

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

Wk/beg 12 April 2015. **Bible passages: Acts 4:32-35, John 20:19-31**

The way of the cross, the way of victory – We have seen him!

Welcome/ icebreaker	Have you ever been very surprised or even shocked to see someone? You may like to share who, when and what happened.
Worship	Either choose songs/hymns that focus on the risen Jesus suggestions: He is Lord, Led like a lamb to the slaughter, Thine be the glory, Jesus Christ is risen today, Hallelujah, hallelujah give thanks to the risen Lord OR choose a visual focus – an empty cross, a small Easter garden with empty tomb, as a reminder of the resurrection and the living Lord we serve. Play Led like a lamb to the slaughter (or other music) as you reflect on the passion and resurrection. Respond in praise and worship either silently or aloud.
Word (refs.↓)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab). • As an inspiring example of someone whose life was transformed when he "saw" Jesus, google, Darrell Tunningley's interview with Nicky Gumbel.
Acts 4:31-35	What is the result of the events of v31 in the lives of the believers, as recorded in 32-35? What are the characteristics of this believing community? We know they spoke boldly. How else did they testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus?
Reflect ...	On the contrast between this vibrant, confident group of believers and the group of disciples in John 20:19. What makes the difference?
John 20:19-31	In light of v18, why do you think the disciples are still afraid and locked in, in v19?
v21-22	Some scholars suggest that v21-22 is John's equivalent of the Great Commission in Mt 28:16-20. What is Jesus commission to his disciples? How does he prepare and equip them?
v24-25	Is there really any difference between the attitude of Thomas and that of the other disciples?
v 26-29	What do we learn about the attitude of Jesus to Thomas - and to us from this passage? John is clear about his purpose in writing his Gospel. Look at chapter1:1 and then again at v31. Noting the declaration of Thomas in v28 do you think it is likely, as some believe, that chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel?
Hebrews 13:8	Is it possible, or necessary for us to "see" Jesus today? How might we do that?
Prayer and Witness	Read v 21-22 aloud several times. Take time to receive afresh the Peace of Jesus – his resurrection Shalom - and his Holy Spirit. Allow him to come, lead and inspire this time of prayer and ministry to each other. Pray for boldness and power to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus this week in practical ways. What might this mean for you?