

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 2 December 2012. Come Lord Jesus – Patriarchs – Light of Hope

Readings: Genesis 12:1-7; Luke 1:67-79.

“Holy Spirit of God, please reveal your truth to us and for us today, as we read your word.”

Welcome/ icebreaker	Recall a ‘mystery tour’ you have been on. How did it feel when you got to the surprise destination?
Worship	Choose songs/ hymns on the theme of hope and promise. <i>NB there are still red folders of newer songs available from the lounge.</i>
Word (refs.↓)	Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk if you missed it. Click on “downloads”.
Genesis 12:1-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note - God’s covenant (solemn promise) with Abraham here is one of five great covenants in the Bible. (The others are with Noah, with Moses/Israel (at Sinai), with David, and the ‘new’ covenant promised in Jeremiah 31).• What is the main thing God promises to do for Abraham in vv.2-3? What is the purpose of this (3b)?• In what way is this promise fulfilled (a) in the story of God’s people in the rest of the Old Testament and (b) in the coming of Jesus (a descendant of Abraham) and the growth of the church?
Luke 1:67-79	<p>Zechariah’s tongue was loosened after his long-hoped-for son was born and named. (This was John the Baptist, whom vv.76-79 refer to). Reading Zechariah’s opening words (vv.67-75), what facts do you think were uppermost on his heart at this time? What does that teach us about <u>our</u> priorities in praise and prayer?</p> <p><i>What/who is meant by the ‘horn of salvation’ (v.69)?</i></p> <p>In v.73 Zechariah says that God has remembered (i.e. fulfilled) his covenant with Abraham. What other promises of God does this passage say are being fulfilled now that Messiah is coming? (see vv.68, 71, 72, 74-5). How were they actually fulfilled in Jesus’ life and ministry? How might you turn these truths into praise?</p>
For reflection: Hebrews 6:13-15	Read Hebrews 6:13-15. What is your experience of waiting for a promise to be fulfilled – are you good at waiting patiently? Has God ever made or given you any specific promises about your life that you can share with the group? How do you respond when it seems as if God is not fulfilling a promise – and/or when he does?
Prayer/Witness	Plan and pray about what you are doing as a cell group to invite others to share in the good news of Christmas – social event, church event or service over Christmas (<i>Simply Christmas</i> this Thursday evening, <i>Mistletoe and Wine</i> on the 23 rd , Christmas Eve Crib / midnight services, etc.). Whom might <u>you</u> invite? Pray for them.