

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 24 Feb. 2013. Bible passages: **Acts 2:41-47; Matt. 6:25-44**

'Generous Churches' 2). Commitment: To God, to each other and to the church family

Welcome/ icebreaker	Commitment costs. Remember the bacon and egg breakfast. The hen is involved, but the pig is committed. Share experiences of involvement compared with commitment.
Worship	Suggestions: <i>Songs of Fellowship</i> O Jesus I have promised, Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee, When I survey the wondrous cross, Everyone needs compassion, I will bless the Lord forever
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Acts 2:41-47	How did the believers show their commitment to Jesus and to each other? (I counted at least thirteen ways) What were the results? What was the main result?(v47b) (The church - - - -)
Matt. 6:25-34	What does this passage tell us about God's commitment to us? v25-32 What does it tell us about where <i>our</i> commitment should be? v33 According to Rick Warren in his book <i>The Purpose Driven Life</i> , <i>worrying</i> is a form of meditation – just thinking about a problem over and over again. The bible advises us that it is healthier to <i>meditate on the word of God</i> – to develop a deeper relationship with him and commitment to him. What lessons does this have for us today? How can we consciously turn our negative <i>worrying</i> about basic things in life to a positive <i>seeking of God's Kingdom</i> ? What should be the result?
<i>(General information)</i>	We are looking through Lent at the current focus in our Diocese (the Diocese of York) on being 'Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples', and how we can grow as churches in ways that help bring this about. The five marks of Growth being highlighted on each of the 5 weeks of this series are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Christ-likeness – becoming more like Jesus † Commitment – to God, to God's ways and values, to one another † Partnership – working with other Christians and groups in our communities † Influence – seeing God's kingdom transform society around us † Numbers – seeing more people come to faith, friends becoming worshippers and followers of Jesus Christ.
Witness	Pray/Act – First - <i>Consider what God has done for us.</i> In thankful response, perhaps you might renew your commitment to Christ, to each other in the group, to the family of St Barnabas Church and its part in God's family-focussed mission. What has God made you passionate about? How can you use that passion in his service? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you into appropriate action.