

Quakers and the Bible: An Online Conversation Circle Series

The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) is pleased to convene two online Conversation Circles on Quakers and the Bible. Many meetings are looking for new ways to overcome blocks or phobias that members may hold towards the Bible - as a way of making open-hearted non-judgmental Bible exploration and reflection accessible to wider participation in the meeting community.



*Joining Hands in Service to Quaker
Religious Education*

Please join this virtual conversation to share wisdom, experience and resources.

Dates: Two Thursdays - October 19 and October 26

Time: 8:00pm Eastern Time, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT

Facilitators: Chris Jorgenson, Peter Blood-Patterson and Sita Diehl

To join on October 19:

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/
640456981](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/640456981)

Or by phone:

United States +1 (786) 535-3211
Access Code: 640-456-981

To join on October 26:

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/
977618533](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/977618533)

Or by phone:

United States: +1 (312) 757-3121
Access Code: 977-618-533

A third Conversation Circle will explore **how to introduce young Friends to the Bible** in a manner consistent with Quaker faith and practice.

Date: Thursday, November 9

Time: 8:00pm Eastern Time, 7pm CT, 6pm MT, 5pm PT

Facilitators: Beth Collea and Melinda Wenner Bradley

To join on November 9:

[https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/
242972973](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/242972973)

Or by phone:

United States: +1 (571) 317-3122
Access Code: 242-972-973

BACKGROUND for October 19 and 26:

Early Friends approached the Bible as a catalyst for transformation and connection with the Divine Spirit. Yet, modern Friends may avoid the Bible, having experienced misuse of the scripture as a platform to impose doctrine or to justify values and practices with which we disagree.

Although inconsistent and alarming at times, the Bible is nevertheless our story as people of God, as Friends, and as culturally literate members of the world community. Familiarity with the Bible is essential to comprehend the writings of early Friends, to develop personal perspective on the influence of the Bible on modern society and to explore connection between the three Abrahamic faiths.

QUERIES:

Reading for contemplation:

- How does the Bible offer language to explore your inner landscape?

Reservations about the Bible:

- What fresh, life-giving approaches have you found effective in introducing the Bible to those with reservations or blocks against it?

Reading in community:

- How might interpretive community, including the writings of early Friends, renew our understanding and appreciation for the Bible?

RESOURCES:

Friendly Bible Study, Joanne and Larry Spears: <http://www.read-the-bible.org/friendlybiblestudy.htm>

A Quaker Approach to the Bible, Henry Joel Cadbury: <https://universalistfriends.org/cadbury-1.html>

The Company We Keep: Empathy and Reading the Bible Together, C. Weiss Daniels: <http://gatheringinlight.com/2011/07/21/the-company-we-keep-empathy-and-reading-the-bible-together-acts-8/>

Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends, Michael Birkel. https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/890793.Engaging_Scripture

A Language for Inward Landscape, Brian Drayton <https://www.friendsjournal.org/language-inward-landscape-spiritual-wisdom-quaker-movement/>

Fostering Vital Friends Meetings by Jan Greene and Marty Walton. Section R15-25, "Peacemaking with your Religious Past," offers food for thought. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/Fostering%20Vital%20Meetings%20opt.2.pdf>

BACKGROUND for November 9:

We'll gather to share ideas for exploring the Bible with children and youth in religious education programs, including existing resources. Friends are invited to bring their experiences and questions to the conversation, which will be facilitated to make space for a variety of responses to this topic.

QUERIES:

- How would you describe the approaches to Bible stories/Bible study that have been particularly well received by children in your meeting?
- If part of your experience in a local meeting has been resistance to Bible as part of the curriculum, what has been helpful and supportive for the community to discuss this?
- If Bible stories/study are a standard part of your RE curriculum, how do you share that with families and the meeting/church?