

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: AOrdinary32x2017

Text: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3 Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. 5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst; and afterwards I brought you out. 6 When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. 7 When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterwards you lived in the wilderness a long time. 8 Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. 9 Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you; so I rescued you out of his hand. 11 When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them over to you. 12 I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. 13 I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards that you did not plant. 14 “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18 and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” 19 But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” 24 The

people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” 25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Word - S, Eye - B, Math - I, Music - I, People - B

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>MWD</p>			<p>Congregation reads the parts of the people: vss. 16-18, 21, 22b, 24.</p> <p>Use a liturgy for the reaffirmation of the baptismal covenant, such as this from PCUSA or this from UMC.</p> <p>See also PEOPLE and SELF for both of these.</p>
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>Joshua gathered the people at Shechem (also Shechem), the place where God promised the land to Abraham. Jacob also worshiped the Lord there [and was buried there at the end of this chapter!]. It is a significant and sacred site for the Israelites and worthy of a covenant ceremony.</p> <p>Consider with your congregation your own sanctuary, its history of worship and sacred activity and covenantal ceremonies. Perhaps put it in terms of what the windows or furniture have been witness to in the space. What would these witnesses say about how your congregation has kept the covenant to serve the Lord?</p> <p><i>EYE for space and witness.</i></p>	<p>The very ground where the people stand to make this promise to God has the idols of Jacob’s era buried in it.</p> <p>Get a large glass jar or vase (you can find them at Michael’s or any other craft store). Determine what type of symbols you might want to use for “false gods” - e.g. plastic play money or toy cars for wealth. Put the false gods on the bottom of your jar and then layer different color sand and rocks and then put a picture of your church on the top and draw the congregation’s attention to the landmines of false idols are in the ground under our own feet.</p>

Math - Logical/Mathematical MWD		The people repeat the promise to serve YHWH three times. The number three represents completeness and stability in Hebrew gematria . Maybe Joshua was pushing the people to complete their promise and find stability in it?	
Body - Kinesthetic			
Musical MWD		Bob Dylan: Gotta Serve Somebody	
Natural		Joshua is concerned about the people's faithfulness to YHWH because he knows the land into which they are going is naturally abundant .	
People - Interpersonal D2		<p>Joshua gives the people every opportunity to get out of making this covenant to serve the Lord.</p> <p>It is like the declaration of intent in a wedding ceremony --are you sure you want to go through with this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort of like when your computer asks if you really want to delete that executable system file. • Also, a TV Trope 	<p>Shechem was designated by God in Joshua 20:7 as a city of refuge, "...a haven that interrupts and transforms a landscape marred by violence and revenge". ~Anathea Portier-Young, WP</p> <p>Discuss the significance of the people making a promise of allegiance to YHWH in a sanctuary city.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does being in this historical place influence the promise? 2. How does the place being set apart as a safe place influence the promise? 3. How do sanctuary cities function as places of refuge in our world?
Self - Intrapersonal		If you choose to make the Parfait of False Gods (see EYE sfx), leave it in a	Have you ever had to decide whom you would follow? Perhaps not

		<p>public spot for a few weeks and allow people to use it as a way to contemplate their own devotion to God.</p>	<p>choosing your god but some other leader? Or what about choosing what god to serve? What goes into a decision like that? What rested on the choice?</p> <p>If you never have had to decide, can you imagine a situation in which you would?</p>
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