

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

Small Group notes for week beginning Trinity Sunday, 26 May 2013.

Bible passages: Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15 - "The community of the Spirit"

Welcome	Think of a time when a difficult school subject 'clicked' for you? How did it happen?
Worship ideas	<p><i>Suggested songs: Songs of Fellowship 102 Father we love you, 334 Let your living water, 980 Praise God from whom all blessings flow, 1982 O God the God of blessing</i></p> <p><i>(NB: 20 files of newer songs are available to borrow from the lounge – eg ('You are good and your love endures forever' by Gareth Robinson or 'Our God saves' by Paul Baloche)</i></p>
Word (refs.↓)	<i>some suggestions for discussion here – you might prefer to focus on just 2 or 3 questions</i>
<p><u>Read</u> Romans 5:1-5</p>	<p>What are the benefits Paul says are ours because of being justified through faith? Does he think of them as a present reality or as something to be hoped/ prayed for? What is your experience here?</p> <p>Trace the sequence in vv.3-4. Can you share any examples of suffering producing perseverance, character and hope?</p> <p>If you feel able, share what God has taught you through an experience of suffering.</p> <p>Compare v.5 with Galatians 4:6. How does God pouring the Spirit of his Son into our hearts provide us with assurance and hope?</p>
<p><u>Read</u> John 16:12-15</p>	<p>V.12 "the Spirit will guide you into all truth" – including helping to understand the Trinity!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you find any of these 'analogies' of the Trinity helpful? – how are they 'like' and 'unlike' God as Trinity (a "Tri-Unity", three persons in one Godhead)? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A tree – roots, trunk, branches (all essential aspects; without any it is not a tree, etc.) b. H2O - can be ice, water or steam - all are the same substance c. Egg – yolk, white, shell d. A person - who may be e.g. a husband, a father and a son all at the same time e. One of these symbols/ images (<i>try looking at the last one through a circle eg a ring</i>) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="336 1272 651 1599"> </div> <div data-bbox="687 1308 1050 1626"> </div> <div data-bbox="1126 1263 1433 1626"> </div> </div> <p>(Rublev's Icon of the Trinity)</p> <p>f. Some other image that the group comes up with</p> <p>While none of these images/ models is perfect, try and take one and focus on its <u>positive</u> aspects - what does it say about who God is and how we can encounter him?</p>
Witness	<p><u>Pray</u> for one or two of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ for your mission link person(s) or project, especially for Dave and Siyoli Waters visiting Swanland at this time, and for Ann Fursdon on UK leave. ❖ for opportunities to reach out to family/ friends/ neighbours this next month (eg barbecue lunch at church on Father's Day (Sun 16 Jun) ❖ Update your plan as a group during June or July for an activity to which you can invite friends/ neighbours/ family who aren't yet Christians (picnic, garden party, &c.)