

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND
SMALL GROUP NOTES - Sharing Christ through friendship

w/b 22 February 2015 – **Lent 1** – Readings: Philippians 3:1-11 (+ Mark 10:17-27)
A life worth living (5) – New confidence (based on Nicky Gumbel’s book/ course)

Welcome/ icebreaker	What things help build confidence (in you personally, or generally)? What dangers might there be in a false degree of self-confidence (eg in a job situation)?
Worship	Suggestions for songs: SOF nos. 596/ 1606 When I survey; 646 All I once held dear; 779 How can I be free from sin? 1180 At the foot of the cross; 1338 I’m giving you my heart (I surrender);
Word (refs.↓)	<u>A life worth living</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB Sermon and reflection from Sunday’s service(s) available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the ‘downloads’ tab) • For further study, why not watch Nicky Gumbel’s talk on this passage as part of the ‘Life worth Living’ Alpha follow-up course – now available online at youtu.be/9A76MOVoczU (or on video from the office)
Phil. 3:1-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul’s opponents were teaching that faith in Jesus alone wasn’t enough to be saved – people had to obey the Jewish law (by being circumcised) as well. What ‘extra requirements’ do we sometimes mistakenly add to faith?
Phil. 3:4-6, 9 Mark 10:17-27 Phil. 3:7-9	<p>In Phil 3:9, Paul contrasts the (false) righteousness that comes from trying and failing to obey the law, with the true righteousness which comes from God as a gift, by faith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you understand by ‘righteousness’ (compare Ro.1:17/ Ro. 3:21-24)? • Paul used to rely on a false ‘confidence in the flesh’ (v.3) – things he relied on for salvation from his personal background and personal achievements. He lists around seven of these in vv.5-6. Can you suggest parallels to these in people’s experience today? Why might they be more of a ‘loss’ than a ‘profit’? • Compare the example of the rich young man in Mark 10 – what was he relying on to be sure of eternal life? What re-assurance did he get from Jesus? • What do we ‘gain’ from relying on God for true confidence in our right standing before him, rather than relying on ourselves? • Pray vv.10-11 for yourself and for each other.
Witness/ Group life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pray for your mission link and others whom God brings to mind today ➤ Take time to share one another’s news and needs. Pray for renewed confidence in the righteousness that comes from God by faith. What practical steps can you take this Lent to grow that confidence and be prepared to share it with others? ➤ Discuss plans to come as a group to the Church Family Together evening on Thursday 5th March (7.30-9.30pm); don’t forget new times for the services on Mothering Sunday 15th March (10am and 4pm)