

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 13 May 2012. 6th Sunday of Easter, Acts 10, Power to baptise... in the name of Jesus.

Welcome/ icebreaker	Are you aware of any prejudices that you have – or that others may have? How might they be overcome?
Worship	Choose some songs/hymns to do with faith, sharing the Gospel or the work of the Holy Spirit . Suggestions: Peace is flowing like a river, Rejoice, We have a Gospel to proclaim, O breath of life come sweeping through us, We are one, we are family together Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal God’s truth to you and for you today, as you read his word and encounter the living Jesus through it.
Word (refs.↓)	Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk if you missed it. Click on “downloads”.
Acts	The word Acts come from the Greek word <i>praxis</i> meaning <i>practice</i> . Whose <i>acts</i> or <i>practices</i> are in the book? David Pawson suggests the title, “Acts of God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit in his apostles. Share thoughts – and if this title could be seen as a <i>continuing</i> title.
Acts 10	Read the whole chapter You may like to read it in parts . You will need, one or more narrators, an angel, Cornelius, the voice of God, Peter, the Holy Spirit, the three men(or one representative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your immediate impressions? • What do you notice about the Holy Spirit? • How does this story link to Jesus’ words in Acts1:8?
Acts10 v2 and v9,10	What do these verses suggest about hearing God’s voice? How do we experience hearing from God?
Acts 10:9-23	What do these verses tell us about Peter’s transformation since Pentecost? Consider his background. Consider his behaviour while Jesus was still on earth.
Acts 10: 24- end	V30-33 How would you describe Cornelius’ attitude? What can we learn from him and his friends? V44 While Peter was still speaking... The Holy Spirit came. What was Peter sharing? Could it be significant that it was while he was proclaiming the gospel that the Holy Spirit came in power? Here this brings church growth. Compare Mt4:23, Mt 9:35 for a link with preaching the gospel and other confirming works of power e.g healing. What can we learn?
Prayer/Witness	Ask the Holy Spirit of Jesus to lead as you pray through the issues raised in the discussion on this chapter.
Challenge	To review our Praxis. Practices might include:- listening prayer, proclamation of the good news of Jesus to those who don’t know him, responding to promptings of the Holy Spirit, expectant faith .