

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 20 February 2011. 3rd Sunday before Lent.

Reading: Matt 24:4-14 and Philippians 2:12-30 (and re-reading 2:6-11)

Theme: Feeling good- even when you are... tempted.

Welcome/ icebreaker	What temptations do you find hard to resist? How do you feel when you succeed and when you succumb?
Worship	Choose songs about transformation and God's strength in weakness. Suggestions: Jesus you are changing me, Before the throne of God above, Because your love, For I'm building a people of power. Shine, Jesus Shine 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".
Phil: 2:12-13	How might the Philippian church "continue to work out", or express their salvation? How might we? Or is salvation a once and for all sort of thing?
Phil. 2:14-16	Consider the culture in which the Philippian church was set. Consider our own culture. Consider Jesus words in Matthew24:4-14. <i>It won't be easy resisting some aspects of the corrupt and perverse generation of the day.</i> Consider the conditions needed for believers to shine like stars. What might dull the shininess, then or now? Do we need to take any action?
Phil:2:6-11 and 2:19-30	Jesus is the incomparable example of one obedient to God, even though he was tempted- and suffered when he was (Hebrews 2:18). There are three more examples in this whole passage. Can you identify them and their qualities?
Phil:	What made Paul, Timothy and Epaphroditus special? Were they special? What about us?
	Pray for the same Holy Spirit of Jesus who equipped them, to come, to re-fill us with everything we need to help us shine in the darkness of this generation. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.
Witness	How and where will we shine, in practical ways this week? Think, perhaps of friends, neighbours or family with needs; think of Holiday Club; think of Hellen's work and needs. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt our direction and then let's all allow Jesus to shine brightly through us!
