

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Week beginning 6 Sep. 2015. Bible passages: **Luke 15:11-32; Romans 8:12-17**

"Let's have a feast and celebrate.

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

(Luke 15:23b-24a)

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share something from your week.
Worship	Declare Psalm 95 or 139 aloud together. Use the verses as a platform for worship and praise.
Word (refs.↓)	NB: Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Luke 15	Read the parables of the lost sheep (vs1-7), lost coin (vs 8-10) and lost son (vs 11-32). Notice to whom Jesus was speaking. Notice also how the spotlight of God's focus narrows as we progress from 1 in 100 sheep, through 1 in 10 coins to finally, 1 in 1 son. What do you think this might say to Jesus' audience, and indeed to us?
Rom 8:12-17	In the light of Jesus' teaching in Luke, what do we think is the nature and characteristics of the 'Spirit of sonship' (v15)? It might be helpful to remember that a more accurate translation of 'sinful nature' is 'the flesh'.
Witness	Reflecting on what you have read and discussed, take time to listen to God – humble yourself and ask Him to examine your heart and motives and gently reveal any areas where you need to seek forgiveness and his strengthening. Ask God to show you in what ways your behaviours and or attitudes are like those of the elder son. Pray – for grace to abound. Take time to sensitively pray for one another; you may like to use Psalm 95 to guide your prayers.