

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

Weeks beginning Epiphany 2 (13/1/19) – “Let your light shine”

Group notes – Readings: 1 Peter 2:11-18; Matthew 5:11-16

Welcome	It's been said 'You may be the only gospel that people read'. Think of one person who has communicated the Bible's story for you: what was it they did or said that revealed God?
Worship ideas	Choose familiar songs; as you sing/listen pray that God will re-inspire you for witness Suggestions: 167 Here I am; 362 Shine Jesus shine; 1419 Light of the world; (NB: 20 files containing about 30 'newer' songs are available to borrow from the office for groups)
Word (refs.↓)	<i>suggestions for discussion:</i>
Matthew 5:11-16	These verses can be summarised as giving a definition of discipleship that will consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition from the world (vv.11-12) • Involvement in the world (vv.13-16) – being 'in the world but not of it' (cf. John 17:14) • Challenge to the world (vv.13-16) – retaining distinctive attitudes and lifestyles. How far do you find this a helpful summary?
vv.11-12	In what way do verses 11-12 apply to your situation (if at all)? Should we always expect opposition as believers? If we are experiencing it, how can these verses encourage us?
Matthew 5:13-14	Before refrigeration, salt was used to keep meat/ fish from rotting. What does 'you are the salt of the earth' say about our society and Christians' role in it In what practical ways can we be 'salt' where we live, work and relate to others?
Matthew 5:15-16	Why might believers be tempted to hide their light? When people see the good deeds we do for God, what effect should it have (v.16)? Is this always the case? If not, why not? <i>Additional questions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are most or all of your friends Christians? Whether yes or no, what is God saying to you about your answer? • Can you think of a way you as a group can begin having a stronger influence as salt and light in your community (e.g. a social action project)?
Witness	<u>Pray / praise</u> for one or two of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project and ❖ for those experiencing opposition or persecution ❖ for opportunities to make new friends and to share Christ with them as he leads. ❖ For tAny's curry and quiz night (Saturday 26th) and the opportunity for believers there to be 'salt and light' at that event. <u>Plan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ an opportunity as a group or as individuals to reach out in the weeks ahead to people who are not yet Christians (eg supper party/ event around St Valentine's day(!)).