lips go up and down
But do not make a single sound.

Let your lips go up and down
But do not make a single sound.
Fold your hands and close each eye
Take a breath and softly sigh. Ah!

Give the children the paper or stuffed dolls which they made last week. Have them hold the dolls quietly as they sit in the circle. After a few minutes of silence, sing "As We Leave This Friendly Place" and close with a handshake. Give the children the dolls to take home or suggest they might like to take the dolls into Meeting.

At Home

If you can afford to, buy each child a copy of *We're Going to Meeting for Worship*. Order from Friends General Conference, (see p. 3). Send it home with a note to parents encouraging them to read the book to their children and to bring their children to Meeting for Worship regularly.

+ Available from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting