

# More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: COrdinary9x2016 *Proper 4, Pentecost 2*

Text: 1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29) 30-39

## *Elijah's Triumph over the Priests of Baal*

20 So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, “How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” The people did not answer him a word.

22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal’s prophets number four hundred fifty. 23 Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.” All the people answered, “Well spoken!”

25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” 26 So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made.

27 At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” 28 Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. 29 As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come closer to me”; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; 31 Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name”; 32 with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. 33 Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” 34 Then he said, “Do it a second time”; and they did it a second time. Again he said, “Do it a third time”; and they did it a third time, 35 so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water.

36 At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. 37 Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” 38 Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the

wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God.”

Word - I    Math - I    Nature - I/S    Self - I/S

This may actually be one of the greatest multiple intelligence displays in the Bible. Elijah employs Word, Eye, Math, Body, Nature, People, and Self smarts to make his point.

Smarts	Images in the text	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	<p>Limping about</p> <p>Vs. 27</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Injury results in limping</li> <li>2. The people’s refusal to choose (which is a choice) inflicts injury on them (see <a href="#">People</a>)</li> <li>3. The priests of Ba’al have injured themselves in their furor to get Ba’al to respond</li> <li>4. (see <a href="#">Body</a>)</li> </ol> <p>We don’t usually think of prophets <a href="#">trash-talking</a>, but that’s pretty much what Elijah does here!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Ali, the greatest trash talker</a></li> <li>• Except <a href="#">this guy</a></li> </ul>	Sandlot
Eye - Visual/Spatial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 12 stones</li> <li>● Raving prophets</li> <li>● Fire from heaven</li> </ul>		<a href="#">Elijah rebuilds the altar, digitally and God answers</a>
Math - Logical/Mathematical	450 - 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Louisiana State Capitol</a> is 450’ tall. A ruler is 1’ tall.</li> <li>• Melting point of <a href="#">Tellurium</a> is 450°C (Zinc is 420°C) while 1°C is almost freezing point for water (0°)</li> <li>• Washington, DC, to Charleston, SC, as the crow flies, is ~450 miles</li> </ul>	

		and Hollywood, CA, to Tucson, AZ, is ~450 miles, which at a constant 60 mph would take 7.5 hours to drive, while 1 mile would take 1 minute.	
Body - Kinesthetic		Limping - injury, illness; Worn out from following other gods....	<p>Come into worship on crutches. Let them get in the way often; allow it to distract you from what you are doing. Make the parallel to the people of Israel and the priests of Ba'al who are distracted and limited in their worship.</p> <p>Be sure to point out that limping or being on crutches physically is not an indication of an idolatrous spiritual life!</p>
Musical		The whole story has a similar dynamic to <a href="#">“The Devil Went Down to Georgia”</a> by Charlie Daniels (except Johnny doesn't give glory to God)	
Natural	Stones, bull, wood, water	Consider the size of a bull and how big an altar would need to be to hold it -- pretty big! Lots of stones!	<p>Build a stone altar and lay wood on it. Perhaps a scale model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Israelite altar of unhewn stone</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Random stone altar, apparently for vegans</a></li> </ul>
People - Interpersonal	Vss. 21, 26, 31, 39	<p>Who ya gonna call? More importantly, who will answer?</p> <p><b>DANGER:</b> parallel with 2016 general election</p> <p>A percentage of voters on both the Democratic and Republican side of the fence have stated they</p>	

		<p>will sit out the election (or just vote down ticket only) rather than make a choice for either candidate. Choosing not to choose is a choice that has consequences for the future and for the larger body. It may be an easy way out of making a tough decision, but it does nothing to make a difference. In fact, it could bring about results that usher in a reality worse than the one in which we live.</p> <p>12 stones = 12 tribes A reminder of who they were.</p>	
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p>	<p>No voice, no answer</p>	<p>“In fact, this narrative isn’t fundamentally a power contest at all. At stake is which God answers prayer. In other words, whom could the people truly trust with their petitions? Which of the two deities would actually deliver on promises? And the narrative makes abundantly clear that there can be only one answer to these questions.” Michael Chan - WP <a href="http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2884">http://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2884</a></p> <p>Who can you trust to respond?</p> <p>David’s robing prayers.....</p>	<p>Do you “limp” between the Lord God and other idols in your life? What do you need to be more steadfast to the Lord?</p>