

Parish Church of **St. Barnabas, Swanland** *Sharing Christ through friendship.*

Sunday 4th December 2011 – Born is the King of Israel
 Group notes – Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8

Welcome (Ice Breaker)	When the mail comes what do you open and read first? What is the strangest thing you have ever eaten?
Worship ideas	# 780 How Deep The Father's Love for Us # 382 Make Me, Lord A Dreamer for your kingdom # 32 At The Name Of Jesus
Word (refs.↓)	<i>suggestions for discussion:</i>
Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist's life was fuelled by one burning passion -- to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of his kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives?
	Why did Jesus say that John the Baptist was more than a prophet? (Luke 7:26).
Mark 1:4-5	Why is John's ministry so popular? What qualities of a preacher or church (or small group) would bring you all the way into the "desert region" in order to get involved?
	Why is John the Baptist so important to the story of Jesus?
Mark 1:9-13	What purpose do you see in Jesus' baptism and in his temptation (verses 12-13)
Isaiah 40:2-3	How well do you think John fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy?
Isaiah 40:3	The Gospels quote verse 3 in reference to John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. What does this imply about the identity of Jesus?
	How can you "prepare the way" in your life for Jesus? What needs levelling or shoring up?
	Prepare the way of the Lord! Make a straight way for God called Isaiah. Make a straight way for God, called John the Baptist. And that means repent. Move out of God's way. Prepare the way of the Lord also means get out of the way of the Lord. Clear the way. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. – Are you prepared and willing to make way for the Lord?
Isaiah 40:11	Jesus comes as the shepherd as well as King. What sheep do you feel like: Cradled? Content? Wandering? Caught? Lost? Why?
	When has repentance been especially important in your life? John the Baptist prepared "the way of the Lord". Who prepared the way of the lord in your life?
	As Jesus came out of the water as he was been baptised what did the voice from heaven say? What would you like to hear God say to you? What would happen if you went away by yourself for 40 days to face your particular temptations?
Witness	❖ Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Are you eager to hear God's word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit? ❖ Do you point others to Christ in the way you live, work, and speak?