

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND - SMALL GROUP NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

W/c March 4th 2018 - Time to rebuild – lessons from Nehemiah: (6) – Re-dedication
Bible readings: Nehemiah 12: 27-31 & 38,40,43 and Mark 14:1-9

Welcome/ icebreaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the most devoted sports fan you know? What makes them so devoted?
Worship	<i>Suggestions:</i> 34 At your feet we fall; 104 Father your love; 210 I give you all the honour; 1163 All to Jesus; 1561 This is my desire; (<i>new song</i>) Praise unbroken
Word (<i>refs.↓</i>)	NB The 10.45am sermon from Sunday 25 Feb, covering the OT passage above, is available now to download at www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab)
Mark 14:1-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can Mary's action not be a 'waste'? Is her extravagant devotion a model to aim for or something to be avoided where possible? Why?
Nehemiah 12:27-end (or 12:27-31 & 38,40,43 if time is short)	<p>Briefly summarise the situation/ story so far (see notes from previous weeks).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>I. Re-dedication of the walls, vv.27-43</u> Following the people's re-dedication of themselves in chapters 8 and 9, and after implementing a system to re-populate the city from the towns of Judea (chs.10-11), in chapter 12 here Nehemiah concludes the re-building project with a ceremony of thanksgiving to God for the completion of the walls. Note the place give to the Levites and musicians/singers. How are they described in ways that highlight the contribution they make to the ceremony (see vv.27,40,42b-43,46-48)? Do you feel music and singing is an important part of Christian worship today (eg in small groups) or is it an 'optional extra'/ un-necessary luxury? Read Col. 3:16. How would the apostle Paul answer the last question? Do we value the ministry of musicians and organists? – if so, how do we show this, and how could your group show their appreciation? In what way does processing round the walls help 'actualise' the thanksgiving of the people here? What lessons might we learn as a church from this? <u>II. Re-dedication of the people, vv.44-48</u> vv.44-48 describe how practical steps were taken to ensure that worship could continue as specified in the Law and in the practice of David & Solomon's day. In what ways could our church today learn from this example? Are we committed to making adequate provision for the worship of God Sunday by Sunday? Are there ways in which members of your group, or the group as a whole, could help enhance the worship of God week by week by offering your time, talents or treasures in his service? Who in the group might be 'hiding their light under a bushel'? How can he/she/they be encouraged to be released in the ministry God has for them?
Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray – for your mission link(s) and those with needs within your group. Pray about your devotion to God as a group and as individuals as evidenced by your commitment to Sunday worship and/or the small group meeting. Who could you invite along to either or both, so your enthusiasm could rub off on them? Firm up plans for a group gathering for Holy Week and/or Easter