

Quaker Makers Meet The Future

LEYM 2026

A WORKSHOP BY BILL WARTERS



Welcome Friends



All Are Welcome

Whether You Work
With Cutting-Edge Tools
Or Knitting Needles,
Your Making Matters
Here.



Grounded In Spirit

We Bring Quaker Values –
Simplicity, Community, And
Service – As A Compass For
Exploring New Technology.



Curious And Creative Together

Bring Your Questions,
Skepticism, And Creativity.

There Are No Wrong
Answers Today.



What Is A Maker?

**A Maker Is Anyone Who Creates, Builds, Repairs, Or Crafts —
With Any Tools, Materials, Or Methods.**

Handmade

Quilting &
Needlework

Woodworking
& Carpentry

Cooking
& Baking

Electronics
& Tinkering

3D Printing
& Laser Cutting

Ai-Assisted
Design

High-Tech

For Your Reflection: *What Making Do You Do? How Or When Does It Feel Like A Spiritual Practice?*

Turn To A Neighbor:

Share One Thing You Make Or Create — And What It Means To You. (2 Min)

Quaker Maker Foundations

17TH-18TH
CENTURY

● **Schoolgirl needlework**

Quaker schools in England and Philadelphia produced distinctive medallion samplers with octagonal motifs.

- Ackworth School; Westtown School
- Cross-stitch, silk globes, darning samplers

● **Newport furniture**

Quaker cabinetmakers in Rhode Island built some of colonial America's finest furniture from their close-knit Point neighborhood workshops.

- Townsend & Goddard families
- Mahogany case pieces, block-front forms

● **Benjamin Lay's cloth**

First Quaker on record to abstain from slave-made goods; spun and wore his own clothing as direct antislavery witness.

- Philadelphia, early 18th c.

● **Quaker pottery**

Utilitarian stoneware in Piedmont North Carolina; techniques passed within kin networks and carried west with antislavery migration.

- Deep River Friends community

● **Philadelphia cabinetmakers**

Quaker craftsmen among the foremost furniture makers of colonial Philadelphia, in Chippendale and Queen Anne styles.

- William Savery, Thomas Affleck, David Evans



Quaker Maker Foundations

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

● John Woolman's undyed cloth

Wore undyed linen because dyes relied on enslaved labor — making his theology visible in his own dress.

- The garment as testimony
- Stood out even among plain-dressing Friends

● Free Produce movement

Quakers boycotted slave-made cotton, sugar, and dyes. Quilts left unfinished for want of free-labor thread.

- Lucretia Mott wore only wool & linen
- Elizabeth Chandler, Michigan frontier
- James Mott quit cotton trade for wool

● Elizabeth Fry's prison work

Quaker minister taught sewing and patchwork at Newgate Prison. Inmates earned income selling quilts and gained skills for life after release.

- Rajah Quilt — made at sea, 1841
- Convicts quilted en route to Australia

● Antislavery fairs

Quaker women sold quilts, needle books, and pincushions at abolitionist bazaars — craft objects as political argument.

- Pennsylvania Female Anti-Slavery Society
- "When pincushions are periodicals..."

MID-LATE 19TH CENTURY

● Abolition quilts

Quaker women stitched political messages into quilts; some Meeting communities made them collectively as corporate witness.

- Hadley Quilt, Indiana YM, 1842
- Chandler poem at center of 1836 crib quilt

● Edward Hicks, painter

Painted dozens of "Peaceable Kingdom" canvases as peace testimony. Understood painting as ministry; gave work freely.

- Bucks County, Pennsylvania

● North Carolina stoneware

Quaker potters carried the utilitarian pottery tradition westward with antislavery migration; it persisted into the 20th century.



Quaker Values As Design Principles

OUR TRADITION ALREADY HOLDS A MAKER ETHIC



Simplicity

Make Only What Serves A Genuine Need.
Good Design Strips Away The Unnecessary.



Community

Creation Is Most Meaningful When It
Serves And Connects.
Maker Culture Thrives On Sharing.



Service

Ask: Who Benefits? Who Is Left Out?
Technology Guided By Service Transforms
Communities.



Integrity

Do The Materials And Methods
Align With Our Witness?
Process Matters As Much As Product.

Quaker Makers In The World

Durham Friends Meeting in Maine hosts monthly Quaker Maker Cafes



Makercafe.Org



Friends and neighbors gather at the historic Durham Friends Meetinghouse to make Valentines at a Quaker maker cafe on Jan. 22, 2024.

Quaker Makers In The World



BIRMINGHAM MEETING MAKERS - CRAFTING HATS AND VALENTINES



See Also: Repair Cafes

- Visit repaircafe.org to find one near you

Quakers & makers

Posted on December 30, 2015 by Colin Angevine

BLOG POST
BY
COLIN
ANGEVINE

I watch the maker movement's entrance into education from an uncommon vantage point: I teach and run a makerspace at an independent Quaker school. As an independent school we navigate our own path around state-mandated curricula and tests; as teachers at a Quaker school we are politically and ethically engaged educators, steeped in values of community, equality, and deep respect for the individual; and in our makerspace teachers and students share their projects and experiences as case studies for other schools to consider. When students left campus and summertime settled in last year, I realized that my perspective lets me see something pretty surprising: I've found that the characteristics that are radical about maker communities and Quaker communities are also the very things that make them similar.

Where Leadings Meet Innovation

OUR TRADITION ALREADY HOLDS A MAKER ETHIC

Quaker Spiritual Tools	Where They Can Meet	Tech Innovation & Making
Testimonies	Purposeful Creation	AI & Machine Learning
Corporate Worship	Discernment Before Making	3D Printing
Waiting On The Spirit	Service-Oriented Tools	Open-Source Collaboration
Continuing Revelation	Simplicity In Design	Maker Communities

3D Printing As Service Work



<https://www.fieldready.org/>



<https://www.makersmakingchange.com/>

Artificial Intelligence Is Changing Everything

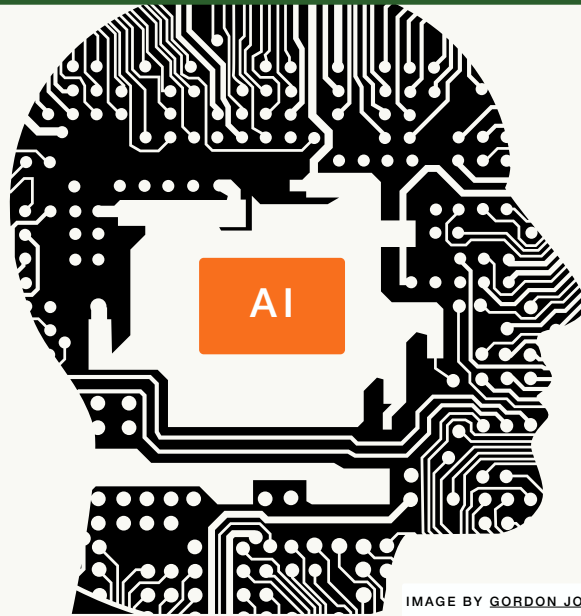


IMAGE BY GORDON JOHNSON FROM PIXABAY

AI As A Brainstorming And Making Partner

AI Is A Good...

✓ Tireless Idea-Generator

✓ Patient Explainer Of Concepts

✓ Creative Prompt To Spark Your Own Thinking

✓ Helpful Writing / Drafting Assistant

✓ Low-Stakes Place To Experiment

AI Is Not...

✗ A Substitute For Discernment

✗ A Source Of Truth (It Hallucinates!)

✗ A Replacement For Human Community

✗ Neutral – It Reflects Its Training Data

✗ A Shortcut Around The Creative Struggle

AI As A Brainstorming And Making Partner

PERPLEXITY AI PROMPT EXAMPLE

I'm interested in 3d printed items that support accessibility, especially for older people. What are some good items or collections of items that you would recommend?

2 steps completed

A strong starting point is a collection of **low-tech daily-living aids**: bottle openers, zipper pulls, tube squeezers, pen holders, bag carriers, and key turners, since these help with the grip, twist, and pinch motions that often get harder with age. Another especially useful category for older adults is **medication and household helpers**, such as pill bottle openers, blister-pack punchers, toothpaste squeezers, and can openers.

Best item groups

- **Grasp and twist aids**: bottle openers, tube openers, can openers, key turners, and jar-lid helpers.
- **Writing and handling aids**: pen holders, finger pen holders, and signature guides for shaky hands or arthritis.
- **Clothing and personal care aids**: zipper pulls, sock helpers, and nail-clipper holders.
- **Medication and hygiene aids**: pill bottle openers, blister-pack punchers, toothpaste squeezers, and toothpaste cap aids.
- **Carry and mobility helpers**: bag carriers and wheelchair-mounted cup or bottle holders.

Good collections to browse

- **Makers Making Change** has an open-source library and a "3D Printed Low Tech Assistive Devices Kit" that is explicitly meant as an introduction set, useful for trying several items with different users.
- **Texas Technology Access Program** has a practical catalog including bottle openers, key turners, pill tools, and writing aids.
- **WATAP** offers a structured assistive-technology catalog with many low-tech designs.

CLAUDE AI PROMPT EXAMPLE

I have a plugin in my wordpress site that makes it easy to create wordsearch puzzles. Can you help me come up with a list of Quaker-related terms that I might use in a puzzle?

Here's a collection of Quaker-related terms well-suited for a wordsearch puzzle, organized loosely by theme:

Core Beliefs & Practices

- QUAKER
- FRIEND
- LIGHT
- INWARD
- SILENCE
- WITNESS
- TESTIMONY
- LEADINGS
- DISCERNMENT
- WORSHIP
- MEETING
- GATHERED
- CENTERING
- WAITING

AI As A Brainstorming And Making Partner

ANOTHER CLAUDE AI MAKER CHAT EXAMPLE

IDEAS FOR TOYMAKING WORKSHOP BRINGING ELDERS AND YOUTH TOGETHER

Intergenerational Toy Workshop Project
Establish a maker program where elder Quakers design simple, meaningful toys inspired by traditional crafts and values, which are then 3D printed and assembled in workshops with children, creating opportunities for intergenerational connection while teaching both digital fabrication skills and testimonies through play.
I'd like to expand on this idea with more specifics on possible toy designs

Check frontend design skill

Here's an expanded exploration of toy designs for the Intergenerational Toy Workshop:

Toy Design Concepts

Testimony-Based Designs

Peace (Nonviolence)

- **Dove Puzzle** - Interlocking 3D-printed dove pieces that children assemble; elders carve or decorate the design motifs. The puzzle only "works" when all pieces cooperate — a built-in lesson.
- **Balance Bridge** - A small arched bridge with weighted figures that must be arranged symmetrically to stay upright. Explores equilibrium as a metaphor for peace-building.

Simplicity

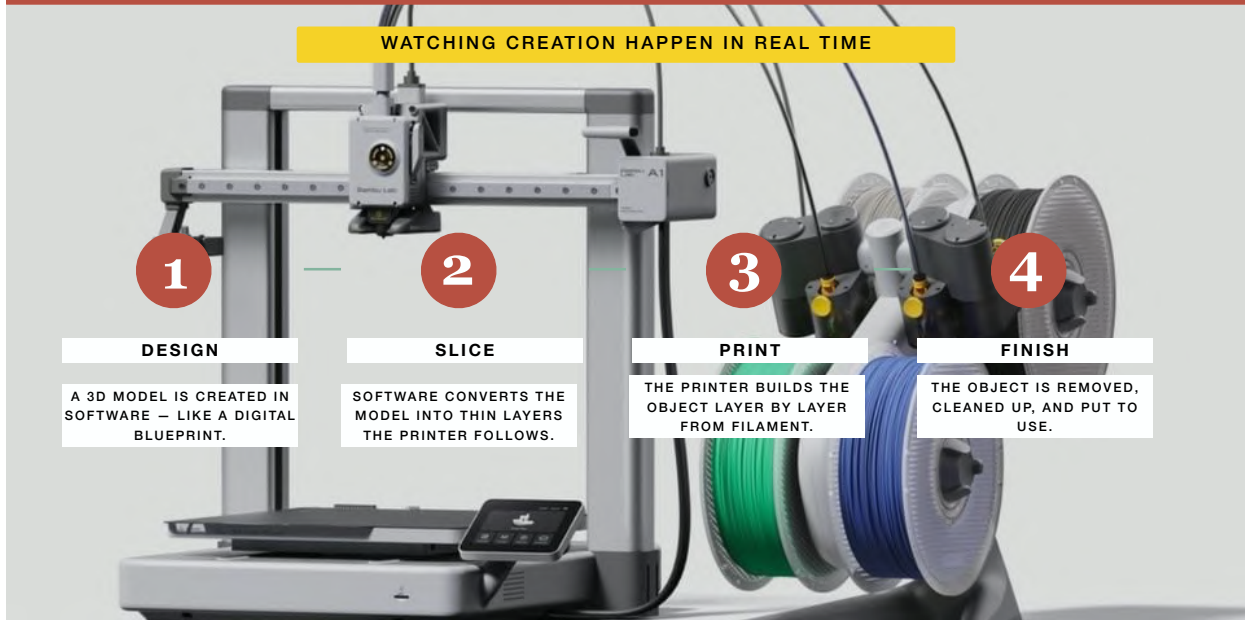
- **Nesting Bowls/Boxes** - Inspired by Shaker design aesthetics: clean lines, no ornamentation, satisfying fit. Elders design the proportions; children sand and assemble.

Reply to Claude

Sonnet 4.4 Low

3D Printing

WATCHING CREATION HAPPEN IN REAL TIME



1

DESIGN

A 3D MODEL IS CREATED IN SOFTWARE – LIKE A DIGITAL BLUEPRINT.

2

SLICE

SOFTWARE CONVERTS THE MODEL INTO THIN LAYERS THE PRINTER FOLLOWS.

3

PRINT

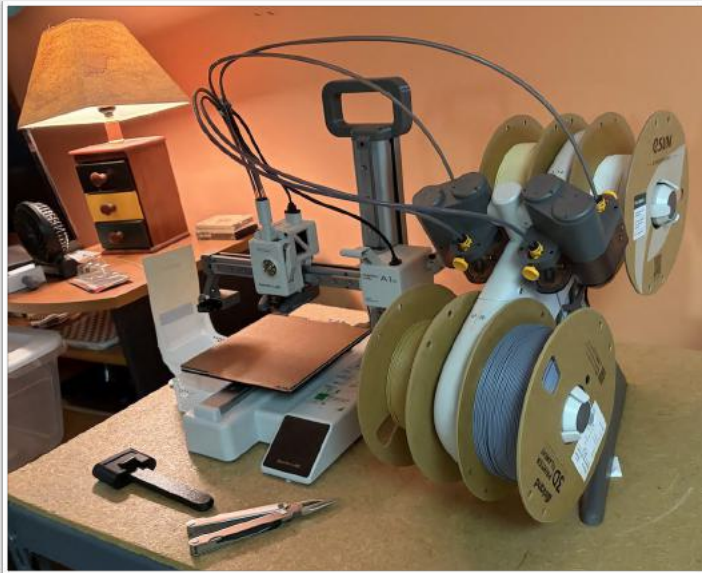
THE PRINTER BUILDS THE OBJECT LAYER BY LAYER FROM FILAMENT.

4

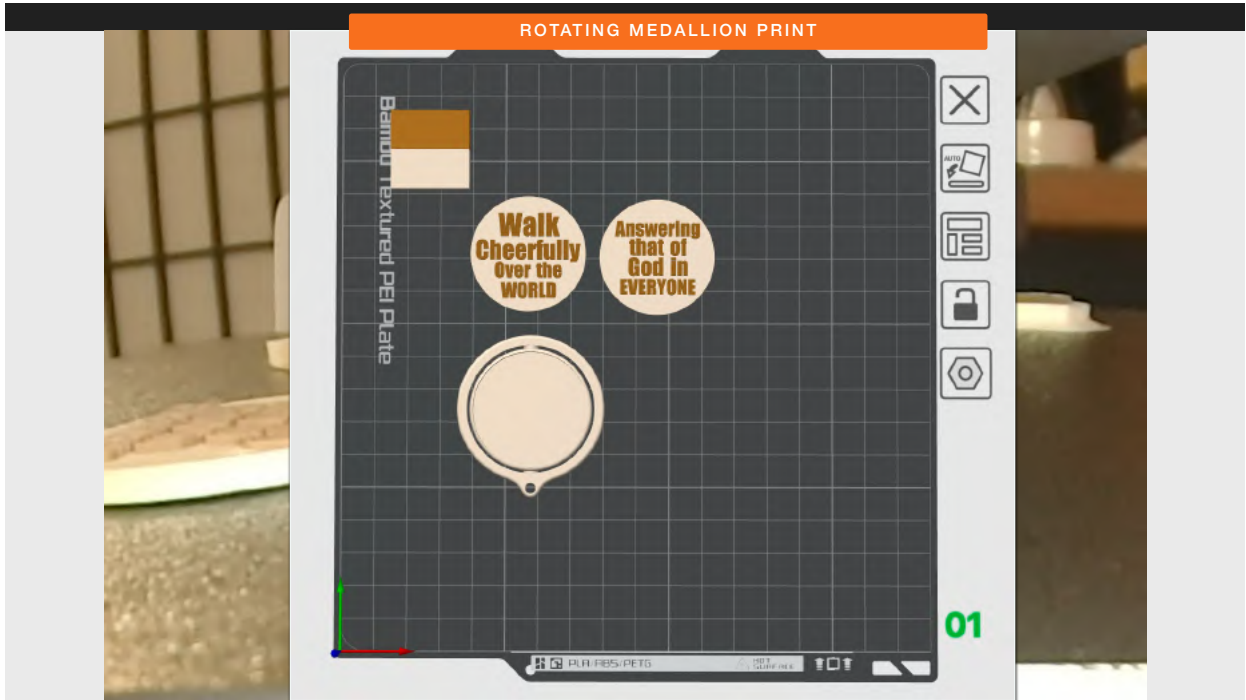
FINISH

THE OBJECT IS REMOVED, CLEANED UP, AND PUT TO USE.

MY SET-UP



BAMBU A1 MINI WITH AMS (MULTICOLORS)



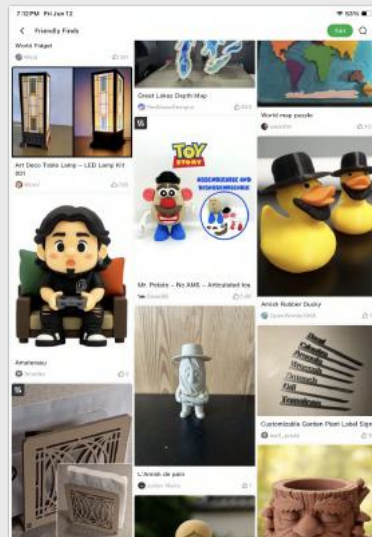
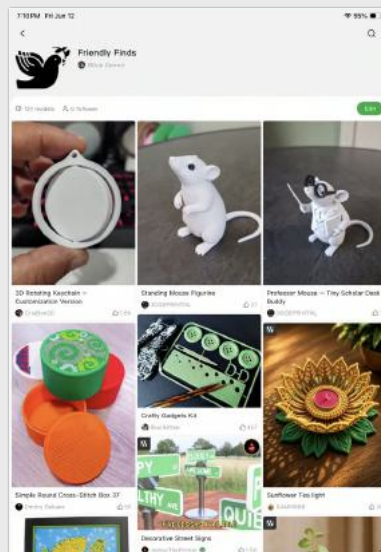
Brainstorm: Quaker-Friendly 3-D Prints

What are some relatively simple items that might appeal to Quakers or Quaker Makers that could be printed and shared?

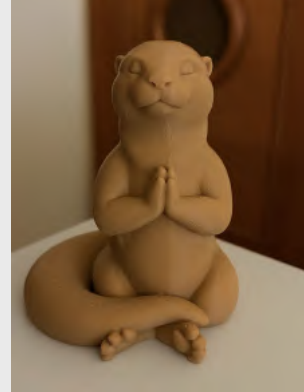
Online Collections - So Many 3D Models!

Free models available for download and modification

- **Maker World**
- **Thingiverse**
- **Printables**
- **Cults 3D**
- **Maker Online**



Check Out Some Of What Bill Has Printed (See Table)



QUAKER SPICY TALK GAME



Case Study - Creation of Quaker Spicy Talk game using 3d printing and AI tools, with testing at Quaker potluck



IDEA CRAFTED IN DIALOG WITH
CLAUDE AI

I had been interacting with Claude about the Quaker Testimonies and got interested in ways to make something I could share with others

Can you think of a creative way to have Friends share their thoughts about these testimonies, perhaps as a game with cards or dice?

Here are a few creative approaches:

Testimony Story Cubes

Create six dice (or use regular dice with a key), each face representing one testimony. Players roll and share a brief story from their life that connects to whichever testimony comes up - either a moment they lived it well, struggled with it, or witnessed it in action. This works beautifully in small groups and naturally leads to deeper sharing as people build on each other's experiences.

SPICES Reflection Cards

Make a deck with prompts for each testimony, like:

- "Describe a possession you've let go of and why" (Simplicity)
- "Share about a conflict you approached peacefully" (Peace)
- "When has your integrity been tested?" (Integrity)

Friends draw cards and respond, perhaps in pairs first, then sharing highlights with the larger group. You could add "wild cards" that let people choose their testimony or connect two together.

Testimony Pathways

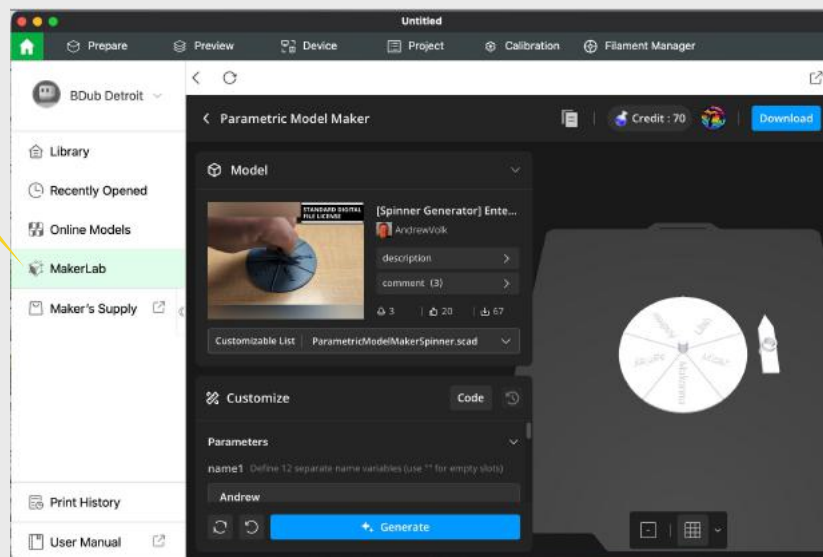
Create a simple board game where players move along a path, landing on spaces marked with different testimonies. Each space has a question or scenario: "You discover your employer is investing in weapons manufacturing - what do you do?"

PARAMETRIC MODEL MAKER

NEED - Create a Spinner for QUAKER SPICES GAME to select Testimony Category

Building On The Work Of Others

MakerLab offers a wide range of "PARAMETRIC" models online, where a basic model can be modified to meet your needs by changing some parameters.



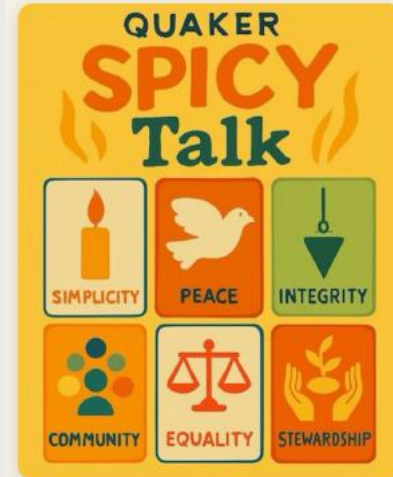
Microsoft Copilot Ai

Needed To Make Some Artwork

What would you like—

Design a game cover showing a stack of colorful cards arranged in a fan or cascade. Each visible card shows one simple icon: a flame (Simplicity), a dove (Peace), a plumb line (Integrity), people in a circle (Community), a balance scale (Equality), and hands with a seedling (Stewardship). Above the cards, the title "Quaker SPICY Talk" appears in warm, friendly lettering. Add gentle steam or light rays rising from the cards to suggest "spicy" conversation and illumination. Use earth tone colors (terracotta, sage, cream) with pops of vibrant red-orange. Style should be clean, modern, and inviting.

RESULT AFTER SEVERAL REVISIONS



CREATING A MOBILE PHONE VERSION

Using Claude Code

In Late-2025 Anthropic's Claude Coding Tools got really good for more mainstream users

"Vibe Coding" became a thing

By Spring 2026 these tools were available in the free version (with limits)

Quaker Spicy Talk... Can you help me build a simple mobile choose...

I wanna take this Quaker Spicy Talk game that I developed as a card based game and make a version that can be played on a mobile phone with a group as long as one person has the game app. A player would spin the spinner once to get a testimony topic to discuss and then spin a second time to get their discussion question. Can you help me design this simple game using the testimonies discussion prompts I developed for the card based version?

Reading frontend design skill

Now I have everything I need. Let me build this — a warm, calm, spiritual aesthetic that feels welcoming for all ages, with large touch targets and clear typography.

2 steps

Here's your Quaker SPICY Talk mobile game! Here's what I built and why each choice was made:

Flow for each turn:

- Welcome screen** — rules reminder, pass right visible upfront
- Spin 1** — colorful wheel with all 6 testimonies (S, P, I, C, E, S)
- Spin 2** — a second wheel (colored to match the chosen testimony) landing on Q1-Q6
- Silence screen** — a flickering candle prompts a moment of

CREATING A MOBILE PHONE VERSION

I used a draft version created by Claude, and then kept modifying over time, including after test driving a version at our BFM Potluck

<https://tools.leym.org/spicytalk/>



Hands-On: Collaborative Crafts



Your Own Quaker Maker Practice

Connecting Creativity To Spiritual Life

“There Is That Of God In Every Person”



WHAT IN YOUR CURRENT MAKER PRACTICES ALIGNS WITH QUAKER TESTIMONIES?

COULD MAKING FEEL LIKE A LEADING FOR YOU?

HOW MIGHT YOUR MEETING OR LEYM GET MORE INVOLVED?



Find A Makerspace Near You

[HTTPS://WWW.DESIGNERBEE.BUILD/FIND-A-MAKERSPACE](https://www.designerbee.build/find-a-makerspace)



Drawing And Give-Away

*When Your Name Is Pulled,
Come Up And Choose A 3-D Item To Take Home*



Go And Make Good

With Intention, With Community, With Joy

Remember: Technology Is A Tool. Your Discernment Matters.

Continue The Conversation — Share Your Maker Practice With Your Meeting

Quaker Makers Meet The Future · Leym Workshop By Bill Warters

Slides Available At Leym.Org/2026-Resources

