

More Than Hearing Worksheet


Episode: BLent4x2018

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

4 From **Mount Hor** they set out by the way to the **Red Sea**, to go around the land of Edom; but the **people became impatient** on the way. 5 The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you **brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness**? For there is no food and no water, and **we detest this** miserable food.” 6 Then the Lord sent **poisonous serpents** among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “**We have sinned** by speaking against the Lord and against you; **pray to the Lord** to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and **everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live**.” 9 So Moses **made a serpent of bronze**, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a **serpent** bit someone, that person **would look at** the serpent of bronze and live.

Word - B, Eye - B, Body - S, Nature - S, People - I, Self - S

| Smarts | Images in the text/ interesting exegesis | Illustrations | SFX |
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| <p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>MWD</p> | <p>Salvation comes through hearing and obeying the word of God.</p> | <p>Warning voices on trains - “Mind the gap” for example.</p> <p>Someone shouting “Look out!” or “Fore!”</p> <p>Parents standing on the back porch yelling all three names of children when it’s time for dinner.</p> <p>This may not actually happen anymore, but I remember it.</p> | <p>The order of worship could be modeled on the elements which are present in Num 21:4-9: people complain - people punished - people repent - Moses intercedes - Yahweh’s response - people saved. The readings, prayers and songs could be fitted into the movement of the Scripture with an explanation to the congregation about what is happening in the process. Basically the service is sitting under the Scripture and it is the Scripture which dictates the flow of worship.</p> |

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| <p>Eye - Visual/Spatial</p> <p>D2</p> | | <p>The Rod of Asclepius, still used as a symbol of healing, arose with the Greek cult of the god Asclepius, known for healing, esp. starting in the 3rd c. BCE, according to the article.</p> <p>Cn: the Staff of Hermes or the caduceus, with two snakes and wings, a symbol of commerce and negotiation.</p> |  <p>Make one! Buy a rubber snake (oddly available at Party City), paint it like bronze, and put it on a thick dowel rod.</p> |
| <p>Math - Logical/Mathematical</p> | | | |
| <p>Body - Kinesthetic</p> <p>MWD</p> | | | <p>To practice hearing and obeying, play some Simon Says.</p> |
| <p>Musical</p> | | | |
| <p>Natural</p> <p>MWD</p> | | | <p>Know anyone with a pet snake, or is there a nature museum in your community? Invite someone (who knows what they're doing) to bring a snake to worship. Interview that person about snakes and their habits. Perhaps do this in connection with the EYE sfx above.</p> |
| <p>People - Interpersonal</p> <p>D2</p> | | <p>See the physical manifestation of the result of sin (broken relationship) can be a powerful starting point in the move to repentance. Think of Scrooge's journeys with the spirits that show him the realities of the lives of people from whom he has cut himself off. Share similar stories from literature or real life, or perhaps the effects of</p> | |

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| | | <p>public or corporate policy on the lives of the poor. The Presbyterian Mission Yearbook has many stories that might serve the purpose.</p> <p>Is it enough to see the suffering of others, or must the suffering threaten one's own self before we repent? Why?</p> | |
| <p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>MWD</p> | | | <p>Question to ponder: What would it feel like to have to look at the symbol of your disobedience in order to receive forgiveness and healing? Why does looking at the symbol allow for this transformation? What would that symbol be for you? Consider praying and meditating on that symbol, asking for God's grace.</p> <p>(You might connect this with the gospel passage, in which we find that the cross of Christ can serve this purpose.)</p> |