

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BLent5x2018

Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word - B, Eye - B, Math - I, Body - B, Music - B

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>Vs 33 God wants this relationship and will have it but needs to write it somewhere it will be noticed; rather than on a stone that can get lost or stolen, God will write it on an internal, vital organ.</p>	<p>⇐ There is a horrible scene in the Harry Potter books and movies (The Order of the Phoenix) where Professor Umbridge punishes Harry by making him write lines that magically carve themselves into his skin. She takes twisted delight in this so this may not be the best illustration....</p> <p>Tattoos might work better as an example and apparently, people are branding themselves, too. (See PEOPLE and BODY)</p>	<p>Hand out water based markers and invite people to “write the law” on their hands. Pick a word or two if people need some inspiration.</p> <p>“Shema y’Israel”</p> <p>From the 10 <u>commandments</u>: Remember Worship Rest Honesty Faithfulness Honor Satisfaction etc.</p>
<p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>Vs. 31 - with the house of... and the house of...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia and West Virginia • Ohio and Michigan • USA and CSA • Ireland and Northern Ireland 	<p>Old covenant replaced with a new law within - image of a plant ready to go to seed.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● England and Scotland ● East Germany and West Germany (!) ● North Korea and South Korea <p>See also PEOPLE</p>	
<p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>Vs. 34-35 – No more will anyone teach or say, “There are 1.61 kilometers in a mile,” for shall all use the metric system.</p>	
<p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>D2</p>		<p>Similar to another passage in Jeremiah, God is remaking the covenant as a potter remakes a vessel that collapses on the wheel, starting over with the same clay, but making a different shape. In Jer18, God fashions evil against the house of Judah, but here God fashions a new knowledge in the people’s hearts.</p>	<p>Learning the fundamentals of a sport - you keep doing it over and over and over until it becomes muscle memory, and you excel at it without even thinking. Writing the law within is like this; it becomes internal, and you just KNOW it after repeated exercises. (See MUSIC and SELF)</p>
<p>Musical</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>God’s experience is like sight reading a piece of music and half way through you realize you’re playing in the wrong key! That last song was in G, but this one is in D! No wonder it sounded wrong.</p> <p>Or like playing “The Imperial March” from <i>Star Wars (EpV)</i> in a major key.</p> <p>Or “Duel of the Fates” from <i>Star Wars (Ep I)</i> in a major key.</p>	<p>Add a musical cue when the word “covenant” is read or said, like a timpani drum roll or a chord on the organ or a guitar riff</p> <p>Learning to play an instrument requires repeated practice; learning scales, learning technique, training your ear to “hear” it. You do it over and over and then one day, you are very good.</p>
<p>Natural</p>		<p>The law within them is functioning as a planted seed (John 12 connection).</p>	

<p>People - Interpersonal</p>	<p>“God is invading the heart. Yes, this will make them God’s people, but it will also mean a death of the self, and a radical transfer of allegiance from all systems and claims. This is not the people overcoming their sinful natures; this is God overcoming the people.” ~ Stacey Simpson, The Christian Century</p>	<p>Vs 33 - God continues to try again and again and again with human beings. Someday, we may get it. Like a teacher or coach who keeps at it with students or athletes who are half-assing it. Maybe one day, something will click. (See Sfx for BODY, MUSIC, and SELF)</p>	<p>Walter Brueggeman¹ refers to this new covenant as God showing solidarity with the people; God identifies them as GOD’s people and gives his identity as THEIR god.</p> <p>Discuss how being identified as God’s people alters one’s perception of self and others. Is there a special handshake?</p>
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p>			<p>Praying, fasting, walking, reading the Bible, talking God with others, laughing, looking for signs of God’s activity in the world and in yourself and in other people. Keep doing it day after day after day and soon the law will be IN you.</p>

¹ Walter Brueggemann, *A Commentary on Jeremiah: Exile and Homecoming* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998), 293-294