

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

SMALL GROUP NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship

4th Sunday of Easter, w/b 29 April 2012: 'Power in the name of Jesus – Power to save',
Acts 4:1-12; John 10:11-18

Welcome/ icebreaker	Can you describe a time when you were rescued by someone, or when you rescued someone else, from a dangerous situation? How did you feel?
Worship	<i>Suggestions:</i> 210 I give you all the honour; 629 You are the vine; 897 Lord I lift your name on high; [1757] Everyone needs compassion (Mighty to save)
Word (refs.↓)	
Acts 4:1-12 (some questions to select from)	<p>(If necessary, summarise “the story so far” from chapter 3)</p> <p>How does the whole story echo the pattern of some of Jesus’ healing miracles (eg Mark 2:23-3:6)? What is Luke saying about the ministry of the early church?</p> <p>v.1. What in particular about Peter and John’s actions and preaching upset the Sadducees and the others mentioned here?</p> <p>v.3. Luke attributes the continued growth of the church to ‘hearing the message’. Which was more important: the healing, the preaching, or are they both equally important?</p> <p>vv.7-8. The apostles are asked to say by what power or what name they healed the man. Where does Peter place the emphasis of his answer?</p> <p>How does Peter’s reply in v.8 relate to what Jesus promised in Luke 21:12-15? What is the evidence that Peter was filled the Holy Spirit here? How does this compare with the purpose of the filling with the Spirit in Acts 2:4-6?</p> <p>v.11. Can you think of instances in your own life of something or someone you rejected as a ‘stumbling block’ turned out to be a vital ‘building block’ later in your life?</p> <p>v.13. What steps can we take in our lives that will demonstrate to others that we have ‘been with Jesus’?</p>
Acts 4:12 - Verse study	<p>This verse ends with the assertion that ‘we must be saved’. Discuss what you understand by ‘being saved’? What reasons would you give for arguing that all people need saving?</p> <p>‘Salvation is found in no-one else’. Why is Jesus (who is, uniquely, fully God and fully human) the only person who is able to save?</p> <p>Peter states that there is ‘no other name’ by which we must be saved. What implications does that have for you as regards people you know who are not yet Christians? What about others who may have never heard of Jesus? Does the example of the Old Testament saints in Hebrews 11 help at all here?</p>
<i>Additional study:</i> <i>John 10:11-18</i>	<p>Share your experiences of Jesus’ care for you as your ‘good shepherd’</p> <p>What does Jesus mean by ‘other sheep’ in v.16?</p> <p>What in vv.14-17 does Jesus say will be the key characteristics of his flock?</p> <p>Do you see these characteristics reflected in your small group/ in our church?</p>
Witness/ Group life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray for opportunities to share something from what you have discussed with someone you know who is not yet a Christian. ➤ Pray for all members of the group/ church to be sure of our own salvation and confident in sharing that sensitively with others.