

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 28 April 2013. Bible passages: Acts11:1-18; John. 13:31-35

Life in the Spirit – Changed by the Spirit

Welcome/ icebreaker	If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
Worship	Suggestions: Jesus you are changing me,(SOF) A new Commandment, (SOF)You are good and your love endures forever,(Red File) Holy Spirit we welcome you,(SOF) Breathe on me Breath of God,(SOF) When I survey the wondrous cross(SOF)
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
John 13:31-35 (and other parts of John 13-17)	Is this a new commandment? Read Leviticus 19:18. What is the new part that Jesus adds? How has Jesus loved his disciples? What will be the full extent of his love? (see Jn13:1) Is it possible for us to love like that? How might it be possible? (Jn14:15-17) What is Jesus' prescription as a remedy for "Troubled or fearful hearts"(14:1)
Acts 11:1-18	What changed Peter from being a fearful failure to a bold evangelist? What, from this passage, shows how Peter is open and willing to being changed by the Spirit?
Romans 12:1,2	Paul was writing to believers. Even if we have been born again of the Spirit(Jn3:3-8) it is possible to conform to the standards of this world. How can we co-operate with the Holy Spirit and be transformed, so that we might test and approve what God's will is – his good, perfect and pleasing will? Do <i>we</i> need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds? Are we willing to go on being changed by the Spirit?
Witness	Pray/Act – First – Focus on the Holy Spirit , who shows us Jesus , then on Jesus who shows us the Father , who is LOVE . 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, To be in your presence , or God is good (see Worship section above) Pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Suggestions: for the issues raised in the ice-breaker if appropriate, for each other to be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us; to change us more into the likeness of Jesus, to love as he loves us. Pray for opportunities to reach out in love this week, to someone you know who needs to know they are loved. Thank God and pray for fruit from the Family –focussed Ministry workshops and prayer evenings. Ask the Holy Spirit to equip us to help in the way that is just right for us, and for his glory.