

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BAdv2x2017

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead [the mother sheep](#).

Eye - B, Body - B, Music - S, Self - B

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p>	<p>Crying out or lifting up the voice with strength seems to be the transition for a new metaphor in the passage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Getting out of prison, 2. Highway in the wilderness, 3. Grass of the field, 4. Good Shepherd. <p>Are they connected? You could make a flow.</p>	<p>Roads, roadways, paths, journeys, epic treks - all are the setting (and even the character) in much of our literature.</p> <p>Pilgrim's Progress The Lord of the Rings saga The archetypal journey of the hero. The Grapes of Wrath</p> <p>Any story that involves moving from one location to another, either physically or metaphorically might fall into that category.</p>	
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>Vs. 3-4 - A WV highway and a WV bridge See also MATH for engineering.</p> <p>This is suggesting doing to the landscape what you do when measuring flour to bake a cake. Put the flour into your measuring cup and then use a knife to push the high parts into the low parts and level the lot of it.</p>	<p>Travelling the Slow Route to Petra The Lowest Place on Earth The Road</p> <p>← Do this.</p>
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p>	<p>Road construction</p> <p><i>Mesillah</i> = causeway, course, highway, path, terrace; a thoroughfare (as turnpiked), literally or figuratively; specifically a viaduct, a</p>	<p>The highway is engineered. "... a good, well-constructed and straight road was a sign of prosperity and security. Roman roads had this quality, for they were straight, paved, and</p>	

	<p>staircase -- causeway, course, highway, path, terrace.</p> <p>An article on Roman engineering.</p>	<p>marked.”</p> <p>Modern roads require a great deal of dirt moving, either through blasting rock or digging huge amounts of dirt.</p> <p>“But I think of the explosive power both of that voice in the wilderness calling for a path to be cleared for God’s arrival, and of the arrival itself, God’s dwelling among humans.”</p> <p>~both quotes, Paul Stroble, <i>The Christian Century</i></p>	
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>"Nakham" comfort Hebrew = taking a deep breath</p>	<p>The emotional impact I get from this passage is like the Red Cross showing up after a disaster and wrapping survivors with warm blankets and an arm around the shoulders. “You’ve made it. It’s okay. You’re going to be alright now.” It’s a physical comfort after shock or trauma. See also PEOPLE, SELF</p>	<p>⇐ Do this. Bring a warm blanket to wrap around yourself or someone else.</p> <p>We often comfort and console people by telling them to breathe, so...</p> <p>... nakham - take a deep breath. Or two. Or three.</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>MWD</p>			<p>Play one or more of these pieces from Handel’s <i>Messiah</i>, perhaps in the background while you preach?</p> <p>vss. 1-4 vs. 5 vs. 9 (+60:1) vs. 11</p>
<p>Natural</p>	<p>Rahah = shepherd</p> <p>“God’s alien work may be bringing about death and destruction, but the proper and crowning</p>	<p>Vs. 3 - Is there a wilderness area near where you live and serve? What sort - desert, forest, mountain, urban? What would it take to make a</p>	<p>Vss. 6-8 Bring in some faded grass. Ever feel like this?</p>

	<p>work of God is exhibiting mercy.” ~James Rowe, Lectionary Greek</p>	<p>straight highway there that would be suitable for royal travel? <i>See also MATH for engineering.</i></p> <p>Also, the desert has a plethora of flora - life is hardy, adaptive, and beautiful.</p>	
<p>People - Interpersonal</p>		<p>The “ruach” blows and people wither --- and die? Or is it that which we hold on to dies? Maybe something in our corporate life is no longer viable and the Spirit is making way for something new.</p>	<p>Move into groups of three to five and discuss what may need to wither for new growth to occur. (In your congregation specifically, or the larger culture in general - you decide.)</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>“Two years ago I went through a time where I could not go to the communion rail. I felt distant from God, locked up in my shame, unworthiness and failure. For six months I sat in worship, reading the liturgy, singing, listening to the sermons, hoping for some kind of breakthrough. Often I choked back the tears as I sat in silence while the rest of the congregation went forward. I feared going forward, scared that I would have some kind of emotional breakdown and create a terrible, emotional scene in front of the whole congregation. Sometimes I just left the sanctuary before communion and sat in the car while my boys finished Sunday School. The work of lowering the mountains of my pride</p>	<p>What metaphor would you choose for the Good News that God is coming and you will be in right relationship with God? <i>See also WORD</i></p>

		<p>and raising the valleys of my despair took weeks. Then one Sunday, I finally felt like I could take communion again. As I listened to the Gospel lesson, which was the parable of the lost sheep, it just dawned on me that God was searching for me just like the shepherd looked for the one lost sheep. I don't know why it dawned on me that Sunday. I don't know why 6 months of participating in liturgy and hearing good sermons didn't make it happen sooner. It just happened that Sunday, and I could go forward and receive communion again. God wasn't any different that day; perhaps I had finally done the internal work of preparing the way.” ~ Todd Weir, Blooming Cactus</p>	
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