

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SWANLAND

'Sharing Christ through friendship' - SMALL GROUPS' NOTES

Jesus Presented in the Temple, w/beg 3 Feb. 2019. Bible passages: **Heb. 2:14-end; Luke 2:22-40**

The presentation of Jesus in the Temple – a light for revelation to the nations

Welcome/ icebreaker	Were you baptised/ dedicated as an infant? What do you know about it? How?
Worship	Choose songs which express who Jesus is: <i>eg. Songs of Fellowship nos. 27 As the deer, 89 Faithful One, 368 Lord you are, 594 When I feel the touch, 627 You are the King of Glory, 923 Mighty God, 935 My Jesus, my Saviour, 1916 I will set my face, etc.</i>
Word (refs.↓)	NB 9am Sermon available to listen to on www.stbchurch.org.uk (click on the 'downloads' tab).
Heb. 2:14-end	Why does the writer here (v.14) emphasise that Jesus was 'flesh and blood' (i.e. not an angel)? In what specific ways did Jesus identify with humanity in his earthly life, especially his childhood? What does this imply about the links we make with others (family, church, community) as we seek to follow his example?
Luke 2:22-40	Read the whole passage aloud. What does this story reveal about Jesus' parents – e.g. their social standing, their religious commitment, their understanding of who Jesus was? How do you think the story was recorded and eventually written down in this gospel, and why? As far as we know, neither Simeon nor Anna had any official role in the presentation ceremony (see e.g. v.27a, v.38a). Why do you think they were there? Why was it such an important occasion for Simeon (v.29) and why did Anna speak to 'all' who would hear (v.38b)?
Luke 2:29-35	Look at what Simeon says here. What, in Luke's story so far, is 'new' in what Simeon says about Jesus (compare Luke 2:10 with v.31-2)? How would vv.34-35 be a help to Mary in the years to come? How would you react to being prompted to 'give' such a message to someone? Or to receiving such a message? Read vv. 30-32 again. How is Jesus a 'light for revelation' to the people around you today?
Witness	Pray - for your mission links; Action: - Jesus comes as a light to the Gentiles/ nations (i.e. those are not yet part of the people of God.) Pray and plan ways you as individuals or a group can shine for Jesus and 'present' him to the world 'out there'. How might you as a group or as individuals reach out to those largely 'unreached people groups' in our community (e.g. young adults in their 20s & 30s; the homeless; those from other faiths; etc.)