

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS OF PITTSBURGH
4836 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

CHILDREN'S QUERIES

The Queries (revised 2003) are intended to be a challenge and an inspiration for Friends as individuals and as a community. The adult version of the Queries may be found on pages 24-28 in the *Faith and Practice* of the Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Fourth Revision, July 1993.

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON CHILDREN*

September

1. What is the "Inner Light"? Have you ever felt it? What could it tell us?
2. When might kids misbehave just because others are behaving badly and they want to feel part of the group? What can *you* do when this happens?
3. Can we talk with our families about our feelings? How do we let others know when they've done something we think is good? What happens in our family when someone hurts another's feelings?
4. How might adults help kids in our city's neighbor-hoods?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON HOME LIFE*

October

1. How do we bring peace and love into our homes?
2. In what ways do we act like Quakers during our shared time? What do we do when we disagree?
3. Do we remember to let everyone in our family have time alone if they want or need it?
4. How can we help friends who are going through big changes in their lives like moving away, having someone they love die, having their parents divorce, or learning to live in a new family?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON NONVIOLENCE*

November

1. Do we try to be nonviolent? Do we understand what this means?
2. How could we be an example to others of nonviolence?
3. How can we settle disputes nonviolently? How could nations solve differences nonviolently?
4. What do you do when you're angry, afraid, or frustrated? Could you do anything differently? Can you share with us any experiences you have had?
5. Do you talk with your family about ways to act nonviolently?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON PEACE*

December

1. How can we stop wars from happening? How can we help people not to feel hatred for one another?
2. What do we say to others about how we feel about war and peace? How can people work together to make peace more likely?
3. What do we say if someone does not agree with the way we feel about war? What can we do if most of our friends and neighbors disagree? How does it feel when even our teachers and most adults whom we know disagree?
4. Should adults refuse to pay the part of their taxes used for weapons and soldiers — even if it is against the law? What does it mean to be a "conscientious objector"? How can we help others to learn about becoming a "C.O." instead of a soldier?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON JUSTICE & EQUALITY*

January

1. Do we try to remember that there is "that of God" in every person, even those we think are "bad" or "mean"? Can we think of ways of reaching "that of God" in those people?
2. What can we do to make sure that all people are treated fairly?
3. How can we help people in need?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON SIMPLICITY AND MODERATION*

February

1. What do *simplicity* and *moderation* mean? How can we live more simply and moderately every day? If we lived more simply, how might the world become more beautiful?
2. Do we sometimes have too many things to do? Do we find time in our busy days to help others?
3. Do we really need all the "stuff" we own? How does what we have compare to what people have in other neighborhoods, towns, or countries?
4. When we play, do we try to do things that make us feel good and exercise our minds and bodies? Do we respect our bodies and avoid doing things that will harm them?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON STEWARDSHIP*

March

1. Do we respect life and nature? As human beings, how do we act as caretakers of the Earth?
2. Do we think about what happens to the Earth and its creatures as a result of our own behavior? How can we help make the world a welcoming place for all the different animals and plants we share it with?
3. Are we taking good care of our Meeting House? How do we show our regard for those who will use it after us?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON CARING*

April

1. How do we care for those around us?
2. Can we show respect to all people even when we don't agree with them?
3. When we disagree with someone, what can we do about it? How can we end arguments quickly, in a spirit of respect? Do we try not to stay angry?
4. Do we keep our promises? Are we fair with others?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON
PARTICIPATION IN MEETING*
May

1. Do we take part as fully as we can in the Meeting community?
2. Do we do our share of the work of the Meeting?
3. How do we prepare ourselves before we come to Meeting?
4. Do we participate with our families in Meeting activities?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON SPIRITUALITY*

June

1. How should a Quaker act every day — not just on Sunday in Meeting?
2. What does it mean to listen to one's "Inner Light"?
3. How are we trying to feel closer to God and to the spirit, both within us and outside of us?
4. How can we show respect for people who worship in ways different from ourselves?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON UNITY IN MEETING*

July

1. Do we try to get along with everyone in Meeting?
2. If we disagree with people, do we listen carefully to them and try to understand their ideas?
3. Can we honestly say how we feel and also respect the feelings of others? Do we look for places where we can agree?
4. Can we continue to care for each other even if we don't agree on everything?

*Children's version based on Pittsburgh Friends Meeting Adult Queries.

QUERIES ON VOCATIONS*

August

1. What is our work? Do we do our work according to the Light within?
2. Does our work reflect Friends' testimonies of honesty, equality, peace, and simplicity? What kinds of work help other people?
3. Do we show respect for all honest work?
4. Can we help each other make decisions about the work we can and should do?

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