

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND - 'Sharing Christ through friendship'

SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Epiphany 4: w/beg 31 January 2010. Bible passages: 2 Tim. 2:1-7; Matt. 4:12-22/ Luke 5:1-11

Becoming Like Jesus (4): Fishing for people

Welcome/ icebreaker	Who's ever been fishing? Or had an angler, sea fisherman or trawlerman in the family? Who can tell the most unlikely (but 'true') fishing-related story?
Worship	<i>Leader:</i> ask everyone else to close their eyes. Read Matthew 4:18-22 quite slowly. Then read this aloud, very slowly: I'm going to read those verses again... This time, take time to imagine the scene... Picture yourself in the boat... casting the nets... and then by the lake... cleaning the nets... How do you respond when Jesus says to you, by name, 'follow me'? Then read Matthew 4:18-22 again, quietly and very slowly. <i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship 79 Dear Lord and Father (vv.1,2,5,6); 120 From heaven you came; 260 I want to serve; 873 Jesus, lover of my soul; 1120 Will you come and follow me? or (perhaps if you have it on CD) 1440 May the words of my mouth</i>
Word (refs.↓)	
2 Tim. 2:1-7	Paul writes to his 'disciple' Timothy here: what three images does he use in vv.3-6 to illustrate what it means to be a disciple? What common thread links them? Does this thread link to v.2?
2 Tim. 2:2	The word translated here as 'entrust' (or 'commit/ teach/ give/ pass on') has the sense of 'deposit for safe keeping'. How does this proverb help us understand this verse: 'Give someone a fish, you feed them for a day; teach someone to fish, you feed them for life'?
(Matthew 4:18-22)	In Matthew's version, Jesus call is, 'follow me and I will show you how to fish for people' (NLT – see other translations if you have them). For the disciples, did 'following Jesus' mean simply waiting for Jesus' to tell them where and when to 'fish' after that, or did they have to learn how to do it for themselves? How did they get on? What about you?
Luke 5:1-11	* Jesus says to Simon Peter here 'launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch' (NB the verbs here are plural – i.e. addressed to everyone in the boat). If you had been one of those in the boat, what would you have done? a) what Peter did; b) made some excuse; c) politely told Jesus to stick to preaching; d) suggested you do it another time when the fish would be around; e) gone ahead but grudgingly; f) wondered 'who does this person think he is?' * How does the idea of 'launching out into the deep and letting down your nets for a catch' sound to you? – a) scary; b) crazy; c) okay, but...; d) fine, if someone will join me; e) just the invitation I've been waiting for; f) not sure what you mean * What might Jesus be saying here to you as a group – and to St. Barnabas as a whole?
Witness	<i>For next time (w/ beg Sun 14th for most, unless you are not meeting over half term):</i> as individuals, think about this: "If your group was out on a quiz night, what name would you give it?" Come back with suggestions for a suitable name for your group that would communicate to enquirers (people who you might like to invite to the group) who you are and what you do. The more creative might like to add a suitable bible verse by way of explanation, or even dream up a logo, strap line, team colours/ uniform, etc...

Don't forget: **Fellowship Together** at St. Barnabas **next Tuesday 9th February**, 7.30pm (for refreshments) for 7.45pm – 9.15pm. Fellowship, worship, teaching, ministry. Especially for all those in small groups. **All welcome**

Notice: Bev and Phil Gray need to evict a dark wood, upright, steel-framed, overstrung piano (Gough & Davey) from their home to make way for an electric keyboard for BRIMband! The piano would work well for homegroup worship slots as well as encouraging the next generation of musical worshippers - and getting them through their piano exams! Cost £1,000 15 years ago. Free to a good home (or donation to St Barnabas Church fabric fund). Needs to be shifted soon - new owner to arrange collection. Ring **631536** if interested.