

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BEaster2x2018

Text: Acts 4:32-35

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word - I, Math - B, Music - I, Nature - I, People - I, Self - S

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX																					
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>Troy Toftgruben, Working Preacher ⇒</p> <p>Not necessarily blueprints but “glimpses of dynamic experiences of community enlivened by God’s Spirit”.</p>	<p>The Jews and Greeks in this early gathering may have been influenced by examples of communal sharing and unity in ancient texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the principles of historic Israel (“There will be no one in need among you,” Deuteronomy 15:4-11) •Greek ideals of friendship (“Among friends everything is common,” Aristotle, Eth. nic. 9.8) •ideal philosophical communities (e.g., Iamblichus, Life of Pythagoras, 30.167) 																						
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p>																								
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>Jesus dies bankrupt, with nothing to claim</p>	<p>An article on current trends in the global distribution of wealth. Not great for 99% of us.</p>	<p>Share of global wealth 2010-2015</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Share of global wealth 2010-2015</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Richest 1%</th> <th>Other 99%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2010</td> <td>44</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011</td> <td>45</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>46</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>47</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>48</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>49</td> <td>46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Click the pic.</p>	Year	Richest 1%	Other 99%	2010	44	55	2011	45	54	2012	46	53	2013	47	51	2014	48	50	2015	49	46
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			The graph for the Acts Church would be very different. A bit of EYE , but mostly MATH.
Body - Kinesthetic	The witness/testimony was effective because of their proclamation and living it out.		
Musical MWD		Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front , Wendell Berry <i>For poetry</i>	
Natural D2		This article , centered on winter holiday observance (Christmas, et al), eventually leads to a study that suggests experiences of beautiful nature can increase prosocial behavior, like agreeableness, generosity, and helping others. If you want your people to be as generous as the folk in Acts 4, get them out into the Great Outdoors! 'Mother Nature is very generous but very unforgiving.' -Prof. Wangari Maathai, from this article about her impact on the World Agroforestry Centre. Perhaps leading to ways nature is generous, as the Acts Church also expressed generosity?	
People - Interpersonal Both...	"Luke's depiction of the Jerusalem believers identifies a signature characteristic of their movement — in a word, generosity. Their social generosity expressed itself in community, and their financial	An illustration living in the resurrection affects neighbors. See below. Episcopal Relief and Development work in Namibia where HIV infections are very high.	Break into groups, each with one or two of your congregation's leaders. Discuss what ministries your congregations engages in that could be described by those outside the fellowship as generous.

	<p>generosity expressed itself in compassion.” ~ Dan Clendenin, Journey with Jesus</p>	<p>Here is an article that explores some scientific explanations for generosity. See also MATH for science</p> <p>Some articles on current trends in communal living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money Crashers • AARP • Time 	<p>Is your church known for its generosity?</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>D2</p>			<p>Consider your financial assets. Consider the assets of the richest people in your community. Consider the assets of the poorest people in your community. Where do you fall in the spectrum? What would it mean for you to balance things out with those below you? What would it mean to you to have those above you balance things? Where does Jesus fit into all that?</p>

“During my first year out of seminary, I lived in an urban Christian community that had been ministering to the homeless for over 20 years. An attorney next door was often enraged by the homeless men. For years he waged war against his neighbors, calling police, fire inspectors, the health department, and trying every bureaucratic means to shut the ministry down or push it out. But the community endured these assaults, and eventually there was a cease-fire. Relations were still tense until the day a letter arrived from this man. It contained a large check and a letter of deep regret. The neighbor asked for the community’s forgiveness and closed with “Peace be with you.”

There was no explanation given for this dramatic change, but I can’t help thinking it was the cumulative effect of so many years spent in close proximity to one of God’s outposts of peace. In his once-despised neighbors, this man came to see that the promise of reconciliation and a new beginning was not a dream. It was, instead, right next door.”

[Kristen Barger Grant](#), The Christian Century