

COURSE OUTLINE

UNIT A - SEEKERS AND FINDERS: THE EXPERIENCE OF EARLY FRIENDS

Many among the first generation of Friends sought a spiritual home for years before they found what they were seeking and joined with Friends. What did they discover? What galvanized them to worship and witness in the face of persecution and hardship? What does their experience say to us today?

READING:

Howard Brinton, *Friends for 350 Years*, chapter 1

William Penn's *Preface to George Fox's Journal*

The Journal of George Fox, chapters 1-2 (omit chapter 2 if short on time)

Margaret Fell, selections, from London Yearly Meeting *Christian Faith and Practice* [1960] (photocopied; contained in Resource Section)

Edward Burrough, "The Death of Mary Dyer" (photocopied; contained in Resource Section)

UNIT B - THE LIGHT WITHIN

An exploration of this most basic Quaker concept. What do Friends mean by the "Inner Light?" What is "that of God in everyone?" How is the Light like a searchlight? How do you experience the Light in your own life, now?

READING:

Brinton, chapters 2-3 (pp. 19-48 only)

UNIT C - QUAKER UNIVERSALISM

What do Friends believe about Jesus Christ? Can Quakers be both Christian and universalist? What is "the Light of Christ Within?" How do Friends respond to traditional Church teachings on salvation, atonement, etc.? How do you relate to Jesus?

READING:

Samuel D. Caldwell, "The Inward Light: How Quakerism Unites Universalism and Christianity" (photocopied; contained in Resource Section)

Dan Seeger, "The Place of Universalism in The Society of Friends, or Is Coexistence Possible?"

UNIT D - WORSHIP AND MINISTRY

What do you "do" in Meeting for Worship? How do you know if you are "being led" to speak? What is a "leading?" What is a "gathered Meeting?" How can Friends help (or hurt) the Meeting for Worship?

READING:

John Punshon, *Encounter with Silence*, pp. 22-28, 58-65, 74-91
 Thomas Kelly, "The Gathered Meeting"
 (Brinton, chapters 4-5, if you have time)

UNIT E - LIVING IN THE LIGHT: QUAKER WITNESS

What is a "concern?" Have you ever felt led to take action? What did you do? The role of a "clearness" committee. What is a "testimony?" How do you understand Friends' testimonies today?

READING:

Brinton, chapter 7
 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*, revised 1997, sections on
 "Concerns, Leadings, and Testimonies" (pp. 65-67) and "Living in the
 World" (pp. 74-81)
 Margaret Hope Bacon, "Quaker Women as Abolitionists," chapter 7 in *As The Way
 Opens*, (photocopied; contained in Resource Section)

UNIT F - GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

How does a Friends' Meeting for Business work? Why do some Friends call it the Meeting for Worship for Business? What is Quaker "unity?" How does a "sense of the Meeting" differ from "consensus?" The roles of clerk and recording clerk. What you can do to nurture (or undermine) your Meeting for Business.

READING:

Brinton, chapter 6
 Michael 1. Sheeran, *Beyond Majority Rule*, pp. 49-71, 91-106