

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

Wk/beg 1 December 2013. **Bible passages: Gen 17:1-8, Lk 20:9-17) Please read the passages.**

Theme:Advent Sunday – Jesus King of Hope – The Patriarchs - Abraham.

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share experiences of either: Advent Calendars, or preparation for Christmas
Worship	Choose songs/hymns that focus on the first and second comings of Jesus. Suggestions: Great is the darkness that covers the earth, Lo he comes with clouds descending, At the name of Jesus, There's a sound on the wind, Thou didst leave thy throne, From heaven you came.
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Reflect Gen 17:1-8 Gen 17:5 Gen 17:6	<i>Jesus is the key to put into the lock of the Old Testament</i> (Bishop John Pritchard) Invite Jesus to unlock these passages and shine light on God's purposes for his people. <i>Please read also Gen 12: 1-4 and Gen 15: 1-6.</i> God makes promises to Abraham and covenants with him. How does Abraham respond to each of God's initiatives? Consider Gen 12:1. How would you feel if this was asked of you? Consider 12:v4 What does Abraham's new name signify. Who are the two most important kings to come from Abraham?
Lk 20: 9-17	Compare with Isaiah 5:1-7 . In this parable, who do the owner, the tenants, the servants and the son represent? In v 17 who is the stone and what is the building? How does this relate to us now?
Reflect	Advent is the time to remember the first coming of Jesus and to get ready for the second. How should we live in the "in-between" time? What can we learn from Abraham who "didn't see the things he was promised..." (See Heb 11:13)?
Witness	Pray/Act – First, Focus on the Holy Spirit , who shows us Jesus , then on Jesus who shows us the Father , who is LOVE . Spend a few moments acknowledging the presence of God. Ask the Holy Spirit of Jesus to fill you, to teach you to pray; to inspire your prayers; to help you to pray like Jesus to connect you to Abba, his Father and our Father. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads. . . Pray that our lives will be lives of faith and trust and obedience and that through us more people will experience the love of Jesus. Pray for the Holy Spirit to show who you might invite to the Christmas outreach events: Christmas Lunch, Christmas Creativity, The Mother's Union Service of Readings and Carols, Mistletoe and Wine Refresh Plus, Christmas Services as well as to the regular activities such as Cygnets, Cake Walk etc.