

**ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND**  
**SMALL GROUP NOTES - Sharing Christ through friendship**

w/b 8 March 2015 – **Lent 3** – Readings: Philippians 3:10-21 (+ John 12:20-33)  
**A life worth living (5) – New ambitions** (based on Nicky Gumbel's book/ course)

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| <b>Welcome/<br/>icebreaker</b>                         | As a child, what did you want to be/ do when you grew up? Did this change as your faith developed – is it still changing?   |
| <b>Worship</b>   | <b>Suggestions for songs:</b> SOF nos. 260 I want to serve the purpose of God; 382 Make me Lord a dreamer; 646 All I once held dear; 1534 The greatest thing; <i>etc.</i>   |
| <b>Word (refs.↓)</b>                                   | <b><u>A life worth living</u></b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NB Sermon from Sunday's service(s) available to listen to on <a href="http://www.stbchurch.org.uk">www.stbchurch.org.uk</a> (click on the 'downloads' tab)</li> <li>• For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel's talk on this passage as part of the 'Life worth Living' Alpha follow-up course – now available online at <a href="http://youtu.be/b4gGvhExyVE">http://youtu.be/b4gGvhExyVE</a> (or on video from the office)</li> </ul>   |
| Phil. 3:10-21<br><br>John 12:20-33                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul contrasts in these verses the self-centred ambitions of human nature with the Jesus-centred ambition of the committed disciple.</li> <li>• Jesus' ambition in John 12 is only for God's glory (vv.27-28), achieved at the cross (vv.31-33)</li> </ul>   |
| Phil 3:18-20<br><br>Phil. 3:10-11<br><br>Phil. 3:12-17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In vv.18-19, Paul describes the ambitions of those who are 'enemies of the cross'. Can you give examples of behaviour described by these phrases (v.19)?: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ their god is their stomach</li> <li>○ their glory is their shame</li> <li>○ their mind is set on earthly things</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Do you recognise any dangers here in your own lifestyle?</li> <li>• One popular chorus has the words 'All of my ambitions hopes and plans I surrender these into your hands'. Is it right to have ambitions for God – or should we just surrender everything to him?</li> <li>• Paul's ambition is to 'know Christ' – not just to know <u>about</u> him. How does the rest of v.10-11 elaborate what it means to 'know Christ'?</li> <li>• In your experience, do sufferings challenge our faith or bring us closer to God?</li> <li>• Do you recognise Paul's description of life as striving towards the goal as in a race? What goals are you pressing on towards?</li> <li>• Paul recognises he's both an example to follow (v.15-17) and a work in progress (vv.13-14). Does that challenge you, give you encouragement or both?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Witness/<br/>Group life</b>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pray for your mission link and others whom God brings to mind today</li> <li>➤ Take time to pray for each other, that you may know Christ better this week and focus your ambitions on God's glory</li> <li>➤ Remind each other of the times of the services on Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March (10am and 4pm)</li> <li>➤ Discuss how you could invite friends/ family who aren't yet Christians to a get-together over Easter (NB Easter Day there is a <i>refresh</i> service with communion at 10.30am at St B's)</li> </ul>   |