

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 20 September 2015. **Bible passages: Gen:39, Mt 5:27-30**

Joseph 2- Joseph in trouble

Welcome/ icebreaker	Have you ever been wrongly accused of something? If so, how did you deal with that? If not, can you imagine how you would feel?
Worship	<i>Either</i> choose songs/hymns that focus on God's Sovereignty, presence and faithfulness. Suggestions: Faithful One, Blessed be your name, Be still and know that I am God, God is working his purpose out. <i>OR</i> choose a visual focus – a cross or candle representing God's victory(cross)or on-going guidance(candle). Play, The Lord's my Shepherd,(Stuart Townend version) or other music as you reflect on the faithfulness and love of god to lead you through difficult situations. Sing the chorus quietly.
Word (refs.↓)	NB Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Gen 37 Gen 39	Re-cap the story from last week: Joseph's favoured position in the family, his dreams, his brothers' envy and actions against Joseph. His sale to the Midianites/Ishmaelites. The story moves on. Joseph is in trouble. But read verse 2 and v3, 21 and 23. How do these verses help to make sense of the ups and downs of Joseph's life, particularly this episode with Potiphar's wife and his prison experience v20-23? Do you think Joseph was aware that the Lord was with him? Think back to those dreams, ch37:5-9 How might looking back to this time have helped him in Egypt? Do we know that the Lord is with us? Have there been specific times when we have been sure of the Lord being with us in the past? How does that help us in times of difficulty? Can we share examples? In v 19, where do you think Potiphar's anger is directed? Someone said, "Struggles should not be seen as an interruption to life, but as preparation for life – not as punishment, but as training." How did Joseph's struggles prepare him for what was ahead? Do ours – if so how?
Blessed be the Lord	You may like to read the Matt Redman song, Blessed be your name in the land that is plentiful. Can we identify with the words?
Reflect and pray...	Read Isaiah 43:2 aloud. Take time to allow the Holy Spirit to come, lead and inspire this time of prayer and ministry to each other.
Witness	Is there someone we might walk alongside this week as they go "through" a testing time? How might we help them link in to the church family? Could we invite them to the Harvest Supper, or Cygnets or Cygnet Plus, or Brim or Glow, or to Coffee Chat or Chair exercises? The Lord is with us – can others recognise that?

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