

Query 7: Home and Family

How can we make our homes places of love and hospitality?

It is a gift and a ministry to have homes where adults and children have space and comfort. Our homes create a sense of extended family for each other. We are also blessed to have a number of homes near parks and we openly welcome each other into our homes.

Family relationships are a high priority. Such relationships are sources of light. They require a commitment of significant energy and time.

How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?

Friends are aware that lines of communication and relationship are nurtured by rootedness. Small interactions can take on powerful meanings when we react to our pasts rather than to mindfulness in the moment. We communicate best when we seek awareness of the condition of those with whom we communicate.

In what ways do we share -our deepest experiences, struggles, -concerns and beliefs with our children and others, yet encourage them to develop their potential as the Spirit leads them?

Friends wonder to what extent we share our struggles and beliefs with the children in our worship group. Do we practice deep sharing, or do we skim the surface? We sometimes hope that sharing of our deepest heart and mind happens by example, but we know that it doesn't always happen that way. Friends reflected on opportunities to spend time with children, time unfettered by specific tasks. Such time is precious and fruitful.

Friends note that every adult in the worship group seems to know the children, not just a small segment of the group. Friends make an effort to share our experiences and concerns with the children.

We are glad that Godly Play allows for interaction across ages and among Friends from different households. This time allows us all to share and to simply be, rather than to talk or to explain. During Godly Play we see and hear connections.

What place do we make in our daily lives for meditation, spiritual renewal and reading of inspiring literature, such as the Bible?

Friends appreciate hearing that others in our worship group make space for a habit of reading inspiring literature such as the Bible, and that others take time for quiet, for meditation, or for spiritual renewal. Other's words serve as reminders of the value of such practices. As we witness the fruits of these practices in Friends' lives and in gathered worship, we are enriched and our communion is deepened.