

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 16th May 2011 Reading: John 10:1-10

Theme: Living Life in all its fullness

Welcome/ icebreaker	<p>The film "The Bucket List" is based on a true story where two men from different social backgrounds meet on a cancer ward. They start a bucket list of all the things they would want to do before they die.</p> <p>What would be on your "Bucket List"? What would like to do or accomplish with your time on this earth?</p>
Worship	<p>Hymn: "The Lord's my shepherd" (Traditional or modern version) "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name"</p>
Word (refs.↓)	
John 10:2	<p>The imagery of shepherds and sheep occur frequently in the bible. What are the qualities of a good shepherd? Could you do the work of a shepherd?</p>
John 10:1	<p>Who are the thieves and robbers in our society? Who are those who are trying to distort the Christian faith? How can we protect ourselves and the church from false prophets?</p>
John 10:3	<p>Jesus refers to his people being a flock and knowing everyone by name. Do we know all those who attend our church by name?</p> <p>In some areas of the world there is a move towards so-called 'mega-churches' where congregations can be numbered in thousands.</p> <p>How does this chime with the good shepherd knowing his sheep by name? Is it better to have a smaller church and know everyone or a larger one where some people will come and go never speaking to anyone else?</p> <p>How do we at St Barnabas try to overcome this problem? (Cell groups of up to 12 people, for pastoral oversight)</p>
John 10:10	<p>The purpose of a thief is to steal, they have no regard for anyone else, and his motivation is purely selfish. Can we sometimes be like a thief? Do we sometimes come to church or God with an ulterior motive? Can we confess and say that we sometimes help others for what we can gain from it, instead of from Christian love?</p>
Witness	<p>Jesus comes to us with no hidden agendas because he loves us for who we are. Pray for forgiveness for the times when you have not acted like a shepherd and ask God for his guidance in your life where you feel God may be prompting you to do something, in order that more sheep will come to follow Him and return back to the pasture.</p> <p>How could you implement your actions for example inviting someone to coffee chat.</p>