

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 25 July 2010. Ruth 1:1-16, (and the whole book) John 10:14-25.

The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23): Goodness

| | |
|---|--|
| Welcome/ icebreaker | What do we mean when we talk about a good book, a good experience, a good friend, good food etc? OR - have some fruit to taste – what do you expect when you bite into good fruit? |
| Worship | Choose some songs/hymns that speak of God’s goodness. Suggestions: God is good, The Lord’s my Shepherd, Lord Jesus Christ. 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”. |
| Ruth 1-4 | Read the whole story to yourselves. What does this short beautifully written story teach us about God and the way he works to fulfil his purpose. |
| Ruth 1-4 | Either in pairs or as a whole group try to imagine the feelings of the following people in the story: Ruth – 1) at the beginning,(1:1-16) 2) when she arrived in Bethlehem with Naomi(19-22), 3) after she met Boaz(2:1-17). Naomi -1) when she left Bethlehem with hers husband and sons,(1:1-2) 2) after their deaths(1:3-14), 3) When Ruth insisted on going with her(1:16-18), 4) When she realized who owned the field where Ruth gleaned(2:19-23), 5) At the end of the story(4:16-22). Boaz -1) When he first met Ruth(2:1-16), 2) When he asked the kinsman-redeemer to make his decision(4:1-12) Share your reflections. Where and how is God at work in the stories of these people? Can you see where and how he has been at work in your own story this week or recently? |
| John 10:14 | <i>“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”</i> What makes the difference between the Good Shepherd and any old shepherd? Do we feel we known ? If not, what can we do about it?. If so, what do we want to do about it? |
| Galatians 5:22-23 | Read the verses aloud slowly and prayerfully. These virtues reflect the character of God, shown in Jesus - and will ripen in us, as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us. |
|  | Goodness is one 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. |
| Witness | Share your fruit with someone who needs nourishment this week. What will people experience when they “taste” your fruit? |