

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: C Ordinary 28x2016

Text: Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said:

4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Primary Expressed Intelligence - {MWD} people/self {D2} Space

Eye - I/Sfx, Math - I/Sfx, Body - I, Nature - I, People - I/Sfx, Self - I/Sfx

| Smarts | Images in the text/ interesting exegesis | Illustrations | SFX |
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| Word - Verbal/Linguistic | Houses and vineyards/gardens were among the promises when the people were given the Promised Land. Now they are symbolic of their loss of the same. | | |
| Eye - Visual/Spatial | The people were bereft of the temple, God's home on earth. Losing this sacred space was devastating. What "places" do we give sacred meaning to? Where is God for us? | Margins are the space of God's visitation, for God is discernible and present in the margins. ~ Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon Captives taken to Babylon, the most | Show images of cathedrals, temples, your own church building, sports arenas, forests, banks, houses, sky-scrapers, schools, etc. Last image - the earth from outer space OR |

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| | | <p>populous city in the known world then. Here are some artistic images of what it may have looked like</p> | <p>Get a piece of cardboard and paint or transfer a picture onto it - a landscape or cityscape eg</p> <p>hold it up to show it - ooooh aaaaahhhh</p> <p>Then dim the lights and shine a powerful flashlight from behind the picture revealing the "cracks" or margins used to make the picture</p> <p>the shape behind the picture can be the cross, helping hands, a large THETA representing GOD in Greek, etc</p> |
| <p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> | <p>Jeremiah: investing in the future no matter how small the investment or the length til maturity is usually the path God intends for the people. It teaches patience, appreciation for the present, hope for the future, trust in God's providence</p> | <p>Ballistic artillery - Jeremiah is lobbing mortar shells from home into the hearts of the exiles</p> | <p>Fire Nerf darts or grenades into the congregation at a high angle. Nerf nuke - lol</p> <p>Don't use this one</p> <p>give a volunteer \$5: tell that person they can put the money into a fund that will not mature in their lifetime OR they can buy a cup of really good coffee</p> <p>What decision will they make and why?</p> |
| <p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> | <p>In our lives there are times we have to accept the tragedy that has happened or unexpected circumstances that life has dealt us. This can be hard when all we</p> | <p>Difficult diagnoses - cancer, ALS, MS, Parkinson's, osteo-arthritis, simple aging</p> <p>A huge industry has built up around returning us</p> | |

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| | want to do is to escape the pain or difficulty. It would be easier to listen to those who suggest a quick fix. <i>Anna Grant Henderson, Uniting Church in Australia</i> | to Status Quo (read: youth) and barring that, living life in the past as much as possible (botox, etc) | |
| Musical | | | |
| Natural | Exile as an unstoppable natural disaster - which sometimes leads to abrupt change | The image that comes to mind is a flood swollen river that washes away everything in its path. There are many pictures: Big Thompson River 2013, Ellicott City 2016, South Louisiana 2016 etc... Stress the power of water in mass quantities - moving boulders, smashing cars, uprooting houses from foundations, etc metaphor for changing times and where is God in all this? In the water itself, in the destruction, in the recovery and rebuilding, that's where. | |
| People - Interpersonal | Jeremiah is pointing to a new reality that is | You're grounded! Exiles think they are Cinderella, that their fairy god-God will come and make sure they go to the ball (that is, go home!) but when God arrives, God says, "No, you stay here and clean the fireplace." See also Word? who have been the lone voices representing newness and the status | Make a list of captors (people who you perceive to be in "control") be explicit and LISTEN to each other during this exercise Make a covenant with one another to pray for these captors every day for one month at the end of the month, regroup and share what has happened. |

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| | <p>coming about through exile; it sucks, but God is doing a new thing</p> | <p>quo's upheaval in history?</p> <p>MLKjr, Jefferson et al, artists, politicians, scientists, activists, etc....</p> | |
| <p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> | <p>The instruction to plant, build, marry, and make themselves at home sounds ridiculous so soon after the deportation, but Jeremiah is already into the future - as God has shown it to him</p> <p>If there was a future, it had to be God's future, not theirs.</p> <p>Jeremiah called the people to be concerned with the welfare of the very people who had taken them captive and would soon destroy their homeland. He even called on the captives to pray for the welfare of their captors.</p> | <p>Sometimes, the most important task for God's people in the midst of a barren present is to be faithful to God in such a way that the next generation can experience what the present generation has already lost or been unable to realize.</p> <p>Dennis Bratcher</p> | <p>what new future do we confess? Can we confess?</p> <p>Have you ever prayed for a person who has hurt you? Have you ever prayed for a person who has ruined your life?</p> |