

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

w/b 8 April 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

We are an Easter people and Hallelujah is our song Acts 4:32-5; John 20:19-31.

Welcome/ icebreaker	Have you ever unexpectedly met a friend/ relative from home whilst on holiday abroad? How did you/ they react?
Worship	<i>Suggestions:</i> 54 Brother, sister, let me serve you; 120 From heaven you came; 544 There is a redeemer; 629 You are the vine.
Word (refs.↓)	
John 20:19-end	<p>Why do think Jesus says “peace be with you” three times (v. 19,21,26)? Does this relate to their own fears, hiding behind locked doors (v. 19, 26) or the thought that they were seeing a ghost (Luke 24:37), or both? How does Jesus both calm and challenge them in response? What might he want to say to those paralysed ?</p> <p>Jesus says that the disciples are now to be sent ‘as the Father has sent (him)’ (v.21). What did Jesus see as his primary mission (see Mark 10:45)? One preacher gave out a 1 (Euro) cent to his congregation as a reminder that each of us is ‘one sent’. How does this affect our understanding of what it means to be one who follows Jesus? In what ways do you see yourself as ‘one sent - to serve’?</p> <p>v. 24 - Why do you think Thomas was not with the others on that Easter evening (v.24)? What can we learn about withdrawing from fellowship when times get tough or when we have doubts? What can we learn from the way he did respond when he met with Jesus personally (v.28-29)?</p>
<i>Optional question</i>	How do you understand v.22? Does it contradict or complement the account in Acts of the coming of the Holy Spirit? What significant aspect(s) of the work of the Spirit is highlighted in each case?
Acts 4:32-35	<p>Some have argued that this shows an early form of communism / collectivism - but note the qualification at the end of v.35 – ‘as he had need’ (KJV) – i.e. people responded to perceived need by giving money/ selling possessions.</p> <p>How might you as a group, or we as a church, better follow the example of the early disciples in sharing resources with one another (eg share store, database of property available to lend, etc.). How else might we seek to be more supportive of one another in practical ways? What would <u>you</u> be willing to do?</p>
Witness/ Group life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pray for your mission link and those to whom God has ‘sent’ you in your work and neighbourhood situations➤ Pray for those who are facing various kinds of trials, or in a situation like that of Thomas.➤ Pray for one another to be open to the gifts the Holy Spirit has to give each of you to serve within the body of Christ.