

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

Wk/beg 8 February 2015. Bible passages: Phil 2:12-18, Matthew 5:1-12

Based on, *A Life Worth Living* by Nicky Gumbel – New Responsibility

Welcome/icebreaker	Are you an “owner” or a “blamer”? How do you react when something goes wrong? Do you accept responsibility for your reactions or blame someone or something else?
Worship	<i>Either</i> choose songs/hymns that focus on the working out of our Christian lives. Suggestions: Brother, sister let me serve you. Lord the light of our love is shining, For I'm building a people of power <i>OR</i> choose a visual focus – a candle or a star, as a reminder that we are to shine like stars in our generation and in contrast to the darkness of the world. Play, <i>Light of the world</i> (or other music) as you reflect on Jesus the light of the world. 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). • For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel's talk on this passage as part of the 'Life worth Living' Alpha follow-up course (on video from the Office)
Philippians 2:12-18	We are to take responsibility for our own lives and <i>work out our salvation</i> in our lives. Nicky Gumbel suggests that “freedom” is an alternative word for “salvation”. From what does Jesus save us or set us free? Notice that the wording is <i>working out</i> our salvation/freedom, not <i>working for</i> our salvation. Why is this wording important? Once we put our trust in Jesus, we are saved/free, but the working out of that freedom is a life-long process. How might it be possible to have a saved soul but a wasted life, as Nicky Gumble claims? We are also to take responsibility for showing our <i>crooked and depraved</i> society (v15)the difference being a Christian makes. What examples of crookedness and depravity have you been aware of in our world this week? In what ways should our lives as Christians be noticeably different? Can you give examples of how this is happening in our church family? Paul took responsibility for the church at Philippi. How did he do this? Do we pour ourselves out in ministry for each other?(v17)How does this affect us? Are we still able to shine like stars and rejoice in the Lord? How can we do this?
Reflect	On the examples of Jesus (Phil 2:5-11) and of Paul (Phil 2:17-18) and how we might be enabled to follow them(Phil 2:13)
Prayer and Witness	Ask the Spirit to come, lead and inspire this prayer time. Suggestions: for the Spirit to give us insight so that we can take responsibility for our own lives(to more and more become owners not blamers), to influence our community by our Christian lives and to serve our church family, using the gifts God had given us. Take time to minister to each other in prayer and using the spiritual gifts God has given you.

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