

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

w/b 11 January 2014 – **Epiphany 1** – Readings: Philippians 1:1-11 (+ John 15:1-8)

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share something encouraging or challenging since you last met as a group (e.g. from the Christmas/ New Year holidays).
Worship	Suggestions for songs: SOF nos. 544 There is a redeemer; 851 I will offer up my life; 1117 Who is there like you? 1419 Light of the world
Word (refs.↓)	<u>A life worth living</u>
Phil. 1:1-2/ Acts 16:7-40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If time, look over the story of how the church in Philippi was founded (in c. AD50) as related in Acts chapter 16. • Paul wrote in c.61AD, probably while imprisoned in Rome. What do you notice about his description of himself and of the Philippian Christians? What is meant by a ‘slave of Christ Jesus’ and ‘saint(s) in Christ Jesus’? • Why not commit to reading through the whole letter this week or listening to it on e.g. biblegateway.org (it takes about 20 minutes to listen to/ read aloud). • For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel’s talk on this passage as part of the ‘Life worth Living’ Alpha follow-up course – now available online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z91qolFts74 (or on video from the office)
Phil. 1:3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God “began a good work in you”. (NB ‘you’ here is plural) Is this true for you/ your group/ for St Barnabas as a church? How is he “carrying it on to completion”? Can you share an example to encourage others?
Phil. 1:7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I have you in my heart” (v.7)/ “the affection of Christ Jesus” (v.8) Have you found a new heart/ concern for others over these last weeks? How can we sustain or recapture the love God longs for us to have for one another in the body of Christ?
Phil. 1:9-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading carefully Paul’s prayer in vv.9-11, what concerns do you think he might have for the Philippians? How might they be true of you? What areas of your life does Pauls’ prayer touch on? (e.g. areas where you are growing and/or would like to grow more). Consider praying this prayer for one another in the group.
Witness/ Group life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray for your mission link and others whom God brings to mind today ➤ Take time to share one another’s news and needs. Pray for any particular needs within the group and for the ‘fruit of righteousness’ Jesus speaks of in John 15 to grow in your lives this week. ➤ Discuss plans to come as a group to the shared meal on Sunday 18th January (12 noon for 12.30) and the whole-church Evening Celebration on Thursday 5th February (7.30-9.30pm).