

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

w/c Sunday 18 October 2015

THEME: Joseph and his brothers - the reconciliation
Genesis 44 and 45 Matthew 5: 23-26

Here are some discussion provoking questions to help us reflect on this week's theme.

Welcome	Last week the notes suggested sharing a personal example of being reconciled to someone. That might have been difficult, perhaps too difficult, perhaps too personal and painful. This week talk through the emotions that stop us seeking reconciliation and on a positive note the emotions that follow reconciliation.
Worship	Choose a chorus or song that celebrates restored relationships e.g. <i>Peace is flowing like a river</i> This is 458 in Songs of Fellowship, and is printed on the back. Or you might like to acknowledge God's hand in the strains of daily life e.g. <i>Father I place into your hands the things I cannot do</i> . This is Hymns of Fellowship no 97; also printed on the back.
Word Gospel Matthew 5 23-26	Tom Wright in his <i>Matthew for Everyone</i> says that the scenes painted here are almost comic. What might the 'gift' be in Jesus day? What might it be today? So where would you leave the gift, in those days? And now? What might become of it whilst you go back to your village? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What, then, comes first, worship or reconciliation? • What then about the role of the courts to settle differences? What does the believer do when in dispute with a fellow believer? How realistic is this?
Genesis 45 4 -5	Dwell on these verses. They are the high point of the storey of Jacob's family. (Note that when reading these chapters from Genesis, Jacob is sometimes called Israel the name he was given by God in Genesis 35 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who made the first move? • Did the brothers ask for forgiveness? • Was the move reciprocated? • Did it need to be reciprocated? • Did the brothers 'deserve' to be forgiven? If not what should have happened to them? • What do you think of the favouritism that Joseph showed Benjamin? • Why do you think the Jews carefully preserved these Genesis stories, including the catalogue they contain of deceit, trickery, sexual misconduct, broken relationships and dysfunctional families? • What does the story of Jacob's family tell us about the nature of God?
Reflect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For personal reflection: does anyone bear a grudge against me? What should I do about it? • Do I bear a grudge against anyone? What should I do about it? • Pray for strength to do whatever I should do.
Witness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray for any who suffer or need Jesus' refreshment. ➤ Pray for eyes to see, ears to hear God's day to day working ➤ Forthcoming events - the Remembrance Day services. Who should be there? ➤ Pray for safety on the building as the builders team do the most difficult part, installing the new glass high up the building. The builders will be in safety harnesses. There needs to be little or no wind and definitely no rain!

PEACE IS FLOWING LIKE A RIVER

Peace is flowing like a river,
Flowing out through you and me,
Spreading out into the desert,
Setting all the captives free.

Let it flow through me,
Let it flow through me,
Let the mighty peace of God
Flow out through me.
Let it flow through me,
Let it flow through me,
Let the mighty peace of God
Flow out through me.

Love is flowing... (etc)

Joy is flowing... (etc)

Faith is flowing... (etc)

Hope is flowing... (etc)

FATHER I PLACE INTO YOUR HANDS

Father, I place into Your hands
The things I cannot do.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things that I've been through.
Father, I place into Your hands
The way that I should go,
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, I place into Your hands
My friends and family.
Father, I place into Your hands
The things that trouble me.
Father, I place into Your hands
The person I would be,
For I know I always can trust You.

Father, we love to see Your face,
We love to hear Your voice.
Father, we love to sing Your praise
And in Your name rejoice.
Father, we love to walk with You
And in Your presence rest,
For we know we always can trust You.

Father, I want to be with You
And do the things You do.
Father, I want to speak the words
That You are speaking too.
Father, I want to love the ones
That You will draw to You,
For I know that I am one with You.