

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND**

*Sharing Christ through friendship* - SMALL GROUP NOTES

4th Sunday of Easter, w/b 26 April 2015 - 'When the Spirit comes:

(1) Filled with the Spirit to share Jesus '. Passages: Acts 4:5-12; John 10:11-18

Welcome/ icebreaker	Have you ever been rescued by someone, or rescued someone else, from danger? What was it like?
Worship	Suggestions: 629 You are the vine; 870 Jesus is the name we honour; 897 Lord I lift your name on high; [1757] Everyone needs compassion (Mighty to save)
Word ( <i>refs.</i> ↓)	
Acts 4:5-12  (choose 1 or 2 questions to look at in detail)	<i>(If you have time, look back over chapter 3 to get the whole story of the healing of the man at the Beautiful Gate).</i>  Vv.5-6. Note how the whole story mirrors many of Jesus' healing miracles (e.g. Luke 6:1-11) What does this suggest about the source of the early church's healing ministry? What is it about Peter and John's actions and preaching that especially upsets the Sadducees (see v.1) and the others here?  vv.7-8. The apostles are asked to say by what power or what name they healed the man. How does Peter respond? Is this an example of what Jesus promised in Luke 21:12-15? What proves that Peter was filled the Spirit here – his ability to heal, or his preaching? How is this similar to other instances of people being filled with the Spirit in e.g. Acts 2:4, 7:55, etc.?  v.11. Jesus is described as a 'stumbling block' that became a 'capstone'. Are there times in your own life when what was a 'stumbling block' turned out to be a 'building block' for you? How?  v.13. What can we do to show to others that we have 'been with Jesus'?  Should we look for opportunities to speak out boldly, as Peter and John did, in public (see 5:19-20)? How might this affect our approach to the coming election*?
Acts 4:12 - Verse study	This verse ends with the assertion that 'we must be saved'. What do you understand by 'being saved'? How would you show from Scripture that all people need 'saving'?  'Salvation is found in no-one else'. Why is Jesus (the only person ever who is fully God and fully human) the only person who is able to save?  Peter states that there is 'no other name' by which we must be saved. What does this mean about good people you know who are not yet Christians? What about others who may have never heard of Jesus? Does the example of the Old Testament 'saints' in Hebrews 11 help at all here?
Additional study:  John 10:11-18	Have you experienced Jesus as a 'good shepherd' What does Jesus mean by 'other sheep' in v.16? What should be our concern for them?  In vv.14-16 Jesus describes what his 'flock' should be like? How far is this true of your small group/ church as a whole? .
Witness/ Group life	➤ Pray for your link mission partner/ project ➤ Pray for the Spirit's help to share Jesus with others in sensitive and practical ways, and to be looking out for opportunities to do this this week.

\*NB for info/ planning next week: there is a **Hustings event** at South Hunsley School, Tuesday 5 May, 6.30 - 7.30pm – a chance to hear all 6 candidates for the Haltemprice & Howden constituency.