

Quakers and Pacifism

Quakers are a denomination (group) of Christians.

Quakers believe the Bible is an inspiring book, but do not think that it is the word of God. They have few formal rules and no religious rituals. A Quaker 'service' will often consist of silent reflection.

Unlike other Christians, Quakers believe each individual will experience God differently through personal reflection. God will then act as a guiding light for that person. Quakers believe serving God in this life is the most important thing and some do not believe in an afterlife at all.

Though Quakers have few formal rules, they have one key belief that it is exceptionally important: they believe every person has the essence of God within them. Therefore, all people are equal and worthy of respect.

1) In what ways are Quakers quite different to other Christian groups?

2) What do Quakers believe about God?

3) What do Quakers believe about people?

4) Quakers are against violence. Based on what you have read why do you think this is?

Answers

Foundation

1) In what ways are Quakers quite different to other Christian groups?

They do not believe the Bible is the word of God. Their services consist simply of silent reflection.

2) What do Quakers believe about God?

God is experienced differently by different people. God acts as a guiding light.

3) What do Quakers believe about people?

People have the essence of God within them and are worthy of respect.

4) Quakers are against violence. Based on what you have read why do you think this is?

Students will likely answer using the above idea of people containing the essence of God. This should obviously not be harmed. They may also talk about God acting as a guiding light and how God would not lead us to violence.