

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

Sharing Christ through friendship.

Small Group notes for w/beg. **24/11/13 (Sunday before Advent/ Christ the King).**

Readings: Colossians 1:9-20; Luke 23:33-43 *‘Christ is King – over all and over me’*

Welcome/ icebreaker	Who (<i>other than Jesus!</i>) has had the greatest influence over your life since you reached adulthood?
Worship	Focus on acknowledging Jesus as King – suggestions: 7 <i>All hail King Jesus</i> , 289 <i>Jesus is King</i> , 379 <i>Majesty</i> , 621 <i>You are beautiful</i> , 714 <i>Father of Creation</i> , 935 <i>My Jesus, my saviour</i> ,
Word / (refs.)	
Read Col. 1:9-14	If possible, read vv.9-12 together, as a prayer for one another. What 4 specific things does Paul pray for his readers in vv.10-12 (look for the words ending in “-ing”)? Which one of these do you need most today? What difference does it make to you to know that you have been ‘rescued... and brought... into the kingdom of the Son?’ (v.13)
Read Col. 1:15-20	What role does Paul ascribe to Christ in creation (v.16)? What does that imply for the church (v.17)? – for earthly and heavenly powers (v.20)? Do other forces in your life sometimes seem more powerful than Jesus? Why? How does it help to know that they are under his authority?
Luke 23:33-39	Pilate put up the notice on the cross, ‘This is the King of the Jews’ (v.38). Was he being ironic, provocative or secretly admiring? (cf. John 19:19-22) What understanding of Jesus as King/ Messiah is expressed in what is said in vv.35, 36 and 39? How was Jesus’ kingship different from these?
Luke 23:40-43	How well do you think the penitent thief (v.40-42) understood the nature of Jesus’ kingship/ kingdom? Does it matter? What does Jesus’ reply (v.43) tell us about the importance of us acknowledging him as king personally?
<i>‘Supplementary’</i>	Which do you find more difficult to acknowledge: the fact of Christ’s Kingship over creation, or submitting to his Kingship over your life? Why?
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or organisation ❖ for our own acknowledgment of Jesus as King, and our response to the needs highlighted at St Barnabas’ this week (esp. the financial situation) <p><u>Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ plans for a ‘social’/ open meeting in December to which you can invite those who are not yet Christians ❖ whom might you invite to the various events/ services at St B’s over Christmas season?

NB Copies of the new church leaflet *‘A generous church... A growing church’*, which were given out this Sunday, are available from the foyer or church office, or via your group leader.