

Welcome (<i>ice-breaker</i>)	How do you respond to being asked for money by a ‘homeless’ person?
Worship ideas	Suggestions for songs e.g. Songs of Fellowship 505 Soften my heart, Lord; 557 Thou whose almighty word; 738 Go forth and tell; 1757 Everyone needs compassion; 2417 Longing for light; (NB: 20 files of ‘newer’ songs are available to borrow from the church lounge for groups)
Word (<i>refs.↓</i>)	<i>Sunday’s 9am sermon is available to hear at http://www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on ‘download’ tab)</i>
<u>Read</u> Deuteronomy 15:7-11	<p>If possible, read this in the RSV or King James version as well as in a modern translation. Compare v.9 in the different translations. The literal phrase is ‘an evil eye’ but the meaning is clear from the context – ‘a mean, stingy or ungenerous attitude’, i.e. a calculating attitude which leads to not making a loan because the year of jubilee (forgiving debts) is near.</p> <p>How should this apply today? Compare Luke 6:35. How do you feel about giving or lending money or other property to another without expecting a ‘return’ (might this mean ‘no interest’ rather than no repayment of capital?) Either the point is clear – God’s people should be examples of generosity, particularly with regard to assisting fellow believers.</p>
<u>Read</u> Matthew 6:19-21 and 24	<p>These verses (vv.19-21 and 24) ‘frame’ the verses about light (22-23). What does v.19 mean? How might ‘treasures on earth’ lose their value in Jesus’ day? And in our day? Is Jesus warning about making sure our investments are secure, or about the fact that ‘you can’t take it with you when you go’? In contrast, what are ‘treasures in heaven’? Is it about using our gifts to God’s glory? Or about investing in kingdom values? Compare Matthew 10:42 – what will ensure our reward in heaven there? (NB the reference to helping fellow disciples).</p> <p>Jesus warns ‘you cannot serve God and money’ (v.24) – what is the problem with ‘serving’ money/Mammon/materialism? (remember: ‘serve’ in 1st century Palestine = ‘be a slave to’).</p> <p>If vv.19-21 and 24 are all about generosity, how does this illuminate vv.22-23? Note: the phrase ‘eyes are good/healthy’ and ‘eyes are bad/unhealthy’ use the same idiom as Deut. 15:9, i.e. Jesus is talking about generosity and warning about a mean or calculating spirit when it comes to our attitudes and relationships with others.</p> <p>What do we learn from vv.22-23 about the need to ‘live in the light’ in our interaction with other people, especially fellow-believers? Do you think as a church St Barnabas is living out these principles? If so, how? If not, how can we improve?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for your mission link person and/or project • Pray for greater compassion in our dealings with others and with one another. • Plan for a group social in the next few weeks to invite not-yet Christians to.