

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Easter Day w/beg 4 April 2010.

John 20:1-18 (A suggestion for reading this passage is given below)

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

I am the resurrection

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share experiences of celebrations – personal, family, community or national. Why, what and how do we celebrate?
Worship	Choose some Easter songs/hymns to celebrate the risen Jesus. Suggestions:-Thine be the glory, He is Lord, I live, I live, because he is risen, Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Word (refs.↓)	
John 20:1-9	Suggestion: One person reads the passage aloud. Everyone else closes their eyes and imagines the scene. You may like to imagine you are one of the three – Mary, Peter or the “other” disciple. It is dark – between 3 and 6 am. How was Mary feeling as she approached the tomb? Why had she come so early? What is her first reaction to what she finds? Think about Peter and John and their reaction to Mary’s news. Can you describe the mood/atmosphere/movement of the passage. Why does the other disciple not go straight in? Why does Peter? What do you make of their different responses? (Peter still seems puzzled, “John” sees the grave clothes and believes, Mary stays outside, weeping.) Share your thoughts and reflections.
John 20:10-18	Suggestion: These verses could be read as follows:-One person could be the narrator, two people together could be the angels, one person Mary and one Jesus.
John 20:1,13 and 14	Discuss Mary’s tears and the angels’ question and how turning from the tomb towards Jesus changes the nature of her tears.
John 20:16	Can you think of different ways people recognised the risen Jesus and if the differences are significant? (see Jn 20:27,28, 21:6-12, Lk 24:30-32) How do we recognise him?
John 20:18	What is astonishing about this verse?(Clue: think about the role of women in that culture. Mary, here, becomes the first apostle)
	Praise God for his power and love. Like Mary, come to Jesus with your sorrows and those of others you know, turn in prayer from the empty tomb to the risen Jesus, knowing that the same resurrection power is available to us. <i>“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.”</i> (1Corinth 15:20, Eph 1:19,20)
Witness	How will we celebrate Easter? Who, this week, will hear us say, “I have seen the Lord”? Jesus says, “Go and tell them...”(v17)