

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUP NOTES - Sharing Christ through friendship

w/c Sunday 20th December 2015: Advent 4 – Joy!

Welcome/ icebreaker	Share how your experiences of joy have been impacted by 'life' ...can joy ever transcend <i>all</i> circumstances?
Worship	Read Luke 1:46-55 – Mary's song, Luke 1:67-79 – Zechariah's song. What is at the heart of both songs? If you're feeling bold, ask the members of the group to briefly share positive testimonies of God in their lives and weave these into your own group song of praise (no tune required!). Reflect on Simeon's song of praise.
Word	Read Is 9:2-7, and 11:1-5 – what do these passages say about the coming King? (Remember – Jesse was king David's father and the 'stump of Jesse' refers to the Messiah) <i>If you have time...</i> Read Is 8:19 – 9:2 – How does the birth of Jesus bring light into the darkness?
Reflect	Do I tend to despair at the world or am I more like Simeon – looking for the Lords consolation at the 'thin-places' where heaven reaches down to Earth?
Witness/ Group life	Think of ways to spread the joy of the Christmas story to others – find one small, simple thing you can do this week.