

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AEaster6x2017

Text: Acts 17:22-31

²²Then Paul **stood** in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, **I see** how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as **I went through the city** and **looked carefully** at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, **this I proclaim to you.** ²⁴The God who made **the world and everything in it**, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines **made by human hands**, ²⁵nor is he **served by human hands**, as though he needed anything, since he himself **gives to all mortals life and breath** and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made **all nations** to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and **the boundaries of the places where they would live**, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps **grope for him** and find him—though indeed **he is not far from each one of us.** ²⁸For ‘**In him we live and move and have our being**’; as even **some of your own poets have said**, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like **gold, or silver, or stone**, an image **formed by the art and imagination of mortals.** ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of **human ignorance**, now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which **he will have the world judged in righteousness** by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all **by raising him from the dead.**”

Math - I, Music - I, Nature - I/S, People - I/S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
Word - Verbal/Linguistic	Vs. 23 Unknown = <i>agnosto</i> where we get the word agnostic Vs. 25 Served = <i>therapeutai</i> where we get the word healed	How many agnostic gods are served these days? Does serving a god heal one? Depends on the God, I suppose!	
Eye - Visual/Spatial		Vs. 22-23 - A little bit <u>condescending</u> ? So you’re a pagan? Tell me more about how bringing food to a statue will make your crops grow.	Athenian Idol!!
Math -		Beliefs determine actions.	

<p>Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>If people believe “the gods” order everything and will grant blessings based on offerings to them, they will give offerings to gods. If people believe they will get back on top economically or socially, they will vote for the lesser of two evils. Paul is attempting to get the Athenians to change their thinking - repent - in order to change their behavior.</p> <p>One book I was reading recently described pagan worship as “strictly a business transaction.”</p>	
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p>			<p>Vs. 28 - Invite people to wave their hands fast enough to feel the air. We live and move in the air, just as Paul says we live and move and have our being in God. (see also Nature)</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>Matt Skinner - “The Gospel sounds different every place it is told.”</p> <p>And every <i>time</i> it is told.</p>	<p>The Cotton Patch Gospel Godspell Jesus Christ Superstar Messiah Etc.</p>	
<p>Natural</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>“God appoints the natural order precisely so that God may be found in human existence.”</p> <p>Skinner, ibid</p>	<p>Vs. 29 - Talk about the natural forces that lead to the formation of gold, silver, stone, and wood – stellar nucleosynthesis and supernovae, planetary formation in the protoplanetary disk, asteroid strikes, development of plant life, etc. Consider theologically what and Who is behind all these processes, and then consider how odd it is</p>	<p>⇐ Have some gold, silver, wood, and stone to show off</p> <p>⇐ Consider that all the atoms of your body come from stellar nucleosynthesis, that we are (as Carl Sagan said) actually star stuff.</p>

		<p>that humans use these products as objects of worship.</p> <p>Vs. 28 - Fish live and move and have their being in water. (Are they aware of it? Are they grateful for it?) Paul quotes a line that says God is our water equivalent.</p>	<p>⇐ Bring in a fish in a bowl/tank</p>
<p>People - Interpersonal</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>Vs. 25 - Paul suggests that the things we offer to God (whether service or gifts) are as useful to God as most gifts from a young child to a parent, which is to say not very. Not that the gift isn't appreciated and cherished, but it isn't needed or necessary and doesn't add much to the parent's wealth or worth.</p> <p>Similar to the story of the little child who crept onto the stage at a Paganini concert and started playing "Chopsticks", only to be joined by the maestro playing variations with the child.</p>	<p>⇐ If you have a gift or card from your own child, bring it for "show and tell." Talk about what it means to you and how it could be replaced by more practical manufactured things.</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p>	<p>Vs 29 - various idols</p>	<p>"Our world, like theirs, is variously if sometimes stupidly religious. Now as then, Christianity faces attackers of all stripes: the sophisticated, the unthinking, and the powerful who are easily threatened. Anyone who considers idolatry dead in contemporary culture has not been paying attention to Wall Street and Madison Avenue, to Hollywood or Washington or Beijing." Clifton Black, WP</p>	<p>What idols are in your living space?</p> <p>What have you invented that captures your attention or devotion?</p>