

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND**

***'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES***

Wk/beg 25 October 2015. Bible passages: Gen:46:1-7, 28-30,47:7-11

**Joseph 6 – A re-united family**

<b>Welcome/ icebreaker</b>	Share experiences of family re-unions. OR – think of someone in your family that you would like to thank for something - and share who, what and why.
<b>Worship</b>	Choose songs/hymns that focus on forgiveness, reconciliation and family. Suggestions: I'm forgiven, God forgave my sin, Brother, sister, let me serve you, We are one, we are family together.
<b>Word (refs.↓)</b>	<i>NB Sermon, hopefully, is available to listen to on <a href="http://www.stbchurch.org.uk">www.stbchurch.org.uk</a> (click on the 'downloads' tab).</i>
Gen 46:1-7  V28-30  V29  Reflect	<p>Recap: Think about the different ways different members of Jacob's family suffered from the beginning of the account in Gen37. Think of Jacob himself, the brothers, and think of Joseph.</p> <p>How was Joseph able to overcome all the difficulties he faced?</p> <p>The story moves on. Joseph has made himself known to his brothers, reassured them and sent for Jacob and the rest of the family to come to Egypt.</p> <p>What was the basis for Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers?</p> <p>What helped the elderly Jacob to able to leave Canaan?</p> <p>Why was it important for the family to live at Goshen?</p> <p>Imagine the reunion between Joseph(who was 17 when he was sold – and 39 at this time) and his father, Jacob.</p> <p>This was a happy re-union and reconciliation, but what wider meaning might it have in the "rainbow"* of God's purposes?</p> <p>God is a <b>sending</b> God. He sent Joseph – Gen45:5,7 to bring about this part of his purposes. He sent Jesus to make it possible for us to be reconciled to God, John 20:21 and he sends us to continue his mission in the power of his Holy Spirit, John 20:21 and Mt 28:16-20.</p> <p>What gifts has he given us? Are we using them? Are there ways we might use them more effectively in his family at St Barnabas?</p>
<b>Pray</b>	Following that time of reflection, invite the Holy Spirit to come, lead and inspire a time of listening to God, prayer and ministry to each other.
<b>Witness</b>	<p>Who might we invite to share in our family gatherings as a church? Or maybe to a bridging activity like Cake walk, Cygnets or Cygnet Plus, or to Coffee Chat or Chair exercises? Is there someone you know who might be helped by the Remembering Service at 6pm on 8 November? The Lord is with us and nothing is impossible for him. Do we believe that?</p> <p>*The bible from Genesis to Revelation is like a rainbow of God's purposes – every text fits somewhere on that rainbow and links in to those purposes.</p>

