

More Than Hearing Worksheet

Episode: BOrdinary11x2018

Text Mark 4:26-34

26 He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

30 He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

If you are a regular listener and practitioner of MI preaching, you are a parable teller!

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

Smarts	Images in the text/ interesting exegesis	Illustrations	SFX
<p>Word - Verbal/Linguistic</p> <p>MWD</p>	<p>Parable = using everyday objects and situations in our lives to make a deeper point about life and living.</p> <p>Justo L. Gonzalez writes these two parables are preposterous - literally the end (posterior) before the beginning (pre). This is because “Jesus is speaking of a different order.”</p>	<p>Tall tales disengage our usual way of thinking and allow stories to present themselves in a fresh way.</p> <p>Aesop’s Fables use animals to speak to human situations and morality.</p> <p>The mustard seed part of this parable doesn’t play out as we know it in <i>NATURE</i>. Jesus may have been pushing the metaphor a bit in order to stretch imaginations. Yet, the actual mustard plant has qualities that match the growing, spreading, invasive nature of the</p>	<p>Don’t just read the parable, especially the mustard parable, but tell it – sell it! – like an obvious and intentional exaggeration. So go BIG but with a twinkle in your eye.</p>

		Gospel's growth! So, maybe we just let this metaphor sit and - er, well - grow in us, as we are able to hear it!	
Eye - Visual/Spatial			See the time lapse videos below in NATURE .
Math - Logical/Mathematical D2		Parable = parabola! See this post from Ordinary 16, Year A and the worksheet that explains the comparison.	
Body - Kinesthetic		Small steps towards exercising or changing a diet = improved health over time. Similar to small seeds spread on the ground that then grow to take over the field.	
Musical MWD	Growth is slow but consistent!	One Step by Pepper Choplin The Seed of God by Meister Eckhart On the Parables of the Mustard Seed by Denise Levertov	
Natural D2		The planting metaphor is perfect for how we grow as disciples. Someone plants a seed in us, the Holy Spirit sends other people and experiences that nourish the seed, other people, your experiences, and the Holy Spirit prune the growth and one day, you bear fruit! The mustard plant is a fast growing, invasive plant. It doesn't get large and people who are familiar with it experience some dissonance with this parable growing into	Vs. 27 sprout and grow A 25 day time lapse video of a bean sprouting and growing to Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz. Lima beans sprouting, with a good look at the roots . As always, make good use of your master gardeners or farmers expertise!!

		<p>something large enough to nest birds. (See <i>WORD</i> smart)</p> <p>The kingdom of God is like solar energy. The sun pours enormous amounts of energy onto our fields, entirely out of our control. All we have to do is collect it.</p>	
<p>People - Interpersonal</p> <p>MWD</p>		<p>“So I find some reassurance in this image of seed and soil interacting while we humans sleep. If the kingdom of God is like a seed, it is also like the soil that embraces and blankets the seed, protecting it from the elements through fallow times until its time for fruition has come.”</p> <p>~ Jenny Choy Tate, <i>The Christian Century</i></p>	<p>Break into groups and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Jesus planted seeds in the disciples • How the disciples planted seeds • How someone planted a seed in you • How you have planted seeds • When you have been in fallow times
<p>Self - Intrapersonal</p> <p>D2</p>	<p>“Within that little kernel of corn—or that even smaller grain of wheat, or that mustard seed to which the next parable refers—there is the memory of centuries of death and rebirth, the legacy of millennia through which the plant has come to be what it is. And, even more surprisingly, there are all the instructions necessary to produce another plant just like the one from which the seed itself came.”</p> <p>~ Justo L. Gonzalez, <i>The Christian Century</i></p>	<p>The DNA required for a plant to germinate, grow, flower, and bear fruit so the next generation may come along is all right there in the seed itself, as per Gonzalez’s quote to the left. Our faith is not as neatly packaged as a seed, but in every act that nurtures or disciplines our faith, the cycle of growth and bearing fruit continues.</p> <p>(See Meister Eckhart poem in <i>MUSIC</i>)</p>	<p>Using the planting metaphor, can you identify the people who planted, nourished, and pruned your growth?</p>