

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

Wk/beg 30 June 2013. **Bible passages: Gal:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62 Please read the passages.**

Encouraged in following Jesus

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share the most encouraging thing anyone has ever said to you. What effect did it have on you?
Worship	Choose songs/hymns that help in our discipleship and encourage us. Suggestions: Be thou my vision,(SOF 42) Jesus take me as I am (SOF 305) God forgave my sin (SOF 129) O Jesus I have promised (SOF 418)Everyone needs compassion (Red File 757)
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Lk 9v51 -62	v51 "Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem." Jesus was constantly on the move, forward towards his goal. As his followers what does this say to us? One of the main themes of Luke's Gospel and Acts, is that of travelling, in obedience to God's call . Group members may like to share stories of how their faith journeys began and are continuing. Have we ever been diverted or held up? What might hold us back from following God's call now? Have we met opposition as Christians? How might we respond? v51-55 What do you think of the excuses used in vs57-61? What do you think of Jesus' reply in v 62?
Gal:1, 13-25	v1 When we put our trust in Jesus and commit to following him, he forgives our sins. Forgiveness sets us free, as we ourselves forgive others. Does knowing this freedom help us when considering our priorities and the cost of discipleship?(cf Lk9:57-61) How are we to use - and not abuse - this freedom? v13-15 How can we keep in step with the Spirit? v25 How shall we know we are doing this effectively? v22-23
Barnabas – Mr Encouragement	June has been a month of Encouragement in the family of St Barnabas here in Swanland. Barnabas encouraged others to recognise and use their gifts. How might you be a Barnabas to someone in this way? Have you been encouraged? If so could you share that to encourage others?
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 resting in the presence of Jesus, receiving his love. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Suggestions: Thank God for the freedom he gives us in Jesus. Pray for someone you know who needs to experience that freedom. Ask , what is God saying to you as individuals – and as a group ? What are you going to do about it this week?