

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND**  
**SMALL GROUP NOTES - Sharing Christ through friendship**

w/c Sunday 5 July 2015

**THEME: Amazed by Jesus**

**Mark 6 12:1 – 6 II Corinthians 12:7-10**

*Here are some discussion provoking questions to help us reflect on this week's theme.*

<p><b>Welcome/ icebreaker</b></p>	<p>Think of a “celebrity” you would really like to meet.          What is it that draws you to that person, and why?          Talk around the cult of celebrity, how it affects the way we judge people. And do we see the real person, or only a manufactured personality.          What would it be like to meet the <i>real</i> person?          Would it be different to meet with Archbishop Sentamu or Archbishop Welby?</p>
<p><b>Worship</b></p>	<p>Choose a song that speaks of our daily life. (For example <i>Through all the changing scenes of Life</i>. This is not in Songs of Fellowship, so it is printed on the back. If you are not comfortable with the tune try U tube or <a href="https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/714">https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/714</a></p>
<p><b>Word</b> Gospel Mark 6: 1 - 6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the opening scenes of the Gospel reading picture yourself as someone in the synagogue when Jesus walks in and starts to teach. You recognise him as the local builder, and what’s more you’d been to school with him.</li> <li>2. Why are you amazed at what Jesus teaches? Is it what he teaches, or who he is?</li> <li>3. Would you be sceptical? Might you scoff? Say why you might be sceptical - or not if you think you wouldn’t be sceptical.</li> <li>4. Would it be different if you did not know who he was? Why might that be?</li> <li>5. What do you think Jesus was speaking about which so amazed those in the synagogue?</li> <li>6. If he’d been announcing the Kingdom of God, as we suggested on Sunday - “that God’s already here working amongst you, if only you would listen if only you would hear”, how would you react?</li> <li>7. What then is the “lack of faith” which so astounded Jesus? (verse 6) Faith in what?</li> <li>8. Why then is it that Jesus could do no miracles there (verse 5)</li> </ol>
<p>Epistle 2 Cor 12:7 - 10</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To get a better feel the context of the Epistle read chapter 12 from verse 1. Note that for emphasis Paul uses a rhetorical device in referring to “ I know Someone who 14 years ago was seized by Christ” (verse 1 <i>The Message</i>)</li> <li>2. Why do you think Paul was not healed of his “thorn in the flesh”</li> <li>3. How might God’s Kingdom have benefitted from Paul continuing to remain infirm in some way?</li> <li>4. Do our infirmities bring us in any way closer to the Kingdom? How might that be</li> <li>5. Who else suffered on account of the Kingdom?</li> </ol>
<p>Reflect</p>	<p>O make but trial of his love, experience will decide how blest are they and only they who in thy truth confide</p>
<p><b>Witness/ Group life</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pray for any who suffer or need Jesus’ refreshment.</li> <li>➤ Pray for eyes to see, ears to hear God’s day to day working.</li> </ul>

## THROUGH ALL THE CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
With me exalt His name;  
When in distress to Him I called,  
He to my rescue came

The hosts of God encamp around  
The dwellings of the just;  
Deliverance He affords to all  
Who on His succour trust.

Oh, make but trial of His love,  
Experience will decide  
How blest they are, and only they,  
Who in His truth confide

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then  
Have nothing else to fear;  
Make you His service your delight,  
Your wants shall be His care

