

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Jesus Presented in the Temple, w/beg 3 Feb. 2013. Bible passages: **Heb. 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40**

'Moved by the Spirit' – Jesus: one of us and for all of us

Welcome/ icebreaker	Were you baptised/ dedicated as an infant? What do you remember about it?
Worship	Choose songs which express who Jesus is: <i>eg. Songs of Fellowship nos. 27 As the deer, 89 Faithful One, 368 Lord you are, 594 When I feel the touch, 627 You are the King of Glory, 923 Mighty God, 935 My Jesus, my Saviour, 1916 I will set my face, etc.</i>
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Heb. 2:14-end	Why does the writer here (v.14) emphasise that Jesus was 'flesh and blood' (i.e. not an angel)? In what specific ways did Jesus identify with humanity in his earthly life, especially his childhood? What does this imply about the links we make with others (family, church, community) as we seek to follow his example?
Luke 2:22-40	Read the whole passage aloud. What does this story reveal about Jesus' parents – e.g. their social standing, their religious commitment, their understanding of who Jesus was? How do you think the story was recorded and eventually written down in this gospel, and why? As far as we know, neither Simeon nor Anna had any official role in the presentation ceremony (see e.g. v.27a, v.38a). Why do you think they were there? Why was it such an important occasion for Simeon (v.29) and why did Anna speak to 'all' who would hear (v.38b)?
Luke 2:29-35	Look at what Simeon says here. What, in Luke's story so far, is 'new' in what Simeon says about Jesus (compare Luke 2:10 with v.31-2)? How would vv.34-35 be a help to Mary in the years to come? How would you react to being prompted to 'give' such a message to someone? Or to receiving such a message? Read vv. 30-32 again. How is Jesus a 'light for revelation' to the people around you today?
<i>Optional extra</i>	If you were at 'refresh' on Sunday, reflect on your experiences and how the new 'Why?' series is progressing. And/or discuss the passages/ questions on the 'Why Sunday' <i>refresh-meant</i> cards – Gen. 2:1-3; Heb. 10:22-25; How can you use Sundays to honour God? How can you spend more time to be refreshed? <i>re. Sunday worship:</i> What do you need to bring before God that he can take off you? What can you take from God to give to others this week? What is God prompting you to do this week?
Witness	Pray - for your mission links; - for Jeanne as she returns to France this weekend, that God will use her to share the light of Jesus with her friends, family and community. Action: - Jesus comes as a light to the Gentiles/ nations (i.e. those are not yet part of the people of God.) Pray and plan ways you as individuals or a group can shine for Jesus and 'present' him to the world 'out there'. Plan to come to the pancake party on Tues. Feb 12 th in the Village Hall (5.15–7.15pm) – and consider offering to help!