

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Wk/beg 18 January 2015. **Bible passages: Phil 1:12-30, Luke 8:26-39**

Based on, *A Life Worth Living* (Nicky Gumbel) – New Purpose

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share some good news you've had recently. What did you do with it?
Worship	<i>Either</i> choose songs/hymns that focus on new life/purpose. Suggestions: I am a new creation, Rejoice, We have a gospel to proclaim, Go forth and tell <i>OR</i> choose a visual focus – a cross or chains, as a reminder of Paul's motivation and situation. Play, <i>Amazing grace – (my chains fell off version)</i> (or other music) as you reflect on God's grace and power to equip. 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)
Luke 8:26-39	Consider the situation of the demon-possessed man. Imagine his life. How did his encounter with Jesus change his life? What was his response to meeting Jesus? How might he have felt when Jesus wouldn't let him go with him as he <i>begged</i> to be allowed to? In what ways might it have been better that he didn't?
Phil 1:12-30 Phil 1:12-14 V15-18b V19-26 V27-30	Paul's four " P "s in advancing the gospel. What Possibilities for sharing the Gospel did Paul have? In what long-lasting ways did he do this? What about us, in our situations? What was Paul's Priority in a world of mixed motives? Do motives matter? What is more important? Paul's Purpose was to advance the gospel – to know Christ and make him known. Explore the benefits of dying and living, according to Paul. Share thoughts. We are to "conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ". Why is it important for us to have a Gospel Pattern for life?
Reflect . v19	What is essential, if we are to be able to live such <i>lives worth living</i> ?
Prayer and Witness	Ask the Spirit to come, lead and inspire this prayer time. Suggestions: for the Spirit to reveal possibilities for advancing the gospel of Jesus in our individual situations (this might be in school, shops, garden, work, but consider could we help at bridge-building events like Cygnets, Coffee Chat, Sunday refreshments or Welcoming etc); to make becoming more like Jesus our priority ; to be clear about the purpose of life; for the pattern of our lives to draw people to discover what motivates us Take time to minister to each other in prayer and using the spiritual gifts God has given you. Reminder: Church Family Together, Thursday 5 February in church 7.30-9.30pm