

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 17 April 2011. Palm Sunday Zechariah 9:9-12, Mt 27:22, 27-54
– Also read Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus the King

Welcome/ icebreaker	Can you think of an occasion when events or a person turned out in an unexpected way? What did you learn from the experience?
Worship	Choose some songs/hymns that speak of the Kingship/Lordship of Jesus: suggestions; King of Kings Majesty, All hail King Jesus. Ride on, ride on in majesty. 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".
Mt 21	You may like to close your eyes. Imagine the scene, as one person reads the passage. Describe the sights, sounds and smells of the scene - and the hopes and expectations of the crowd. What were their cries of "Hosanna" ("Save now"/Praise God) based on?
Mt 27:27-54 and v22	Why did the "Hosannas" turn to "Crucify"? How do we react when Jesus/God doesn't act in the way we expect? What would be the best basis for our expectations? (who Jesus is, rather than on what we expect him to do) How did Jesus react to his betrayal, trial and crucifixion? What does this tell us about his kingdom?
Mt 27:27-31	Again close your eyes while someone reads these verses, picturing the scene, the torture, the suffering. In what ways is Jesus still suffering today? How can we help?
V32-42 V50 V51-54	What is the one thing they get right here?(v37) Does v40 remind you of another time when Jesus overcame adversity? (Mt4: 3,6) Who is in control here? What is the effect of Jesus death? To the centurion? To you? What difference does it make to you today at home, school or work?
Pray	"Surely he was (<i>and is</i>) the Son of God."(italics mine) Come to Jesus, fully human, fully God - King of Kings - in prayer and thankfulness for his death for you. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.
Witness	How will you be an <i>Easter person</i> to those you meet this week? Will you join the Good Friday walk of witness, or invite someone to come to a service on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Easter Day? How will you show that you belong to King Jesus?