

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND**  
**SMALL GROUPS NOTES**

*Sharing Christ through friendship*

4<sup>th</sup> Week before Advent– w/beg 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 and Luke 3:15-17    **Don't put out the fire**

<b>Welcome/ icebreaker</b>	<p>What do you tell your friends to encourage them when they are going through difficult times?          What's the best advice you've been given when faced with difficulty(ies)?</p>
<b>Worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jesus, name Above All Names</i></li> <li>• <i>Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts</i></li> <li>• <i>Spirit of the Living God</i></li> </ul>
<b>Word</b>	
	How do you cultivate the Spirit in your life?
	How is your life an ongoing act of thanksgiving?
Luke 3:15	Why is John confused with Christ? ( <i>See also John 1:19-28</i> )
	By contrast how does John differentiate himself and his ministry
Luke 3:17	What does the “wheat” and “chaff” signify?
	Who have been the John the Baptists in your life – people who have shown you the way, led you (or leading you) to Christ and encouraged you?
1 Thess 5:12-22	Of the various commands, which are the most relevant to St B's our church?
	Our Home group / workplace
	Which commands are particularly relevant to you?
1 Thess 5:17	Why is prayer important to the Christian life? ( <i>See also Matthew 21:22 and 1 John 5:14-15</i> )
1 Thess 5:19	Is this verse speaking about ecstatic gift, for example, speaking in tongues, etc., or is it speaking about the daily ethical work of the Spirit in a person's heart?
1 Thess 5:19	Paul instructs “Do not put out the Spirit's fire”. What do you understand Paul to be referring to? Is it possible to put out the fire?
1 Thess 5:20	<i>“Do not treat prophecies with contempt.”</i> Does it mean a special ecstatic gift or does it mean simply the Word of God?
1 Thess 5:12-22	How do the many commands in verses 12-22 relate to the multi-dimensional blessing of verse 23?
1 Thess 5:24	... and to the promise of verse 24?
1 Thess 5:24	Why do you think Paul uses the present tense and says <i>“The one who <b>“Calls”</b> you.”?</i>
<b>Witness</b>	What one action will you take this week to produce fruit in keeping with your repentance? How can you emulate John's attitude towards Jesus as seen in verse 16?