


ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 7 October 2012 18th Sunday AFTER Trinity.

Reading: I Corinthians 3: 1-15 and John 4: 27-38

Theme: Open your eyes look at the fields

Welcome/ icebreaker	Talk about Food! What TV food programmes you like to watch. And why? Masterchef. Jamie Oliver. The Food Doctor. What about 'farming' programmes like Countryfile. Does anyone listen to Farming Today on Radio 4?
Worship	Choose songs celebrating harvest. That shouldn't be too difficult. There's We plough the field and scatter (SOF 585) and Come ye thankful people come (SOF 75). You might also try Here I am (SOF 167)
Pray	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 (<i>refs.</i> ↓)	Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk if you missed it. Click on downloads".
Read	John 4 27 -38. Can someone amongst you tell the gist of the story that precedes this - the situation that the disciples walk into. Who was Jesus speaking to? Why were the disciples astonished? Why did they keep quiet? What did the woman do as they parted?
What do see?	What are the two types of harvest that Jesus alludes to? And the two types of water in the story that precedes it? And the two types of food that contrasts what Jesus says with the lunch that the disciples bring with them?
	Where is the harvest for each one of us today. Be honest and realistic. Actually a look at the words of the second hymn are illuminating: Come ye thankful people come (SOF 75)
I Corinthians 3:1-15	If you have time look at the second reading. How are we partisan in this way? Who do we 'follow'. This is perhaps easiest identified by asking who we 'avoid'. Who? And why? How do we assess who is true to the faith we have espoused? What tests do we use?
	Pray for the Holy Spirit of Jesus to make "head knowledge" into "heart knowledge". Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.
Witness	How will we react <i>when</i> - not <i>if</i> - we are challenged to offer our time or talents or resources this week?