

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUPS NOTES

Sharing Christ through friendship



Epiphany

Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

Welcome/icebreaker	What would make the perfect New Year's resolution? Do you make them?
Worship	Lord, the Light of Your Love <i>is shining</i> Blessed Assurance, <i>Jesus is mine.</i>
Word (verses):	
Matthew 2:1-12	Why is this gospel reading chosen for Epiphany? Explain
Matthew 2:1-12	Why do you think that Matthew is the only Gospel to record this story? -
Matthew 2:1-12	How many Kings were there? How many magi were there? *
Matthew 2:9	What does the 'star' do? Was it a Star?
Matthew 2:11	What did the magi do when they found Jesus? % What does this teach us about how our relationship with God should be?
Matthew 2:11	How soon after the birth of Jesus did the Magi present themselves before the baby Jesus? +
Ephesians 3:1-12	Why is Paul spending so much time explaining to the Gentiles their "before/after" picture and emphasising their place of equality with the Jews in one body, the body of Christ?
Ephesians 3:7-10	What was Paul's view of the mission God had given to him? Do you have a clear picture of what mission God has given you? What important mission does the church have in God's plan?
Ephesians 3:8	Why would Paul consider himself "less than the least of all God's people"?
Ephesians 3:12	What wonderful benefit of being in Christ is mentioned in verse 12?
	On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), with how much "freedom and confidence" do you approach God?
	How would you compare Paul's mission to share the mystery of the Gospel with your own passion to share the Gospel?
Wind/prayer	In their search for the Creator of the Universe, the wise men found you not in Herod's palace, but among the dwellings of the poor and needy. Teach us to search for truth and beauty in unexpected places, to relieve poverty where we are able, and to share unashamedly in the cause of the outcast and despised
Works/witness	<i>Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.</i> Matthew 5:16

Home Group leader notes:

- There's no right wrong answer to this question as no-one knows why.

* Nowhere does Matthew mention 'Kings' and neither does he say how many Magi there were.

% The wise men remind us that sometimes all we are called to do is to come before God and be silent. It was only after the wise men had worshiped that they brought out their highly precious and valuable gifts to offer to the infant child.

+ The exact time isn't known. Scholars believe that it may have been upto 2 years after the birth which is why Herod instructed all boys 2 years and under be killed.