

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BLent3x2018

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18 For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word - B, Math - B, Body - B, [People - B, Self - B]

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>Vs 23 - “Why is the cross—the worst failure, and utter folly, since Jesus really did nothing to escape it—the <i>language</i> of God’s wisdom?” From Taize commented Bible passages</p> <p>“When Paul writes that Christ is the wisdom of God, he’s tapping into an ancient way of speaking about God. He’s drilling down into proverbs, where wisdom plays the part of the creative spirit of God. Wisdom is begotten of God, the firstborn of all creation, the very spirit alive in Creation, a feminine expression of God.”</p>	<p>Wisdom, or “knowledge is power” is the primary motivator of those Paul is identifying as the Greeks. For them, mastery of language was important.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I went looking for information on mastering language and came across the ad in the png below, which I think illustrates Paul’s point about the Corinthians quite nicely! 	<p>Vs. 20</p> <p>Do you know anyone who is/was on a debate team? How do they prepare and what skills they need to compete? What is the criteria for a “good debate”? How does one objectively win a debate? What does being a good debater do for them developmentally?</p>

	Casey Thompson , The Christian Century		
Eye - Visual/Spatial			
Math - Logical/Mathematical D2		<p>Paul's assertion that the cross of Jesus is the basis for life is as astounding and unsettling as the discovery of subatomic level of reality; it completely reorders the way we look at how life is structured. Einstein himself labeled that world "spooky."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "The Love That Binds the Universe," Rev. Canon Frank S. Logue 	<p>Vs. 25 - Draw number lines or graphs to show two functions such that the greatest value of the one is less than the lowest value of the other. <i>See below.</i></p> <p>Make use of a brain teaser or two to demonstrate the need to "think outside the box," something that Paul's targets here don't seem quite able to do.</p>
Body - Kinesthetic MWD		<p>Strength of character as well as body, or "might makes right" is the primary motivator of those Paul identifies as Jews. This isn't to say they were trying to dominate anyone else, but the phrase 'stumbling block' seems to suggest being seen as weak was not acceptable.</p> <p>This passage has a hint of "S/He has more talent in her/his little finger than you have in your whole body."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone called <i>PQR Theorist</i> commenting on the quote says, "It's been around in various forms for a long time. Dickens used the phrase "more talent in his little finger" in Martin Chuzzlewit (1843-44), and he wasn't the first to use it--it appeared 	<p>Paul has nothing against strength, but sees plenty wrong with how strength is applied. For Paul, real strength is poured out in love.</p> <p>Have your congregation imagine lifting weights - or if you have a volunteer, have that person come forward and actually lift some weights.</p> <p>Start with small weights and then put an image around that weight; eg. a one pound weight is now one pound of rice given to a hungry family.</p> <p>A five pound weight is a newborn baby. A ten pound weight is a sledgehammer or other tool used to build a house. A twenty five pound weight is a child carried by its mother to the doctor or to school. 40 lbs. is what five gallons</p>

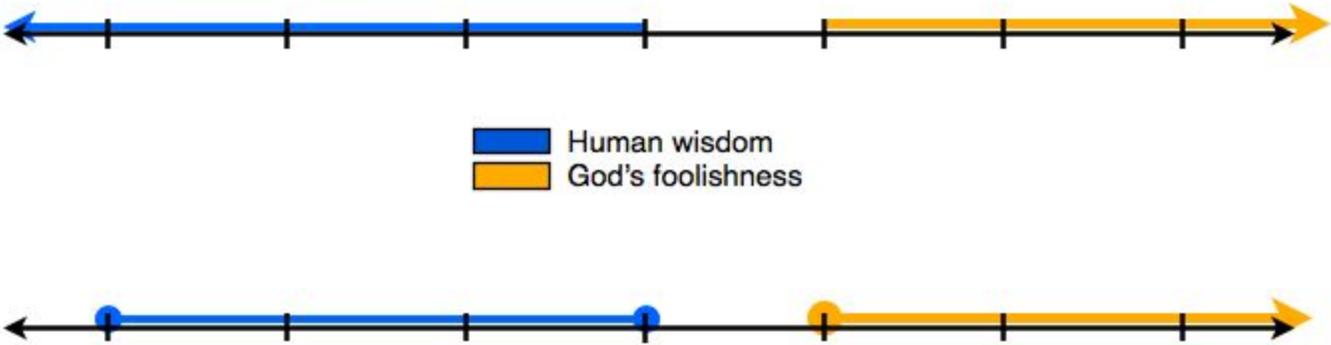
		<p>in the Edinburgh Dramatic review in 1824. More recently, tennis player John McEnroe is said to have used it of Ivan Lendl--maybe this is what you were thinking of.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source(s): Google books <p>Imagine if you could tell a doctor from the 19th century that you can save people’s lives by putting a balloon in their arteries. Might that doctor not think you a fool, considering the extent of surgical and balloon technologies of the day? But then, that doctor might still have used leeches or mercury vapor to try to cure someone. Who is wise? Perhaps this passage calls us to be humble as much as anything else. <i>See also SELF</i></p>	<p>of water weighs that a woman might carry for up to six miles every day for her household use. Etc.</p> <p>Put some “faces” on the weights and encourage people to consider strength training for their bodies to also be strength training for their spirits towards others.</p> <p><i>See also PEOPLE</i></p>
Musical			
Natural			
People - Interpersonal		<p>“Weak men cannot handle power. It will either crush them, or they will use it to crush others” — Jocelyn Murray, The English Pirate</p>	<p>From a Bill Loader lectionary column: “Being deliberately subversive he makes the apparent stupidity and shame of the cross his starting point (1:21). What people despise and see as failure and shame, Paul sees as the beginning of wisdom. God's wisdom shows itself not in winning the speaking games and wowing followers, but in love which is prepared to</p>

			<p>face the worst.”</p> <p>Break into groups and discuss where and when you have experienced love “prepared to face the worst”. Were you aware of God in that circumstance?</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p>		<p>“Only courageous hearts can endure the bitterness of truth.” — Michael Bassey Johnson, Master of Maxims</p> <p>“Here is our sign: an empty tomb we will never see. Here is our wisdom, handed on by those who came before us: the greatest powers at our disposal are overcome by the weakest expression of God imaginable.” ~ Casey Thompson, <i>The Christian Century</i></p> <p>“It is not a good start to place an instrument of execution in the centre of your symbolism. People recognised it as an instrument of deterrence. Criminals hung on crosses! Paul is not, however, wanting to give a lecture about outsiders. He is really wanting to say something to those Christians who are behaving like outsiders because they are valuing their polished performances so highly.” ~ Bill Loader</p>	<p>From Frederick Buechner’s <i>“Paul Sends His Love; Secrets in the Dark”</i>:</p> <p>“The message that a convicted felon was the bearer of God’s forgiving and transforming love was hard enough for anybody to swallow and for some especially so. For Hellenized sophisticates - the Greeks, as Paul puts it - it could only seem absurd. What uglier, more supremely inappropriate of say, Plato’s Beautiful and Good could there be than a crucified Jew? And for the devout Jew, what more scandalous image of the Davidic king messiah, before whose majesty all the nations were at last to come to heel?”</p> <p>Imagine Jesus as a convicted criminal - which he was - today. How likely would anyone be to follow him if he had been executed by us? What would you need to say and do to convince people that this shady character was THE representative of God’s love and redemption?</p>



The Greeks in Corinth would be all over this!

Two possible ways to use a number line to demonstrate vs. 25:



One possible graph to illustrate verse 25:

