



Welcome to YM23 Home Groups

We hope the home groups can be self-managing after the first day. Below are some suggestions.

Possible format for the 45 mins

Few minutes: Settling in, greeting one another

Opening worship with Acknowledgement of Country

5-10 mins: *A ‘going around the group’ activity
such as checking-in or a brief ice-breaker

About 20 mins: *B time for sharing
Worship sharing or reflection and discussion

Last few mins: Closing worship and farewells
(may include plans for next day)

Ideas for what to do

Tips for ‘going around the group’ on Zoom

Directed turns

Friends may stay muted until called upon to speak by a group leader. They then unmute to take their turn to contribute and mute themselves again after speaking. The group may agree on a method for indicating a wish to speak, such as using the electronic ‘raise hand’ function.

This method will be used in formal business sessions.

Natural conversation style

The group unmutes to create the natural sounds of being together in a room (gasps, laughter) and takes care to look out for non-verbal signals in each other to get a sense of who wishes to speak.

If two speak at once, that’s OK: they then sort out who goes first.

Group members’ invitations

One person starts, then after making their contribution calls on someone else to go next, who after their turn calls on someone who hasn’t yet spoken and so on until all have had a turn.

Numbered turns

At the start each person chooses a (different) number between 1 and 6 (or 7 or however many are in the group), then turns are taken in sequence.

Or a method of your own choosing!

*** A: Sample quick checking-in or ice-breaker questions**

“What’s on top (what’s going on for you)?” “What made you laugh recently?”
“What can you see around, out the window?” “What is one of life’s simple pleasures?”
Make up your own. Choose ONE a day.

*** B: Sample worship sharing or reflection and discussion activities**

A theme a day

*Take daily turns to choose and start a conversation or sharing on a theme.
‘connection’ (Sunday’s theme) ‘worship’ ‘Quaker business’ ‘creativity’
‘leadings and concerns’ ‘community’ ... Your imagination is the limit!*

A playful topic based on your group’s name

“How does the name of your Home Group speak to you? (Or not?!)”

Note: the names of the Home Groups this year are adjectives:

golden scarlet dusky spotted wandering azure crested
flame rufous striated crescent whistling painted

What do they all relate to?

Other topics to choose... Or make up your own!

“What is your favourite place in Nature?”

“What does Nature give you? What can you give Nature?”

“What stories do you know about the First Nations people
from the lands, waters and sky where you live?”

“What act of kindness will you always remember?”

“How did you first come across Quakers?” “Why are you a Quaker?”

“What Friends (past or present) have inspired you?”

“What stirred something in you at a Yearly Meeting session since we last met?”

“What would you do to change the world? One —[what?]- at a time?”

“What excites you and is calling for your attention?”

We hope you all enjoy a wonderful time with your Home Group Friends

Please ask us if you have any questions

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