

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

5th Sunday in Lent – w/beg 17th March 2013. Bible passages: **Rom. 10:1-15; Matt. 28:16-20**

Diocesan Lent series: ‘Generous Churches’ (5). Numbers: seeing people come to faith

Last in a series of 5: *Growing in...* (1) Christ-likeness – becoming more like Jesus; (2) Commitment – to God, to God’s ways & values, to one another; (3) Partnership – with God, with other Christians and groups in our communities; (4) Influence – seeing God’s kingdom transform society around us;
(5) Numbers – seeing more people come to faith

Welcome/ icebreaker	Think of a time when you complete a major challenge without initially having the resources for it? Where did you find resources to meet the challenge?
Worship	<i>Suggestions:</i> SOF 483 Restore O Lord, 629 You are the vine, 895 Lord I come to you, 1099 We’re looking to your promise, 1120 Will you come and follow me? – <i>or other songs focussed on commitment, and renewal and growth.</i>
Word (below)	- <i>Some questions to consider for discussion...</i>
Romans 10:1-15	Concentrate on vv.9-15. Is Paul saying in v.9 that the Christian life is simply a matter of belief, and that actions have no merit at all? What is the purpose of the questions in vv.14-15? What 4 things need to happen before a person can ‘call on the name of the Lord [and] be saved’? What actions are Paul’s readers being urged to take? Read v.15 and also Isaiah 52:7. What does it mean to have ‘beautiful feet’? Do you?
Matt. 28:16-20	Look at the 4 actions Jesus refers to in v.19-20. Which is/ are command(s) and how do the other words relate to it/ them? Which action is central? By what means are Jesus’ followers to make disciples? What resources can they rely on?
Matt. 28:16-20	‘The word ‘disciple’ means ‘one who learns by experience’ (the word for ‘learn’ in Mt 11:28-29 comes from the same root). How does this affect your understanding of what it means to be a <u>disciple</u> of Jesus?
Matt. 28:16-20	How is ‘make disciples’ different from ‘make converts’? In what ways are you as a group (or as individuals) involved in either?
Matt. 28:20a	In v.20 Jesus explains that included in making disciples is ‘teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you’. Is there still a place for Bible teaching (alongside preaching) in the church today? Or is it best just to get on with ‘making disciples’ through evangelism and service?
Matt. 28:18-20	v.20b (“ <i>Surely/ Lo I am with you..</i> ”) is one of the Bible’s most familiar and comforting promises. Do you see it as a promise with a condition? Say why/ why not, including how this all relates to Jesus’ commission in vv.18-19a.
Witness	<p><u>Pray / praise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for your mission link person(s) or project and • about any ideas/ passions God may be laying on your hearts about being involved as a group in the church’s ‘Family-Focussed Ministry’ • for opportunities to make new friends and to share faith with them as God leads <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An opportunity as a group or as individuals to reach out in the weeks ahead to people who are not yet Christians (e.g. over Easter or the May bank holiday). • Discuss coming to one of the workshops on 9th/ 10th April instead of having small group that week