

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 12 May 2013. Bible passages: Acts1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53

Life in the Spirit –Ascension - The Promise of the Spirit

Welcome/ icebreaker	“Promises and pie crusts are made to be broken” – Jonathan Swift. Do you agree? Does it matter?
Worship	Suggestions: All hail King Jesus(SOF) At the name of Jesus,(SOF) Jesus is King,(SOF) Hallelujah sing to Jesus(SOF)
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Lk 24:v44-47	The Law, the Prophets and the Psalms are the three parts of the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament. Why is Jesus referring to them here? Notice the similarities with v27 earlier in the chapter. Three promises: 1) Look at Genesis 12: 1-3. What is God promising Abraham here? How does this connect with Luke 24:44-47? 2) What has the Father promised through Jesus (Lk24v49) Did God keep these two promises?
Acts 1:1-11	Look at Mk1:14 This is right at the beginning of his ministry. What was the central theme of Jesus teaching in the forty days after his resurrection according to Acts1:3? Jesus is consistent – the Kingdom is important! What does v6 tell us about the disciples understanding of the? How might this change? Why is it important that Jesus goes back to his Father? Promise 3) v11 What is this promise? Do you believe God will keep this promise and if you do, why do you? What challenge might we see in the angels' words to the sky-gazing disciples?
	Jesus describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as being clothed with power from on high. Have we been clothed with power from on high? If not what can we do? If so, how would you describe the presence of the Holy Spirit within you and the difference he makes to your life?
Witness	Pray/Act – First, <i>Focus on the Holy Spirit</i> , who shows us <i>Jesus</i> , then on <i>Jesus</i> who shows us the <i>Father</i> , who is <i>LOVE</i> . When we see Jesus, we see LOVE in person. And he is with us. Spend a few minutes settling into the presence of Jesus and resting in his presence. You might quietly sing, <i>Holy Spirit we welcome you, or Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.</i> Pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Suggestions: thank God that he keeps his promises Pray for opportunities that, clothed with power from on high, we might share the good news of God's Kingdom with someone we know whose life is subject to the rule of a different Kingdom. Ask God to prompt us by his Spirit to engage with some aspect of the Family–focussed Ministry through St Barnabas, so that more people come into his Kingdom, for their joy and his glory.