

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 11 September 2011. Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Matthew 4:17-25 - The King calls his first followers.

Welcome/ icebreaker	Ten years on from the Terrorist attack on the twin towers, compare the call to follow Jesus with the call to follow Osama bin Laden. What makes a leader worth following?
Worship	Choose some songs/hymns that speak of the Kingdom and/or the King. Suggestions:- Jesus is King, The Servant King. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. The King is among us. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal God's truth to you and for you today, as you read his word and meet him through it.
Word (refs.↓)	Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk if you missed it. Click on "downloads".
Matthew 4:17	Discuss the how the kingdom is near and how to enter. Remember that the significant thing about a kingdom is that it is governed by a king. Does Jesus reign in all parts of our lives?
v18-22	What are the fishermen being called to do and to be? What will it mean in the short-term and the long-term?
v19	James Kennedy asks us, "if you are not fishing, can you really be said to be following?" If we are not all called to be evangelists, can we really all be called to fish? How can our different gifts be part of the Kingdom "fishing" ministry?
v23-25	These verses are a summary of Jesus' mission and ministry. How do they link up with verses 18-22 and the call of the fishermen?
v23	What are the three aspects of Jesus' Kingdom-bringing ministry? What should we expect as followers of Jesus if we pray "your Kingdom come" today? Do we?
Prayer and witness	Jesus equipped those he had called for <i>Mission there and then.</i> Pray that the Holy Spirit through the Parish Weekend will equip us for <i>Mission here and now.</i> Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill us and lead us as we live out our <i>believing.</i> Pray for each other. Pray for someone you know to come into the Kingdom of God this week – that they will meet the King.
Reflection	The 9/11 terrorists gave their lives in order to kill and cause suffering to as many innocent people as possible.(Motive – revenge and hatred.) Jesus gave his life to give life and healing to as many guilty people as possible.(Motive –love and reconciliation)
