

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

Week beginning 23 January 2011. Epiphany 3.

Reading: Philippians 1:12-18 Theme: Feeling good – even when suffering.

Welcome/ icebreaker	Can you share examples, either from you own life or from the lives of others, of negative situations turning out to be positive?
Worship	Choose some songs that remind you of God’s sovereignty. Suggestions: Our God Reigns, When we walk with the Lord Rejoice. Faithful One Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal God’s truth to you and for you today, as you read his word and meet him through it.
Word (<i>refs.</i> ↓)	Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk if you missed it. Click on “downloads”.
Phil 1:	Recap on what has happened to Paul. What might have been the expected result of this?
Phil 1:12-14	What actually is the result of Paul’s imprisonment? Why might Paul particularly want to share this with the Philippians?(see 28-30)
Phil115-16	Do motives and character matter when sharing the Gospel? See 1Thess 1:2-6 for Paul’s thinking in another situation. Does Paul express a different view here? What is his main concern here?
Phil1:18-19	What is the source of Paul’s ability to rejoice, in prison or whatever his circumstances? (see Acts9:1-9) What kind of “prisons” might people be in today? Can any group members share experiences of times when they were particularly aware of being supported by prayer?
	Rejoice and praise God for all he has done for you . Pray for each other’s needs. Pray for those you know who have not heard the good news of Jesus. Pray as the Holy Spirit leads.
Witness	Who might need the Spirit of Jesus, living in you, to help them this week? Who might need your encouragement? Ask God to reveal that person to you. Is there something practical that might show God’s love?