

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND – CELL GROUPS NOTES**

*Sharing Christ through friendship*

Week beginning 1 August 2010.      2 Sam. 9:1-13; Luke 6:27-36.

**The Presence of the Spirit – the Fruit He grows in us (Gal.5:22-23): Kindness**

<b>Welcome/ icebreaker</b>	Have you ever carried out, experienced or heard about an ‘act of random kindness’ done to someone else? What was your reaction? Did it change your attitude to such acts?
<b>Worship</b>	<p><i>Suggestions: songs/ hymns that reflect God’s compassion and kindness to us, eg. 168 Here is Love; 738 Go forth and tell; 902 Lord of all hopefulness; 1493 O sacred King; 1757 Everyone needs compassion</i></p> <p><i>And/ or have some or all of the following passages :</i></p> <p>Gen. 50:20-21; Ruth 2:13, 20; Proverbs 14:21; 14:31;19:17; Jer. 31:3; Ro. 11:22; Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 2 6-8</p>
<b>Word</b> (refs.↓)	<p><i>Remember: Sunday morning’s sermon is usually available to listen to on <a href="http://www.stbchurch.org.uk">www.stbchurch.org.uk</a> (downloads tab) if you miss it.</i></p>
2 Sam. 9:1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David (Israel’s 2<sup>nd</sup> king) here shows kindness to the last remaining member of the family of his predecessor, Saul (Israel’s first king).</li> <li>• Note how i) David pays attention to Mephibosheth; ii) David affirms him for who he is as an heir of the king (despite his own low view of himself); iii) David doesn’t draw attention to himself?</li> <li>• What was David’s main motivation here? honouring the memory of Saul (v.3) or of Jonathan (Saul’s son and David’s closest friend, v.1, 7, cf. 1 Sam. 20:14-17); gratitude to God for his kindness (see 2 Sam. 22:51); impressing his subjects; something else?</li> <li>• What is your main motivation for being kind to others? What <u>should be</u> our main motivation?</li> </ul>
Luke 6:27-36 and similar passage in Matthew 5:38-48	<p>Who does Jesus say God is kind to (Mt 5:45). What does that suggest about whom we should be kind to, called as we are to be like God (v.48/ Lk. 6:36).</p> <p>Read Jesus’ words in Luke 6:32-35: How is kindness motivated by Christian faith different from ‘charity’? What should look like in practice?</p> <p>Turn on to any story of Jesus showing kindness to someone in need (eg. Lk. 7:1-10; 7:11-17; 7:36-50; 8:40-56, etc.). Does it reflect the pattern seen in the story of Mephibosheth (paying attention to another; affirming the other for who they are as an heir of the King; not drawing attention to himself)? How could you show kindness to someone in need this week?</p>
<b>Wind</b>  <b>(pray in the Spirit)</b> <i>edited from last week</i>	<p>“Kindness is another segment of the Fruit of the Spirit. Which segments in our lives need a bit more ripening? How can we improve conditions for growing and ripening? Why is it important? Who benefits? Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.”</p>
<b>Witness</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think of at least one ‘act of random kindness’ you can each (or together) do for someone else this week, for Jesus’ sake.</li> <li>• Then plan how, where and when to do it!</li> </ul>